



Summerlake Park is a popular destination for families and residents of all ages.

“

*Where else are  
you going to  
play?”*

**Resident comment  
in support of  
parks bond  
measure**

# *tigard* parks

---

*A foundation for a healthy community—for decades to come.*

The City of Tigard offers more than 540 acres of parks, greenways and natural areas. Our diversity ranges from ballfields to ecosystem reserves to neighborhood spaces. The city’s park, trail and open space system helps to protect the area’s natural beauty while providing valuable wildlife habitat. These spaces offer residents of all ages and abilities recreation opportunities, from walking to team sports. Best of all, they let residents and visitors connect with each other and their neighbors.

## **What makes our parks great?**

Parks vary from city to city, but good parks, like those in Tigard, tend to have similar characteristics. They enhance residents’ well-being and community health. They promote community pride. They make neighborhoods and cities more livable. They support the city’s future by creating natural spaces that allow people to interact with nature. They remove carbon pollution in ways that support greenspaces.

Good parks should be accessible to all, providing many benefits to many users. They also make business sense. Parks have been

shown to promote development and increase local property values.

Unlike some cities, Tigard is blessed with great park and open spaces. They are close to just about every resident, the city’s thousands of businesses and the area’s many schools. They are used and loved 365 days a year.

The existing park system includes four large community parks, the main anchors to the park system: Cook, Summerlake, Dirksen and Fanno Creek Parks. There are also seven neighborhood parks, four “pocket” parks, three dog parks, one skate park and eight undeveloped parks and park spaces.



City of Tigard

[www.tigard-or.gov/parks](http://www.tigard-or.gov/parks)



▲ Tigard Little Leaguers ... at one of Cook Park's ballfields.



▲ Cook Park provides easy access to the Tualatin river for everyone.



◀ Residents share their city parks with many species.

“  
*I live very close to Summerlake, and it has a wonderful recreation area. I would like other people to have that as well.”*

**Resident comment in support of parks bond measure**

## Securing a strong future for our parks

In 2010, Tigard voters showed just how much they support parks. The community approved a \$17 million bond measure to acquire, preserve and protect parks and open spaces. Overall city holdings grew by more than 30 percent at the right time, when it was still affordable to acquire and preserve land for the future. Bond dollars were leveraged to gain an additional \$6 million in contributions and grants from Metro, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Washington County and Clean Water Services.

Combined, more than 136 acres of park land and open space have been preserved. The funding also allowed for building improvements like shelters, playgrounds, trails, fields and restrooms.

## The way forward

The city does not have adequate resources to develop our new and future parks. What’s more, the city lacks enough funding to maintain these new parks. Currently, park maintenance is funded by general tax dollars, which also fund police, library, and community building services. There is no room in these resources to increase park maintenance for the new lands without cutting funding to the city’s other core services.

To secure a greener and healthier future for everyone in Tigard, the city’s 2015–16 budget took the first steps to take parks funding out of the our general fund, which covers core city services. The city’s new direction could treat our parks like a utility, including a monthly charge on your utility bill. Or, the city could ask residents to support a property tax levy to achieve this goal.

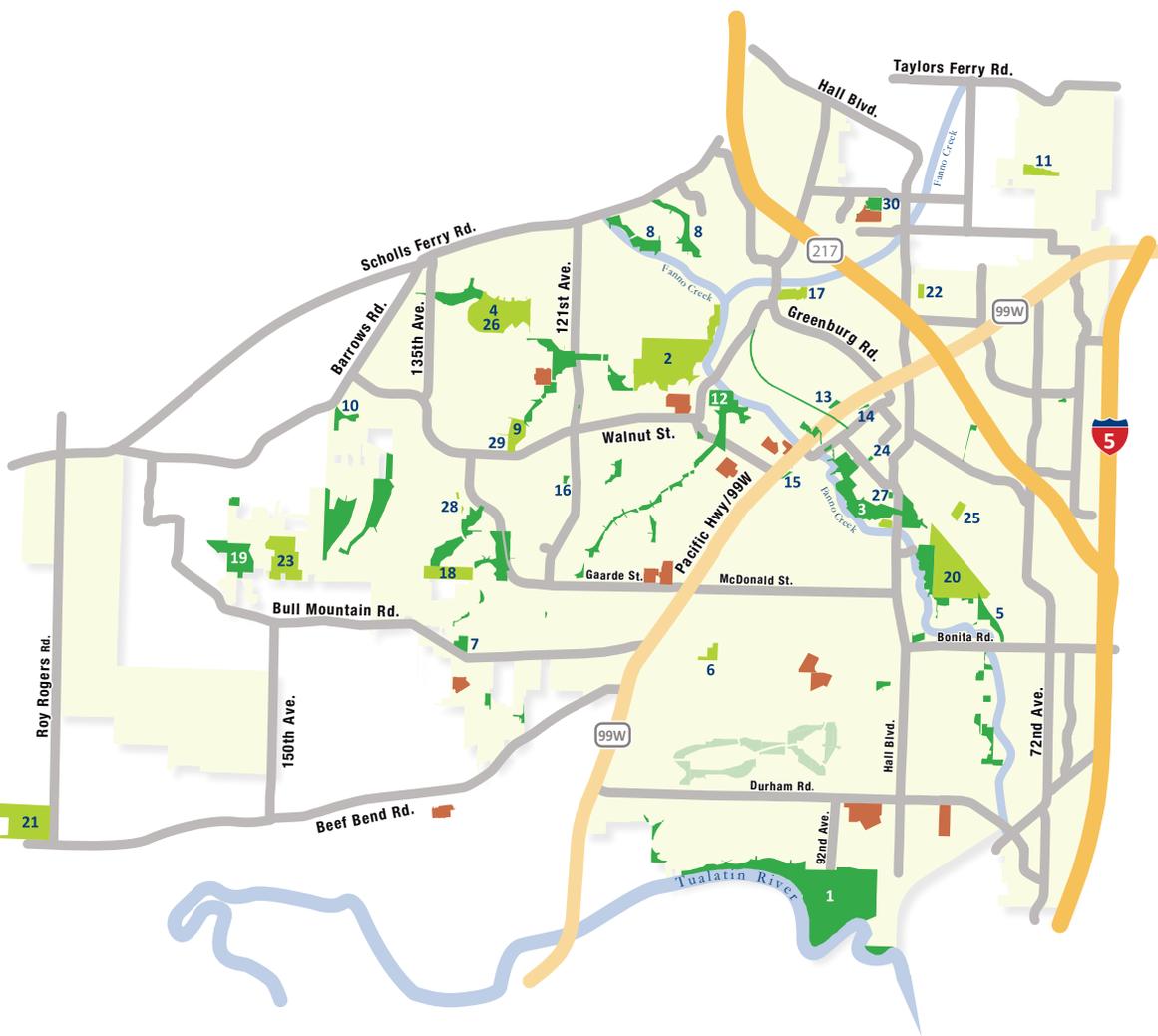




▲ Residents, groups and businesses enjoy shelters and barbecue features.



▲ The Metzger school park garden offers youth a chance to participate in Community Supported Agriculture.



- Parks and open space
- Parks and open space acquired or improved with 2010 bond measure
- Schools
- Golf course

**COMMUNITY PARKS**

- 1 Cook Park
- 2 Dirksen Nature Park
- 3 Fanno Creek Park
- 4 Summerlake Park

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

- 5 Bonita Park
- 6 East Butte Heritage Park
- 7 Elizabeth Price Park
- 8 Englewood Park
- 9 Jack Park
- 10 Northview Park
- 11 Senn Park
- 12 Woodard Park

**POCKET PARKS**

- 13 Commercial Park
- 14 Liberty Park
- 15 Main Street Park
- 16 Windmill Park

**FUTURE AND UNDEVELOPED PARKS**

- 17 Bagan Park
- 18 Bull Mountain Park
- 19 Cach Nature Park
- 20 Fields Property
- 21 Lasich Lane Property
- 22 Steve Street Property
- 23 Sunrise Park

**DOG PARKS**

- 24 Ash Avenue Dog Park
- 25 Potso Dog Park
- 26 Summerlake Dog Park

**SKATE PARK**

- 27 Jim Griffith Memorial Skate Park

**COMMUNITY GARDENS**

- 28 Greenfield Community Garden
- 29 Jack Park Community Garden
- 30 Metzger School Garden



▲ Young people restore habitat.



▲ Tigard has three popular dog parks.



▲ Mayor John Cook and young residents celebrate tree planting efforts.

## Next steps: Parks levy or park and recreation charge

Since 2014, Tigard has taken clear steps to achieve its vision to become a more walkable, interconnected and healthy city that also provides quality local government services our residents and businesses demand. Moving parks out of competition with the other general fund services will allow growth in park development and required maintenance. With funding freed up from our general fund, Tigard can maintain its core services and make

investments that promote walking connections and changes that let us manage development sustainably.

Tigard residents have already shown us and told us they support our parks. A parks levy or a new park and recreation charge will allow us to fulfill their vision with parks and green spaces that meets our needs for decades to come.

For more information on the park and recreation charge, contact:

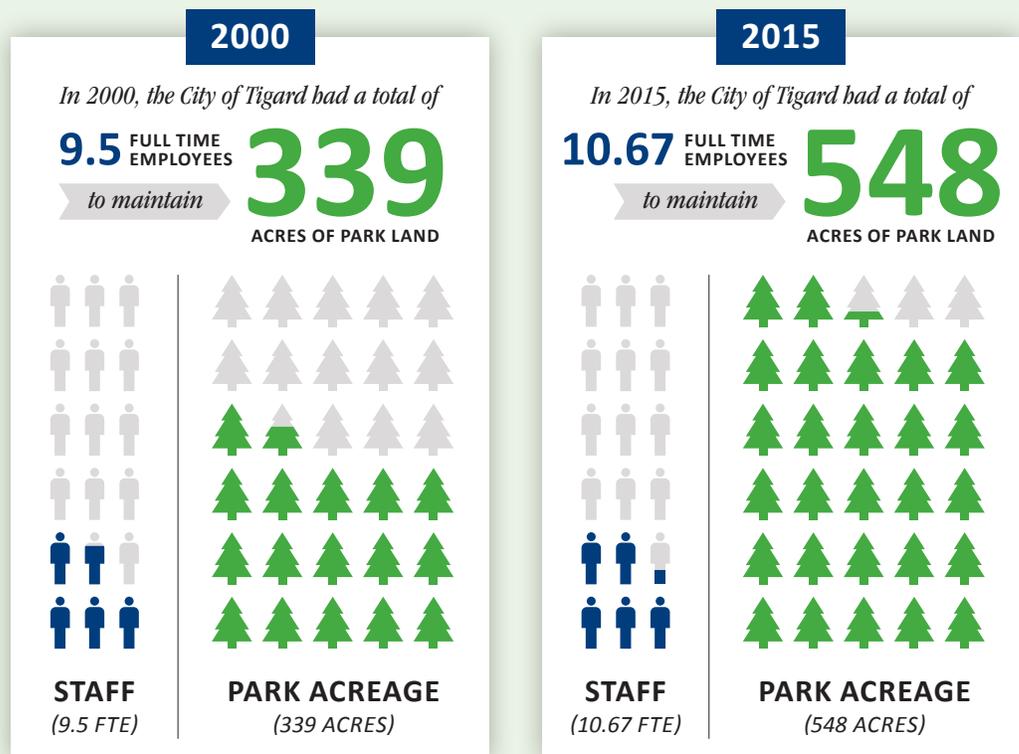
Toby LaFrance  
Finance and Information Services Director  
toby@tigard-or.gov  
503.718.2406

For more information on Tigard parks, contact:

Steve Martin  
Park and Facilities Manager  
steve@tigard-or.gov  
503.718.2583

### Park Acreage and Full-time Staff (FTE) — 2000 to 2015

The size of our parks land grew 62 percent during the last 15 years, while our budget could only afford a 12 percent staffing increase to address parks maintenance.



City of Tigard

www.tigard-or.gov/parks

Special thanks to photographers Doug Vorwaller and Dan Mitchell for many of the photos appearing in this brochure.