

CITY OF ROSEBURG

COMPREHENSIVE PARKS MASTER PLAN

VISIONING WORKSHOP
JUNE 12, 2007
DOUGLAS COUNTY LIBRARY
FORD COMMUNITY ROOM

A Visioning Workshop was held in the Douglas County Library on the night of June 12th, 2007, to develop a vision for the future of parks and recreation in Roseburg. The discussion was framed around the challenges that Roseburg faces and ways that parks and recreation can help provide solutions. More than 45 area residents attended the meeting.

EXISTING USE PATTERNS

At the outset of the workshop, attendees were asked to provide input through a series of interactive display boards. The first of these focused on identifying existing park use patterns in Roseburg. The first panel displayed a large, detailed map of the City of Roseburg. Participants were asked to place three colored dots on the map to represent where they live (red), work (orange), and play (green) (Figure 1). Of the attendees who participated in this exercise, the vast majority appeared to play in parks, especially Stewart Park. Most participants appeared to work downtown and at the area's major employment centers: the VA hospital, the fairgrounds, and schools. Red dots, which indicated where participants live, were placed in all areas of Roseburg (and outside of the city limits) with concentrations in the area south of downtown Roseburg and in the area west of I-5. Most participants appeared to live far from where they play.

TRANSPORTATION

The second interactive display board asked workshop participants to indicate how they usually get to parks and recreation facilities in Roseburg (Figure 2). Of those attendees who participated in this exercise, most indicated that they drive to parks and recreation facilities. Walking was the second most popular form of transportation, and biking was third.

GENERAL PROJECTS

Participants were also invited to indicate their preference for general park and recreation projects (Figure 3). Most participants in this exercise prioritized developing a regional trail system. Acquiring land for future parks was the second most popular choice.

PARKS

The group was divided over what kind of park is most needed in Roseburg, the subject of the next board (Figure 4). Out of six choices, most participants chose small parks in neighborhoods and linear trail corridors. The lowest response was for parks consisting primarily of sports fields.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Participants were also asked to select one potential recreation facility projects which Roseburg might undertake (Figure 5). Of ten potential projects, most respondents felt that trails and playgrounds were needed. No participants selected tennis courts, gyms or BMX facilities as the most needed facility.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The last board asked participants to indicate the type of recreation program is most needed in Roseburg (Figure 6). Most participants in this exercise indicated a need for outdoor and environmental education. Special events and after school programs were also popular choices. General interest classes did not receive any votes.

CHALLENGES

The discussion portion of the workshop began with a conversation about the challenges that Roseburg is currently facing. Many attendees' comments emphasized issues related to growth,

such as sprawl and the depletion of open space resources. Participants also noted issues related to accessibility in the community, including lack of transportation and the existence of physical barriers. Lack of activities for youth and safety were also major issues cited by workshop attendees. The wall graphic, which captured participant comments, is included below (Figure 7).

Specific ideas included:

- Growth
 - Mitigating sprawl
 - Changing population
 - Preserving open space
 - Need set-asides or mandates for developers
- Accessibility
 - Transportation issues
 - Existence of physical barriers (e.g. hills, highway, river, railroads)
- Traffic and parking (especially for special events)
- Demographic shifts and an aging population
- Bike and pedestrian safety
- Lack of facilities for different age groups
- Lack of open space preservation
- Youth and family development
- Community development
- Economic development
 - Promoting tourism
 - Promoting visitors through facilities (e.g., tournament facilities)
- Lack of financial resources

SOLUTIONS

Following the discussion of challenges, the group split into sub-groups to do a visioning exercise on a series of city maps (Figures 8-12). Through the course of the visioning exercise, many improvements to Roseburg's existing park system were identified. These included acquiring Elk Island, adding more neighborhood and downtown parks, and expanding Riverside Park. Groups also suggested adding hiking trails, connecting bike trails through Roseburg, improving playground equipment, and adding indoor facilities. Program ideas such as bike and water safety classes and forging partnerships with

organizations that provide programs were also suggested. Finally, the group emphasized a need to improve the image of parks and recreation in Roseburg.

Specific improvements included:

- Acquire Elk Island and develop as:
 - Natural area
 - Aquarium/environmental education center
- Engineer the Umpqua River at Elk Island to:
 - Recurse the river
 - Solve hydrologic problems at Deer Creek
- Develop off-street multi-use trail network
 - Develop Deer Creek path
 - Connect Chamber at Commerce St. to fairgrounds
 - Create alternative to Harvard Avenue
 - Use drainage ways
 - Address safety issues through bicycle safety class
 - Establish easements on railroad tracks
- Create hiking trails on hills
- Make acquisitions now
- Develop downtown parks
- Develop more neighborhood parks
- Develop a park in unserved areas:
 - Northwest Roseburg
 - Areas of potential UGB expansion
- Develop park at Ramp Canyon
- Develop parks on buttes or hills
- Create a snow park on north and northeast facing hillsides
- Expand Riverside Park
- Plant trees along major roadways, including the I-5 corridor
- Make age-appropriate playground improvements
- Upgrade horseshoe pits at Stewart Park to enable continued tournament play
- Develop age-appropriate indoor facilities
- Improve image of the community through parks and recreation

VISION

The group articulated a vision of Roseburg as a cooperative, inter-connected, and proactive city that forges partnerships and capitalizes on its existing assets to maximize recreation

opportunities. Other elements of the vision included:

- Capitalize on natural assets
 - Rivers
 - Drainage corridors
 - Hillsides
 - Environmentally sensitive areas
- Interconnected
- Cooperative
- Beautiful
- Partnerships
- Proactive
 - Plan before development
 - Make acquisitions rather than depending on developers

ATTENDEES

The following list includes all participants who signed in at the workshop.

Elizabeth Bastian
Karen Boyd
Bob Brindley
David R. Bush
Gardner Chappall
Lance Colley
Daryl Corwin
Anna Demmer
Stephen Dickinson
Dick Dolgonas
Rosalie Dunn
Janet Fritz
Jennifer Gregory
Debbie Hadwen
Steve Kassen
Shelley Krei
Carol Lamb
Elise Lan
Gary Leif
Nikki Messenger
Bill Mull
Deb Pike
John Rosenberger
Larry Rich
Charlie Saston
Lonnie Saxton
Tina Saxton
Sharon Lee Schwartz
Joyce Snyder
Richard Somme
Claude Sterling

Rob Stevens
Rachel Stewart
Chuck Stuermy
Mary Trumble
Susan Uravich
Audrey Urista
Chuck and Kathy Warner
Richard S. Weckerle
Holly Wener
Kerry Werner
Jenny Young Seidemann

Informal counts during the workshop indicate as many as 60 participants were involved in the discussion.