

# **FERN RIDGE COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN**



**Veneta, Oregon**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
A.	Purpose.....	1
B.	Population Projections.....	1
C.	Data Collection .....	1
D.	Recommendations .....	1
1.	Facilities .....	1
2.	Community Organizations.....	2
3.	Swimming Facility .....	3
4.	Senior Center and Activities for Seniors .....	3
5.	Multi-Purpose Facility and Community Center.....	3
6.	Parks and Recreation District .....	4
7.	Multi-Use Trails.....	4
8.	Summary .....	4
II.	PURPOSE, GOALS AND CONTEXT.....	6
A.	Purpose.....	6
B.	Goals.....	7
C.	Planning Context.....	8
1.	Additional Planning Documents .....	8
2.	Current Community Facilities Projects.....	8
3.	Regional Planning Projects .....	8
III.	NEEDS ASSESSMENT.....	9
A.	Demographic Profile of the Fern Ridge Area .....	9
1.	Total Population.....	9
2.	Age Distribution in Fern Ridge School District 28J .....	9
3.	Student Enrollment in the School Districts.....	10
4.	Registered Voters in the Fern Ridge School District .....	10
5.	Ethnicity in Veneta .....	11
6.	Household Income and Poverty Status.....	11
7.	Industries in Veneta.....	12
8.	Market Profile of Fern Ridge Area Residents.....	12
B.	Projected Population Growth.....	13
IV.	EXISTING CONDITIONS.....	14
A.	Purpose.....	14
B.	Community Profile.....	14
C.	Existing Programs and Services.....	15
1.	The Garcia Center .....	15
a)	Senior Services.....	15
b)	Family Services .....	15
c)	Affordable Housing .....	16
(1)	HUD Housing .....	16
(2)	Heather Glen Project .....	16
d)	Summer Food Program .....	16
e)	Lilies of the Field.....	16
2.	After-School and Summer Camp Programs for Youth.....	16
a)	Explorers Club.....	17
b)	Play in the Park.....	17
c)	Camp Fire USA .....	17
3.	Youth Athletics .....	17
4.	Veterans Services .....	17
5.	Cultural Programs, Festivals and Events.....	18
6.	Ford Family Institute Leadership Program.....	18

7.	Fern Ridge Library District.....	19
8.	Fire Department and Emergency Services .....	19
9.	Community Facilities.....	19
a)	City Owned Facilities.....	19
(1)	Veneta's Community Center .....	19
(2)	City Hall.....	20
b)	Non-City Owned Community Facilities .....	20
(1)	Elmira Grange.....	21
(2)	Lane County Fire District #1 Fire Station .....	21
(3)	Fern Ridge Library .....	21
(4)	Schools.....	21
(5)	Museums, Theaters and Galleries .....	22
(6)	Oregon Country Fair.....	22
(7)	Camp Wilani .....	22
(8)	Youth Center .....	23
b)	Open Space, Recreational and Sporting Facilities .....	23
(1)	Playgrounds, Fields and Parks .....	23
(2)	Undeveloped City-Owned Land.....	24
(3)	Fern Ridge Wildlife Area .....	24
(4)	Trails .....	24
(5)	Swimming Pool / Parks and Recreation District .....	24
II.	COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT .....	25
A.	Community Workshop .....	25
B.	Past Surveys .....	25
1.	Community Pool.....	25
2.	Veneta Parks Facility Survey.....	25
3.	Youth Survey.....	26
C.	Community Feedback .....	27
1.	Stakeholders Interviews .....	27
2.	Other Verbal Feedback.....	27
3.	Community Facilities Assessment Survey .....	28
a)	Methods .....	28
b)	Area .....	28
4.	Results .....	28
a)	Demographics .....	29
b)	Question 2: Perceived Need For Importance of Facilities.....	29
c)	Question 3: Perceived Need For Importance of Facilities.....	31
d)	Question 4: Additional Community Facilities .....	32
e)	Question 5: Perceived Need For Importance of Community Services.....	33
f)	Question 6: Perceived Need For Importance of Community Services.....	34
g)	Question 7: Paid Use of Community Facilities.....	35
D.	Written Feedback from the Survey .....	36
III.	Findings .....	36
A.	Community Facilities in Veneta and Comparable Communities .....	36
B.	Community Facilities.....	37
1.	Summary .....	38
2.	Swimming Facility .....	40
3.	Senior Center and Activities for Seniors .....	41
4.	Multi-Use Trails.....	43
5.	Enhanced Library .....	44
6.	Youth Center .....	45
7.	Additional Parks .....	46

8.	Park Improvements .....	46
9.	Performing Arts Theater and Arts and Cultural Programs.....	47
10.	Parks and Recreation District.....	47
11.	Multi-Purpose Facility and Community Center.....	48
12.	Marina and Boating Opportunities .....	48

## FIGURES

Figure 1:	Population in the Fern Ridge School District.....	9
Figure 2:	Population by Age in Fern Ridge in 1999.....	10
Figure 3:	Registered Voters in Fern Ridge School District 28J.....	10
Figure 4:	Fern Ridge Area Industries .....	12
Figure 5:	Population Projections for the Fern Ridge School District.....	13
Figure 6:	Hours of Use: Veneta Community Center .....	20
Figure 7:	Community Center Use: Number of Groups Each Month .....	20
Figure 8:	2006 Parks Survey Data.....	26
Figure 9:	Age Structure of Fern Ridge Community Facilities Plan Survey Participants.....	29
Figure 10:	Highest Average Importance Rating of Community Facilities.....	30
Figure 11:	Most Desired Community Facilities.....	31
Figure 12:	Top Community Facility Choices (Total) .....	31
Figure 13:	Top Four Choices, Community Facilities (Average Choice) .....	32
Figure 14:	Most Desired Facilities (First Choice).....	32
Figure 15:	Most Desired Community Services.....	34
Figure 16:	Most Desired Community Services (First Choice).....	34
Figure 17:	Relative Importance of Different Community Services.....	35
Figure 18:	Importance of the Swimming Facility.....	40
Figure 19:	Share of Votes by Choice, Swimming Facility.....	40
Figure 20:	Importance of the Senior Center.....	41
Figure 21:	Share of Votes by Choice, Senior Center .....	42
Figure 22:	Importance of Multi-Use Trails.....	43
Figure 23:	Importance of the Enhanced Library.....	44
Figure 24:	Share of Votes by Choice, Enhanced Library .....	44
Figure 25:	Importance Youth Club/After-School Facility.....	45
Figure 26:	Share of Votes by Choice, Youth Club/After-School Facility.....	45

## TABLES

Table 1:	Community Facilities Projects by Priority .....	5
Table 2:	Household Income in 1999. ....	11
Table 3:	Household Income in 2005.....	11
Table 4:	Write-in Community Facilities.....	33
Table 5:	Votes for Combined Programming and Services.....	35
Table 6:	Community Facilities in Veneta and Comparable Communities .....	36
Table 7:	Planned Facilities in Veneta and Comparable Communities.....	37
Table 8:	Relative Importance of Community Facilities.....	38
Table 9:	Relative Importance of Community Services .....	38

## APPENDICES

Appendix A: Veneta's Trade Area .....	49
Appendix B: Map of this Community Facilities Assessment Survey Area .....	50
Appendix C: Veteran Service Providers in Lane County.....	51
Appendix D: Availability of Equipment at Community Facilities .....	52
Appendix E: Recreational Facilities in the Public School System.....	56
Appendix F: Condition of Parks in Veneta.....	57
Appendix G: Available Activities at Community Facilities .....	60
Appendix H: Map of Proposed Trails.....	63
Appendix I: Fern Ridge Trail System Project List.....	64
Appendix J: Ford Family Institute Leadership Class.....	67
Appendix K: Veneta Park Facility Survey and Tabulation 2006.....	70
Appendix L: Youth Survey 2001 .....	72
Appendix M: Stakeholder Interviews .....	76
Appendix N: Fern Ridge Community Facilities Assessment Survey.....	77
Appendix O: Data Tables for the Fern Ridge Community Facilities Plan.....	84
Appendix P: Community Facilities Assessment Survey, Written Feedback.....	91
Appendix Q: Fern Ridge Community Organizations .....	95

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **A. Purpose**

The purpose of the Community Facilities Assessment is to create a unified approach to planning community facilities in Veneta by taking a comprehensive look at community facilities and programming past, present and future. This Community Facilities Assessment contained four separate parts: a demographic analysis and community profile, an inventory of local community facilities and assets, community feedback through interviews and a questionnaire and finally a findings section. A Community Stakeholders committee provided feedback on the community assessment process. This Assessment examines community facilities in Veneta within the context of use by the entire Fern Ridge area, as defined by the boundaries of the Fern Ridge School District within Lane County and portions of the Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District, although the demographic profile focuses on the Fern Ridge School joint district which includes small portions of Douglass County.

### **B. Population Projections**

Veneta's population is presently 4,640<sup>1</sup>. Using the City's predictions, Veneta's population in 2030 will be approximately between nine and ten thousand people<sup>2</sup>. The present population of the Fern Ridge School District is approximately twelve thousand people and will approach twenty thousand people in 2030<sup>3</sup>.

### **C. Data Collection**

The inventory of community facilities assessments was performed through undertaking a series of questionnaires and interviews with local community leaders. Several questionnaires were distributed to institutions with known community facilities such as area churches, schools, the local fire station and the local public library. In addition, key government officials were interviewed about non-city owned parks and recreation facilities like the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. A questionnaire was distributed to area residents to measure perceptions surrounding Fern Ridge area community facilities. Other community input was gathered through meetings with the Fern Ridge Community Stakeholders Committee and meetings with community volunteers.

Participants in the survey were more interested in facilities that can serve multiple age groups such as the swimming pool and the library. The senior center and the food pantry were perceived as being essential services and were also strongly supported by participants in the survey both in numbers and in written comments. Enhancements to existing facilities such as the creation of covered barbeque areas at local parks were a lesser concern.

### **D. Recommendations**

#### **I. Facilities**

Several factors were included in these recommendations including: local demographics, past surveys, interviews with key community stakeholders, a community facilities survey, existing facilities and programs and community facilities in comparable communities.

Veneta will need several new or renovated community facilities in the next 20 years. These facilities include a new swimming facility, a senior center, multi-use trails, an enhanced library, an after-school program, additional parks, parks improvements and performing arts and cultural programs. In addition, Veneta will need more indoor recreation opportunities for teens.



In general, Veneta residents felt that the greatest need were facilities that can provide services for the most people. These facilities included a new swimming facility, a senior center, multi-use trails and an enhanced library. In addition, a multi-purpose facility might be considered for many of the other community facility options.

In the long-term Veneta, will need to develop a parks program that includes community facilities, either through a Parks Department or a Parks and Recreation District, enhance its volunteer capacity, address the needs of its aging population and furnish additional types of community facilities to meet the demands of growth.

The survey also suggests a need to build and maintain partnerships with the Fern Ridge School District, the Fern Ridge Library District and the Fire District to sustain Veneta's community facilities. Projects that require a larger base of population for support such as a Performing Arts theater, a cultural arts center or medical facilities might also be achieved through rural regional partnerships with Junction City and Creswell. Veneta might conduct a study on assets in neighboring communities in order to suggest mutually beneficial projects.

During the Ford Family Institute Leadership Class, several people mentioned a concern about a lack of community identity and suggested that providing cohesive community information might be one way to bring the community together and help define Fern Ridge as an area. The class ultimately decided to construct an electronic reader board for their project; however, they also suggested several other solutions such as a cartoon map of the area and placing signage in and out of the Fern Ridge area. Another low-cost option for providing community information would be through the internet, although the success of this strategy relies on the premise that the community is both internet savvy and willing to communicate through this method.

## **2. Community Organizations**

Another question that arose concerned the needs of community organizations. Community organizations are frequent users of many community spaces. These organizations include the Veneta Parks Board, the Love Project, the Mid-Lane Community Chest, the Fern Ridge Youth Enrichment Development Committee, Friends of the Library and Friends of Zumwalt Park. Most of the volunteers serve multiple community organizations and burn-out is a constant threat.

The Fern Ridge Progress Board discussed building community capacity through enhancing volunteer networks. The Progress Board is now holding bi-annual community meetings. The purpose of one of the meetings is to have community organizations network and inform each other on their community activities. In the future, this meeting could include more of the greater Fern Ridge area, increasing the potential for community partnerships.

The Progress Board also suggested hiring a volunteer coordinator to serve multiple organizations. The Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce held a round table with its non-profit members to see how it could serve them better. The City might hold similar round tables or administer a survey of local community organizations.

One question that could be answered by such a survey would be whether or not the need for organizations to provide liability insurance for using many community facilities is stunting the growth of some types of community organizations such as adult sports

leagues, performing arts groups and other groups that require space for activities other than a conference room.

The following sections contain a summary of recommendations specific to individual community facilities with the highest priority projects presented first. The full recommendations are presented in the Findings section beginning on page 36.

### **3. Swimming Facility**

Veneta's swimming pool is in need of replacement. Other incorporated cities in the area have swimming pools including Creswell, Junction City, Cottage Grove and Eugene. The swimming facility is perceived as the greatest public need. Participants in the Community Facilities Assessment Survey, the Parks Board Survey and the Pool Survey strongly supported a community swimming facility. For further details, see page 40. The City may wish to consider other ways of providing low-cost swimming opportunities for area residents, such as partnering with other organizations to subsidize swimming opportunities for Veneta/Fern Ridge residents. This could include facilitating alternative travel opportunities to area pools.

### **4. Senior Center and Activities for Seniors**

Veneta's Senior Center is housed within the Garcia Center. Both Creswell and Junction City have senior centers. The senior center in Junction City provides more services and programs than does the one in Veneta. Results from the Community Facilities Assessment Survey and other verbal and written feedback suggest a strong concern for seniors across all age groups. Providing a space for activities for senior citizens ranked highest in terms of the number of votes and the strength of opinion.

The City should continue working with the Save Our Senior Committee to look for a long-term facility for the Senior Center and the other programs housed within the Garcia Center, which have worked well together in the past. Co-housing these programs will help to maximize the City's limited resources.

The 2007-2012 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan included a report on Oregon's aging population<sup>4</sup>. A survey conducted as part of this plan indicated that Oregon's aging population is more likely to be spending less time rather than more time engaged in outdoor recreation, although older respondents are much more likely than others to be spending less time. The City should be prepared to conduct a study of its own aging population following the next US Census in 2010, taking particular note of the interest and concerns of the baby boomer generation. This may include additional concerns of this generation for their ability to care for their parents in addition to themselves. The City should work to improve access to community facilities for senior citizens in terms of cost and availability of transportation options.

### **5. Multi-Purpose Facility and Community Center**

An Enhanced Community Center did not place well among the choices of Community Facility Assessment participants; however, survey participants were not given a multi-purpose facility as an option. The relative importance of activities that could take place in a multi-purpose center ranked as follows: a Senior Center, a Food Pantry, Youth Activities, Community Center and Community Garden. Six respondents suggested combining spaces for senior and youth activities. Building a multi-purpose facility or enhancing the community center to serve as a multi-purpose facility would help to get the most out of existing resources.

## **6. Parks and Recreation District**

Successful creation of strong and lasting community facilities depends upon the strength of community partnerships and the formation of special districts (such as a Parks and Recreation District) that include the surrounding unincorporated areas.

Parks and recreation services provided in Veneta presently cover area parks, the Veneta Community Center, the swimming pool and summer programs for children. In the future, the City will need a Parks and Recreation Department or the Fern Ridge area will require a Parks and Recreation District to provide expanded parks programs for area youth, additional trails and additional parks. In the short term, the City may wish to hire an additional part-time paid position in order to implement some of the planned projects like multi-use trails or to build volunteer capacity.

A Parks and Recreation District is currently one of the strategies for a pool; the pool committee plans to pursue a Parks and Recreation District to cover the operating costs for an indoor facility. The fact that the swimming facility is currently regarded as the highest priority with area residents should help the committee pass a measure to create a Parks and Recreation District; however, timeliness is critical due to economic pressures and the lack of availability of resources to support multiple major projects at one time.

Planning for a Parks and Recreation District should include considerations such as how it will be managed and what other community facilities might come into its array. The City should research how other Parks and Recreation Districts in Oregon are comprised and staffed.

## **7. Multi-Use Trails**

The Fern Ridge area has a need for additional trails due to burgeoning population growth and additional outdoor recreational opportunities. In the 2006 Veneta Parks Board survey, multi-use paths were identified as the most preferred park amenity. The Fern Ridge Trails Plan outlines and prioritizes several trails pieces, ranking the Fern Ridge Schools Connector Route as the highest priority in creating trails. The Fern Ridge Schools Connector Route is a multi-use path that creates an alternative transportation route between public schools in the Fern Ridge School District between Veneta and Elmira. This should be a high priority project for the City of Veneta as much of the groundwork for this project has already been completed. As part of the Veneta's economic development strategy, the City might also consider exploring the creation of a user-friendly trails map to promote support for trails in the area and to promote the growth of locally-based outdoor organizations.

## **8. Summary**

Following is a table summarizing the recommendations and findings of the Community Facilities Assessment. Projects were ranked based on public support for the project and on appropriateness for Veneta's population size. Future surveys should track public interest and support for all of these projects.

**Table 1: Community Facilities Projects by Priority**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Overall Priority</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
Swimming Facility	Veneta's swimming pool was badly damaged and is in need of replacement. Other local communities have pools.	Highest	Families, area youth, people with medical conditions. Provides exercise and promotes health.
Enhanced Senior Center and Food Pantry	The Garcia Center (which includes the senior center) needs a permanent home and a larger facility.	Highest	Provides a place to address special needs of senior citizens and a place for increased communication and sharing.
Parks and Recreation District	Can benefit from a jump start from the Pool Committee.	High	Provides funding for additional parks and parks improvements along with programming for youth.
Multi-Use Trails, Fern Ridge Schools Connector	Safety and interest in outdoor recreation supports this need.	High	Provides safety for area youth and increases an alternate to driving. Promotes health and safety.
Enhanced Volunteer Capacity	Help recruit and retain volunteers so to facilitate community facility development.	Medium-High	Increases ability of community organizations to help support community facility development. Increases resources.
Additional Parks	Veneta will have trouble meeting the recommended SCORP standards. Available lands are difficult to come by.	Medium	Provides outdoor places for people to play. Promotes health.
Parks Improvements	These should be included in any updates to the Parks Plan.	Medium	Provides outdoor places for people to play. Promotes health.
Enhanced Community Center		Medium-Low	Provides space for community activities.
Visual Arts Space		Medium-Low	Provides an recreation alternatives to sports. Highlights Veneta's artistic resources.
Community Garden		Medium-Low	Provides a community meeting place and potentially a food program and/or youth work program.
Enhanced	This project is being	Low	Promotes literacy and

	Description	Overall Priority	Beneficiaries
Library	undertaken by the Fern Ridge Library Foundation.		provides continuing education programs for youth and adults.
Additional Indoor Recreation Opportunities	Many of these types of opportunities, such as a bowling alley or a movie theater, would most likely be private businesses and as such would take place as part of downtown development, although they could also take place at an enhanced community center.	Low	Provides outdoor places for people to play. Promotes health.
Youth Club/After-School Program	Spaces for youth activities could be combined with other activities as part of a multi-purpose center.	Low	
Boys & Girls Club	The City may wish to have a Boys & Girls Club around 2030, when Veneta's population reaches nearly 10,000 people.	Low	Provides low/no-cost programming for area youth and provides mentors for young people.
Marina & Boating Facilities	The Fern Ridge Reservoir unique feature of the area and written comments support the idea that it is an under-used economic asset.	Low	Helps to develop Veneta's economy and increase its autonomy.

## II. PURPOSE, GOALS AND CONTEXT

### A. Purpose

One of the most significant factors influencing the City's quality of life is the availability and high quality of community facilities. These facilities include schools, emergency services, libraries, health care facilities, day care facilities, and community centers. Community facilities have a direct relationship to the quality of life experienced by residents, workers and visitors. This Community Facilities Plan recognizes the importance of community facilities and the contribution that they make to the City's reputation as a good place to live and work.

Community facilities are important to maintaining an enjoyable standard living and integral to implementing Veneta's quality of life and infrastructure goals as set forth in the Fern Ridge Community Strategic Plan<sup>5</sup>. Veneta residents use both public and private services. Examples of community facilities include government services (administration, police, fire and public works), public schools, community centers, museums, libraries, senior and youth services and religious institutions.

The purpose of this report is to review existing community services and amenities available to Veneta residents in order to provide data for planning future facilities in the City of Veneta. In addition, this report will compare Veneta to similar communities in order to determine what other community services and amenities Veneta might consider in the future.

This report will:

- Analyze the impact of existing and forecasted demographic trends on current and future community needs
- Develop an inventory of existing owned facilities including coverage of future redevelopment projects planned within the next five to ten years,
- Identify non-city owned community facilities and services, analyze the extent to which all available community facilities meet the overall community needs of the City of Veneta and the Fern Ridge area.
- Provide a plan for the appropriate and equitable consolidation, rationalization, disposal, upgrade and acquisition of social infrastructure to meet the existing and projected needs of residents

## **B. Goals**

This Community Facilities Plan provides an evaluation of the public facilities and services in Veneta. Existing conditions will be analyzed through discussions with City staff, Council, community resident stakeholders, and service delivery positions. Recommendations for facilities and services will be made at the end of the Plan. The Community Facilities Plan sets out how, over the next ten years, the City will help to provide buildings for the community to use. This Plan covers only one type of community facility – buildings for general community use.

This means buildings that are:

- Multipurpose
- Used by more than one group
- Essential for the delivery of educational, cultural recreational and social service programs
- Community meeting places

These types of facilities are mainly provided by the City, churches, social service providers and special service districts in the Fern Ridge area such as the Library Fire districts. The City provides community space to ensure there are places for people to meet, talk, play, learn - and have fun. Community facilities also help to build community spirit by bringing people together. A range of different spaces are needed to cater for different activities.

Community centers provide a range of spaces for meetings, community activities, social events, and programs and functions for community benefit. Groups who provide facilities for the use of the community provide an essential service and major benefits for local communities. The City values this work highly and this Plan outlines how City supports this work and the groups who do it.

As well as providing buildings, City wants to make sure that these buildings are:

- Easy to use, especially for people with disabilities
- Low cost and affordable
- Safe
- Cater to a wide range of needs and community interests
- Child and youth friendly
- Accessible to seniors and youth
- Well used
- Local centers for communities across the City

In Veneta there are several community facilities that may be needed or desired.

- Amphitheatre/Bandstand
- Boys & Girls Club or other youth facilities
- Community garden
- Enhanced Community Center
- Enhanced Food Pantry
- Enhanced Library
- Enhanced Senior Center
- Improvements to Territorial Sports Fields and other parks
- Marina & Boating Facilities
- Multi-Use Trails
- Swimming Facility
- Performing Arts Theater

## **C. Planning Context**

### **I. Additional Planning Documents**

This assessment is part of a larger multi-faceted strategic plan for Veneta and the Fern Ridge area that began with the Economic Development Strategic Plan (2006) and has continued through the Fern Ridge Strategic Plan. The update to the Fern Ridge Strategic Plan outlines several broad goals including goals for the quality of life that are addressed in this assessment including goals to, develop and improve cultural, artistic and recreational amenities, create and maintain facilities and open space and develop fully accessible regional, cultural, and recreational resources, and form a Fern Ridge Parks and Recreation District.

- Community Attitude Survey (Pool Survey), Dec. 2007
- Fern Ridge Trail System, July 2007
- Fern Ridge Strategic Plan, June 2006
- Market Readiness Analysis, June 2006
- Downtown Master Plan, June 2006
- Economic Development Strategic Plan, Mar. 2006
- Veneta Comprehensive Plan Ordinance No. 416, Sep. 2000
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, July 1998

### **2. Current Community Facilities Projects**

- Community Garden (Garcia Center)
- Garden Club (City of Veneta's Parks Board)
- Farmers' Market (City of Veneta)
- Heather Glen – Affordable Housing (St. Vincent De Paul Society)
- Save Our Service Center
- Sign Project (Fern Ridge Community Action Network)
- West Broadway Event Center (Art Inc.)
- Explorers Club (Lane Arts Council, the Fern Ridge Youth Enrichment Development Committee and Art Inc.)
- Pool Committee

### **3. Regional Planning Projects**

- Ridgeline Area Open Space Vision and Action Plan, LCOG, 2008

### III. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

#### A. Demographic Profile of the Fern Ridge Area

Two past demographic profiles have been undertaken in the greater Fern Ridge area. A Market Readiness Report, prepared by Marketek, Inc. examined the demographic profile of the Veneta Market Area, while the 2050 Regional Report prepared by the Lane Council of Governments examined data for the City of Veneta.

Data sources used for this demographic profile were: the City of Veneta, the Portland State University Population Center, the Oregon Department of Economics, and the United States Bureau of the Census from the 2000 Census as tabulated by the Institute of Education Statistics National Center for Education Statistics Demographic System. Data used in this demographic profile includes population, gender, age, ethnicity, household income and projected population growth.

For the purposes of this demographic profile, the Fern Ridge area consists of the Fern Ridge School District as bounded by Lane County. The majority of the information contained in this profile is given for this area for three reasons. First, the City of Veneta is surrounded by small unincorporated communities, many of who use Veneta's many community facilities. Second, public school facilities are frequently used as community amenities in rural communities. Third, given the tools and resources available, data from this area is the most readily available and most complete. Where there are gaps in years from data, the most recent data is presented. Likewise, data is given for the next largest available area where it was not available for Fern Ridge.

Data is also provided from a Market Analysis done by Marketek in 2006 for a region known as the Veneta Trade Area that includes Swishome, Horton, Lorane and other small rural communities in addition to Veneta, Elmira and Noti<sup>6</sup>. For a map, see Appendix A on page 49.

#### I. Total Population

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Veneta had 2,755 residents in 1999 or 904 households<sup>7</sup>. Veneta's present day population is an estimated 4,640 people<sup>8</sup>.

According to Institute of Education Statistics School Demographics System, the total population in the Fern Ridge School District 28J in 1999 was 9,915. There were 4,860 males (49%) and 5,060 females (51%). According to the 1990 U.S. Census there were 3,275 households in Fern Ridge School District 28J. By 2000 U.S. Census Calculations there were 3,680 households.<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 1: Population in the Fern Ridge School District**

	1990	2000
Residents	9,429	9,915
Household	3,275	3,680

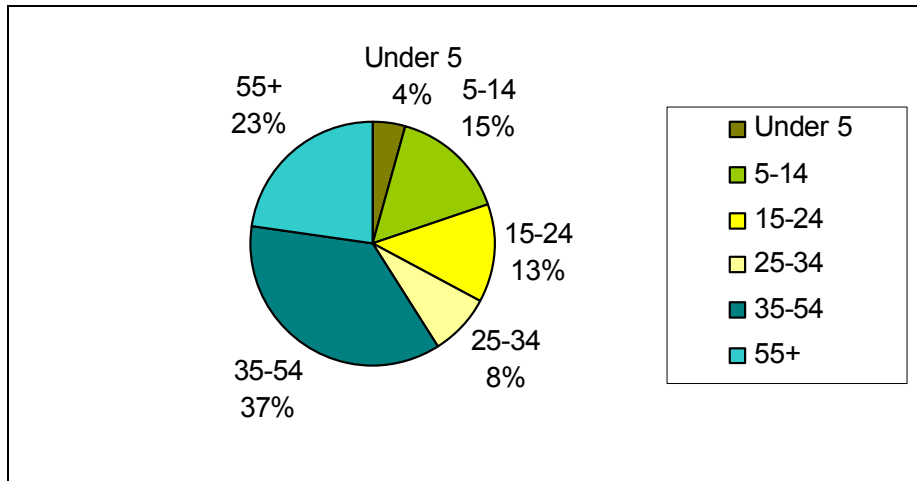
Marketek Inc. estimates the 2005 population of the Veneta Trade area at 20,839 and comprised of 7,747 households. This is up from 18,812 people and 6,713 households in 1990<sup>9</sup>.

#### 2. Age Distribution in Fern Ridge School District 28J

The median age in Fern Ridge School District 28J in 1999 was between 35 and 39 years<sup>10</sup>. In 1999, the median age of the City of Veneta was 32.7<sup>11</sup>.



**Figure 2: Population by Age in Fern Ridge in 1999.**



Analysis done by Marketek Inc. in 2006 seems to indicate that the population in the eastern part of the Fern Ridge area is slightly older than the population living in Lane County. The report indicates an estimated median age for the Veneta trade area at 42.9 years and 37.5 years within Lane County for 2005, while the 2005 estimated median age for the State of Oregon is 37.3 years. However, Marketek Inc's analysis looked at a population that includes Swisshome, Lorane and all of Crow in addition to Elmira, Veneta and Noti<sup>12</sup> and excluded Walton and the western portions of the Fern Ridge area.

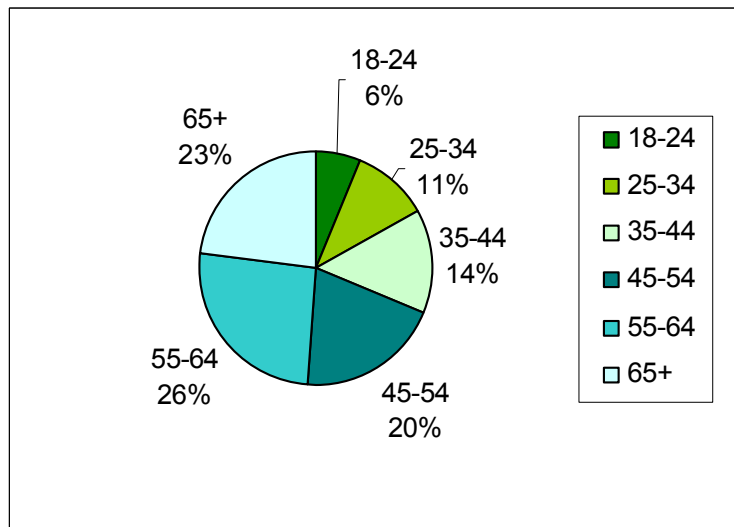
**3. Student Enrollment in the School Districts**

1,616 students were enrolled in the Fern Ridge, while 367 students were enrolled in the Crow-Applegate-Lorane in the 2007-2008 academic year<sup>13</sup>.

**4. Registered Voters in the Fern Ridge School District**

In 2007, 2,966 members of the population of the Fern Ridge area were registered to vote<sup>14</sup>.

**Figure 3: Registered Voters in Fern Ridge School District 28J**



## 5. Ethnicity in Veneta

According to 1999 US Census data compiled by the Institute of Education Statistics, the majority of the population in the Fern Ridge area is white (92.1%). American Indian or Alaskan Native persons make up 0.4% of the population, while 0.4% is Asian, 0.1% is African American, 0.6% is listed as other and 3% is two or more races. Of the total population, 3% is Hispanic or Latino of any race<sup>15</sup>.

Estimates for the Veneta Trade area indicate that an estimated 89.5% to 93.7% of county and local trade area residents are white alone, up to 10% more than the state average of 84.9%. However, while only 3.0% of the local population is of Hispanic origin, the percentage more than doubles in the county market area (6.7% of Hispanic origin). This value is still below the 9.9% statewide average<sup>16</sup>.

## 6. Household Income and Poverty Status

According to 1999 Census data, 12.9% of the households in Oregon earn \$15,000 to \$24,999, 15% earn \$25,000 to \$34,999, 21.9% earn \$35,000 to \$49,000 and 23.4% earn \$50,000 to \$74,999, The median income in the Fern Ridge area in 1999 was \$42,571 and the median household income in 1999 for Oregon was \$40,916.

**Table 2: Household Income in 1999.**

	Fern Ridge School District 28J	Oregon	US
Less than \$10,000	4.89%	8.62%	9.50%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	6.52%	6.49%	6.30%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	12.91%	13.41%	12.80%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	14.95%	13.90%	12.80%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	21.88%	17.70%	16.50%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	23.37%	20.19%	19.50%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	9.65%	9.70%	10.20%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	4.08%	6.53%	7.70%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	0.82%	1.70%	2.20%
\$200,000 or more	0.82%	1.76%	2.40%
Median Household Income	\$42,571	\$40,916	\$41,994

Marketek Inc. reported the median household income in the Veneta Trade area in 2005 as \$50,219 and the median income in Oregon as \$42,601.

**Table 3: Household Income in 2005<sup>17</sup>**

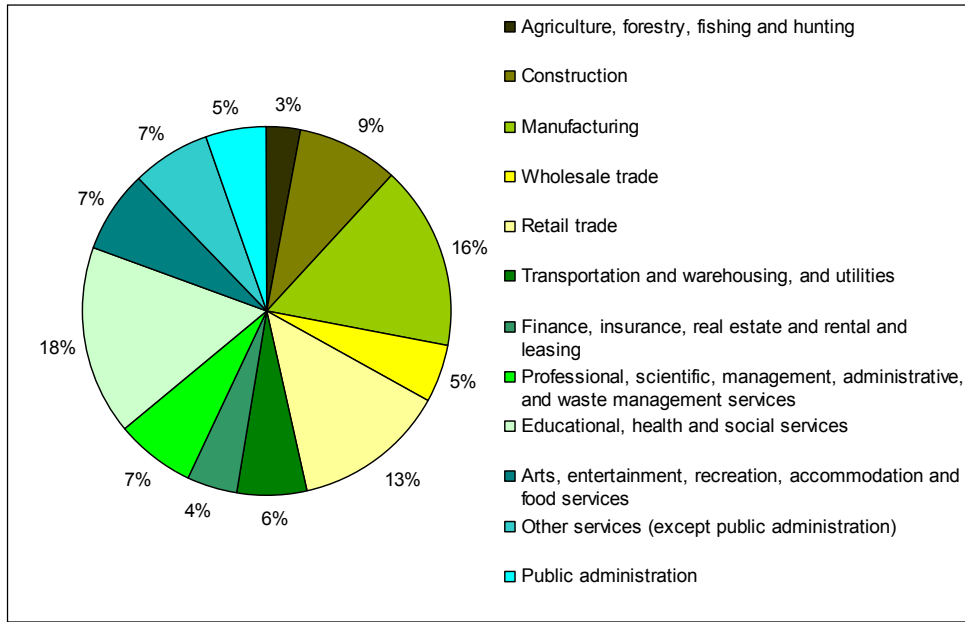
	Veneta Trade Area	Oregon	US
Less than \$15,000	8.5%	15.6%	12.6%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	10.8%	12.5%	11.3%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	11.9%	12.4%	11.8%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	18.5%	17.8%	17.1%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	22.8%	19.4%	20.4%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.3%	9.8%	11.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11.0%	8.4%	10.4%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1.9%	1.8%	2.4%
\$200,000 or more	2.4%	2.4%	2.8%
Median Household Income	\$50,219	\$42,601	\$47,424

Of the 2,855 families living in Veneta in 1999, approximately 8.6% were categorized as below the poverty level<sup>18</sup>. In the 2007-2008 academic year 41.7% of students were eligible for the National School Lunch Program in Fern Ridge School District, down from 43% in the 2006-2007 academic year. In the 2007-2008 academic year 36.5% of students in Crow-Applegate-Lorane were eligible for participation in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, down from 38% in the 2006-2007 academic year. In Lane County, approximately 41% of all students are eligible to participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program<sup>19</sup>.

Marketek’s analysis shows the Veneta trade area to be slightly more affluent than Oregon; however the increase from 1999 to 2005 seems marked as compared with increases state and nationwide. On the other hand, the fact that fewer students are now eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch program in both school districts does suggest an increase in local income.

**7. Industries in Veneta**

**Figure 4: Fern Ridge Area Industries**



Most people in the Fern Ridge area work in the Educational, health and social services (16.5%) industry and manufacturing (16%). A large percentage of people in the Fern Ridge School District work in retail trade (13.2%) and construction (8.7%)<sup>20</sup>.

**8. 1999 Market Profile of Fern Ridge Area Residents**

This Market profile is based on information gathered from the 2000 US Census and the Institute of Education Statistics National Center for Education Statistics Demographic System.

- 49% of the population is male, 51% is female.
- 93.3% of households consisted of families and 6.7% were non-family households.
- Median age was between 35 and 39, with the largest percentages of population in the Fern Ridge School area ages 35-54 (23%) and over 55 (23%). In Veneta, Oregon in 2000, the median age was 32.7.

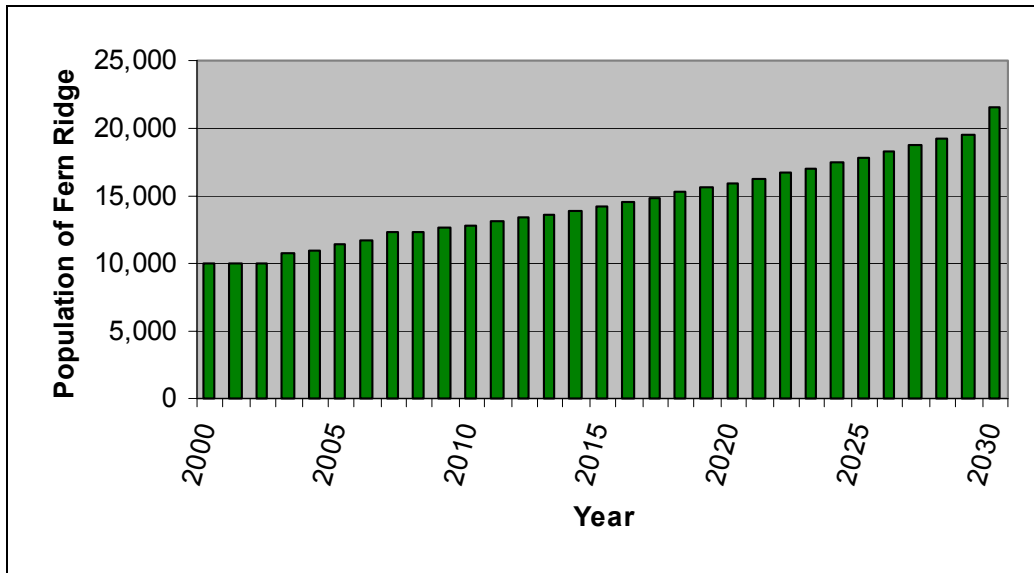
- 93.4% of the population is white.
- Median household income was \$42,571 in the Fern Ridge School District 28J and \$43,400 in the Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District SD 66.
- Of the population 25 years and older, 33.4% had received a high school degree alone, 34.1% have attended some college but did not obtain a degree, while 10.9% have received a Bachelor's degree and 7.4% have attained a professional degree or Master's degree or higher.

**9. 2005 Market Profile of Residents in the Veneta Trade Area<sup>21</sup>**

- Median age was 42.9 years for residents of the Veneta trade area and 37.5
- There were 7,747 households.
- 89.5% to 93.7% of county and local trade area residents are white alone.
- Median income in the Veneta Trade area in 2005 was \$50,219.

**B. Projected Population Growth**

**Figure 5: Population Projections for the Fern Ridge School District**



Veneta's population was relatively stable at 3,310 until 2003, when a building moratorium was lifted following the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility. Population growth has been fueled by the subsequent construction of new housing<sup>22</sup>. Since the lift of the moratorium Veneta's growth rate has ranged from 5.6% in 2003 to 9.43% in 2007. In the meanwhile, the average growth rate in Lane County has remained steady at approximately 1.08%<sup>23</sup>.

Over the next twenty years, the Veneta's population is expected to reach between 9,000 and 10,000 people. This number is based on potential buildable units in Veneta<sup>24</sup>. The Oregon Office of Economic Development projects Lane County's growth rate as between 1.01% to 1.17%<sup>25</sup>. This growth rate was used to project population growth for the Fern Ridge population outside the Urban Growth Boundary.

Veneta's population is presently 4,640. Using the City's predictions, Veneta's population in 2030 will be between 9,000 and 10,000 people. The present population of the Fern Ridge area is approximately 12,368 people and is expected to reach 20,000 people by 2030.

In 2005, Marketek Inc projected population growth rate for the 2005-2010 period. The local market area population is expected to grow by 1,885 people or 377 annually, resulting in a 2010 population of 22,724 and 8,749 households. Factored in to these estimates are the nearly 600 new households to be phased in by Hayden Homes during that time, the largest of several proposed development projects. Marktek Inc. did not project population growth into 2030.

#### **IV. EXISTING CONDITIONS**

##### **A. Purpose**

The purpose of this Existing Conditions section is to provide a community profile of city and non-city owned and operated community amenities (services and spaces).

##### **B. Community Profile**

Veneta lies within the Long Tom Watershed near the Fern Ridge Reservoir and Dam and the Long Tom River. The Fern Ridge Reservoir was formed by the damming of the Long Tom River in 1941 and named for a large patch of ferns located on the site of the dam<sup>26</sup>. Fern Ridge Reservoir encompasses nearly 9,000 acres adjacent to the city<sup>27</sup>. Veneta is the only incorporated city within the Fern Ridge area. The neighboring unincorporated areas in the Fern Ridge community include Elmira and Noti, parts of Crow, Eugene, Walton and Junction City. A rough map of the Fern Ridge area is located at Appendix B on page 50.

The majority of residents commute to the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area for work, with the largest proportion of the population working in the Education, health and social services sector, followed closely by industry and manufacturing. Large employers within the Fern Ridge area include the Fern Ridge School District and Bi-Mart. In addition, there are three mills in Veneta and the surrounding area: Willamette Industries, which operates a glue-lam beam plant, Swanson Brothers, which operates an old-growth saw mill and Swanson Superior, which has been retooled to handle second growth timber<sup>28</sup>. Small businesses in downtown Veneta include Our Daily Bread, a popular restaurant in a remodeled church and Kelley's Hardware.

In 2003, the Fern Ridge Reservoir was recognized as an Important Birding Area by the Audubon Society. It is home to more than 250 bird species including tundra swans, northern harriers, peregrine falcons, egrets and eagles. The Secret House Winery is located just west of Veneta, while Lavelle Vineyards in Elmira and Pfeiffer Vineyards in Junction City are located north of Veneta<sup>29</sup>. South of Veneta is Hinman Vineyards. Other area wineries include King Estates and Chateau Lorane<sup>30</sup>.

## **C. Existing Programs and Services**

### **I. The Garcia Center**

The Garcia Center is home to both the Mid-Lane Community Chest and to Senior & Disabled Services, a division of the Lane Council of Governments. Its dining room has been available in the past to community organizations; however, fewer groups used the dining room once it became required to have liability insurance.



1: Fregosi, Stephania. "Garcia Center." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

The Save the Fern Ridge Social Services Center group has been meeting to find a new home for the Garcia Center. The Garcia Center would like to have more space to provide additional services. The purpose of the Save the Fern Ridge Social Services Center group is to deliver social services and programs to the residents of the Fern Ridge area in an accessible environment. The building belongs to the Fern Ridge School District 28J and is adjacent to Veneta Elementary School. There is inadequate parking to meet both the needs of the Elementary School and the Garcia Center.

#### **a) Senior Services**

Services for senior citizens are provided to seniors living in both the Fern and Crow-Applegate- through the Mid-Lane Community Chest and through Senior Connections.

Senior Connections is a program of the Senior and Disabled Services division of the Lane Council of Governments. The Director is located in Veneta and works with seniors to connect them with essential services. This includes loans of equipment, finding people to do yard work and connecting people with live-in caregivers.

Meals for senior citizens are provided by the Lane Council of Governments Senior Services program. In 2006, they served 10,000 meals. Approximately half of those meals were served by the Meal & Meals On Wheels program. The organization also provides holiday gifts for low-income seniors through its Senior Tree Program. Seniors requiring energy assistance may apply to the Low-Income Energy Program (LIEP) at the Garcia Center through Senior and Disabled Services.

#### **b) Family Services**

The Mid-Lane Community Chest is a non-profit organization dedicated to "...foster[ing] programs to meet community needs through a vision to inspire hope in our neighbors<sup>31</sup>." The Mid-Lane Community Chest has an Emergency Assistance Program to provide help with utility shut-offs, fuel oil, firewood, and help with emergency prescriptions and referral to possible low income medical professional help. In addition, they partner with the United Way in their Youth Participation Scholarship Program, which helps families pay fees for Art and Sports programs in our area.

Both the Gleaners and the LOVE Project operate under the 501(c)(3) umbrella of the Mid-Lane Community Chest to provide food for the needy. The L.O.V.E. project is a food pantry and serves over 700 people per month and 220,982 lbs of food each year within the Fern Ridge School District 28J and the Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District SD 66.

They coordinate with FOOD for Lane County. They also work with the local Kiwanis chapter's annual Holiday Food Drive.

Past programs that are no longer offered include the Well Baby Program and the Family Resource Connection. In addition, the Department of Human Services Representative once had offices in Veneta. Residents must now travel to Eugene if a meeting is required.

Youth Athletic and Activity Scholarships are available from the Mid-Lane Community Chest to assist low-income youth in participating in after-school activities. This assistance is available to K-12 youth<sup>32</sup>.

**c) Affordable Housing**

**(1) HUD Housing – Veneta Villa**

Approximately 60 people live in Veneta Villa, which offers affordable housing for the disabled and for senior citizens. Veneta Villa is located on the corner of Territorial Highway and East Broadway.

**(2) Heather Glen Project**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County is working to construct affordable housing for families in Veneta, also known as Heather Glen. Heather Glen is a 27 unit affordable housing project consisting of 1,2 and 3 bedroom units. Additionally, the project has a community building that includes a community garden and a children's play area. The project is for singles, families, couples at or below 50% of Median Income as determined by HUD guidelines for family size. There are two fully accessible units and all one bedroom units are adaptable and suited for 'aging in place.' Completion of construction is anticipated in Spring of 2009<sup>33</sup>.

**d) Summer Food Program**

During the summer months, the Summer Food Program serves lunch to area children in Veneta City Park. Summer Food Program is a USDA Program designed to supplement the National School Lunch Program. The program is administered by FOOD For Lane County. Veneta City Park is an open site; no enrollment is required. In 2007, 3,268 meals were served over a 44 day period, or approximately 75 meals per day.

**e) Lilies of the Field**

Lilies of the Field provides free clothing to those in need. It is a volunteer-run program of Olivet Baptist Church<sup>34</sup>.

**2. After-School and Summer Camp Programs for Youth**

Organized group recreational activities for youth in the Fern Ridge area fall into three main categories: clubs, sports programs and an after-school program. In addition, the public library provides several programs for youth.

**a) Explorers Club**

The Explorers Club is a 21st Century Learning Center for school children and serves as Veneta's only after-school program<sup>35</sup>. The Explorers Club is built on partnerships between Fern Ridge Library, Veneta Elementary and the Lane Arts Council. The Explorer's Club has



2: Fregosi. "Explorers Club at the Farmers' Market." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

several activities including a homework club, an adventure club and a leadership program. In addition, their school garden project provides produce for Veneta's Downtown Farmers' Market. They are funded through Oregon education learning grants. The grant is ending soon and the program committee is looking into a variety of possibilities to keep an after-school program running in the Fern Ridge area. The Explorers Club also runs nine-day summer camp programs in July for currently enrolled students in grades K-5. Students are divided into two different groups – K-2 and 3-5.

**b) Play in the Park**

The City of Veneta offers supervised recreation activities during the summer for children entering first through sixth grade. The program promotes good citizenship among children, while keeping them active and entertained. The program is open to the general public, although in-city residents pay less than out-of-city residents.



3: Fregosi. "City Park." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

**c) Camp Fire USA**

Camp Fire USA's Camp Wilani site in Veneta holds both Day Camp and Resident camp programs at their site in Veneta. In addition, they offer a Counselor-In-Training Program for high-school juniors and seniors. Programs include archery, cooking, hiking, canoeing, arts and crafts, horseback riding and swimming.

**3. Youth Athletics**

In addition, organizations such as Willamette Valley Pop Warner Football, Emerald Kidsports, Inc., Phenomenon and the Territorial Sports Program serve as supplement to the Fern Ridge School District sports programs.

**4. Veterans Services**

Veterans of Foreign Wars no longer has a post in Veneta, although it has produced a past state commander. Appendix C on page 51 contains a complete listing of Veterans Services available in Lane County.



## 5. Cultural Programs, Festivals and Events

While many small cultural programs are offered by the Fern Ridge Public Library, the largest cultural program in the area is the Indian Education program. This program is administered by the Lane Education Service District for eight school districts in Lane County, including Fern Ridge. The Indian Education program is funded by a federal grant from the Department of Education under the Title VII of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act. The purpose of Title VII of the statute is to "...support the efforts of local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students, so that such students can meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards as all other students are expected to meet.<sup>36</sup>"

Approximately 15,500 total students are enrolled in these districts. In 2007, 935 students enrolled in the Indian Education program. In the Fern Ridge School District, 135 students enrolled in Indian Education program in 2007. A total of 1,515 students were enrolled in the Fern Ridge School District in 2007<sup>37</sup>.



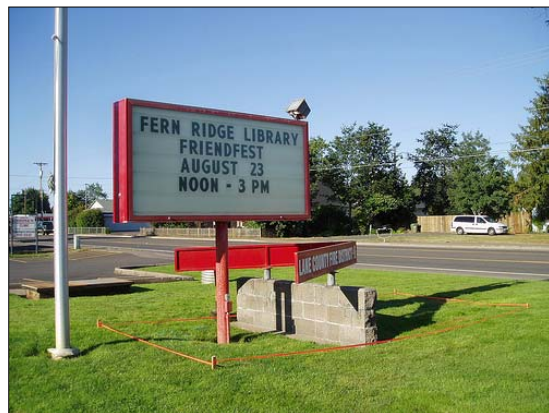
4: McCormick, Cal. "Skateboard Contest at Territorial Park." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

Veneta offers several area festivals and events. The biggest event of the year is the Oregon Country Fair. The Fair attracts 50,000 visitors annually. The Fern Ridge Wings and Wine Festival is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. In addition, the Fern Ridge BBQ sponsored by the St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church is the largest community event, followed by the Light Parade which is co-sponsored by several community organizations. In August of 2008, Neighbors 4 Responsible growth hosted the first skateboarding contest at Territorial Skate Park.

## 6. Ford Family Institute Leadership Program

The Ford Family Leadership Development class is a program of the Ford Institute for Community Building. The Institute exists to help the Ford Family Foundation achieve its mission to "enhance the vitality of rural communities." The Institute uses three methods to develop capacity within a community – training, grants and resources.

The Ford Institute Leadership Program, also an initiative of the Ford Institute for Community Building, consists of a sequence of five classes, three on Leadership Development and one each on Effective Organizations and Community Collaborations. All classes are held in the community. Each Leadership Development class commits to a class project. The current class is working with the Veneta Fire Station



5: Fregosi. "Future Electronic Readerboard." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

to upgrade the reader board at the Fire Station to an electronic version. The new electronic reader board will provide a centralized source of community information and events.

## **7. Fern Ridge Library District**

Fern Ridge Library District's mission is to serve its community through providing access to diverse cultural, educational and recreational resources, responding to individual and community information needs and promoting the full exercise of free speech and exchange of ideas.

The library offers community programs for all ages. The youth librarian implements programs which include a summer reading program, a Friday night movie program and an Arts and Crafts Program. They also offer a teen writer's club and book club. Programs for adults are offered through Friends of the Library, a volunteer organization dedicated to serving the library.

## **8. Fire Department and Emergency Services**



6: Fregosi. "Veneta Fire Station." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

Lane County Fire District #1 covers over 200 square miles with 11 fire stations, 10 of which are staffed solely with volunteers. The Fire District provides emergency medical services, fire suppression and community education with 8 paid staff and 80-90 volunteers. In 2007, they responded on over 1,300 calls for service.

In addition, the Fire Station administers a number of health and public safety programs including classes in first aid and CPR, a car seat safety program and the Safe Routes to Schools program<sup>38</sup>. The goals of Safe Routes to Schools include increasing the

ability and opportunity for children to walk and bicycle to school; promote walking and bicycling to school and encourage a healthy and active lifestyle at an early age<sup>39</sup>.

## **9. Community Facilities**

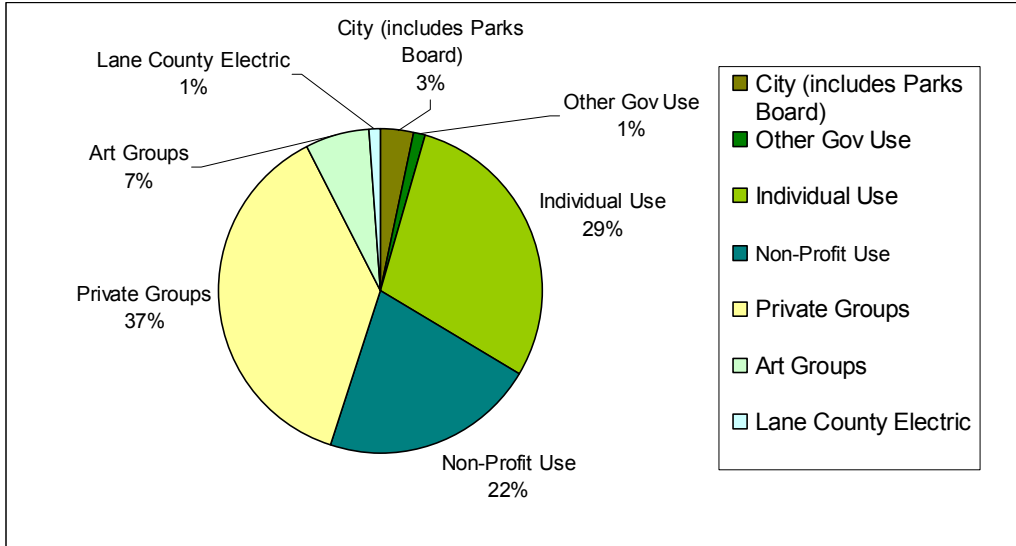
### **a) City Owned Facilities**

#### **(1) Veneta's Community Center**

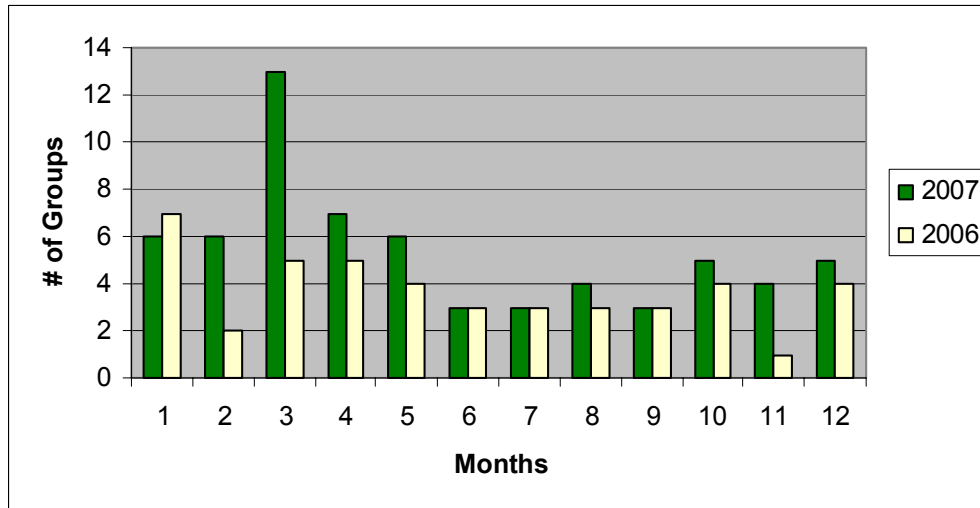
The Veneta Community Center is available to community members to rent for private functions and to non-profit organizations for no charge (with approval). It is adjacent to City Park and the City Pool (closed). See Appendix D on page 52 for a list of available equipment at the Community Center.

In 2007, the Community Center was used 37% of the time by private groups, 29% of the time by individuals and 22% of the time by non-profit organizations such as the Gleaners. Arts and cultural organizations used the space 7% of the time (Figure 7). The Community Center was used for approximately 2,769 hours. Data was unavailable for 2006; however, the number of uses as reported by the Department of Public Works was similar to those in 2007 (Figure 7).

**Figure 6: Hours of Use: Veneta Community Center**



**Figure 7: Community Center Use: Number of Groups Each Month**



**(2) City Hall**

City Hall is located downtown and serves double duty as administrative offices for civic employees and the Sheriff's Office. City Hall Council Chambers is used by the City of Veneta Parks Board for meetings. It is occasionally available to groups working on other city supported projects such as the Pool Committee for meetings. It is in near constant use during business hours and hosts evening committee meetings several times each month.

**b) Non-City Owned Community Facilities**

Many of the non-city owned community facilities are meeting spaces. An inventory of these spaces and equipment available is listed in Appendix D on page 52.

**(1) Elmira Grange**

The Elmira Grange Hall is the home of the Elmira Grange. It also doubles as a community center for Elmira Residents. As at the Veneta Community Center, those with access to liability insurance frequently rent the space for private functions. Furthermore, several local non-profit organizations use the space. In addition, the grange is available to the community if a disaster occurs<sup>40</sup>.

**(2) Lane County Fire District #1 Fire Station**

The Lane County Fire District #1 Fire Station in Veneta has a number of spaces that can be made available for use by community organizations on a case by case basis. There are five different training class rooms in the building. The largest space can accommodate 120 people, but can be divided into a curtain. Two smaller rooms each accommodate approximately 20 people each. A room on the first floor holds 25-30 people and has a small kitchen attached to it. (For more information, see Appendix D on page 52.)

In addition, one other station within the Fern Ridge School District has meeting rooms that are available for public use on a case by case basis: Walton Station on Transformer Road. The station on Central Road in Crow also has meeting rooms<sup>41</sup>.

In addition, the fire district is working with the Fern Ridge Community Action Network on upgrading their reader board to an electronic reader board. The reader board is available for use by the general community.

**(3) Fern Ridge Library**

Fern Ridge Library has two meeting rooms available for public use. Both rooms are intended to further the library's mission by facilitating the exchange of diverse information and ideas. (For more information, see Appendix D on page 52.) In addition, the library has nine public-access internet stations and hopes to increase that number to 15-20. The Fern Ridge Library Foundation is running a capital campaign to raise private money for changes to the building including extended stack space and changes to the public access computer area<sup>42</sup>.



7: Fregosi. "Fern Ridge Public Library." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

**(4) Schools**

There are two school districts in the Fern Ridge area. Fern Ridge School District 28J covers most of the community. The other school district is Crow-Applegate-Lorane. The Fern Ridge School District contains Elmira High School, Fern Ridge Middle School, Elmira Elementary School and Veneta Elementary School. Elmira High School is also home to the West Lane Technical Center. The Willamette Leadership Academy is a charter school.

Schools in the Fern Ridge School District host many events run by private organizations, who make use of the schools' soccer and baseball fields, basketball and tennis courts, cafeterias and auditoriums. The largest private school in the area is St. Thomas Beckett Academy. See Appendix E: Recreational Facilities in the Public School System on page 56.

Spaces at both the public and private schools are used for a variety of community activities such as the Boy Scouts, the Territorial Sports Program, the Indian Education Program and the Explorers Club. These facilities are sometimes available to community organizations for rent. The fee is typically nominal; however all groups must have liability insurance which can be cost prohibitive and the number of external users has dropped as a result<sup>43</sup>.

### **(5) Museums, Theaters and Galleries**

Applegate Pioneer Museum is located on W. Broadway and 7th. It is a small specialty pioneer museum with limited hours and covers Donation Land Claims in western Lane County. The only theater space in the Fern Ridge area is at Elmira High School. Some theatrical and musical events have been held at private spaces such as Our Daily Bread Restaurant and Secret House Winery.

Arle & Company owns the West Lane Shopping Center on the corner of Highway 126 and Territorial Highway. In the past, they loaned an empty storefront to the Applegate Art Gallery and Guild and to the Kiwanis Club for the Holiday Food Drive. The food is then distributed and any excess is distributed through the L.O.V.E. Project<sup>44</sup>. This space was also lent to the Applegate Regional Theater as a rehearsal space.

Arle & Company is currently in the process of making this space available to rent and has moved the Applegate Art Gallery and Guild to another of their storefronts. The Holiday Food Drive is looking for storage space and a new location to hold this year's Holiday Drive. They may use the Veneta's Fire Station for the 2009 drive.

### **(6) Oregon Country Fair**

The Oregon Country Fair is an annual three-day festival built around entertainment, hand-made crafts, food and information sharing<sup>45</sup>. The Fair takes place in Veneta on over 400 acres of land adjacent to the Fern Ridge Reservoir. A large percentage of this property is under water for a significant part of the year, so vendors and volunteer staff reconstruct and then tear down booths, stages and other infrastructure in the flood plain annually. This means the property is in use continuously from April through July. In August, the Oregon

Country Fair hosts 'Culture Jam', a week long summer camp for youth. The aim of the camp is to provide a learning experience centered around the arts, activism and nature.



8: Fregosi. "Drumming at the Country Fair." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

The Oregon Country Fair is a non-profit organization and actively contributes to projects that serve the local and regional community. Facilities available at the Oregon Country Fair include the camp kitchen and two large walk-in coolers and one walk-in freezer. During the off-season, the Oregon Country Fair encourages the use of their property for walking<sup>46</sup>.

### **(7) Camp Wilani**

Camp Wilani is located in the southwestern part of Veneta. Their 84-acre facilities include hiking trails, a horse arena with competition stalls and paddocks, an outdoor obstacle

course, canoes, a lagoon, a small outdoor pool, and RV parking. They have sleeping quarters that can serve up to 150 people, although they can serve upwards of 300 people on a daily basis. They have a dining hall and conference facilities. The camp is not winterized. The best time to use the camp is April, May, September and October as camp is in session June, July and August.

Camp Wilani's facilities are available to the general public for rent. The Fern Ridge School District is a past customer and many area private schools continue to rent Camp Wilani for their outdoor programs. Individual renters are usually covered by their home owner's liability insurance, although organizations are required to have their own. Local churches also use the site for retreats and other activities.

## **(8) Youth Center**

In 2002, following a youth survey they conducted, the Veneta Parks Board made the following space and programming recommendations for specifications of a youth service building on the Territorial Park site. (The survey is discussed further on page 26.) The Board recommended a building of 3,500 square feet with large spaces for an activity room and game room, smaller spaces for a quiet study space, computer use, food service, photography dark room, office, bathrooms (with outside access) and storage. They believed that popular activities for the building would be a snack bar (with outside access), an arts and crafts area, table games, computer use and video games, rock climbing, dancing, photo developing, weight lifting, music and TV (with a PA system and outlets.) In addition, the Board suggested a large covered outdoor porch for use an inexpensive usable space<sup>47</sup>.

### **b) Open Space, Recreational and Sporting Facilities**

#### **(1) Playgrounds, Fields and Parks**

The City of Veneta has seven city parks totaling 18.04 acres (see Appendix F: Condition of Parks in Veneta on page 57 for details on equipment and their condition). The two newest additions to the City parks inventory are Territorial Skate Park and the Bolton Hill Sports Complex. The Bolton Hill Sports Complex was made possible by grants from the Oregon's State Park System, the Ford Family Foundation and contributions made by individuals (raised by Territorial Sports Program.) Territorial Skate Park also contains a basketball court, a climbing wall and a playground for small children. The skate park is also used to host events such as the annual Earth Day Celebration and a skateboarding contests.



9: Fregosi. "Planting a Tree." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

In addition there are five regional parks in the area, which total an additional 533.3 acres (see Appendix F on page 57). These parks are operated by Lane County. The Lane County Parks department is currently working to obtain approval and funding for renovations to the marina at Richardson Park<sup>48</sup>.

Additional recreational facilities are sometimes available at the local public and private schools by special arrangement. These include sports fields, a walking track and a tennis

court. For a complete list of amenities available at each recreational facility, see Appendix F on page 57.

## **(2) Undeveloped City-Owned Land**

The city also owns 29.7 acres of open space land known as the Applegate Trail Days Site and an unnamed 0.5 acre parcel on West Broadway, which may be used someday for a civic plaza<sup>49</sup>.

## **(3) Fern Ridge Wildlife Area**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife manages the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area under a license from the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Fern Ridge Wildlife Area is comprised of 5,010 acres around the Fern Ridge Reservoir. The area provides access to bird viewing of the 250+ species that make the Fern Ridge Reservoir their home. In addition, there are over five miles of walking trails on the levees, boat and canoe access points and seasonal hunting opportunities. Access can be made approximately half-way between Veneta and Eugene on Highway 126.

## **(4) Trails**

Several hiking, biking and pedestrian trails exist in the Fern Ridge Area (See map in Appendix G on page 63). In 2007, the City of Veneta examined the possibility of trails expansion in the Fern Ridge Trail System Report. The Fern Ridge Trails System: Visions and Strategies Report identifies several potential future trail segments<sup>50</sup> (see Appendix I on page 64) and outlines an action plan.

## **(5) Swimming Pool / Parks and Recreation District**



10: Photo courtesy of the City of Veneta.

Veneta's heated outdoor swimming pool was closed in 2006 due to structural damage that occurred during an unusual storm event when the pool had been drained for maintenance<sup>51</sup>. Two experts examined the pool and both recommended replacement over repair. Robertson Architects, PC provided three options for replacement. The Pool Committee and City Council chose Option 2.

Option 2 calls for the construction of a seasonal outdoor 25 yard/six-lane competitive pool, larger year-round climate controlled shower rooms, a separate teaching/play pool and therapeutic spa pool and lawn area. This option would be designed to be enclosed and operate as a year-round facility at a later date. The estimated cost: \$3,187,900.

The Pool will be constructed using funds raised through a general obligation bond, grants, private donations and city funds. If a ballot is approved in November 2008, a new pool could open as early as late in the summer of 2010.<sup>52</sup>

Advanced Marketing Research Inc. was hired to survey voters in the Fern Ridge Library District to determine the level of support for a community pool. According to their survey, 27% of voters in the Fern Ridge Library District had used Veneta's community pool in the last three years before it closed. The top uses of the pool were for recreational swimming,

swim lessons and health and fitness. 48% would use a Veneta community swimming pool in the next three years if one existed.

The City of Veneta Parks Board investigated the possibility of creating a Parks and Recreation District in 2003. The board at that time decided not to pursue the matter due to a lack of funding for the creation of the district (estimated cost at \$25,000) and a lack of money and interest outside of Veneta<sup>53</sup>. The current Pool Committee plans to attempt creating a Parks and Recreation District as part of phase 2 of the pool plan which would be to enclose and operate the pool as a year round facility.

In the interim, the City of Veneta is renting Camp Wilani's pool so the City may continue offering swimming lessons to community youth. Swimming lessons are being offered for youth in three groups: 6 months to 3 years, 3 to 5 years, and 6 years of age and older. The nearest other public pool is in Eugene.

## **II. COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### **A. Community Workshop**

In the fall of 2007, the Ford Family Leadership program began its first class in Veneta. The class is made up of several community leaders representing a wide variety of organizations and interests (art, youth, social services,). Trainers began by having the class identify associations and institutional assets. In addition, class members were asked to identify financial and physical resources in Veneta. (See Appendix J on page 67.)

As part of the program, the class developed a small-scale class project list and then voted which project to work on. The Ford Family Foundation provides a \$5,000 matching grant for the project. Signage and community information ranked the highest with 26 votes, an outdoor community space ranked 2nd with 13 votes and a community garden and community newsletter received 9 and 8 votes respectively.

### **B. Past Surveys**

#### **I. Community Pool**

In 2007, Advanced Marketing Research, Inc. was hired to survey voters in the Fern Ridge Library District to determine the level of support for a community pool and for paying for a community pool. In addition, voters were asked whether or not they would support the creation of a Parks and Recreation District to collect funds for constructing, staffing and operating the pool.

41% of voters would support the creation of a new Fern Ridge Area Parks and Recreation District to collect funds for the construction of a new aquatic facility, while 26% would oppose such a measure. 25% are firmly undecided. Additionally, 40% of voters would support the creation of a new Fern Ridge Area Parks and Recreation District to collect funds for staffing and operating a new aquatic facility, while 26% would oppose such a measure<sup>54</sup>.

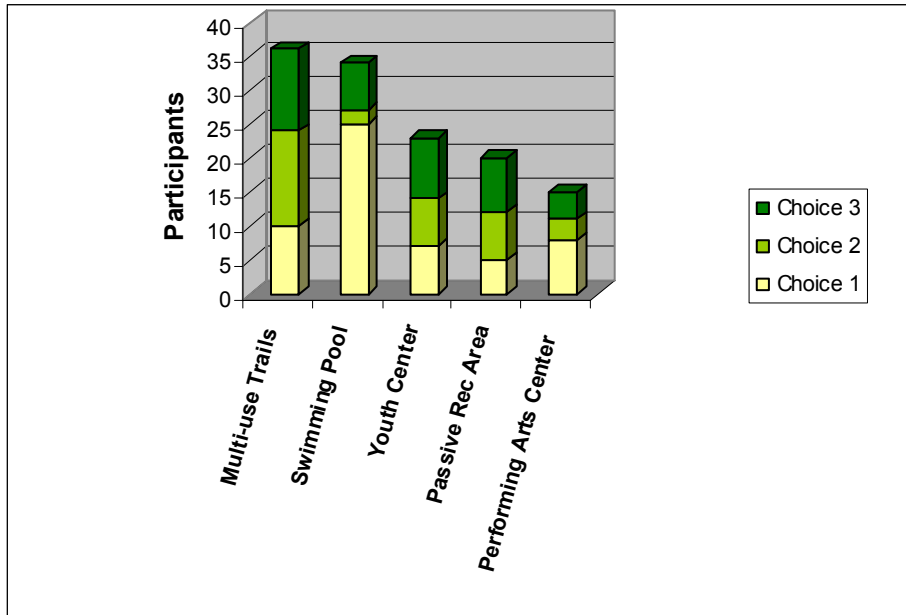
#### **2. Veneta Parks Facility Survey**

In 2006, the Parks Board passed out a survey to examine future demands for various recreation facilities within the city. The survey was left at various locations around the City of Veneta, including Ray's Food Place. See Appendix K on page 70 for a copy of the survey. 71 surveys were returned. Participants were given a list of possible parks improvements and asked how often they would use those facilities if they were available. They were then asked to choose three amenities and list their first, second and third



choices. The top identified concerns were multi-use trails followed by the swimming pool, although more people who chose the swimming pool ranked it as their first choice than of trails. The third place choice was the youth center. Figure 8 shows how participants ranked parks improvements that received at least 15 total votes.

**Figure 8: 2006 Parks Survey Data**



In addition the parks survey asked participant if they would support a parks and recreation district. 69 people said yes, and 3 people said no. 51 of the participants lived in City limits, while 24 lived outside City limits.

**3. Youth Survey**

In 2001, the Veneta Parks Board conducted a youth survey through the Fern Ridge School District. 440 Fern Ridge School District students (K-12) were surveyed about their interests in youth activities if a youth community center were built. Activities were divided into three different questions, one for different categories with break out categories for athletic activities, art workshops and dance. 54% of surveyed youth said they would use the facility, with the majority of those planning to use the facility both during the week and the weekend. A copy of the tabulation sheet along with the questions may be found at Appendix L on page 72.



11: McCormick. "Broadway Events Center Opening." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.

## **C. Community Feedback**

Community feedback was gathered through stakeholder interviews and a survey. These meetings were designed to obtain information about community facilities and to solicit citizen input regarding perceived priorities and needs.

### **I. Stakeholders Interviews**

This Community Facilities Assessment Stakeholders Committee was formed to oversee qualitative and quantitative community input. Community members were solicited from inside and outside Veneta City limits. Data was presented to the committee in a series of four monthly meetings for comments. The committee helped to shape the direction of inquiry by supplying additional information and suggesting names of people to contact or facilities to look into. The Stakeholders Committee took a sample survey and provided additional feedback.

Fifteen individuals were interviewed about both community facilities that they interact with in their work and volunteer time. (See Appendix M on page 76). They were also asked for their opinions concerning the future of community facilities. Most of the interviewees expressed a concern for a loss of services and facilities that, until recently had been available in Veneta. Many of the services that were once available at the senior center can now only be obtained in Eugene. Similarly, the nearest swimming facility is also in Eugene.

Most people mentioned concerns for the well-being of seniors and children. Spaces for those programs to be run were a high priority. Teenagers and young adults mentioned a desire for things to do other than outdoor activities. They were interested in movies, music and shopping. One young adult mentioned that the town needs less fast food and that something vegan friendly would be nice. Another person suggested that the biggest lack in this community is a clearinghouse organization. A clearinghouse organization would increase the effectiveness of community organizations by focusing on connectivity.

### **2. Other Verbal Feedback**

Throughout the assessment, members of the community made suggestions and comments for this Community Facilities Assessment. Verbal comments are listed here. Need to have a volunteer police department (as opposed to paying for police services).

Need a second light at Jeans Road and Territorial.

Need crosswalks by the Farmers' Market both across Broadway and across Territorial.

Veneta needs more beautification. We used to have a beautification committee. In particular trash and weeds next to the Welcome to Veneta sign (that has the farmer's market sign on it.) need cleaning up.

Why do we have so many duplicate restaurant types?

Where is the pool going to be? It shouldn't be in the same location – this problem has happened twice already. The same thing will happen again.

I'm concerned about the economy; a lot of people are going to be homeless. Shouldn't we be doing something for them?

### **3. Community Facilities Assessment Survey**

The Fern Ridge Community Facilities Assessment Survey is an informal questionnaire designed to measure community support for a variety of potentially desired community facilities such as a youth center, enhanced senior center or bowling alley. (See Appendix N on page 77 for a copy of the survey). Due to financial restraints, a statistically valid survey could not be conducted.

The survey was designed to obtain information concerning current perceived needs for community facilities and services and current perceived priorities for those facilities and services. Special attention was given to the problem of collecting data from those who live outside City limits.

#### **a) Methods**

The Fern Ridge Community Facilities Assessment Survey was formulated following examination of past surveys in the Veneta area and with the input of this Community Facilities Assessment Stakeholders Committee.

The survey was available in downloadable portable document format on the City website. Flyers were hung at community places throughout the Fern Ridge area. Hard copies of the survey were left in three locations in order to increase accessibility to those without computer access: the Fern Ridge Public Library, the Senior Center and the Garcia Center. Other important community stakeholders were e-mailed a copy of the survey and asked to share it with their mailing lists. Hard copies were also distributed via the Fern Ridge Ministerial Association. News briefs were sent to the local newspaper; however, they were not published.

The survey was also distributed at several local events: the summer program of the Explorers Club, Veneta's Park and Ride for the Oregon Country Fair, Veneta's Downtown Farmers' Market (July 11, 18, 25 and August 1), and the Community Opening of the W. Broadway Center. With the help of community volunteers, the survey was also distributed through the Fern Ridge Ministerial Association. Over 300 hard copies were distributed and 100 e-mail contacts were made (not all of whom lived within the survey area). 93 surveys were returned.

#### **b) Area**

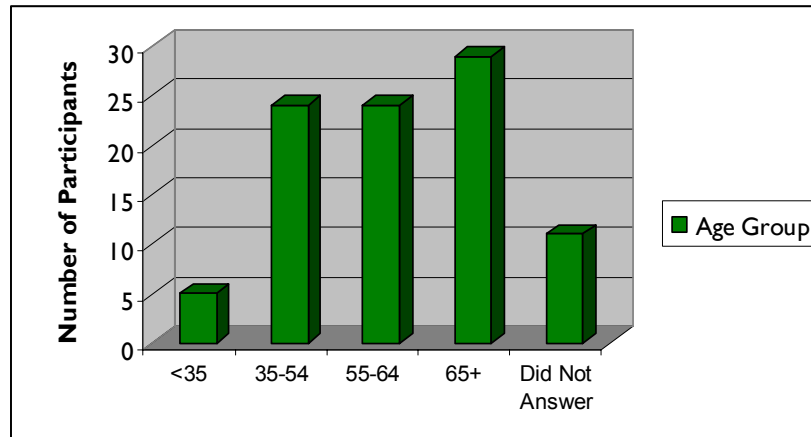
Eligibility for the survey was determined through two questions. To be eligible, participants were required to live within certain zip codes and in the Fern Ridge School District within Lane County or the Crow-Applegate-School District. A map of the survey area is shown at Appendix A on page 49.

### **4. Results**

Data tables are in Appendix O on page 84.

**a) Demographics**

**Figure 9: Age Structure of Fern Ridge Community Facilities Plan Survey Participants**



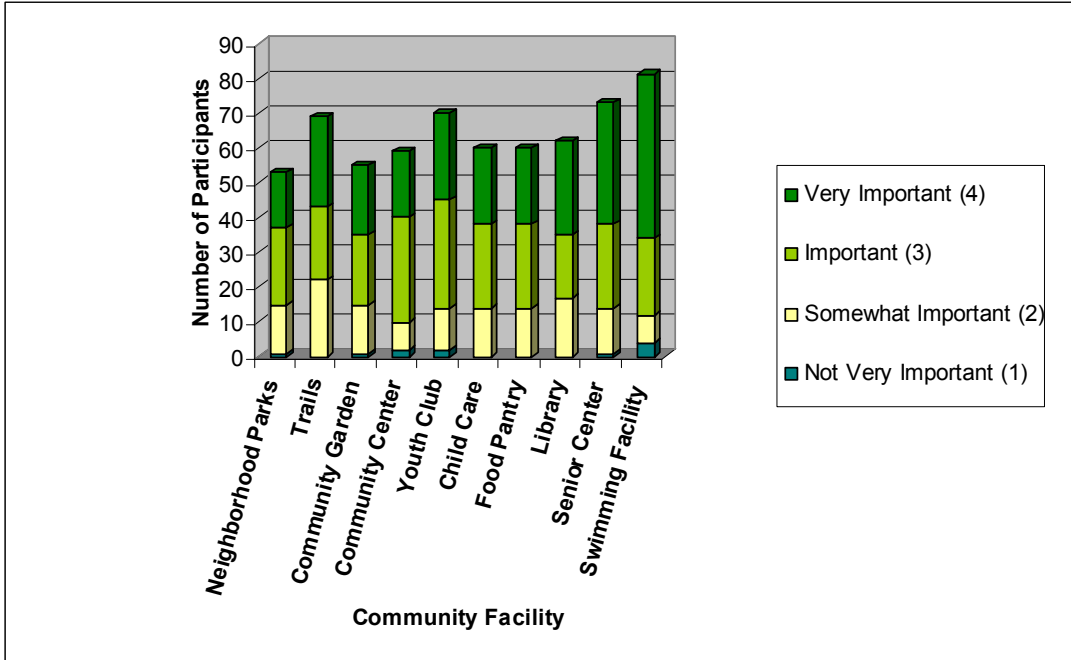
- 93 people participated in the survey. Only seven of the participants live in the Crow-Applegate School District. 2 did not provide the school district (although they qualified for the survey through the zip code test) and the other 85 participants live within the Fern Ridge School District.
- 79% of the participants live in the 97487 zip code, while 14% live in the 97437 zip code.
- 64 of the participants were female, 23 were male and 7 chose not answer the question
- Of 94 surveys received, 12 participants were under 44. 59 of the respondents were of the baby boomer generation (age 44-72) and 12 were 73 or older. 11 did not give their age.
- 22 of the participants have children living at home aged 18 or under. 9 participants chose not to answer the question and the other 63 do not have children living at home aged 18 or under.

**b) Question 2: Perceived Need For Importance of Facilities**

Question 2 of the survey asked “As the Fern Ridge community continues to grow, is it your view that the community needs...” Participants were presented with a list of facilities and asked if they thought the community needed that facility. (Yes, No, Did Not Know). 55% of the total responses were Yes, 19% were No and 22% either marked Do Not Know or did not answer the question.

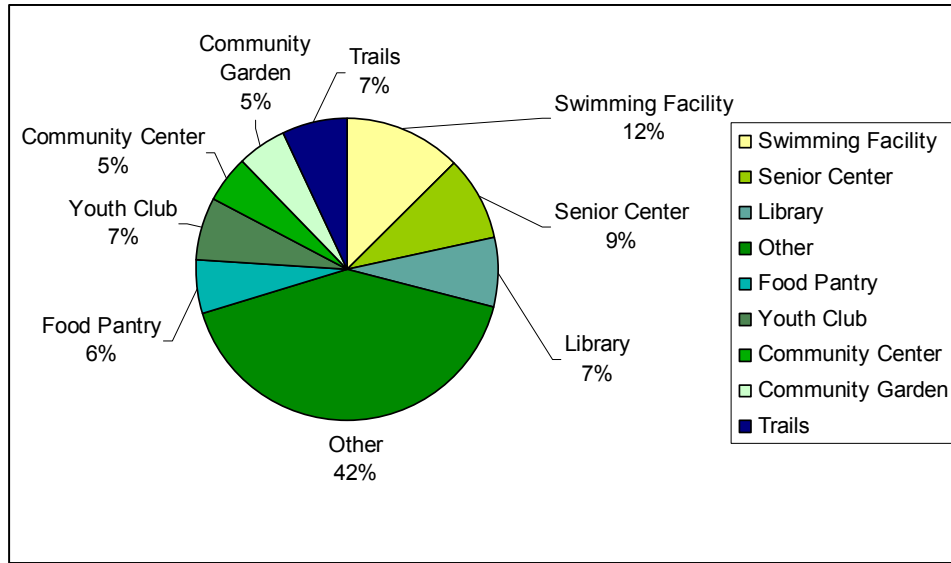
If participants answered Yes, they were then asked to rank how important having the facility in the Fern Ridge area is to them. The scale ranged from Not Very Important (1) to Very Important (4). Facilities with the highest average score were the swimming facility, the senior center, and the library in that order. An additional child care center, an enhanced food pantry, a youth club/after school facility and an enhanced community center received the same average score. Figure 10 depicts community facilities that were rated as Important (3) or better. It is sorted from the lowest average importance rating on the left to the highest average importance rating on the right.

**Figure 10: Highest Average Importance Rating of Community Facilities**



The facilities that received the greatest share of the votes for Very Important (4) were the swimming facility (12%), an enhanced senior center (9%) and trails, an after-school/youth club and enhanced library (7%) each. (See Figure 11: Most Desired Community Facilities on the following page). Community facilities that received fewer than 19 votes were combined and put into the other category. Those categories are: an additional child care center, additional conference rooms, additional large community parks, additional marina/boating facilities, additional outdoor athletic facilities, additional playgrounds, additional small neighborhood parks, a bandstand or outdoor amphitheater, a bowling alley, covered barbeque or picnic areas, a cultural arts center/museum, an equestrian area, lodging, a movie theater, a theater for the performing arts, trails, and a visual arts space.

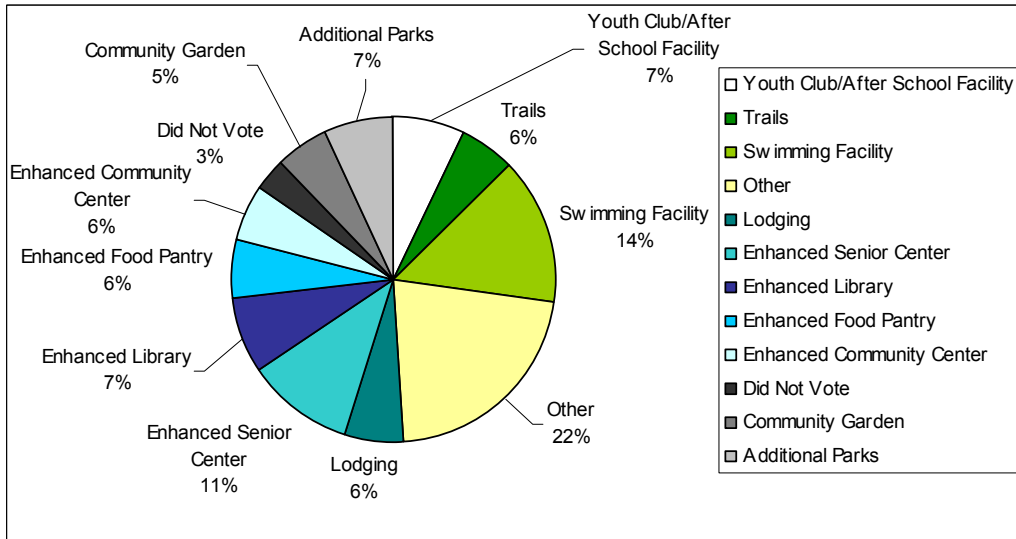
**Figure 11: Most Desired Community Facilities**



**c) Question 3: Perceived Need For Importance of Facilities**

As a follow up to Question 2, participants were asked to choose and rank the four facilities that were the most important to them. The swimming pool was chosen most frequently (14%), followed by the senior center (11%), and an enhanced library and a youth club/after school facility (7%) each<sup>1</sup>.

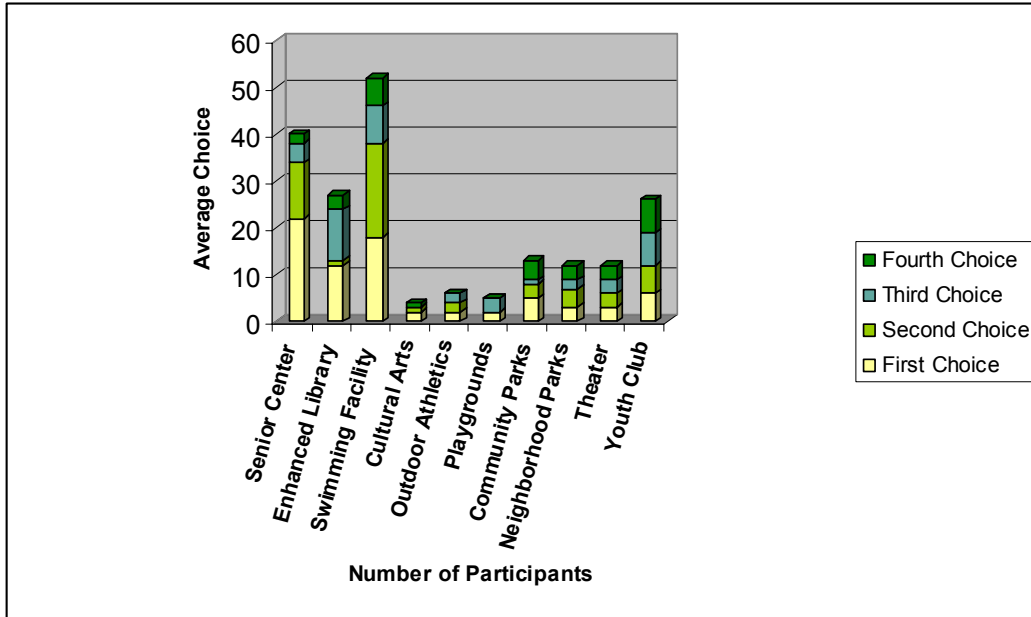
**Figure 12: Top Community Facility Choices (Total)**



<sup>1</sup> The Additional Parks category is a combination of the Additional Small Neighborhood and Additional Large Community Parks categories.

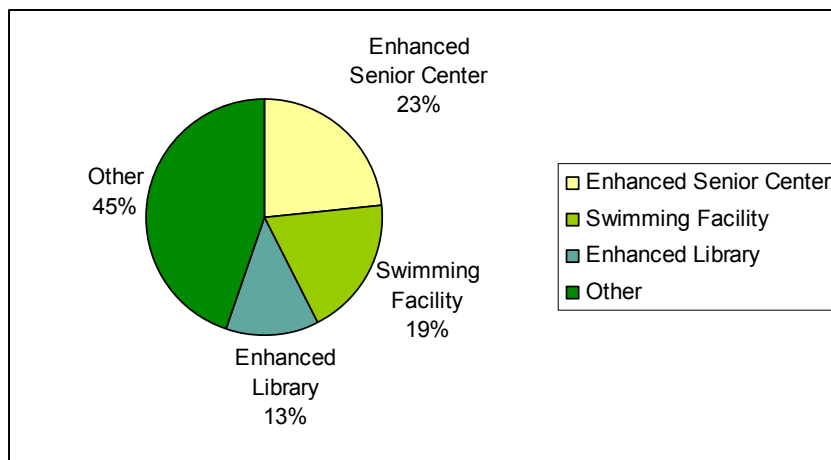
On average, the senior center received the highest average choice; the enhanced library received the second highest average choice; and the swimming facility received the third highest average first choice. The remainder of the options received six votes or fewer. (See Figure 13.)

**Figure 13: Top Four Choices, Community Facilities (Average Choice)**



Of the first choice votes, 23% of participants chose the enhanced senior center, while 19% chose the swimming facility and 13% chose an enhanced library. The remainder of the options received six votes or fewer each. See Figure 14.

**Figure 14: Most Desired Facilities (First Choice)**



**d) Question 4: Additional Community Facilities**

In question 4, participants were asked to list any additional community facilities that they would like to have in the Fern Ridge area. Table 4 is a list of write-in community facilities. The table also includes some modifications participants made to question 2 while taking the survey (e.g. inserted the word indoor next to swimming facility in question 2). Table 4 does not quantify written comments made by survey participants.

**Table 4: Write-in Community Facilities**

<p><u>Business</u> (11)</p> <p><u>Groceries</u>          -Alternative food shopping (i.e. Trader Joes)          -Competitive Grocery Store (WinCo) (2)          -other food stores          -other grocery store (1)          -Restaurants (3)          -Covered Farmers' Market (3) (one request for crafts)</p>	<p><u>Business, Other</u> (6)</p> <p>-Bakery / Ice cream parlor          -Car wash          -Development on main street          -NASCAR track          -Dollar theater          -Establishment variety</p>	<p><u>Parks and Recreation</u> (18)</p> <p>-Indoor Pool (7)          -Community Y          -Dog Park          -Community Forest          -Golf Course (2)          -Tennis Courts (2)          -Additional Skate Park          -Quad Bicycling area          -Connections between neighborhoods          -bark trails          -Alcohol and smoke free pool table</p>
<p><u>Public Facilities</u> (5)</p> <p>-Expanded City Hall          -Community Hospital          -Community Medical Facilities          -Jail          -Community Resource Center</p>	<p><u>Transportation</u> (3)</p> <p>-Bus Shelter          -Park and Ride Area          -Railway Station and Service</p>	<p><u>Senior Center Enhancements</u> (4)</p> <p>-Bigger Senior Center          -A/C at the Senior Center          -Work Out center          -Pool Hall</p>

**e) Question 5: Perceived Need For Importance of Community Services**

In questions 5 and 6, participants were asked whether or not it was important to them that the Fern Ridge Community provides certain services. In question 5, participants ranked each service or function on scale from Not Sure (1) to Very Important (5); however the majority of participants chose high numbers, rendering it impractical to look at a ranking based on average importance.



**Figure 15: Most Desired Community Services**

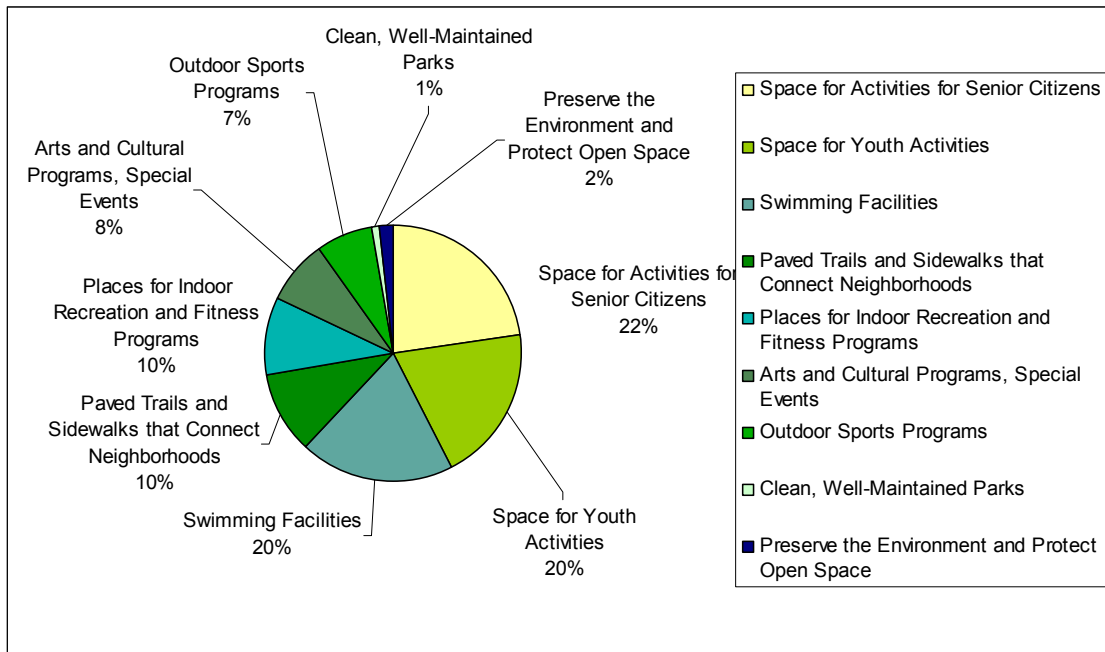
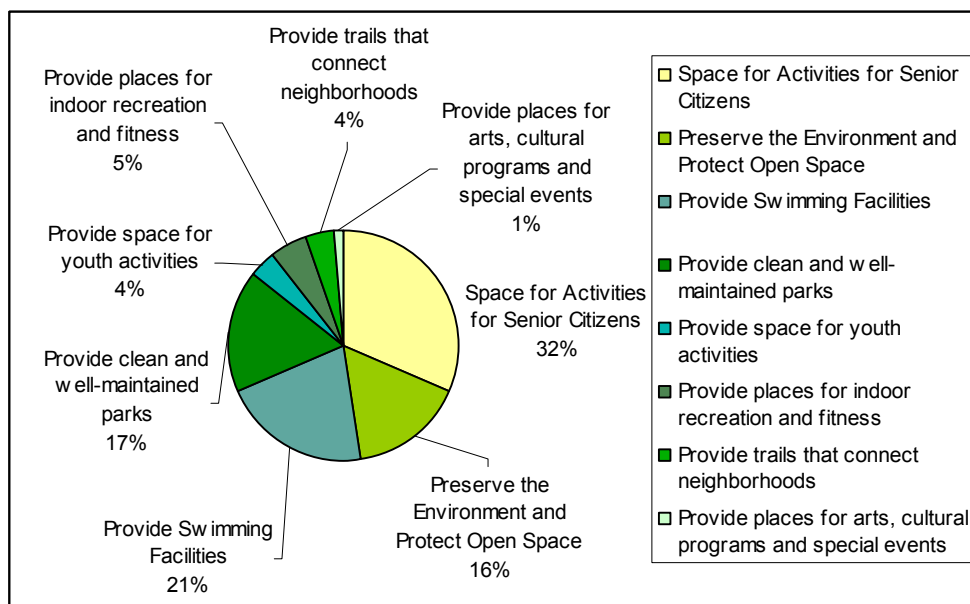


Figure 15 shows the percentage of participants who ranked each facility as Very Important (5). Providing a space for activities for senior citizens came in highest at 22% and providing a space for youth activities and swimming facilities came in next at 20% each. There is no statistical difference between these categories.

**f) Question 6: Perceived Need For Importance of Community Services**

In question 6, participants were asked to choose four options from a hypothetical list of services and rank them. This graph in Figure 16 represents the top choices people made when asked to rank values.

**Figure 16: Most Desired Community Services (First Choice)**



**Figure 17: Relative Importance of Different Community Services**

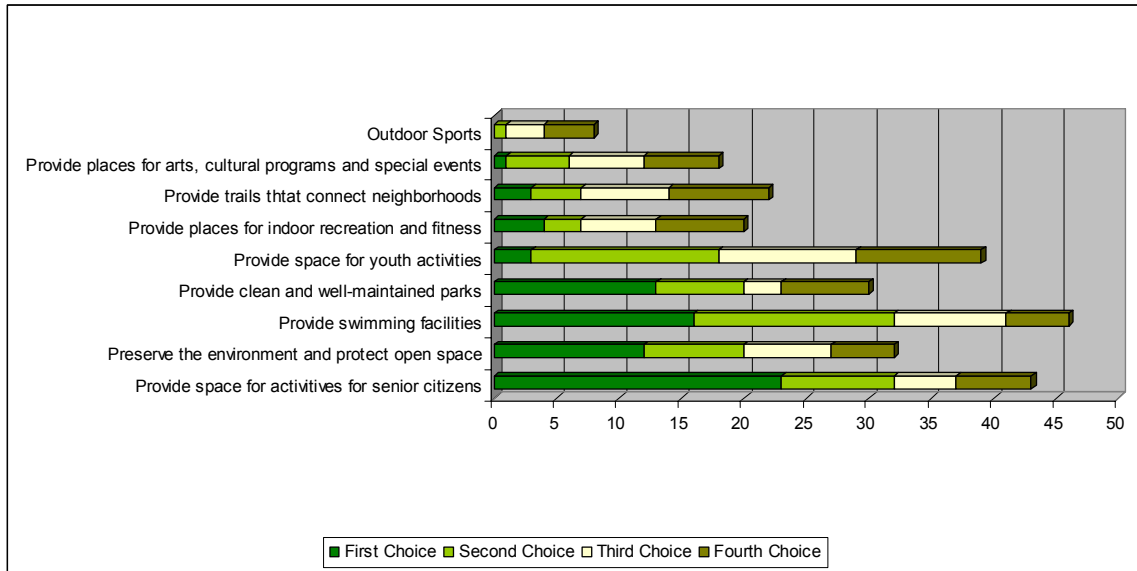


Figure 17 shows the strength of opinions for each choice. Choices are ranked from bottom to top terms of strength of opinion. Participants felt the most strongly that the Fern Ridge Community should provide a space for activities for seniors, preserve the environment and provide open space, provide swimming facilities and provide paved trails and sidewalks that connect neighborhoods. Some participants wrote in votes for combined services and programming. See Table 5.

**Table 5: Votes for Combined Programming and Services**

Cultural Programs, Special Events, Indoor Recreation and Fitness	1
Youth Activities, Outdoor Sports Programs	1
Senior Citizens/Youth	3
Indoor Recreation and Fitness and Outdoor Sports	1
Other: Enhance Establish Parks	1

**g) Question 7: Paid Use of Community Facilities**

Question 7 asked whether or not the participant had rented a community facility in the Fern Ridge Community for a private party or event. 26 of 94 participants had rented a community facility, 68 had not or didn't answer the question.

Question 7a. asked why or why the participant had not rented a facility within the last 12 months. No reason to rent received the most votes at 46, while used own yard or tent came in second at 20 votes. 20 people chose not to answer the question.

Question 7b. asked what two facilities the participant and his or her household used the most often for Community Events or Programs. Participants made 66 choices and chose a church the most frequently (15), the senior center (9), the Veneta Community Center (10) and a grange (8). Comments given about the Veneta Community Center are in Appendix N on page 77.

Question 7c. asked why participants who selected "Facility did not meet my needs" to provide details about why the facility did not meet their needs.

**D. Written Feedback from the Survey**

Thirty-nine people provided written comments. They are roughly divided into categories and presented in Appendix O on page 84. The categories are: general, library, youth and senior citizens, combined facilities, conference facilities, community center, an indoor pool and a parks and recreation district, a theater, parks, connected trails and safety, a community garden, environment and community and economic development.

Some of the comments concerned beautification, drug trafficking at parks and a desire for community and economic development. In addition, some concern was expressed for road safety and traffic lights at a few intersections.

**III. Findings**

**A. Community Facilities in Veneta and Comparable Communities**

Two nearby communities are similar to Veneta, both in size, community makeup and in growth patterns. These are Creswell and Junction City (Table 6). Cottage Grove is also included as it is similar in population size to the Fern Ridge area.

**Table 6: Community Facilities in Veneta and Comparable Communities**

	<b>Veneta</b>	<b>Creswell</b>	<b>Junction City</b>	<b>Fern Ridge Community</b>	<b>Cottage Grove</b>
<i>Population</i>	4,640	4,650	5,135	9,915	9,345
Bandstand or Outdoor Amphitheater			x		x
BMX Track					x
Bowling Alley			x		x
Child Care Center	x		x	x	x
Community Center	x	x	x	x	x
Community Garden					
Conference Rooms	x	x	x	x	x
Covered Group Barbeque or Picnic Areas	x	x		x	x
Cultural Arts Center					x
Equestrian Arena					
Food Pantry	x	x	x	x	x
Indoor Visual Arts Space					x
Large Community Parks	x	x	x	x	x
Library	x	x	x	x	x
Lodging (e.g. Bed and Breakfast, Campgrounds or Motel)		x	x		x
Marina/Boating Facilities				x	Boating on River/Lake
Movie Theater					

	Veneta	Creswell	Junction City	Fern Ridge Community	Cottage Grove
Other	Oregon Country Fairgrounds		Scandinavian Festival Hall		
Outdoor Athletic Facilities	x	x	x	x	x
Playgrounds	x	x	x	x	x
Senior Center	x	x	x	x	x
Skate Park	x	planned	planned		
Small Neighborhood Parks	x	x	x	x <sup>2</sup>	x
Swimming Facility		x	x		x
Theater for Performing Arts					x
Trails (Biking, Equestrian, Hiking, Walking, etc.)	x <sup>3</sup>	x	x	x	x
Youth Club	<sup>4</sup>	x		x	x

**Table 7: Planned Facilities in Veneta and Comparable Communities**

Veneta	Creswell	Junction City	Cottage Grove
Swimming Pool		11-acre Community Park	Historic Themed Park <sup>5</sup>
W. Broadway Theater		10-acre Community Park	Swimming Pool
		Skate Park	

**B. Community Facilities**

The availability of services and programs in Veneta is largely dependent on a lack of space for some types of activities. These include the loss of the swimming facility, the relocation of the food pantry, the lack of a youth club, the threat to the senior center and the desire for expansion at the library. Conversations with community leaders revealed that the loss or threat of loss to these facilities is a higher concern than planning for future facilities.

Results in this section were formed from four kinds of ratings from this Community Facilities Assessment Survey and from ratings from the 2006 Veneta Parks Board Survey. Participants in this Community Facilities Assessment survey were asked to first rate how important a facility was to them and then to choose their top four most important facilities. The average importance rating of a facility is the score participants gave the facility, with Very Important (4) being the highest possible score. Facilities were also rated based on the number of times they were chosen as a top four choice and finally based

<sup>2</sup> Owned by the City of Veneta

<sup>3</sup> Not owned by the City of Veneta.

<sup>4</sup> Programming, but not a facility.

<sup>5</sup> In partnership with the Bohemia Foundation, the city is planning a community park/open space that will include an interpretive historical museum, space for civic and educational gatherings, an amphitheater for 2000 people, picnic shelters, a half-mile walking trail, pond, playground structure and access to trails for bicyclists.

on the frequency that they received the top choice. In addition, both written and verbal comments were taken into consideration. Recommendations in this section attempt to recognize both the need and desires for all of the community facilities, while understanding that community resources such as funds and volunteers are limited.

**Table 8: Relative Importance of Community Facilities**

Highest Average Importance Rating	Most Important Community Facilities (Times in the Top Four)	Greatest share of votes for very important
Swimming Facility	Swimming Facility (12%)	Enhanced Senior Center (23%)
Enhanced Senior Center	Senior Center (9%)	Swimming Facility (19%)
Enhanced Library	Enhanced Library, Youth Club, Multi-Use Trails (7%)	Enhanced Library (13%)
Enhanced Food Pantry and Additional Child Care Facility	Enhanced Food Pantry (6%)	
Youth Club/After-School	Community Center and Community Garden (5%)	
Enhanced Community Center		
Community Garden		
Multi-Use Trails		

**Table 9: Relative Importance of Community Services**

Greatest Share of Votes for Very Important	Highest Average Importance of Community Services
Providing space for activities for senior citizens (22%)	Providing space for activities for senior citizens
Providing space for activities for youth (20%) and providing facilities (20%)	Preserving the environment and protecting open space
Providing places for indoor recreation and fitness activities (10%)	Providing swimming facilities
	Operating parks that are clean/well-maintained
	Providing space activities for youth

**I. Summary**

Veneta will need several new or renovated community facilities in the next 20 years. These facilities include a new swimming facility, a senior center, multi-use trails, an enhanced library, an after-school program, additional parks, parks improvements and spaces for performing arts and cultural and programs. In addition, Veneta will need more indoor recreation opportunities for teens.

In the long-term Veneta, will need to develop a parks program that includes community facilities, either through a Parks Department or a Parks and Recreation District. The program should help to enhance its volunteer capacity, address the parks and recreation needs of Veneta's aging population and furnish additional types of community facilities to meet the demands of growth.

In general, Veneta residents felt that the greatest need were facilities that can provide services for the most people. These facilities included a new swimming facility, a senior center, multi-use trails and an enhanced library.

The survey also suggests a need to build and maintain partnerships with the Fern Ridge School District, the Fern Ridge Library District and the Fire District to sustain Veneta's community facilities. Projects that require a larger base of population for support such as a Performing Arts theater, a cultural arts center or medical facilities might also be achieved through rural regional partnerships with Junction City and Creswell. Such facilities would also need to be supported an enhanced rural transit network. Veneta might conduct a study on assets in neighboring communities in order to suggest mutually beneficial projects.

During the Ford Family Institute Leadership Class, several people mentioned a concern about a lack of community identity and suggested that providing cohesive community information might be one way to bring the community together and help define Fern Ridge as an area. The class ultimately decided to construct an electronic reader board for their project; however, they also suggested several other solutions such as a cartoon map of the area and placing signage in and out of the Fern Ridge community. Another way to provide cohesive community information at a low-cost is through the internet, although the success of this strategy relies on the premise that the community is both internet savvy and willing to communicate through this method.

Another question that arose concerned the needs of community organizations. Community organizations are frequent users of many community spaces. Some community facilities in Veneta are developed or supported by volunteers. These organizations include the Veneta Parks Board, the Love Project, the Mid-Lane Community Chest, the Fern Ridge Youth Enrichment Development Committee, Friends of the Library and Friends of Zumwalt Park. Most of the volunteers serve multiple community organizations and burn-out is a constant threat.

The Fern Ridge Progress Board discussed building community capacity through enhancing volunteer networks. The Progress Board is now holding bi-annual community meetings. The purpose of one of the meetings is to have community organizations network and inform each other on their community activities. In the future, this meeting could include more of the greater Fern Ridge area, increasing the potential for community partnerships.

The Progress Board also suggested hiring a volunteer coordinator to serve multiple organizations. The Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce held a round table with its non-profit members to see how it could serve them better. The City might hold similar round tables or administer a survey of local community organizations.

One question that could be answered by such a survey would be whether or not the need for organizations to provide liability insurance for using many community facilities is stunting the growth of some types of community organizations such as adult sports leagues, performing arts groups and other groups that require space for activities other than a conference room.

The following sections contain recommendations specific to individual community facilities with the highest priority projects presented first.

## 2. Swimming Facility

Figure 18: Importance of the Swimming Facility

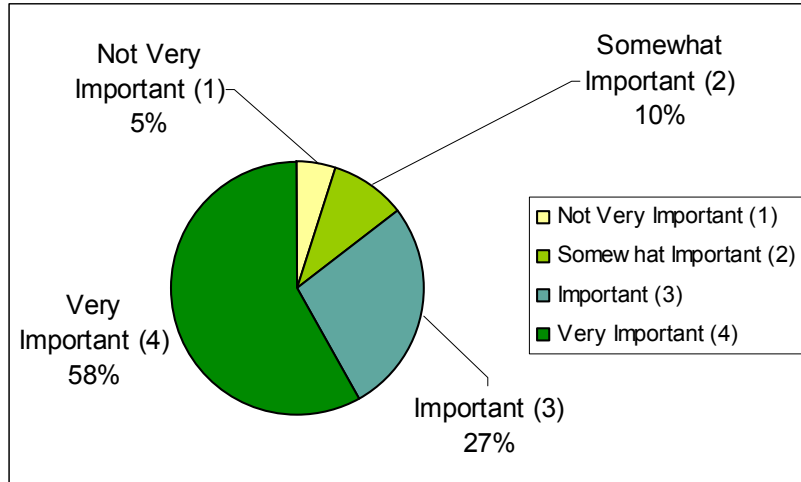
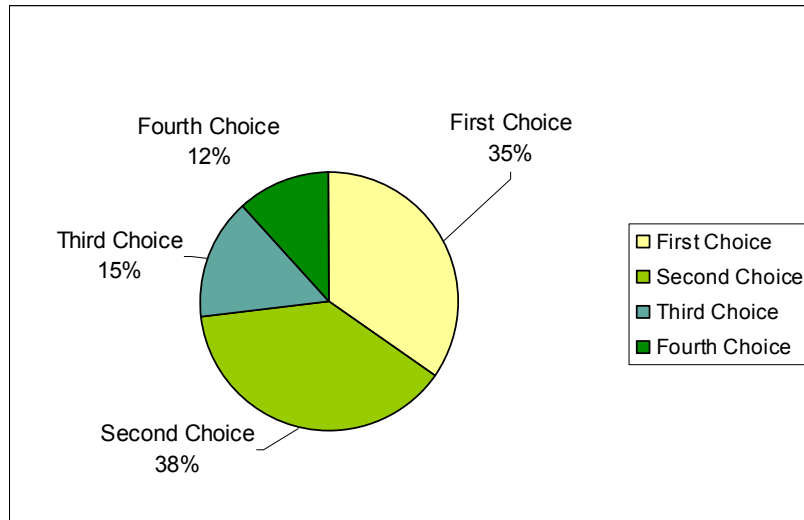


Figure 19: Share of Votes by Choice, Swimming Facility



The swimming facility received the highest average importance rating, the greatest share of votes for a top choice and 58% of the votes for the swimming facility rated it as Very Important (4). Of the people who chose the swimming facility as one of their most important four facilities, 35% ranked it as their first choice and another 38% ranked it as their second choice. In addition, the Veneta Parks Board survey also showed that the swimming pool was the highest concern of the people they polled.

In terms of community services that the Fern Ridge Community should provide, participants in this Community Facilities Assessment survey felt that swimming facility was the third most important community service, although it again received a high percentage of the number of times it was picked as a top four choice (19%). Both Creswell and Junction City have swimming facilities.

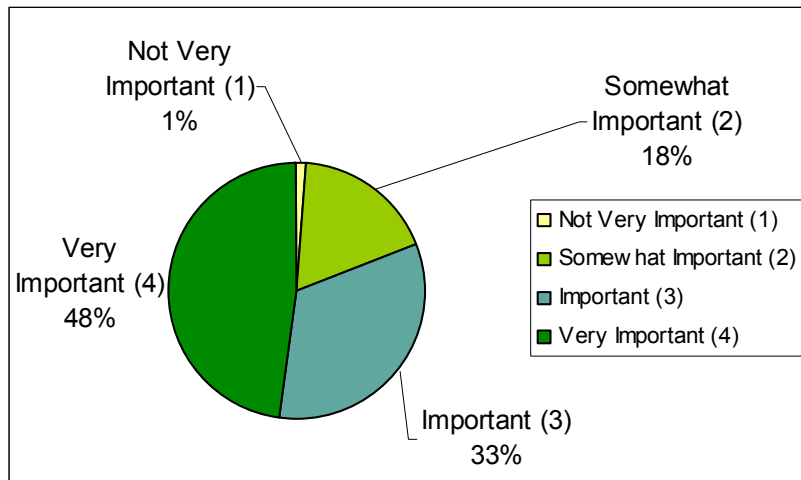
In 2008, a group formed to put raising funds for a pool on the ballot this fall. The City may not be involved with any political aspects of passing the ballot measure. In the meantime, the City is pursuing grant opportunities and continues to work with community partners like Camp Wilani to ensure that there are close by swimming opportunities for area youth.

The City may wish to consider other ways of providing low-cost swimming opportunities for area residents, such as working with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Lane County Parks Department or the Oregon Department of Wildlife to offer lifeguard and structured recreational opportunities at the lake. In addition, the City could research opportunities for partnering with other organizations to subsidize opportunities for Veneta/Fern Ridge residents. This could include facilitating alternative travel opportunities to area pools.

The study conducted by Advanced Marketing Research, Inc. Architects indicated a strong community desire for an indoor swimming facility. The pool committee has determined that a Parks and Recreation District is needed in order to cover the operating costs of an indoor swimming facility. Further discussion concerning a Parks and Recreation District is on page 47.

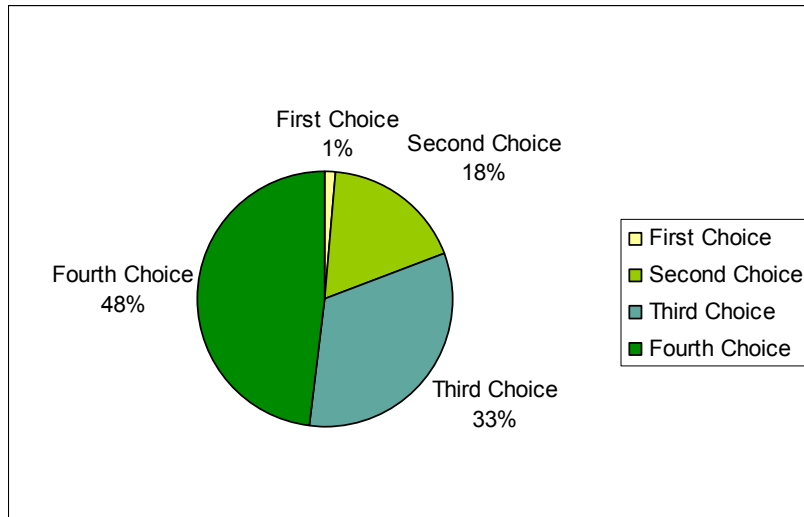
### 3. Senior Center and Activities for Seniors

Figure 20: Importance of the Senior Center





**Figure 21: Share of Votes by Choice, Senior Center**



The senior center received the second highest average importance score after the swimming facility (see Figure 10 on page 30). In addition, it was chosen the second most frequently by participants as one of the most important four facilities. However, of the participants who selected it as one of the most important four facilities, only 1% of them made it their first choice.

In terms of community services that the Fern Ridge Community should provide, 11% of participants in this Community Facilities Assessment survey felt that providing spaces for activities for seniors is the most important, ranking it second behind providing swimming facilities (see Figure 12 on page 31). It was chosen the most number of times in the top four community services.

This Community Facilities Assessment Survey and other verbal and written feedback suggest a strong concern for seniors across all age groups. Providing a space for activities for senior citizens ranked highest in terms of the number of votes and the strength of opinion. Both Creswell and Junction City have senior centers. The senior center in Junction City provides more services and programs than does the one in Veneta<sup>55</sup>.

The City should continue working with the Save Our Senior Committee to look for a long-term facility for the Senior Center. The food pantry has traditionally been housed with the Senior Center and the City should consider keeping the two together. The Senior Center could also be located downtown where it could help to stimulate downtown development. It should have access to alternate transportation as it currently does.

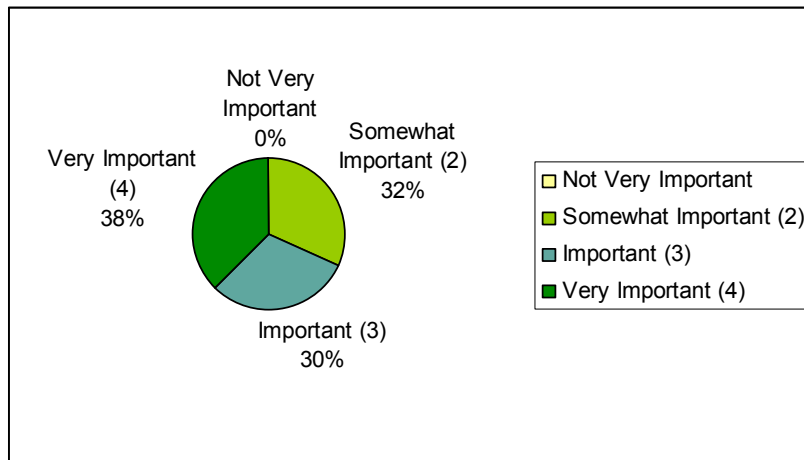
The 2007-2012 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan included a report on Oregon's aging population<sup>56</sup>. A survey conducted as part of this plan indicated that Oregon's aging population is more likely to be spending less time rather than more time engaged in outdoor recreation, although older respondents are much more likely than others to be spending less time. On the other hand, respondents asked about their future are more likely to expect an increase rather than a decrease in their outdoor recreation activities. Top activities included walking (80%) and picnicking (68%). Walking topped the list across all age categories. One of the interesting things the study found was that the members of

the baby boomer generation were more likely to participate in outdoor recreation than those born before it.

The City should be prepared to conduct a study of its own aging population following the next US Census in 2010, taking particular note of the interest and concerns of the baby boomer generation. This may include additional concerns of this generation for their ability to care for their parents in addition to themselves. The City should work to improve access to community facilities for senior citizens in terms of cost and availability of transportation options.

#### 4. Multi-Use Trails

Figure 22: Importance of Multi-Use Trails



Multi-use trails ranked third in terms of overall community interest, tied with the library and a youth club. While it placed ninth in terms of its average of importance, the need and a vision for a trail system are well documented in Fern Ridge Trail System, Visions and Strategies<sup>57</sup>. The Fern Ridge area has a need for additional trails due to burgeoning population growth and additional outdoor recreational opportunities. Comments were received about traffic and safety across both highways and regarding routes to schools. The area needs a safe, alternate transportation. In the 2006 Veneta Parks Board survey, multi-use paths were identified as the most preferred park amenity.

The trails plan outlines and prioritizes several trails pieces, ranking the Fern Ridge Schools Connector Route as the highest priority in creating trails. The Fern Ridge Schools Connector Route is a multi-use path that creates an alternative transportation route between public schools in the Fern Ridge School District between Veneta and Elmira. This should be a high priority project for the City of Veneta as much of the groundwork for this project has already been completed. As part of the Veneta's economic development strategy, the City might also consider exploring the creation of a user-friendly trails map to promote support for trails in the area and to promote the growth of locally-based outdoor organizations.

5. Enhanced Library

Figure 23: Importance of the Enhanced Library

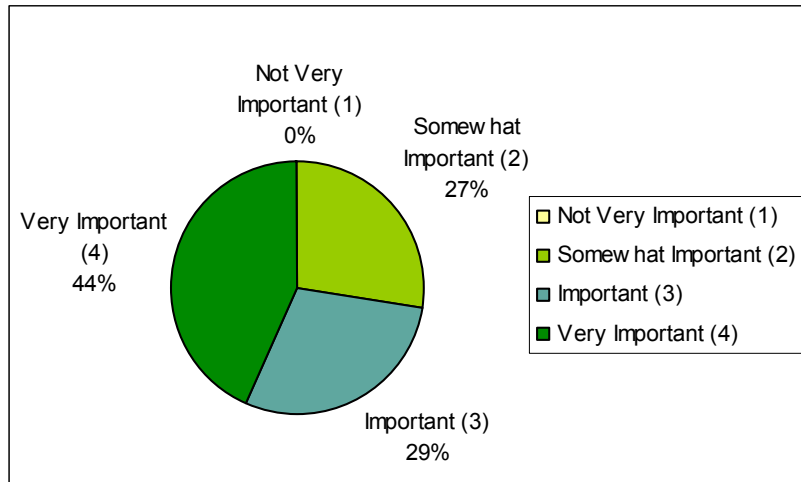
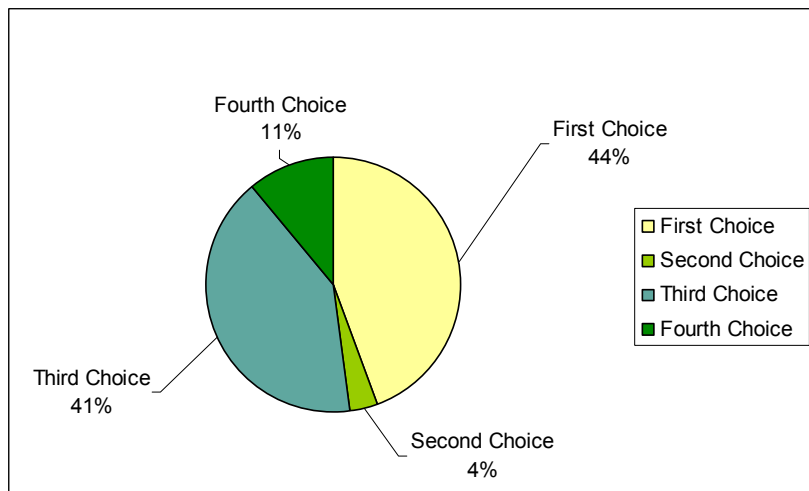


Figure 24: Share of Votes by Choice, Enhanced Library



The library ranked third in terms of community interest, tying with both the youth club and multi-use trails. 44% people who thought a library was important, ranked it as very important and of those who chose an enhanced library as one of their top four most important facilities, 44% made it their first choice and 41% made it their third choice. The library foundation is currently conducting a capital campaign (Renovate '08) and is placing a measure on the ballot this fall to raise additional funds for the library. If the library succeeds in getting money to create space for additional computers, the City may wish to consider partnering with the library to provide computer training to Veneta residents, particularly for local community organizations as a way to enhance volunteer programs and expand their reach.

6. Youth Center

Figure 25: Importance Youth Club/After-School Facility

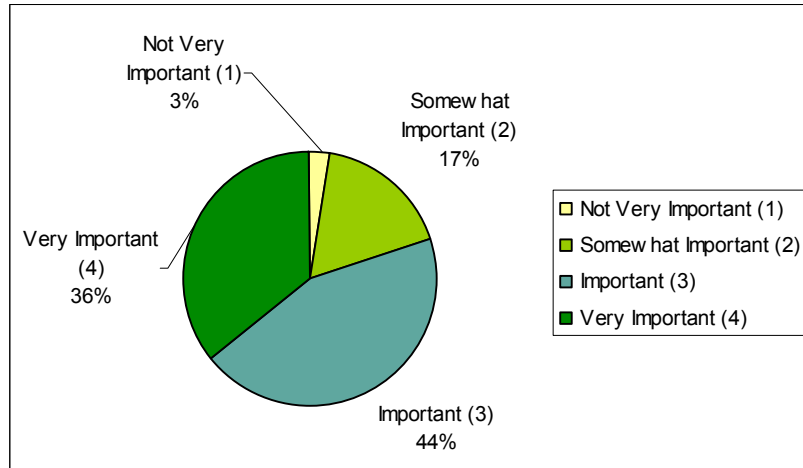
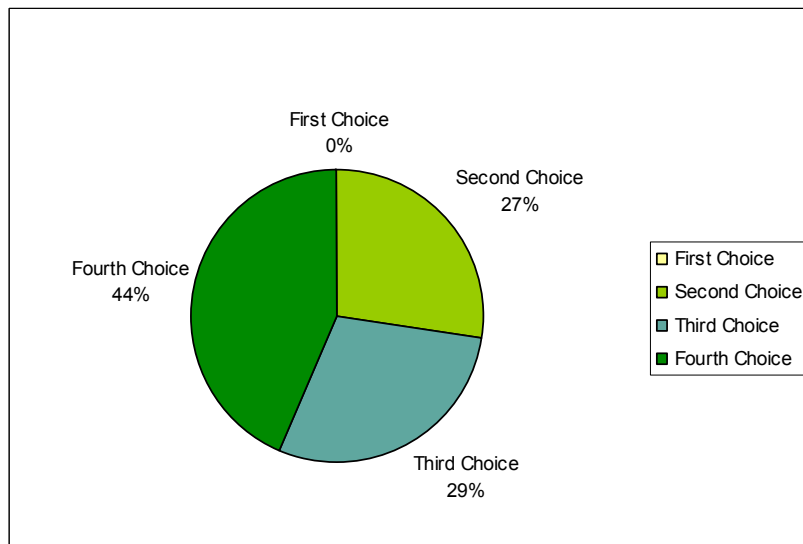


Figure 26: Share of Votes by Choice, Youth Club/After-School Facility



The youth club, the library and the food pantry tied at third for the highest average importance of the facility. A youth club was not chosen often (7%) as a top-community facility. Of the people who selected a youth club or after-school facility as one of their four most important facilities, the majority of them ranked it as their third (29%) or fourth (44%) choice and none ranked it as their first choice. Anecdotal evidence supports a need for after-school programming. Furthermore, 36% of the people who chose a youth club ranked as Very Important (4) an additional 44% ranked it as very important. 23% of the participants in the study have no children under the age of 18 living at home. 20% of participants felt that providing a space for youth activities was an important community function. The loss of the current funding structure for the Explorers Club threatens the program. Creswell also has a youth club and Cottage Grove will have a Boys & Girls Club located there soon.

The Fern Ridge Youth Enrichment Development Committee is currently working hard to re-envision the after-school club under a new funding structure and to help provide

after-school services to the other schools in the Fern Ridge School District. The City should continue providing information and support where needed. The committee conducted a survey of parents and their needs for their youth during school registration in late August. The City should keep the results of this survey in mind when considering the importance of the after-school program as few parents (18 of 94) participated in the Community Facilities Assessment Survey.

## **7. Additional Parks**

Participants felt strongly that the Fern Ridge community should preserve the environment and provide open space, ranking it their second choice after providing spaces for senior citizen activities. However, only 7% of participants chose an additional park (large community or small neighborhood) as one of their top choices for a desired community facility). Combining the scores for large community and small neighborhood parks ties additional parks for third with multi-use trails, an enhanced library and the youth club after a swimming facility or an enhanced senior center.

In 1998, Veneta was comparable to Junction City in terms of overall provisions of parks, recreational facilities and open spaces, although it followed other communities including Creswell, Springfield in Eugene. Notably, Creswell did very well in comparison to Veneta<sup>58</sup>.

Veneta's parks do not currently meet the recommended 2003-2007 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) standards for the amount of acreage for small neighborhood and large community parks. The SCORP standard is 1.5 acres of neighborhood parks and 6.5 acres of community parks per 1,000 residents. At present time, the city needs 6.96 acres of neighborhood parks and 30.16 acres of community parks in order to meet the SCORP standards, but only has 6.06 acres of neighborhood parks and 13.9 acres of community parks (including the Bolton Hill Complex). By 2030, according to the population projections made by the City of Veneta, Veneta will need 15.84 acres of neighborhood parks and 68.7 acres of community parks in order to meet the 2003-2007 standards.

While it is clear that Veneta may need more parks to meet the recommended standards, Zumwalt Park is currently closed to car access due to a lack of funding from the county. Friends of Zumwalt, a local community organization works to keep the park clean and the Neighborhood Watch also patrols the area; however, without increased government support for existing parks, it may be difficult to convince the public to support more parks. In addition, there is little available land for open space and parks use.

## **8. Park Improvements**

Possible future improvements to parks might include a bandstand or outdoor amphitheater, covered barbeque or picnic areas and improvements to athletics fields at the Bolton Hill Complex and additional playgrounds. This was not felt to be a strong need by City residents, although safety and anti-crime enhancements to existing parks were mentioned in verbal and written comments. Enhancements to parks should be addressed in an update to Veneta's Parks Plan and include a plan for long-term maintenance and continual upgrades as well as an examination of how perceived safety may affect public support for public parks.

Special events at Territorial Skate Park and the purchase of the Bolton Hill Complex (Territorial Sports Fields) have contributed towards positive feeling to the parks. The recent

skateboard contest at the Territorial Skate Park may have increased pride by young users and hopefully will result in decreased vandalism.

Skate parks are being built in neighboring cities like Junction City, Creswell and Harrisburg. In the future, the City might further promote the skate park by holding an inter-city contest or league. Improvements to parks should focus on safety, anti-crime and on improvements that foster community feeling and pride, such as an outdoor performance space.

## **9. Performing Arts Theater and Arts and Cultural Programs**

While a desire for a future Performing Arts Theater was not rated very highly, it was rated very important by those who rated it. In addition, over 50 people turned out to the grand opening of the W. Broadway Center, a project that revolves around a performing arts center and a youth club.

Providing a home for Arts and Cultural Programs and Special Events ranked sixth in terms of the most desired and services after spaces for a senior center, space for youth activities and places for indoor recreation and fitness programs and paved trails that connect sidewalks and neighborhoods. Approximately the same number of people believed that it was very important for the Fern Ridge Community to provide places for outdoor sports programs.

The arts have been identified in past planning documents as a unique cultural asset in Veneta. While arts facilities may not have the highest amount of support by area residents, they still represent a way to attract tourists to town. One way for the City to employ its limited resources and still support the arts is by giving them a place in a multi-purpose facility.

## **10. Parks and Recreation District**

Successful creation of strong and lasting community facilities depends upon the strength of community partnerships and the formation of special districts (such as a Parks and Recreation District) that include the surrounding unincorporated areas.

Parks and recreation services provided in Veneta cover area parks, the Veneta Community Center, the swimming pool and summer programs for children. In the future, the City will need a Parks and Recreation Department or the Fern Ridge area will require a Parks and Recreation District to provide expanded parks programs for area youth, additional trails and additional parks. In the short term, the City may wish to hire an additional part-time paid position in order to implement some of the planned projects like multi-use trails or to build volunteer capacity.

A Parks and Recreation District is currently one of the strategies for a pool; the pool committee plans to pursue a Parks and Recreation District to cover the operating costs for an indoor facility. The fact that the swimming facility is currently regarded as the highest priority with area residents should help the committee pass a measure to create a Parks and Recreation District; however, timeliness is critical due to economic pressures and the lack of availability of resources to support multiple major projects at one time. A survey conducted by Advanced Marketing Research, Inc. reported that 40% of the public supports the creation of a Parks and Recreation District<sup>59</sup>.

Planning for a Parks and Recreation District should include considerations such as how it will be managed and what other community facilities might come into its array. The City

should research how other Parks and Recreation Districts in Oregon are comprised and staffed.

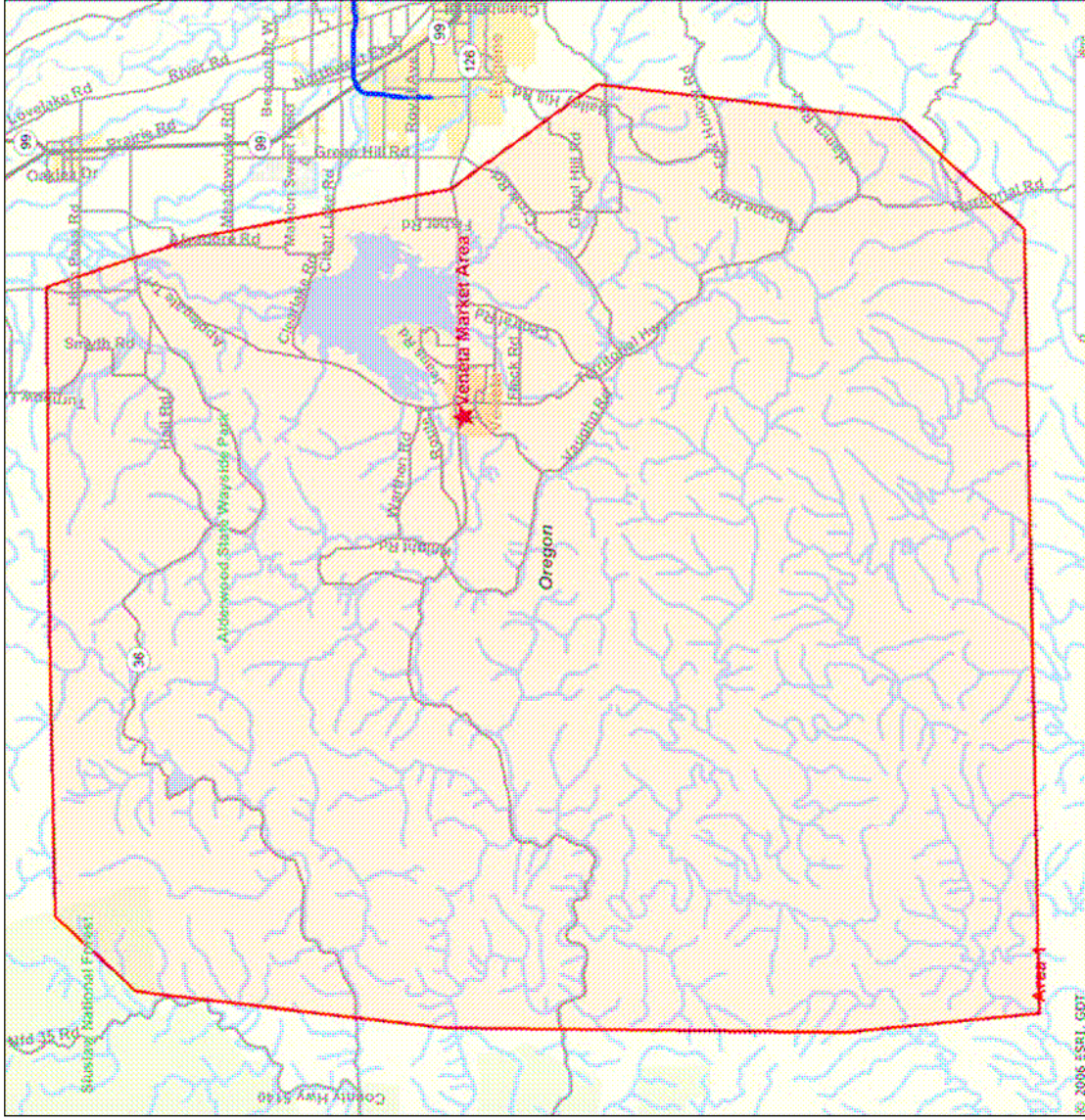
### **11. Multi-Purpose Facility and Community Center**

An Enhanced Community Center did not place well among the choices of Community Facility Assessment participants, receiving only 5% the overall votes for top four facilities; however, survey participants were not given a multi-purpose facility as an option. The relative importance of activities that could take place in a multi-purpose center ranked as follows: a Senior Center, a Food Pantry, Youth Activities, Community Center and Community Garden. Six respondents suggested combining spaces for senior and youth activities. Building a multi-purpose facility or enhancing the community center to serve as a multi-purpose facility would help to get the most out of existing resources.

### **12. Marina and Boating Opportunities**

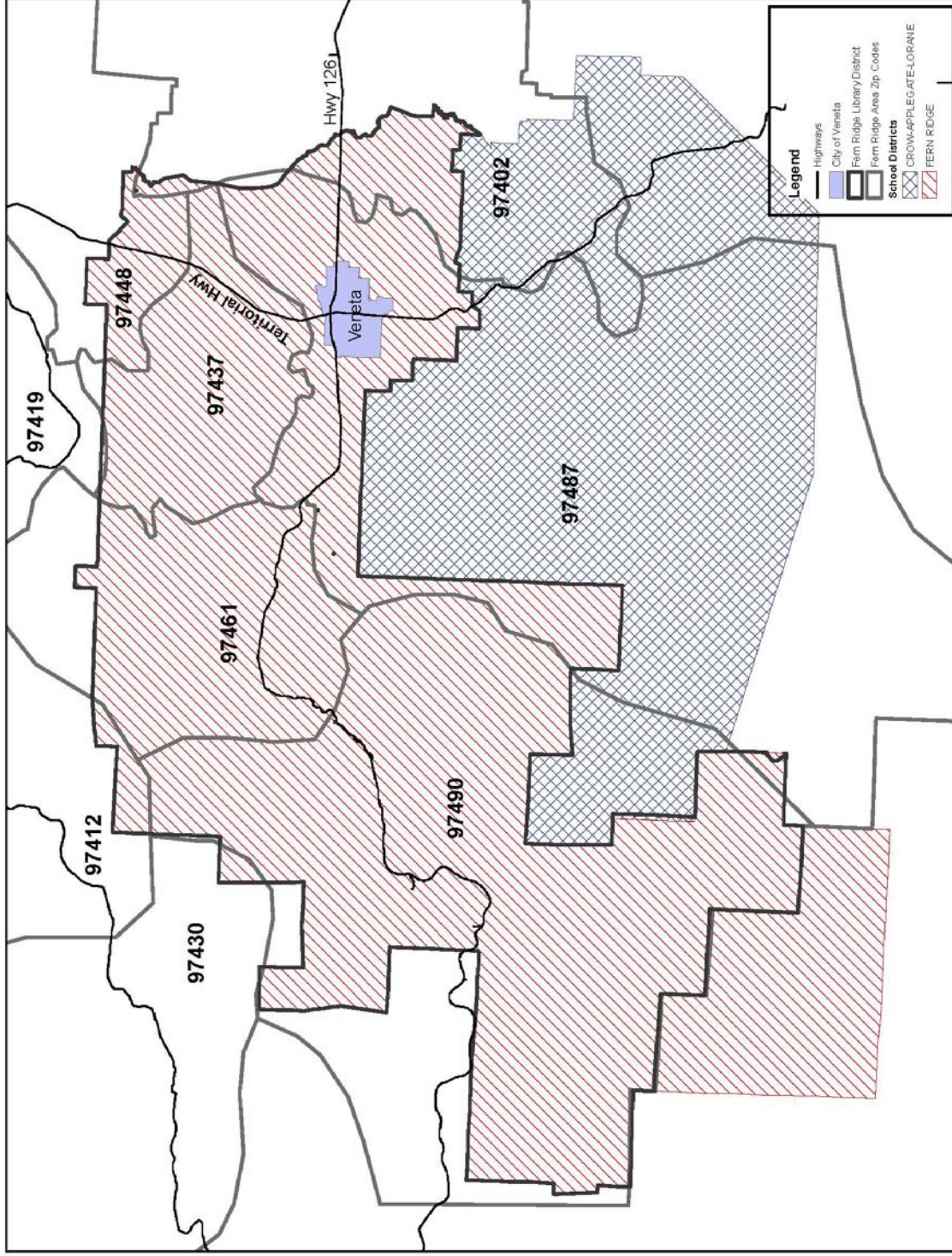
Very few people were interested in additional marina and boating opportunities. Written comments support the idea that the Fern Ridge Reservoir a unique feature to Veneta that is under-used and ties in well with the City's plans for future economic development. Unfortunately, the development of such facilities involves complicated negotiations and relationships with a variety of government agencies. Community support for this project may change over time and community interest should continue to be tracked in future surveys.

Appendix A: Veneta's Trade Area<sup>60</sup>





Appendix B: Map of this Community Facilities Assessment Survey Area<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> Map of the Community Facilities Assessment Survey Area. City of Veneta, 2008.  
Fern Ridge Community Facilities Plan

## **Appendix C: Veteran Service Providers in Lane County<sup>7</sup>**

### **Lane County Veteran Service Office**

165 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(541) 682-4191  
Appointment Preferred

Assists Veterans and their families determine their eligibility for benefits based on their military service. Advocates for Veterans in benefit application process.

### **Eugene Vet Center**

1255 Pearl St, Suite 200  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(541) 465-6918  
Appointment Necessary

Provides readjustment counseling services for Veterans of combat theaters.

### **Roseburg VA Medical Center**

913 NW Garden Valley Boulevard  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
1 (800) 549-8387

Urgent Care w/o Appointment, otherwise must be enrolled and have appointment.

Provides outpatient and inpatient care for medical and mental health needs of qualifying, enrolled Veterans.

### **Eugene Community Based Outpatient Clinic**

100 River Ave  
Eugene, OR 97404  
(541) 607-0897

Must be enrolled and have appointment

Provides outpatient primary care for medical and mental health needs. Satellite clinic of Roseburg VAMC.

### **Eugene VA Community Reintegration Services (Homeless) Program**

2400 River Road  
Eugene, OR 97404  
(541) 345-5395

Provides service to Veterans at risk of- or currently homeless. Direct medical, mental health and D&A treatment, vocational rehabilitation and housing assistance.

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<sup>7</sup> Reiley, Joseph P. "RE: Veteran's Services" Email to Stephania Fregosi. April 23, 2008.

**Appendix D: Availability of Equipment at Community Facilities**

Facility	Capacity	AV Equipment (Other)	CD / Cassette Player	Chairs	Coffee Maker	Computers	Digital Projector	Easel	Internet Connection	Kitchen Preparation Area	Laptop or Desktop for Presentations	Overhead Projector	PA System	Photocopier	Piano/Organ	Podium	Portable Chalkboard / Bulletin Board	Projection Screen	Slide Projector	Tables	Telecommunications	Television	Whiteboard
<b>City of Veneta</b>																							
Veneta City Hall	25-30, 100				X						X												
Veneta's Community Center					X					X					X							X	
<b>Churches</b>																							
Olivet Baptist Church																							
Conference Room	100			X	X					X <sup>8</sup>										X		X	X
Other	185						X	X							X	X		X					X
Veneta Alliance Church																							
Church Sanctuary and Sound Booth	175- 200		X	X	X		X <sup>9</sup>	X <sup>10</sup>	X		X <sup>11</sup>	X	X		X <sup>12</sup>	X		X <sup>13</sup>	X	X		X	
Church Kitchen										X				X									X
Church Office														X									
Sunny School Classroom						X																	X

8 Not commercial.  
9 Coming soon.  
10 Coming soon.  
11 Coming soon.  
12 Piano.  
13 Coming soon.

Facility	Capacity	AV Equipment (Other)	CD / Cassette Player	Chairs	Coffee Maker	Computers	Digital Projector	Easel	Internet Connection	Kitchen Preparation Area	Laptop or Desktop for Presentations	Overhead Projector	PA System	Photocopier	Piano/Organ	Podium	Portable Chalkboard / Bulletin Board	Projection Screen	Slide Projector	Tables	Telecommunications	Television	Whiteboard
Valley United Methodist Church																							
Basement	48			X	X				X	X										X		X	
Church Sanctuary	117 & 30 (balc ony)			X			X	X							X	X				X			
Class Room	less than 10																						
Conference Room	80			X	X			X		X		X	X	X						X			
<b>Granges</b>																							
Elmira Grange	300			X	X			X		X			X		X	X				X			
<b>Fern Ridge Library</b>																							
Fern Ridge Library Conference Room			X						X			X	X			X	X						
Fern Ridge Library Konnie Room			X						X			X	X			X	X						
<b>Lane County Fire District #1</b>																							
Veneta Fire Station				X	X			X		X	X	X	X			X	X					X	X
First Floor	25-30																						
Second Floor (dividable)	120																						

Facility	Capacity	AV Equipment (Other)	CD / Cassette Player	Chairs	Coffee Maker	Computers	Digital Projector	Easel	Internet Connection	Kitchen Preparation Area	Laptop or Desktop for Presentations	Overhead Projector	PA System	Photocopier	Piano/Organ	Podium	Portable Chalkboard / Bulletin Board	Projection Screen	Slide Projector	Tables	Telecommunications	Television	Whiteboard
Walton Fire Station																							
<b>Oregon Department of Forestry</b>	15-20			X																X			
<b>Public Schools</b>																							
Elmira Elementary School																							
Cafeteria	350			X						X										X			
Gym				X										X									
Library	35	X	X			X		X				X								X			
<b>Elmira High School</b>																							
Cafeteria	300			X						X			X										
Gym	900		X	X									X										
Library	100					X			X											X			
Special Classroom - LCC (2 Rooms)	100 ea			X																X			
Theater / Auditorium	150			X								X	X										
<b>Fern Ridge Middle School</b>																							
Cafeteria	200		X	X	X			X				X	X							X		X	
Gym	400-500		X	X	X							X	X									X	
Library	75		X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X							X		X	
Home-Economics	30-40		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X									X	

Facility	Capacity	AV Equipment (Other)	CD / Cassette Player	Chairs	Coffee Maker	Computers	Digital Projector	Easel	Internet Connection	Kitchen Preparation Area	Laptop or Desktop for Presentations	Overhead Projector	PA System	Photocopier	Piano/Organ	Podium	Portable Chalkboard / Bulletin Board	Projection Screen	Slide Projector	Tables	Telecommunications	Television	Whiteboard
Room																							
Office										X <sup>14</sup>			X										
<i>Veneta Elementary School</i>																							
Cafeteria		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X <sup>15</sup>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gym				X <sup>16</sup>																X <sup>17</sup>			
Library				X														X		X			
<i>Willamette Leadership Academy</i>																							
Cafeteria					X					X													
Gym	500																						
Library	25			15																6		1	
Computer Lab	36					30			X						X	X		X					X

The Elmira Grange, the Walton Grange, Camp Wilani, the Oregon Country Fair and the board room at the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce are not included in this inventory.

<sup>14</sup> Home-economics room.  
<sup>15</sup> Wireless.  
<sup>16</sup> On-request.  
<sup>17</sup> On-request.

**Appendix E: Recreational Facilities in the Public School System**

<b>School Facilities, Fern Ridge School District<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>Baseball Field</b>	<b>Basketball Court</b>	<b>Indoor Basketball</b>	<b>Gymnasium</b>	<b>Horseshoes</b>	<b>Indoor Volleyball</b>	<b>Military Obstacle Course</b>	<b>Open Play Field</b>	<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	<b>Play Equipment</b>	<b>Soccer Field</b>	<b>Softball Field</b>	<b>Swimming (Lake)</b>	<b>Swimming Pool</b>	<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>Theater</b>	<b>Tot Lot</b>	<b>Track</b>	<b>Volleyball</b>
Elmira High School	2		2	X		X		X		X	X	X			X			X	X <sup>19</sup>
Fern Ridge Middle School	X	X		X	X			X	X <sup>20</sup>		X <sup>21</sup>	X							X
Veneita Elementary School		X <sup>22</sup>		X				X			X	X							
Willamette Leadership Academy (Charter)	X <sup>23</sup>	X <sup>24</sup>					X	X			X <sup>25</sup>								X <sup>26</sup>

<sup>18</sup> School facilities (indoor/outdoor) only available with an approved building use permit from the district office.

<sup>19</sup> In gym.

<sup>20</sup> Basketballs, footballs, soccer balls.

<sup>21</sup> Not lined.

<sup>22</sup> Half-court.

<sup>23</sup> For young kids.

<sup>24</sup> Half-court.

<sup>25</sup> Not marked, no nets.

<sup>26</sup> Sandpit, no net.

**Appendix F: Condition of Parks in Veneta**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Description</b>				<b>Comments</b>
City Park	East Broadway	5.9	Community center	Outdoor swimming pool (non-functional)	Playground equipment in good condition in 1998	Picnic areas	Parking, unimproved gravel parking areas, permanent toilet facilities
Oak Island Park	Oak Island Drive`	.47	Play space, picnicking, walking	Tot lot	Small picnic area	Wooded area with footbridge	Potential for park connection
Ralph Johnson Park	5 <sup>th</sup> Street and Dunham	.25	Benches			Picnic area	No room for growth or development
5 <sup>th</sup> Street Park	5 <sup>th</sup> St	.36		Playground equipment, 1998 okay condition			Should be enhanced with larger park for active recreation and upgrade facilities
Fern Park	8 <sup>th</sup> St	.5 acres		Play structure with community support	Play structure for older children		Still vandalism and after hours usage. Not ADA accessible
Territorial Park		2.56 acres		Skate park, Climbing Wall, 2 basketball courts, small open space	Playground, with barked chips	Has parking and portable toilet.	Newer, good shape, still graffiti issue at the park.
Bolton Hill Sports Complex		8 acres	Soccer, little league softball, adult softball				Lot of potential just got grant to buy. Talk to TSP about plans.



Name	Location	Acreage	Description				Comments
St. Catherine of Siena, Picnic Grounds							
Veneta Elementary School			Basketball courts, playground areas, tennis areas, soccer and baseball (school play fields)				Safety concerns
Zumwalt	Lane County owns	92 acres	Special use permit	Trailhead parking, locked gate, walk in use	Portable toilet, interpretative kiosk about Applegate Trail	Canoe launch, picnic tables, benches, access, jogging	
Perkins Peninsula Park	Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)	69 acres (30 developed)	Fee for entrance	Restrooms, launch boats, picnic, swim, open grass areas, ball diamond, wildlife			Planned upgrade: Construction of new campground at Perkins Peninsula near highway 26. Feasibility study for 2010-2011.  To add a picnic structure with a covered area.
Richardson Park	Lane County	157 acres	50 RV Camp Sites, 40 additional camp sites planned for 1998	Boat Moorage, swim area, rest rooms, picnic areas			*Planned upgrades for Richardson park Had 263 slips and boat ramp. Slips are to be replaced and add 60 more. PJ to begin as early as 2009.

Name	Location	Acreage	Description				Comments
Orchard Point Park	Farthest from Veneta	49.3 acres	4 picnic sites by reservation, marina (1997), play equipment, swimming area, rest rooms, horseshoe pits	Admission fees during peak season			
Kirk Park	166 acres, 30 developed	Picnic tables and portable toilets	North side of Fern Ridge Dam	Does not have access to reservoir, but water access below the dam to the Long Tom River	No fee		

Appendix G: Available Activities at Community Facilities

Facility	Acres	Baseball Field	Basketball Court	Indoor Basketball	Bird Watching	Benches	Boat Launch	Boat Moorage	Cafe	Campground (RV)	Climbing Wall	Dining Hall/Kitchen	Equestrian Arena	Fishing	Gymnasium	Horseshoes	Indoor Volleyball	Marina	Obstacle Course	Nature Area	Open Play Field	Picnic Facilities	Play Equipment	Play Structure for Older Children	Restroom Facilities	Shelters	Skate Park	Soccer Field	Softball Field	Swimming (Lake)	Swimming (Pool)	Theater	Tot Lot	Utility Access	Volleyball	Walking Trails					
<b>Parks, City of Veneta</b>																																									
City Park	5.90																						X																		
Oak Island Park	0.47																						X																		
Ralph Johnson Park	0.25					X																																			
5th St. Park	0.36																																								
Fern Park	0.50																																								
Territorial Park	2.56		X								X																X														
Bolton Hill Sports Complex (Territorial Sports Fields)	8.00	X																																							
<b>Parks, Lane County</b>																																									
Zumwalt	92.00						X																																X		
Perkins Peninsula	69.00	X				X																																			
Richardson	157.00																																								

Facility	Acres	Baseball Field	Basketball Court	Indoor Basketball	Bird Watching	Benches	Boat Launch	Boat Moorage	Cafe	Campground (RV)	Climbing Wall	Dining Hall/Kitchen	Equestrian Arena	Fishing	Gymnasium	Horseshoes	Indoor Volleyball	Marina	Obstacle Course	Nature Area	Open Play Field	Picnic Facilities	Play Equipment	Play Structure for Older Children	Restroom Facilities	Shelters	Skate Park	Soccer Field	Softball Field	Swimming (Lake)	Swimming (Pool)	Theater	Tot Lot	Utility Access	Volleyball	Walking Trails	
Orchard Point	49.30							X		X						X						X	X	X	X									X	X		
<b>Parks, Army Corps of Engineers</b>																																					
Kirk Park	166.00				X															X					X										X		
Royal Avenue Viewing Point																					X																
<b>Other Facilities, Fern Ridge Community</b>																																					
Camp Wilani	84.0						X			X		X	X							X					X										X		
Oregon County Fairgrounds	400+				X							X																							X		
Olivet Baptist Church												X																									

27 Kirk Park has three toilets: one vault toilet at the main entrance, and two port-a-toilets (the West one is designed for the handicapped. 2nd portable on the east end).  
 Fern Ridge Community Facilities Plan  
 September 2008

Facility	
Veneta Alliance Church	
Acres	
Baseball Field	
Basketball Court	
Indoor Basketball	
Bird Watching	
Benches	
Boat Launch	
Boat Moorage	
Café	
Campground (RV)	
Climbing Wall	
Dining Hall/Kitchen	x
Equestrian Arena	
Fishing	
Gymnasium	
Horseshoes	
Indoor Volleyball	
Marina	
Obstacle Course	
Nature Area	
Open Play Field	x
Picnic Facilities	
Play Equipment	x
Play Structure for Older Children	
Restroom Facilities	
Shelters	
Skate Park	
Soccer Field	
Softball Field	
Swimming (Lake)	
Swimming (Pool)	
Theater	
Tot Lot	
Utility Access	
Volleyball	
Walking Trails	

**Appendix H: Map of Proposed Trails**

**Appendix I: Fern Ridge Trail System Project List<sup>28</sup>**

<b>Oregon Country Fair Loop:</b> Includes segments 1-3; bike lanes along Highway 126 and Suttle Rd., connecting with multi-use path through west side of the Oregon County Fair site and with proposed multi-use path along Territorial Rd., creating a recreational bike loop and alternative transportation route from Veneta and Elmira to the Fair.				
<b>Segment No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>
1	Maple Lane to Suttle Rd (through OCF site)	10-ft wide asphalt multi-use path; 3662 ft.	Medium Priority	Lane County, Oregon Country Fair
2	Along Hwy 126, Maple Lane to Veneta's west Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)	Bikeway enhancement; upgrade to 6-ft bike lane; 2.64 miles	Medium Priority	Lane County, Oregon Country Fair, ODOT
3	Suttle Rd, north entrance of the OCF site Territorial Rd.	6-ft wide bike lane; 1.36 miles	Medium Priority	Oregon Country Fair
<b>Fern Ridge Schools Connector:</b> Segment 4; multi-use path creating alternative transportation route from Veneta to elementary, middle, and high schools located in Elmira.				
4	Veneta north UGB to Elmira Middle School; parallel w/ west side of Territorial Hwy	10-ft wide multi-use path, paved asphalt and raised boardwalk combo; 5125 ft.	High Priority	Fern Ridge School District ODOT
<b>Territorial Bike Route:</b> Segment 5; bike lane along Territorial Rd, establishing connectivity between Veneta and Elmira and residential areas further north and providing bicycle and pedestrian access to Fern Ridge Reservoir and county parks along its northern shores.				
5	Along Territorial Rd, Fir Grove Ln to Clear Lake Rd	6-ft wide bike lane; 3.34 miles	Medium Priority	ODOT

<sup>28</sup> High priority projects are those which the City hopes to implement within the next five years. Medium priority projects are next in line, while Long range projects involve significant issues that need to be worked through prior to implementation. (Fern Ridge Trail System, 2007.)

<b>Zumwalt Bike Route:</b> Includes segments 6-10; on-street bike facilities on Jeans Rd., Ellmaker Rd., Vista Dr., and Wildwood, creating a recreational bike route and alternative transportation route to Zumwalt Park and to Reservoir.			
6	Along Wildwood Rd, east UGB to Ellmaker	4-ft shoulder bikeway; 3180 ft	Medium Priority Lane County
7	Along Jeans Rd, Territorial Hwy to Zumwalt Park	6-ft wide bike lane; 2.29 miles	Medium Priority Lane County
8	Along Ellmaker Rd, Wildwood to Jeans Rd	6-ft wide bike lane; 5140 ft	Medium Priority Lane County
9	Vista Dr, Ellmaker to Zumwalt Park entrance	4-ft shoulder bikeway; 1836 ft	Medium Priority Lane County
10	Along Jeans Rd., Zumwalt Park to Jeans Park	4-ft shoulder bikeway; 2992 ft	Medium Priority Lane County
11	Through Zumwalt Park, Vista Dr. to Jeans Rd.	Road-to-Trail project; 3600 ft.	Medium Priority Lane County
<b>Zumwalt Recreational Path:</b> Includes segments 11-13, recreational multi-use path through Zumwalt and Jeans Parks, providing access to Reservoir and to wildlife viewing opportunities			
12	Zumwalt Park/Jeans Park	10-ft wide paved multi-use path, asphalt and raised boardwalk combo; 2842 ft	Long Range Lane County, Army Corps of Engineers
13	Just north of Jeans Park to marina	10-ft wide paved multi-use path, asphalt and raised boardwalk combo; 4415 ft loop	Long Range Lane County, Army Corps of Engineers
<b>Eugene to Veneta Rails-With-Trails Connector:</b> Segment 14; multi-use path connecting Veneta with the Eugene metropolitan area; extension of the existing Fern Ridge Path			
14	Parallel to rail line, south of Veneta east UGB to Eugene west UGB at Greenhill Rd.	12-ft wide concrete multi-use path; 5.98 miles	Long Range Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad, City of Eugene, Lane Council of Governments, ODOT, Dept. of Energy



<b>Fern Ridge Bike Route:</b> Includes segments 15-23; series of on-street bike facilities on county roads south of Highway 126, enhancing existing recreational bicycle touring area as well as creating an alternative transportation route between Veneta and Eugene.			
15	E. Bolton Rd., Veneta UGB to Huston Rd.	6-ft wide bike lane;	High Priority Lane County
16	Huston Rd., Veneta UGB to Perkins Rd.	6-ft wide bike lane;	High Priority Lane County
17	Along Perkins Rd, Territorial to Central Rd.	6-ft wide bike lane; 1.68 miles	High Priority Lane County
18	Central Rd, Perkins Rd to Perkins Peninsula	6-ft bike lane; 1.40 miles	High Priority Lane County
19	Cantrell Rd, Central Rd to Halderon	6-ft bike lane; 1.46 miles	High Priority Lane County
20	Cantrell Rd., Halderon to just east of K. Nielsen Rd.	Paved roadway with bike lane or create separate bikeway; 1.42 miles ft.	High Priority Lane County
21	Cantrell Rd, just east of K. Nielsen Rd to Oak Hill	6-ft bike lane; 5083 ft	High Priority Lane County
22	Oak Hill, Cantrell Rd to Greenhill Rd	4-ft shoulder bikeway; 4360 ft.	High Priority Lane County
23	Greenhill Rd, Oak Hill to Meadowlark Prairie Path parking area	6-ft bike lane; 1.05 miles	High Priority Lane County

**Appendix J: Ford Family Institute Leadership Class**

<b>Appreciative Inquiry: Past Successes and Characteristics</b>	
<b>Success</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
N4RG from	Adversarial to collaborative Litter pick-up Four Corners
Parks Board	Earth Day Egg hunt Park upgrades
SANTA Project	
Volunteer fire department (safety programs)	
Oregon Country Fair	Relationship building Problem solving Donations, Philanthropy Community economic benefit Effective communication Volunteers Highway pick-up Stakeholders Community outreach
TSP Ball fields	Community support Volunteers City support
Skateboard Pak	Excellent design Youth involvement
Theater	Strong competent leader with community commitment and involvement
Library	Vision was good Large community involvement with the right kind of leadership Huge community resources Expansion Programs for different age groups Effective communication Volunteers Teen advisory group Broad support and interests
ART – Inc	Involved all age groups and wide spectrum of families

<b>Class Project Ideals, Take I<sup>29</sup></b>	
<b>Project Idea</b>	<b>Voting with Dots – Count</b>
N4RG from	26
Signage defining “downtown” as (iconic) e.g. Broadway and Territorial (arch/landscaping/bench) “3 Corners area” informational signage, reader board, Fern Ridge gateway	13
Outdoor community space	9
Community garden	8
Community newsletter	3
Wading pool - some aspect starting point	1
Bike trail - signage/connections (Reference collaboration plan for specific ideas)	1
Iron Man Triathlon	0
Performing arts Summer camp	0
Youth entrepreneurial program	0
Cartoon map	0
Bus stops – safe, protected from weather	0
Park bench and light	0
Park – little kids	0
Youth advisory council	

<b>Financial and Physical Resources</b>	
Oregon Dome	Organic farms
Downtown development open palette	Yacht club
Natural trees	Highway
Banks	Historic building
Great biking area	Dump
Restaurant (Our Daily Bread)	OCF
Schools	Wetland for walking, bird watch
Natural resources/wet lands	Micro business grant
Native sites	Library
Birding	People
Bi-mart	Non profit resources and services
BLM land (public land)	Bow Tech
Foundation grants	Heavy equipment
Business park -underdeveloped	Large volunteer fire department
Farmers Market	Wineries
Konies Swanson Boards	Natural resources
Parks	Lake
Country roads	Chamber Office

<sup>29</sup> This table represents the final phase in a consensus based decision making process.

<b>Personal Assets</b>	
Musical talent	Mr. Bruce and Mr. Bellingham
MR. Osibov	High schools participation
Facilitators	Volunteer base
Postmaster	Willing volunteers
Mediators	Adopt a highway folks, Litter pickup
Youth vision	Elders experience
Peggy at Key Bank	Grant writers
Ric Ingham	Youth energy
Personal talents	RARE interns U of O
Leader with passion	FFF Leadership class
Computer communications	Professional people who have made contributions careers elsewhere 45-65 not full time working
Great road biking	Who can teach/lead "at risk youth programs" "Preventative" "Teen parents"
Wilbur at Rays	Farmers
Heavy equipment operator	Artists
Multilingual	Educators
Local resource use Pony Gilbert	Youth participation
Jeneca Jones Communication	Educated residents
Artists/Artisans	
Crafts persons	
Artists from Applegate	

## Appendix K: Veneta Park Facility Survey and Tabulation 2006

### Park Facility Survey

The City of Veneta is currently updating its list of park improvements which will largely determine how park funds are spent over the next twenty years. This survey is designed to find out how much demand there might be for various recreation facilities within the City. Your comments will help City staff, the park board, and your elected officials draft plans to provide the recreation facilities that best meet the needs of current and future residents.

Please indicate on how often you would use the following facilities when weather permits if they were available by placing an 'X' in the appropriate box.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	Less than once per month	Once per month	Two or three times per month	Once per week	Two or more times per week
<b>Amphitheater</b> Stage and seating outdoors					
<b>Baseball Diamond</b> Baselines – 90', includes backstop and infield with grass outfield					
<b>Basketball Court</b> 46-50'x84' size court, outdoor					
<b>Community Center</b>					
<b>Community Garden</b> Individual Plots, Gardens, Cultural					
<b>Dog Park</b> fenced, 1-2 acres					
<b>Equestrian Facilities</b> Trails, loading/unloading facilities					
<b>Field Sports (multi-use)</b> Football, soccer, lacrosse complexes with grass field.					
<b>Frisbee Golf Course</b>					
<b>Golf Course</b>					
<b>Golf Driving Range</b>					
<b>Indoor Activities</b> Arts and crafts, gymnastics, basketball, club meetings					
<b>Multi-Use Trails</b> walking/jogging/nature/ bicycling/skating					
<b>Passive Recreation Area</b> Passive recreation refers to non-consumptive uses such as wildlife observation, walking, biking etc.					
<b>Performing Arts Center</b>					
<b>Picnic Shelter</b>					
<b>Picnicking Area w/Tables</b>					
<b>Playground Area</b> Both structures and open areas					
<b>Running Track</b> 1/4 Mile Track width for 4 to 8 lanes.					
<b>Senior Center</b>					
<b>Skate Park</b>					
<b>Soccer Field</b>					
<b>Softball Diamond</b> Baselines – 60', includes backstop and infield with grass outfield					
<b>Swimming Pool</b>					
<b>Tennis Court</b>					
<b>Volleyball Court</b>					
<b>Youth Center</b> An indoor facility, similar to a YMCA					

If you could only have three of the above recreation facilities, what would they be (in order of preference)?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Would you support a Park and Recreation District?  Yes  No

Do you live in the Veneta City Limits?  Yes  No

Additional Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your time!**

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3
<b>Multi-Use Trails</b> walking/jogging/nature/ bicycling/skating	10	14	12
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	25	2	7
<b>Youth Center</b> An indoor facility, similar to a YMCA	7	7	9
<b>Passive Recreation Area</b> Passive recreation refers to non-consumptive uses such as wildlife observation, walking, biking etc.	5	7	8
<b>Performing Arts Center</b>	8	3	4
<b>Golf Course</b>	4	3	2
<b>Amphitheater</b> Stage and seating outdoors	0	4	5
<b>Dog Park</b> fenced, 1-2 acres	2	4	2
<b>Community Center</b>	2	5	1
<b>Golf Driving Range</b>	1	3	3
<b>Indoor Activities</b> Arts and crafts, gymnastics, basketball, club meetings	0	3	2
<b>Community Garden</b> Individual Plots, Gardens, Cultural	2	2	1
<b>Picnicking Area w/Tables</b>	0	4	0
<b>Playground Area</b> Both structures and open areas	2	0	2
<b>Equestrian Facilities</b> Trails, loading/unloading facilities	2	1	0
<b>Running Track</b> 1/4 Mile Track width for 4 to 8 lanes.	1	2	1
<b>Softball Diamond</b> Baselines – 60', includes backstop and infield with grass outfield	0	0	3
<b>Senior Center</b>	1	2	0
<b>Field Sports (multi-use)</b> Football, soccer, lacrosse complexes with grass field.	0	1	1
<b>Tennis Court</b>	1	0	2
<b>Frisbee Golf Course</b>	0	0	2
<b>Picnic Shelter</b>	1	0	0
<b>Skate Park</b>	0	0	1
<b>Baseball Diamond</b> Baselines – 90', includes backstop and infield with grass outfield	0	0	0
<b>Basketball Court</b> 46-50'x84' size court, outdoor	0	0	0
<b>Soccer Field</b>	0	0	0
<b>Volleyball Court</b>	0	0	0

# City of Veneta



## Veneta Youth Center Survey

The Veneta Park Board and Veneta City Council are planning the development of a new Youth Center and Park, to be located at the corner of Territorial Hwy and Hunter Rd. The land for the Youth Center and Park has been purchased by the City of Veneta, and the Park Committee would like your input. Your opinions will help us to develop a place that you and your friends will want to use and enjoy visiting. Please help us by completing this survey. If you would like more information, please contact Marlene Colston at (541) 935-5941 or Veneta City Hall at (541) 935-2191.

1. What school do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What grade are you in? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3a. What are your favorite subjects or hobbies? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3b. Would you be interested in taking a community class about this subject or hobby? Y N Maybe

4. Which of the following facilities and/or activities would you like to see available at the Youth Center?  
Please answer by circling Yes(Y), No(N), or Maybe:

Air Hockey	Y	N	Maybe
Arts & Crafts Room	Y	N	Maybe
Badminton (outside)	Y	N	Maybe
Cards or Board Games	Y	N	Maybe
Chess Club	Y	N	Maybe
Computer Lab	Y	N	Maybe
Dance Floor/Dancing	Y	N	Maybe
Foosball	Y	N	Maybe
Ping Pong	Y	N	Maybe
Pool Table	Y	N	Maybe
Shuffleboard	Y	N	Maybe
Snack Bar	Y	N	Maybe
Video Games	Y	N	Maybe
Watching TV /Movies	Y	N	Maybe
Other			

5. Which of the following athletic activities would you participate in if they were organized by the youth center?  
(All activities listed would be organized by the youth center but would occur offsite at another facility.)  
Please answer by circling Yes(Y), No(N), or Maybe:

Aerobics	Y	N	Maybe
Baseball/Softball Tournaments	Y	N	Maybe
Basketball Tournaments	Y	N	Maybe
Bicycle Club (BMX, Mtn, etc.)	Y	N	Maybe
Bowling	Y	N	Maybe
Dancing	Y	N	Maybe
Fencing	Y	N	Maybe
Football Games	Y	N	Maybe
Gymnastics	Y	N	Maybe
Martial Arts	Y	N	Maybe
Rock Climbing	Y	N	Maybe
Skateboard Club	Y	N	Maybe
Soccer Games	Y	N	Maybe
Weightlifting	Y	N	Maybe
Wrestling	Y	N	Maybe
Other			

**Please turn over and continue on the other side...**

**Veneta Youth Center Survey (p2)**

6. Which of the following art workshops would you be interested in?  
Please answer by circling Yes(Y), No(N), or Maybe:

Acting	Y	N	Maybe
Ceramics	Y	N	Maybe
Computer Graphics	Y	N	Maybe
Music	Y	N	Maybe
Painting	Y	N	Maybe
Photography	Y	N	Maybe
Sculpture	Y	N	Maybe
Theatre / Drama	Y	N	Maybe
Other	_____		

7. Which of the following dance classes would you be interested in?  
Please answer by circling Yes(Y), No(N), or Maybe:

Ballet	Y	N	Maybe
Ballroom	Y	N	Maybe
Break	Y	N	Maybe
Folk	Y	N	Maybe
Hip hop	Y	N	Maybe
Jazz	Y	N	Maybe
Latin	Y	N	Maybe
Square	Y	N	Maybe
Swing	Y	N	Maybe
Tap	Y	N	Maybe
Other	_____		

8. Would you be more likely to use the building in a particular season?  
Please answer by circling Yes(Y), No(N), or Maybe:

Spring	Y	N	Maybe
Summer	Y	N	Maybe
Fall	Y	N	Maybe
Winter	Y	N	Maybe

9. What day or days of the week would you use the facility?                      Weekdays      Weekends      Both

12. Would you like to have a designated area and/or hours in the building for your age group?                      Y    N    Maybe

13. Are there any other facilities or services you would like to see in the Youth Center that have not been mentioned in the survey?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Would you be interested in volunteering to help with the design and development of the Youth Center?      Yes    No  
If so, please fill out your name, address, and phone number below:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ When is the best time to call? \_\_\_\_\_

What activities or events would you be most interested in helping with?

\_\_\_\_ Youth Advisory Committee      \_\_\_\_ Fundraising Events (Car Washes, Etc.)      \_\_\_\_ Organizing Clubs or Activities



<b>Activities at the Youth Center</b>																
25%	111	Chess Club	9	6	5	5	6	3	4	7		8	6	15	16	21
39%	171	Shuffleboard	13	1	8	9	13	18	8	10		19	1	19	20	32
43%	192	Badminton (outside)	18	8	11	8	15	9	6	10		11	16	20	20	39
46%	200	Cards or Board Games	20	8	9	18	9	6	12	13		14	15	17	25	37
47%	201	Arts & Crafts Room	16	5	17	12	14	8	6	13		9	9	25	32	39
60%	264	Foosball	26	8	13	15	18	14	18	16		15	24	32	20	45
61%	270	Computer Lab	20	8	15	18	19	13	16	16		17	27	31	26	41
63%	279	Ping Pong	26	9	14	14	22	16	22	19		15	23	28	27	44
65%	288	Dance Floor/Dance	24	13	20	20	23	17	15	16		15	24	32	20	45
67%	295	Watching Tv/Movies	26	14	14	20	24	15	16	19		16	22	33	32	44
73%	319	Video Games	29	15	17	23	24	18	20	23		22	27	31	28	42
78%		Air Hockey	30	18	19	23	24	21	20	20		20	25	40	34	48
78%	343	Pool Table	33	13	21	28	28	23	23	23		12	30	34	26	49
81%	360	Snack Bar	30	14	22	25	27	23	23	20		19	34	41	34	43
0%		Other														

<b>Athletic Activities at the Youth Center</b>																
31%	136	Aerobics	9	6	10	8	15	8	4	9		6	7	16	10	28
53%	231	Baseball/Softball	13	10	14	11	21	12	16	14		12	21	35	17	35
59%	260	Basektball tournaments	17	8	24	15	17	13	16	16		14	26	39	20	35
42%	184	Bicycle Club (BMX)	11	5	10	9	18	13	11	12		13	9	24	18	31
65%	286	Bowling	23	9	18	18	21	26	24	17		14	21	32	25	38
54%	236	Dancing	16	6	20	16	16	16	12	13		12	21	34	25	31
40%	176	Fencing	16	3	13	14	12	11	12	9		10	14	21	16	25
56%	248	Football Games	21	8	14	12	18	13	17	18		19	25	29	18	34
39%	173	Gymnastics	9	4	12	12	14	12	6	11		6	10	29	21	27
49%	217	Martial Arts	16	10	14	21	18	17	14	10		12	15	21	21	28
65%	285	Rock Clibiming	24	9	18	18	22	20	17	18		14	27	34	22	42
48%	210	Skateboard	14	8	9	12	16	12	9	12		17	22	32	19	30
52%	230	Soccer Games	13	7	14	15	20	17	11	16		13	22	26	18	38
52%	227	Weightlifting	17	8	11	19	19	11	15	13		16	25	21	20	32
37%	161	Wrestling	9	4	7	11	15	10	5	11		13	11	21	18	26
		Other														

<b>Art Workshops at the Youth Center</b>																
43%	91	Acting	18	7	18	16	11	13	8	9		8	14	25	10	34
39%	171	Ceramics	22	10	15	12	10	8	8	8		6	10	18	12	32
42%	183	Computer Graphics	15	7	12	14	13	9	10	11		12	15	20	10	35
60%	262	Music	21	11	17	18	18	17	17	12		14	23	33	17	44
47%	205	Painting	18	10	14	14	13	13	14	9		4	14	27	16	39
54%	237	Photography	25	12	17	17	15	17	12	15		9	24	15	13	46
41%	181	Sculpture	18	9	14	13	10	11	8	11		5	10	22	12	38
43%	191	Theatre/Drama	17	9	18	15	13	16	4	9		7	12	29	8	34
		Other														

Dance at the Youth Center																
19%	83	Ballet	7	5	8	4	8	7	3	4		2	3	9	6	17
29%	126	Ballroom	7	5	13	10	12	12	6	3		4	11	14	5	24
43%	191	Break	20	10	12	14	13	14	13	12		8	17	19	5	34
13%	58	Folk	4	5	4	4	5	5	1	2		2	5	6	5	10
45%	196	Hip Hop	22	8	14	14	12	14	12	8		8	24	19	5	36
26%	115	Jazz	11	6	10	7	11	8	4	5		4	9	11	5	24
30%	129	Latin	7	5	12	12	10	9	5	4		2	9	13	5	38
20%	86	Square	9	2	4	7	6	7	5	3		4	8	7	5	19
36%	159	Swing	18	8	15	10	13	10	14	6		3	11	20	5	26
23%	101	Tap	8	5	8	5	7	6	4	6		2	6	14	5	25
0%		Other														

Season																
62%	383	Spring	21	14	17	18	23	19	16	11		18	21	37	12	44
78%	345	Summer	28	14	20	20	26	23	21	20		21	34	41	17	60
67%	263	Fall	18	14	17	15	24	19	15	13		17	20	34	13	74
64%	281	Winter	18	14	18	18	22	19	20	13		18	29	33	12	47

Days of the Week																
6%	27	Weekday	1		2	2	3	2	4	3		0	2	2	1	3
15%	73	Weekend	9		4	8	7	8	7	5		8	0	3	3	5
58%	251	Both	21		16	26	17	16	20	19		14	27	26	9	46
54%	248	Yes	22	22	6	13	27	13	4	11		15	23	26	12	42

## **Appendix M: Stakeholder Interviews**

Rod Smith / Fire Department – December 11, 2008  
Greg Baker / Fern Ridge School District – January 17, 2008  
Pat Coy / Lilies of the Field, the Love Project – April 15, 2008  
Earle Ellson / Fern Ridge Library and Historical Information April 17, 2008  
Charles Ruff / Oregon Country Fair - April 18, 2008  
Maggie Tallmadge / April 17, 2008  
Tony Garcia / Garcia Center and Kim Kaufman / Senior and Disabled Services - April 25, 2008  
Penny Warren / Elmira Grange – May 5, 2008  
Heather Hill / Fire Department Services May 8, 2008  
Barbara Utt / Camp Wilani – June 12, 2008  
Craig Harbison / N4RG, Fern Ridge Community Action Network – July 2008.  
Carol Knobbe / Lane Education Service District, Indian Education Program – July 3, 2008  
Kristin Karle / St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County – August 14, 2008  
Laura Bowman / Fern Ridge Youth Enrichment Development Committee - August 15, 2008  
Colin Rea / Fern Ridge Library  
Laura Blankenship / Fern Ridge Public Library

## **Appendix N: Fern Ridge Community Facilities Assessment Survey**

### **2008 COMMUNITY FACILITIES ASSESSMENT SURVEY FOR THE FERN RIDGE COMMUNITY**

Thank you for taking a moment to fill out our survey! We appreciate your time and we respect your privacy – all information you give here will stay anonymous. **Please only fill this survey out ONCE.**

Hard copies of this survey are available at Veneta City Hall, the Fern Ridge Library and at the Garcia Center or by contacting the City of Veneta at 935-2191 or [sfregosi@ci.veneta.or.us](mailto:sfregosi@ci.veneta.or.us). In order to have your input included within this Community Facilities Assessment, surveys and written comments must be returned by August 1<sup>st</sup> to

City of Veneta  
Attn: Stephania Fregosi, Program Coordinator  
PO BOX 458  
Veneta, OR 97487

#### **What is the survey for?**

The City of Veneta is working on a Community Facilities Assessment and would like your input concerning needed/desired future community facilities in the Fern Ridge area. Community facilities influence a city's quality of life. Examples of such facilities include a library, park, sports field, community center or theater for the performing arts.

#### **What is a Community Facility?**

For the purpose of this survey, community facilities are buildings, parks and other spaces used for general community activities. Not all spaces being used for community purposes are owned or operated by the City. In addition, many of the spaces listed in this survey are only available to some groups by special arrangement with the facility owner.

1. What school district do you live in? If you do not live in one of these school districts, **STOP**, you are ineligible to take this survey. (For help, please look at the attached map.)

- Crow-Applegate-Lorane County School District  
66
- Fern Ridge School District 28 in Lane County

1a. What zip code do you **physically** live in? If you do not **physically** live in one of these zip codes, **STOP**, you are ineligible to take this survey.

- 97402                       97430                       97461
- 97412                       97437                       97487
- 97419                       97448                       97490

1b. How long have you lived in the zip code you chose in question # 1a.?

- 0 to 6 months               3 to 10 years
- 6 to 12 months             10 years or more
- 1 to 3 years

2. As the Fern Ridge Community continues to grow, is it your view that the community needs:

				If <b>YES</b> , how important is having this type of facility in the Fern Ridge Community to you?			
				<b>Not Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>
2a. Additional Child Care Center	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2b. Additional Conference Rooms	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2c. Additional Large Community Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2d. Additional Marina/Boating Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2e. Additional Outdoor Athletic Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2f. Additional Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2g. Additional Small Neighborhood Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2h. Bandstand or Outdoor Amphitheater	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2i. Bowling Alley	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2j. Community Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2k. Covered Group Barbeque or Picnic Areas	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2l. Cultural Arts Center/Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2m. Enhanced	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

2. As the Fern Ridge Community continues to grow, is it your view that the community needs:

				If <b>YES</b> , how important is having this type of facility in the Fern Ridge Community to you?			
				<b>Not Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>
				<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Community Center	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2n. Enhanced Food Pantry	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2o. Enhanced Library	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2p. Enhanced Senior Center	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2q. Equestrian Arena	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2r. Lodging (e.g., Bed and Breakfast, Campgrounds or Motel)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2s. Movie Theater	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2t. Swimming Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2u. Theater for Performing Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2v. Trails (Biking, Equestrian, Hiking, Walking, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2w. Visual Arts Space (e.g. Ceramics, Painting, Drawing etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2x. Youth Club/After-school Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DK	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

3. Please rank the most important **FOUR** community facilities from the list on pages 1 and 2 from question #2 (2a. – 2x.) where 1<sup>st</sup> is the **MOST** important and 4<sup>th</sup> is the **LEAST** important to you.

1<sup>st</sup>:

3<sup>rd</sup>:

2<sup>nd</sup>:

4<sup>th</sup>:

NONE

4. Please list any community facilities that you view as needed in the Fern Ridge Community that are not listed in on pages 1 and 2 from question #2 (2a. – 2x.).

5. How important is it to you that the Fern Ridge Community:

	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>
5a. Operate parks that are clean/well-maintained	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
5b. Preserve the environment and provide open space	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
5c. Provide a space for activities for senior citizens	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
5d. Provide a space for activities for youth	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
5e. Provide swimming facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
5f. Provide paved trails and sidewalks that connect neighborhoods	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
5g. Provide places for arts, cultural programs and special events	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
5h. Provide places for indoor recreation and fitness activities	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
5i. Provide places for outdoor sports programs	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

6. Please rank the most important **FOUR** values from the list on page 3 in question 5 (5a. – 5i.) where 1<sup>st</sup> is the **MOST** important and 4<sup>th</sup> is the **LEAST** important to you.

1<sup>st</sup>:

2<sup>nd</sup>:

3<sup>rd</sup>:

4<sup>th</sup>:

NONE



7. In the past 18 months, have you rented a community facility in the Fern Ridge area for a private party or event? Please check all that apply.

- A church
- A grange
- Facility at a public school
- Facility at a private school
- Senior Center
- Veneta Community Center
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have not rented a community facility in the past 12 months in the Fern Ridge area.
- Don't know/Not applicable

7a. From the list in question #7, which **TWO** facilities do you and your household use the most often for **Community Events or Programs** (e.g. church, grange, school, etc.)?

Use the most

Use the 2<sup>nd</sup> most

7b. If the answer to question #7 is "I have not rented a community facility in the past 12 months in the Fern Ridge area," why not? Please check all that apply.

- Facility did not meet my needs
- No reason/event to rent the facility
- Not aware that facilities are available for rentals
- Too expensive (rental fee)
- Too expensive (liability insurance)
- Held event/rented at facilities outside of the area
- Used home, yard, or own tent
- Facility was unavailable at time requested
- I recently moved to the area
- Other
- Don't know/Not applicable

7c. If the answer to question #7b. is "Facility did not meet my needs," why not? Explain:

8. What is your age?

9. Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

- Yes
- No
- Refuse to answer

10. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Refuse to answer

11. Do you have any comments or suggestions?

**Appendix O: Data Tables for the Fern Ridge Community Facilities Plan**

Q1. What school district do you live in?

<b>School District</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Did Not Answer	2
Crow	7
Fern Ridge	85
<i>Total</i>	94

Q1a. What zip code do you **physically** live in? If you do not **physically** live in one of these zip codes, **STOP**, you are ineligible to take this survey.

<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Did Not Answer	2
97402	4
97437	13
97461	1
97487	74
<i>Total</i>	94

Q1b. How long have you lived in the zip code you chose in question #1a?

<b>Residency</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Did Not Answer	3
0 to 6 months	4
6 to 12 months	3
1 to 3 years	9
3 to 10 years	29
10 years or more	46
<i>Total</i>	94

Q2. As the Fern Ridge community continues to grow, is it your view that the community needs:

Facility	Yes	No	Don't Know/Did Not Answer	Not Very Important (1)	Somewhat Important (2)	Important (3)	Very Important (4)
a. Additional Child Care Center	28	21	45	0	14	24	22
b. Additional Conference Rooms	29	26	37	5	12	13	2
c. Additional Large Community Parks	56	23	15	4	10	23	13
d. Additional Marina/Boating Facilities	17	42	35	2	9	4	3
e. Additional Outdoor Athletic Facilities	51	20	23	2	17	20	8
f. Additional Playgrounds	55	20	19	0	14	24	12
g. Additional Small Neighborhood Parks	54	23	17	1	14	22	16
h. Bandstand or Outdoor Amphitheater	55	22	17	2	22	17	13
i. Bowling Alley	35	38	21	3	16	10	4
j. Community Garden	58	17	19	1	14	20	20
k. Covered Barbeque or Picnic Areas	61	15	18	0	21	28	8
l. Cultural Arts Center/Museum	53	17	24	4	20	18	10
m. Enhanced Community Center	64	10	20	2	8	30	19
n. Enhanced Food Pantry	64	9	21	0	14	24	22
o. Enhanced Library	65	17	12	0	17	18	27
p. Enhanced Senior Center	77	4	13	1	13	24	35
q. Equestrian Arena	24	31	39	7	12	3	2
r. Lodging	67	11	16	4	23	19	17
s. Movie Theater	46	24	24	6	10	20	10
t. Swimming Facility	81	5	8	4	8	22	47
u. Theater for Performing Arts	59	16	19	6	20	18	17
v. Trails	70	8	16	0	22	21	26
w. Visual Arts Space	55	16	22	6	22	18	8
x. Youth Club/After School Facility	75	16	22	2	12	31	25

Q3. Please rank the most important FOUR community facilities from the list on pages 1 and 2 from question #2 (2a. – 2x. where 1<sup>st</sup> is most IMPORTANT and 4<sup>th</sup> is the LEAST important to you.

	<b>First Choice</b>	<b>Second Choice</b>	<b>Third Choice</b>	<b>Fourth Choice</b>
a. Additional Child Care Center	2	0	2	2
b. Additional Conference Rooms	0	0	1	0
c. Additional Large Community Parks	5	3	1	4
d. Additional Marina/Boating Facilities	0	0	0	1
e. Additional Outdoor Athletic Facilities	2	2	2	0
f. Additional Playgrounds	2	0	3	0
g. Additional Small Neighborhood Parks	3	4	2	3
h. Bandstand or Outdoor Amphitheater	1	4	4	2
i. Bowling Alley	1	1	3	1
j. Community Garden	1	6	4	9
k. Covered Barbeque or Picnic Areas	0	1	1	1
l. Cultural Arts Center/Museum	2	1	0	1
m. Enhanced Community Center	5	3	4	9
n. Enhanced Food Pantry	2	7	7	5
o. Enhanced Library	12	1	11	3
p. Enhanced Senior Center	22	12	4	2
q. Equestrian Arena	0	0	2	0
r. Lodging	2	7	6	6
s. Movie Theater	2	1	6	7
t. Swimming Facility	18	20	8	6
u. Theater for Performing Arts	3	3	3	3
v. Trails	3	5	5	8
w. Visual Arts Space	0	2	1	3
x. Youth Club/After School Facility	6	6	7	7

Q5. How important is it to you that the Fern Ridge Community:

	<b>Not Sure (1)</b>	<b>Not Important (2)</b>	<b>Somewhat Important (3)</b>	<b>Important (4)</b>	<b>Very Important (5)</b>
a. Operate parks that are clean/well-maintained	2	2	2	2	2
b. Preserve the environment and provide open space	4	4	4	4	4
c. Provide a space for activities for senior citizens	2	1	9	26	51
d. Provide a space for activities for youth	3	2	6	29	44
e. Provide swimming facilities	4	5	6	29	44
f. Provide paved trails and sidewalks that connect neighborhoods.	1	9	24	28	23
g. Provide places for arts, cultural programs and special events.	3	8	24	34	18
h. Provide places for indoor recreation and fitness	4	7	27	27	22
i. Provide places for outdoor sports programs	4	8	20	36	16

Q6. Please rank the most important **FOUR** values from the list on page 3 in question 5 (5a. – 5i.) where 1<sup>st</sup> is the **MOST** important and 4<sup>th</sup> is the **LEAST** important to you.

	<b>First Choice</b>	<b>Second Choice</b>	<b>Third Choice</b>	<b>Fourth Choice</b>
a. Operate parks that are clean/well-maintained	13	7	3	7
b. Preserve the environment and provide open space	12	8	7	5
c. Provide a space for activities for senior citizens	23	9	5	6
d. Provide a space for activities for youth	3	15	11	11
e. Provide swimming facilities	16	16	10	5
f. Provide paved trails and sidewalks that connect neighborhoods.	3	5	7	8
g. Provide places for arts, cultural programs and special events.	1	5	6	6
h. Provide places for indoor recreation and fitness	4	3	6	7
i. Provide places for outdoor sports programs	0	1	3	4

Q7. In the past 18 months have you rented a community facility in the Fern Ridge area for a private party or event? Please check all that apply.

Rent	Church	Grange	Public School	Private School	Senior Center	Community Center	Other	Did Not Rent	Do Not Know
26	7	5	4	1	5	8	5	54	14

Facilities listed in the other category were the Library Konnie Room, Fern Ridge Library (2), Fire Dept. and a restaurant.

Q7a. From the list in question # 7, which **TWO** facilities do you and your household use the most often for **Community Events or Programs** (e.g. church, grange, school, etc.)?

Community Facility Use	Most Often	Second Most Often
Church	9	6
Don't know/Not applicable	1	
Grange	7	1
Library	1	
Other	3	6
Other: Own yard		1
Other: parks	1	
Post Office		1
Private School		3
Public School	4	3
Senior Center	8	1
Veneta Community Center	8	2

Q7b. If the answer to question #7 is "I have not rented a community facility in the past 12 months in the Fern Ridge area," why not? Please check all that apply.

Reason	
Facility did not meet my needs	3
No reason to rent	46
Not aware	6
Too expensive (rental fee)	4
Too expensive (liability insurance)	4
Rented facilities outside the area	0
Used home, yard or own tent	20
Facility was unavailable at time requested	0
I recently moved to the area	1
Don't know/not applicable	19

Q7c. If the answer to question #7b is "Facility did not meet my needs," why not? Explain:

Too small and had no outdoor patio with seating. Too small kitchen.

I did not rent the Veneta Community Center because of appearance inside, stuff everywhere.

Too small – rented.

We need a bigger senior center and an indoor pool.

Poorly stocked. No paper towels, hand soap or first aid kit anywhere accessible to public renters.



Q8. What is your age?

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<35	5
35-54	24
55-64	25
65+	29
Did Not Answer	11
<i>Total</i>	94

Q9. Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

<b>Children under the age of 18 at home?</b>	<b>Participants</b>
No	63
Refuse to Answer	9
Yes	22
<i>Total</i>	94

Q10. What is your gender?

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Female	64
Male	23
Refuse to Answer	7
<i>Total</i>	94

## **Appendix P: Community Facilities Assessment Survey, Written Feedback**

### **General**

Clean up entrances to Veneta - trash is unbelievable on all entrances, but especially east side.

Churches seem to do well with "organizing" open community events and inexpensive.

Veneta is doing well.

It's about time Veneta got on the ball and started providing for our burgeoning population. The population is increasing faster than facilities exist to accommodate it.

Prices for classes etc. should meet the income of participants.

More people: families and seniors are residing in Veneta. Higher gas expense, lower ability to drive, higher senior needs, higher need for healthy family health, fun. A community hospital is needed. A community Y is needed to "build strong families and a strong community."

Need to get rid of trash in people's yards on Broadway. Need to have a volunteer clean up committee.

### **Library**

The library is the best thing for the whole community. More people should use it.

Existing library is fine.

The Library is our only resource!

### **Youth and Senior Citizens**

Need more places for young people, esp. ages 13-18 to "play" outside.

With the decrease in tax revenue we need to take care of your young people, senior citizens and maintain present services. To increase the tax burden of people who are already taxed by fuel and food prices would be criminal.

The seniors pay more property taxes per average than kids in school. So more things should be for them, then for those between 6 and 18.

Senior should not have to pay property taxes - we paid enough when we were young.

We desperately need big and better senior facilities both sides with much better parking. It needs to have more room inside as well so those in wheel chairs and walkers can move around more easily and not block other people who need to move around or get to bathrooms.

The senior center is very important to the community.

Just wish the senior center could stay open for the seniors would have some place to go. Please keep it open as it is needed. Thank you.

The money spent on this survey could have been better spent on a senior center!

Definitely need a senior center and space for after school activities.

The senior center has been a good thing for this area. I personally see a need for a centrally located senior center and food pantry for people in this community. I would like to see one in place before the Garcia Center reverts to the school district. I am not in need of using either of these facilities but know many out here are.

### **Combined Facilities**

We desperately need a community center than can house various activities including food pantry, seniors, youth and the arts.

Find a way (ask for suggestions) to create a facility that would provide for multiple uses (Enhanced community center, theater for performing arts, additional conference rooms, culture arts center/museum, youth club/after school facility, community garden, enhanced food pantry, additional playgrounds). Community parks could include an edible garden area. Facilities for youth and elderly adults do not really need to be separate. Interaction is very important. Please don't make things ritzy and overspend on the budget. Keep it simple. Make it "GREEN" with sustainable energy.

I think that the Fern Ridge area needs to address the needs of youth, if there are things to keep them busy, there is less trouble. When there are things for the youth, usually families and seniors can use these things also and everyone benefits.

### **Conference Facilities**

One person wrote in a conference center over additional conference rooms.

### **Community Center**

The Veneta Community Center needs updating and a storage building for the tables/chairs so someone renting it can make it look nice and not junkie. Paint goes along way. :) (Just my two cents).

Get us our pool and new community center!

Too small and had no outdoor patio with seating. Too small kitchen.

I did not rent the Veneta Community Center because of appearance inside, stuff everywhere.

Too small – rented.

Poorly stocked. No paper towels, hand soap or first aid kit anywhere accessible to public renters.

### **Pool/Parks and Recreation District**

If the city cannot operate the pool, when is it foreseen that a parks and recreation district would actually be formed and put on the ballot? Why build it before then? Whose asset would it be - the City or the District? This should be clarified before voting on construction project.

The pool is obsolete. Camp Wilani is too cold!

Fix the pool!

We feel an indoor year-round pool do well used by elderly and school kids.

Swimming facility should be indoors and year round.

A swimming pool is invaluable! A pool is a must!

We need a bigger senior center and an indoor pool.

### **Theater**

More people should use the high school theater for theater projects.

### **Park**

Keep the park clean and burn free!

Parks should be safe and drug free.

Currently the Skate park is unavailable for children's use because of blatant drug trafficking. Keep kids busy & off streets but not playgrounds for druggies to hang in!

I don't believe the parks provide enough light to deter vandalism and youths from hanging out "unseen" in the park at night. I would like to see additional tables at the skate park.

Skate parks keep crime down.

Must use the lake more! It's an asset we are not using at all. Motels, Marinas, Visitors! Instead we lock up all the parks on the busiest night of the year - July 4th!

Must open all parks on Fern Ridge 4th of July evening - moneymaker!

Do away with large community parks.

Let's use park space at parks that are already established.

We only have teens at home now so aren't in the childhood season any more but our grandkids here would really like the park and playground choices you are considering.

### **Connected Trails, Traffic and Safety**

We are really into music (watching and performing), health (organic gardening, bicycling (roads are too narrow) hiking, swimming) exercise in general.

Make sure that there are sidewalks, safe trails for children to get to the playground, e.g. sidewalks built for Bolton Hill Road, but not for 8th street to reach the playground or get to city hall.

Trails shouldn't necessarily be paved.

There needs to be something done about the traffic at Territorial and Jeans Road. This intersection is getting too busy to ignore!

We must have bike/walking paths from Highway 126 to Clear Lake Road.

Trails could be bark trails.

Sheriffs need to patrol Territorial for speeding drunk drivers which I see all the time. I have also been hit.

### **Community Garden**

I feel with hard economic times coming up a large community garden - where one could "reserve" a plot for vegetable planting would be good for many renters and those with small yards.

Things like gardens for food - not free food!

### **Environment**

Don't cut down any more trees!! Please leave the trees. Someone has to protect them or Veneta will look like L.A. Just because they are common doesn't mean they are not valuable and our most priceless asset. I cry whenever I see another 100 yr. old giant felled for what? It just shows what this city values and what it does not!! What about the air they clean and the water they channel. What about the children?!

### **Outdoor Sports**

Outdoor sports programs can be held at the schools.

Outdoor space would be useful for softball game.

### **Community and Economic Development**

We like the Farmers' Market.

It would be a positive direction towards making our community support a localized economy. It would be nice to not have to drive 25 miles to buy a decent pair of shoes, for example. What did providing look like in pioneer days before they logged off the old growth timber. Wouldn't the high cost of fuel and the recent and ongoing growth in population be conducive to bringing back a real town capable of supporting more than two bars and a hardware store?

Cater to the tourists that come through town.

This could be a desirable thriving community if those who control growth and development would recognize the overall appearance is hodgepodge at best and ease up to encourage a bit of thought out planned development. Don't worry it won't ever become the next Eugene! But it would be nice to actually want to invite folks to check it out. Also, would be great to keep the money in town.

Sewer and delivery rates are very high. Fern Ridge needs to limit development in the area; force builders to pay for new wells (the water shortage and quality is poor) and sewer, sidewalk, etc. instead of passing on to citizens. Also \$18 per \$1,000 for mill rate is extremely high. A new house (for a rental that we bought for 205k) has \$3,100 per year taxes. Outrageous!!

This town needs to let a larger grocery store come in to compete with Ray's. Their prices are too high.

Let business move to Veneta with incentives so our community dollars stay in our community not in Eugene.

Property boundaries and community enhanced.

Let local business expand to offer services for pay.

Develop a "main street" business area where people will actually want to come to the area!

## Appendix Q: Fern Ridge Community Organizations

Applegate Art Gallery and Guild  
Applegate Pioneer Museum  
ART, Inc.  
Babe Ruth League, Inc.  
Boy Scouts #54  
Camp Fire USA  
City of Veneta  
City of Veneta Parks Board  
Elmira Grange  
Elmira High Golf Club  
Elmira High School Booster Club  
Elmira High School Leadership  
Program  
Elmira High School Mr. Falcon  
Emerald Dog Obedience Group  
Emerald Kidsports, Inc.  
Emergence  
Eugene Family YMCA  
Falcon Lacrosse Club  
Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce  
Fern Ridge Community Action  
Network

Enrichment Development  
Committee (W. Broadway)  
Fern Ridge Library  
Fern Ridge Ministerial Association  
Fern Ridge Wrestling Club  
Food for Lane County  
Friends of Zumalt Park  
Fern Ridge Middle School Cheer  
Team  
Girl Scouts  
Gleaners  
Kaleidoscope  
Kiwanis of Fern Ridge  
Lane Council of Governments  
Lane County  
L.O.V.E. Project  
Lane County Fire District #1  
Lane County Police Department  
(Local Sheriffs' Office)  
Local Rebekah Lodge  
Long Tom Watershed Council  
Meals on Wheels  
Mid-Oregon Performance Clicker  
Club  
Mid-Lane Community Chest  
Moose Service Center  
Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth

Neighborhood Watch  
Neuter Scooter  
Oregon ASU Softball  
Oregon Country Trails  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Oregon ASU Softball  
Phenomenon  
Pool Committee  
Rotary Club  
S.A.N.T.A.  
Save Our Service Center  
Senior and Disabled Services  
Territorial Sports Program  
Theta Rho Girls' Club and Junior  
Odd Fellow Lodges (Independent  
Order of Odd Fellows)  
US Fish and Wildlife (Fern Ridge  
Wildlife Area)  
Veneta's Downtown Farmers' Market  
Willamette Valley Pop Warner  
Explorers Club

## End Notes

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- <sup>26</sup> Applegate Pioneer Museum.
- <sup>27</sup> Economic Strategic Development Plan: Veneta, Lane Council of Governments.
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- <sup>32</sup> Garcia, Anthony and Kaufman, Kim. 25 April 2008.
- <sup>33</sup> Karle, Kristin. "Re: Fern Ridge Community Facilities Assessment." E-mail to Stephania Fregosi. 14 Aug. 2008.
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- <sup>35</sup> Fregosi, Stephania. "Young Explorer's Club at the Farmer's Market." 2008. Veneta, Oregon.
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