



memo portland

to **Tigard City Council;**
Dan Plaza, Steve Martin

from **Ryan Mottau, Project Manager**

re **Park System Master Plan Update**

date **9/15/08**

This memo is intended to keep the Council up to date on the progress of the Park System Master Plan. As of mid-September, in the first three phases of the six-phase plan update process, the following tasks have been completed or are substantially complete:

- Community tour;
- Planning context memo;
- First Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting;
- Recreation service providers matrix;
- Two Technical Advisory Committee meetings;
- Recreation provider focus group;
- Seven stakeholder interviews;
- Community questionnaire (online and on paper);
- Community intercept event at the Tigard Balloon Festival;
- Telephone survey retesting 2004 questions about parks, recreation, open space, and funding measures; and
- Public visioning workshop.

A summary of each of the above tasks is available on the website, or can also be obtained by contacting staff.

The final major piece of public involvement was the Public Visioning Workshop—completed on September 8th—during the regular PRAB meeting time. This event included a variety of exercises to help finalize the vision for the future of parks and recreation in Tigard. The agenda included a brief description of the planning process and progress to date, an overview of the benefits of parks and recreation, a group discussion about major themes recognized in the planning process, a small group discussion of priorities, and closing comments. Twenty-five (25) community and board members attended the meeting.

The following are the major findings from the public visioning workshop:

- Create downtown as a destination point through improved access, and a well-designed and attractive park.
- Continue to add different size dog parks and dog programs.
- Consider existing infrastructure when adding facilities for recreation programming.
- Improve the connectivity of trails to parks and neighborhoods.
- Special/City-wide events (e.g., music events, festivals, and organized walks), environmental education, and arts and culture programs are important to participants.

The public involvement findings, gathered from multiple forms of input, from one-on-one interviews to scientific surveys, are being organized into themes that will guide our recommendations. The following are the three major themes.

Parks, open space, trails and recreation services are important to Tigard residents.

- On a five-point scale, 83% of questionnaire respondents indicated that these services are “Very Important.”
- Intercept participants selected a wide variety of additional recreation facilities and activities that they would like to see offered in Tigard.
- Additional developed parks and natural areas are desired. Lack of convenient facilities
- Phone survey results indicated a high willingness to pay for additional services.
- The benefits of parks and recreation most indicated by questionnaire respondents were providing opportunities to enjoy the outdoors/nature and youth development
- Small and large developed parks (supporting a variety of activities) are the most needed park type indicated in the questionnaire.

Recreation programming is a highly desired service.

- Every public involvement activity has raised this point.
- The scientific telephone survey results indicate a very high interest in City-provided recreation programs (71% in favor) and maintained support when a potential cost was included.
- Special events, arts and culture and outdoor/environmental programming were most interesting to participants at the public visioning workshop.
- The questionnaire results show support for large facilities (pool, recreation or community center) to support programming.
- When asked about other funding measures, respondents to the telephone survey continued to emphasize their priority of creating new recreation opportunities.
- Programming could start small, building on strengths of the park system.

Open space and trails are valued resources.

- The primary reasons people indicated that they use parks are to enjoy nature and to get exercise.
- Most people think that some access to natural areas (appropriate to the site) is important.
- Open spaces are an area that could be used to start programming opportunities.
- Connections to key community locations are important to encourage walking and biking.

Next Steps will include the finalization of the park and recreation inventory, leading into the technical assessment of community recreation needs. The public involvement themes and ongoing collaboration with staff and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) will help guide this assessment and the plan recommendations.