

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Parks and Recreation System Plan Update

Meeting Date: June 22, 2016
Department: PW/ LRCS
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: A
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ISSUE STATEMENT

In 2015, the Parks and Open Space and Recreation Services divisions launched a process to establish a plan for the future of the Parks and Recreation System. The goals of the system plan are to address current problems, plan for future population growth and trends, and create a vision to benefit current and future generations. This work session provides the City Council with an update on the *PARKS and RECreate* planning process.

BACKGROUND

The City Council last received an update in January that included the findings of the year-long needs assessment analysis. At that time, the strengths, challenges, trends and opportunities of the parks and recreation system were presented and discussed. This analysis, which can be found at www.eugparksandrec.org, includes results from an extensive community engagement effort that connected with 7,000 residents, identifying current attitudes and hopes for the future.

This feedback helped establish four principles to guide decision-making throughout the planning process:

- Care for and make the most of what we have- Provide safe, clean and fun parks and recreation facilities, and enhance their value for the community to enjoy.
- Serve the entire community- Provide equitable and welcoming access to parks and recreation facilities, regardless of neighborhood, culture, ability or income.
- Create more connections- Build on Eugene's strong foundation of connected open spaces and trail networks by completing and making new connections to nature at the regional, city and neighborhood levels.
- Build better partnerships- Forge new relationships and reinvent old partnerships across all sectors- community health and social services, land use and transportation, education, arts and culture and economic development.

A set of ideas has been developed that corresponds to these principles and begins to paint a picture of what the vision for Parks and Recreation in Eugene could look like. These ideas will be shared with the public throughout the summer to help refine the vision and identify priorities. As

with last summer's engagement efforts, a variety of opportunities to weigh in will be offered:

- The "Picture Your Parks" tabloid mailer will arrive in mailboxes at the end of June and provide information on the project and ideas for the future.
- An online survey will go live at the end of June and a statistically valid phone survey will be conducted this fall.
- "Little Red" will pop-up in Eugene's parks and area businesses this summer to provide fun and engaging ways to participate.
- A speaker bureau is available to meet with neighborhood or community groups that request a presentation.
- Ongoing discussions and meetings with specific stakeholder groups and partner organizations will continue.
- The project website and e-news will keep interested parties current with project updates.

The PARKS and RECreate process has set out to ensure that plans for the future are responsive to the community's values and aspirations. Additionally, a triple bottom line lens of social equity, environment and economics is embedded in the process and specifically in the four principles that guide this work. For example, when planning for recreation facilities, considerations include expanding access to services that address social needs, energy consumption and the cost to operate facilities.

Next Steps

Following this phase of community engagement, the vision will be refined and priority projects and actions will be identified. This vision and implementation plan will also address funding levels and sources and be presented to the City Council for direction. The Trust for Public Lands, a national non-profit group that works with communities across the country to improve access to parks and recreation and find sustainable solutions to funding challenges will be assisting the City with this next step in the process.

Adoption of a plan is anticipated in the spring of 2017, with implementation measures following soon after.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

- Council goal for Accessible and Thriving Culture and Recreation (*a community where arts and outdoors are integral to our social and economic well-being and are available to all*).
- Council goal for Fair, Stable and Adequate Financial Resources (*a government whose ongoing financial resources are based on a fair and equitable system of revenues and are adequate to maintain and deliver municipal services*).

COUNCIL OPTIONS

This is an informational work session; no action is required at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

No action is required at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION

No action is required at this time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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