

## **PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM POLICIES**

This Section contains the following policies:

POLICY 39: PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNING

POLICY 40: DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS



## **POLICY 39: PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A basic need of people is to pursue activities in non-work hours which recreate one's mental and physical condition. From children learning to socialize through play, to elderly people being outdoors for a walk or to sit in the sun, recreation plays an important part in the life cycle. The major requisite for outdoor recreation is space within which activities take place. These spaces can be intensively developed parks, natural areas along waterways, vacant lots, or even streets and roads.

The need for providing easily accessible areas for outdoor recreation is increasingly important in metropolitan jurisdictions such as Multnomah County; outdoor recreation can offer an escape from crime, pollution, crowding, a sedentary work life, and other problems associated with urban living. Providing nearby recreational space for leisure time activity is important also in the conservation of non-renewable energy resources and addressing problems related to the currently depressed economy, such as decreased household income. Recreational opportunities provided near residential areas would mean less costs to participants in terms of travel time, gas, etc.

Parks systems are generally developed in a hierarchical system composed of neighborhood, community and regional parks. Within this system are specialized recreation areas ranging from wilderness hiking trails to swimming areas, golf courses, play fields, and tot lots. Multnomah County's park system includes: one historical site, three boat ramps, one campground, two islands in the Columbia River, three regional parks, two community parks, 34 neighborhood parks and four playlots. In addition, three proposed statewide Oregon Recreation Trails: Portland to the coast, the Columbia River Gorge, and the Sandy River Trails will provide hiking opportunities and scenic and recreational access.

A component of the County's recreation system is the 40-Mile Loop, a network of connecting jogging, hiking, and bicycle paths that encircle Multnomah County.

Parks and recreation areas are provided by both the public and private sectors; however, the major share of the responsibility to develop and maintain parks has historically rested with the public.

While the implementation of a parks and recreation system is primarily a public responsibility, the County has increasingly limited financial resources and, therefore, cannot guarantee such a system.

Parks and recreation planning and implementation will require the communities to work with the County and provide direction as to their needs and how those needs can be met. The County has established a Parks Commission to help promote and coordinate neighborhood park development. The duties of this Commission include developing

short-term and long-range objectives, strategies, work programs and projects designed to meet the recreation needs of County residents.

The purpose of this policy is to serve as a directive to the County in its Parks and Recreation Planning Program.

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## POLICY 39

The County's policy is to operate its established Parks and Recreation Program to the degree fiscal resources permit, and to:

- A. Work with residents, community groups and Parks Commission to identify recreation needs, to maintain and develop neighborhood parks, and to identify uses for under-developed park lands.
- B. Work with federal, state and local agencies, community groups and private interests to secure available funds for development, maintenance and acquisition of park sites and recreation facilities for park purposes.
- C. Encourage the development of recreation opportunities by other public agencies and private entities.
- D. Implement and maintain that portion of the proposed 40-mile loop jogging, hiking, bicycling trail system which is in public ownership by:
  - 1. Requiring dedication of rights-of-way/easements by those developing property along the proposed 40-mile loop corridor.
  - 2. Coordinating with the Bicycle Corridor Capital Improvements Program through emphasis on development of bikeways as connections to the system.
  - 3. Coordinating and assisting other jurisdictions in studies of route alignment of the 40-mile loop.
  - 4. Coordinating the 40-mile loop land trust studies of route alignment of the 40-mile loop and direct assistance in acquiring easements and/or rights-of-way.
  - 5. Adopting trail and bikeway standards for segments of the 40-mile loop.

**STRATEGIES**

- A. As part of the continuing planning program for parks and open space, the County has appointed a County Parks Commission to work in concert with the County to:
  - 1. Address objectives necessary for the County to meet eligibility criteria for receipt of public and private resources.
  - 2. Follow the guidelines and directives of the 1984 Multnomah County Neighborhood Park Master Plan in the future maintenance and development of the neighborhood park system.
  - 3. Raise funds for park purposes as best serves the goals of the Parks Commission, the Parks Master Plan, and the County.
- B. The County should consider the rights and privileges of recreative boaters when evaluating land development proposals.
- C. The continuing planning program should include, in the update of Community Plans, identification of:
  - 1. Specific recreation needs;
  - 2. Plans for developing and maintaining specific park sites; and
  - 3. Implementation strategies.
- D. The County should continue to:
  - 1. Review all tax foreclosure lands for potential open space or recreational uses;
  - 2. Coordinate with other agencies and assist in the location of public recreation facilities, including Oregon Recreation Trails in the County.
- E. The Zoning Ordinance should include provisions for privately owned and operated recreational facilities as conditional uses in zones viewed as appropriate by the individual communities.



## POLICY 40: DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

### INTRODUCTION

While most parks and recreation systems involve specific sites, an ideal system is connected by pedestrian and bicycle paths. It is, therefore, important to examine each development proposal for the purpose of determining whether a connection through the site should be provided. In addition, public agencies construct roads and sewer and water systems and often purchase or acquire easements to land. During this process, it is important to determine if there is a multiple use potential.

It is also important to recognize that inclusion of parks and landscaped areas in industrial, commercial and multiple-family developments is an essential part of the system by providing visual variety and interest to the landscape. These areas can also be used by people as places to rest and relax, and are as important as large recreation areas.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a review process to assure that development proposals will not preclude an interconnected parks and recreation system. It is also intended to encourage park areas in large developments where people can sit and enjoy the surroundings.

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### POLICY 40

The County's policy is to encourage a connected parks and recreation system and to provide for small private recreation areas by: *[Amended 1999, Ord. 933 § III]*

- A. Requiring the dedication of pedestrian and bicycle path connections to parks, recreation areas and community facilities where appropriate and where designated in the Bicycle Corridor Capital Improvements Program and map. *[Amended 1999, Ord. 933 § III]*
  - B. Requiring landscaped areas with benches in commercial, industrial and multiple-family developments where appropriate. *[Amended 1999, Ord. 933 § III]*
  - C. Requiring areas for bicycle parking facilities in development proposals where appropriate. *[Amended 1999, Ord. 933 § III]*
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## **STRATEGIES**

The dedication of pedestrian and bicycle connections should be addressed in the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, and Street Standards Ordinance.

The Zoning Ordinance should include provisions for landscaped areas in all industrial, commercial, community facilities and multiple-family developments.