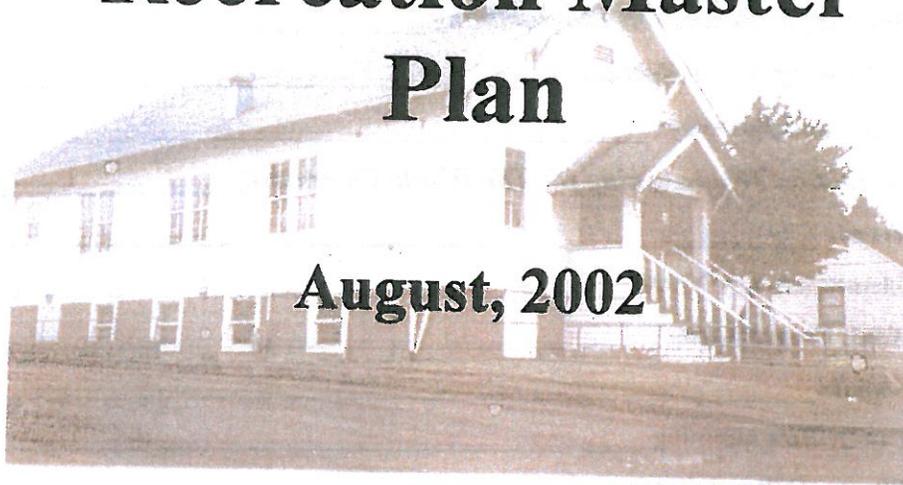


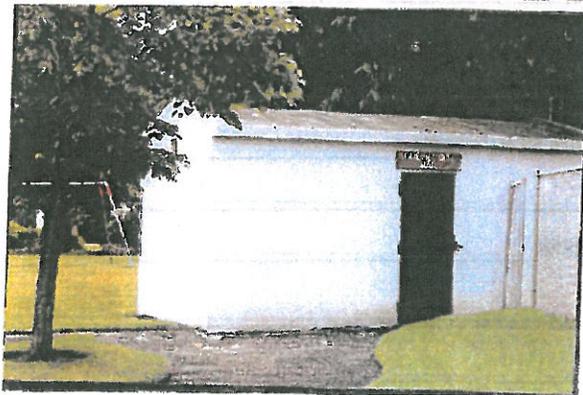


# City of Fairview Recreation Master Plan



August, 2002

**FINAL**



# Table of Contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b> _____	<b>3</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Introduction</b> _____	<b>4</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Community Profile &amp; Needs Analysis</b> _____	<b>7</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>The Recreation Plan</b> _____	<b>16</b>
	<i>A. Marketing of Existing Programs and Facilities</i> _____	<i>16</i>
	<i>B. Natural and Historical Resource Preservation and Recreation</i> _____	<i>17</i>
	<i>C. Partnerships with Local Schools</i> _____	<i>22</i>
	<i>D. Community Centers</i> _____	<i>24</i>
	<i>E. Staffing for Recreation Programming</i> _____	<i>28</i>
	<i>F. Addressing Active Recreation</i> _____	<i>33</i>
	<i>G. Trails and Pathways</i> _____	<i>38</i>
	<i>H. Recreation Programming for The Whole Community</i> _____	<i>41</i>
	Teens _____	<i>41</i>
	Elementary Age Youth _____	<i>42</i>
	Adult Programming _____	<i>44</i>
	Seniors _____	<i>44</i>
	Family Programming _____	<i>45</i>
	Diverse Cultural Groups _____	<i>46</i>
	People with Disabilities _____	<i>46</i>
	Low Income Groups _____	<i>47</i>
	<i>J. Priorities for Implementation</i> _____	<i>48</i>
	Community Center & Recreation Service Development _____	<i>48</i>
	Development of active recreation spaces _____	<i>49</i>
	Matrix of Priorities for Recreation Resources _____	<i>54</i>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Appendices</b> _____	<b>57</b>
	<i>Appendix A: Recreation Survey</i> _____	<i>57</i>
	<i>Appendix B: List of Local Organizations</i> _____	<i>58</i>
	<i>Appendix C: Sports User Groups</i> _____	<i>59</i>

## ***I. Executive Summary***

For the near future, this Recreation Master Plan will guide the development of recreation programming and facilities, serving a rapidly growing population. It draws on priorities identified and analysis performed during the creation of the Parks and Recreation/Openspace Master Plan adopted in May, 2001. Extensive research, a comprehensive recreation survey, and a community meeting focused on the City's new community center also informed this plan.

This document recognizes there are significant financial constraints facing Fairview and acknowledges the necessity of drawing heavily on existing energy in Fairview and adjacent communities. It outlines partnerships with local organizations, jurisdictions and schools, such as collaboration with the East Area Events for Youth and Families organization to bring teen programs to Fairview. It also emphasizes the need to promote existing programs through the development of brochures and fliers and provision of information on programs from neighboring communities.

This plan capitalizes on existing recreational opportunities within the City. These include the development of the old City Hall building into a new community center to house recreation staff as well as serve as a performance and meeting center. In addition, other new park resources, including the Fairview Community Park, are identified as focal points for community events.

This plan draws on the rich natural, cultural, and historical resources that exist in Fairview. Identified opportunities include the use of Salish Ponds Wetlands Park for nature-oriented day camps, the adaptation of restoration projects to serve as recreation programming, and the redevelopment of the Heslin House into a history center.

While existing opportunities are essential, this plan also recognizes the need to seek out new recreational opportunities, including the construction of new ballfields, expansion of trails and paths to link existing resources, a larger-scale play structure and funding for recreation staff. It emphasizes opportunities to construct and expand ball fields and the need to pursue long-term collaboration with an organization such as the Gresham Youth Sports Alliance to develop a sports park. It recommends development of recreation programming through an agreement with a recreation provider.

This document is divided into three major sections. The first section introduces the plan and lists goals and objectives. The second section gives a community profile and describes the results of the community involvement process used to develop this plan. The bulk of this document is in the third section, the recreation plan, which lists issues and benefits as well as recommendations for all aspects of recreation in Fairview. This section ends with a chapter that prioritizes plan implementation.

## ***II. Introduction***

### **Why A Recreation Plan?**

The need for recreational opportunities in Fairview grows rapidly as the City grows. In the 1990's, Fairview was the second fastest growing community in the state of Oregon and will likely be built out in the next five to seven years. The number of residents who are under 18 has grown to 28 percent. This is one of the highest figures in the region. Sixteen percent of the City's population is now Hispanic and when multi-racial individuals are included, racial minorities make up 25 percent of the City. The growth and changing demographics of the community will play a key role in the development of recreation opportunities in Fairview.

The City has not had a formal recreation program, and has not actively facilitated access to recreation programming by its citizens. The City has reached a size and identified a level of community need and interest for new recreational opportunities that drives this plan forward.

While Fairview has grown, it has retained a rich sense of its history and a core community with many members who have lived in the vicinity for over 25 years. This sense of history is important in retaining and redeveloping a community identity. Additionally, the City has unique natural features found along its creeks and in its wetlands parks. Drawing on these existing resources while fostering their stewardship is essential.

In May 2001, the City of Fairview adopted a new Parks and Recreation/Openspace Master Plan referred to in this document as the Parks Master Plan. Now that the Parks and Recreation/Openspace Master Plan has been adopted, the development of a 10-year plan, specific to recreation needs, presents itself as a unique opportunity to expand recreational opportunities for its citizens. This Recreation Master Plan seeks to guide the development of recreation opportunities in Fairview for the next 10 years. The City's financial resources are limited. Implementation of this plan requires significant costs, therefore existing resources within and adjacent to the community must be used. Therefore, this plan:

1. Focuses on **resources already in the community**. These include community organizations, committed volunteers, and unique natural and cultural resources;
2. Outlines how **potential partnerships** with other jurisdictions and recreation providers outside Fairview can augment possibilities for successful recreation programming; and
3. Suggests ways to **cost-effectively develop new resources** to generate recreation options for Fairview Residents.

In relationship to the previous success of the Parks Plan, this Plan:

1. Supplements the existing Parks & Recreation Master Plan **by focusing on needs for recreation programming; and**
2. Augments the existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan by outlining and prioritizing, in greater depth, the **needs for recreational facilities in Fairview.**

The City should conduct an update of this plan in five years to account for the changing needs of an expanding and diversifying population. This plan should supplement the Parks Master Plan by emphasizing a focus on recreation needs. The plan should be updated at a minimum of once every five years.

### **Recreation Master Plan Goal**

To provide recreational opportunities serving Fairview residents from all age levels, backgrounds, and levels of need by providing:

1. A variety of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities; and
2. Cultural, historical and environmental education.

### **Recreation Plan Objectives**

Development of objectives for this Recreation Master Plan were guided by the Parks & Recreation/Openspace Master Plan, which adopted five decision-making criteria.

#### *Parks Master Plan Decision-making criteria, adopted May 2001*

1. Connect facilities with pedestrian and bicycle access.
2. Develop facilities with active recreation such as baseball and soccer fields.
3. Provide an equal distribution of park facilities with an emphasis on family orientation and child friendliness.
4. Optimize financial and operational partnerships.
5. Maximize protection of natural areas through projects and policies.

#### *Recreation Plan Objectives*

1. Create additional capacity for sports activities.
2. Dedicate human resources to the development of recreation programming in the City through direct employment or contractual agreements with existing recreation providers.
3. Create partnerships with school districts and others with compatible missions in order to optimize community recreation facilities, as well as cultural and environmental education opportunities.
4. Facilitate access to recreation facilities and programs outside Fairview through provision of information to Fairview residents and through cooperation with local jurisdictions and recreation providers.

5. Foster community stewardship of Fairview's rich natural and cultural resources, maintaining and enhancing the integrity of these resources through recreational and educational programming and cooperation with volunteer organizations.
6. Focus on path and trail opportunities that can facilitate greater use of existing recreational resources and active use of natural areas.
7. Provide a balance of opportunities for both active and passive recreation.
8. Where feasible, fully support recreation programming through program revenue and facility rental fees while maintaining accessibility for lower-income residents.
9. Address the needs of all age-levels, cultural backgrounds and groups, including:
  - Families
  - Youth
  - Seniors
  - Adults
  - Diverse Cultural Groups
  - People with Disabilities.
10. Refine priorities for recreational facilities in accordance with the Parks Master Plan.

These objectives above are integrated into this Recreation Master Plan. The following sections of this plan summarize the Fairview Community and identify community recreation needs based on a recreation survey mailed to all Fairview Residents in May 2001. Each section of Recreation Plan presents an issues and benefits statement and a list of recommendations for action. A summary matrix of action priorities is listed on page 56.

### **III. Community Profile & Needs Analysis**

#### **Community Profile**

##### *Demographics*

This profile augments the existing profile documented in the Parks and Recreation/Openspace Master Plan adopted in May 2001. When the Parks Plan was drafted, no 2000 census data was available. The U.S. Census Bureau has since reported key data with important implications for the City of Fairview. One of the most striking trends evident in this data is Fairview's growing population of families. In 2000, 28 percent of residents in Fairview were under 18 years of age. Forty percent of Fairview households have a child younger than 18. This brings the median age of a Fairview resident down to 30. In 2000, 7.4 percent of citizens were 65 or older. While this is almost double the percentage of seniors found in Troutdale, it is considerably lower than Portland, Gresham and Sandy. This is a major change from 1990. The Hispanic population grew ten-fold between 1990 and 2000. Hispanics now make up 16 percent of Fairview residents. When those of more than one race are included, the African American populations grew 15-fold and now make up four percent of the population, as do Pacific Islanders. During the period between 1990 and 2000, Fairview more than tripled in size. 2001 estimates from the Population and Research Center at Portland State University indicate that the City has grown to over 8,500 residents, from 2,391 in 1990. There are also significant numbers of rental housing units in Fairview. Higher density rental housing increases needs for recreational opportunities.

While the City has acquired many new parks and has plans for a variety of improvements to its system, which are described in the Parks Master Plan, the City has not yet had the opportunity to invest in recreational programming for Fairview residents. The growing needs of families as well as increasing cultural diversity has significant implications for meeting recreational demands.

#### **Recreation Survey & Recreational Needs Analysis**

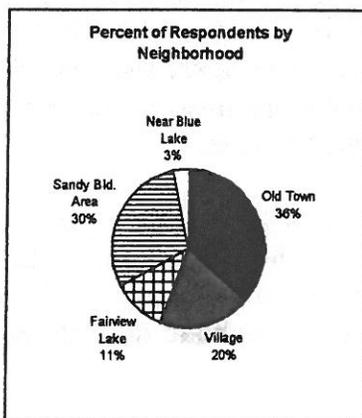
In May 2001, a survey was sent out to all Fairview residents. Over 70 surveys were returned. The in depth questions and four open ended questions on the survey allowed each respondent to share a depth of information not possible with a shorter survey format. The survey is Appendix A. This survey augmented data from a parks and recreation survey conducted in 1995. Data on the 1995 survey can be found in the Parks Master Plan update completed in May 2001.

##### *Demographics of Survey Respondents*

- Seventy percent of respondents had lived in Fairview less than five years. Of these, almost a third have lived in Fairview less than one year.
- At least 59 percent of survey respondents had at least one child in the house. This is significantly higher than statistics from the 2000 Census. Census data indicates that 40 percent of households in Fairview have a least one child.

- Twenty two percent of survey respondents had seniors in their household. This is a response rate from seniors greater than that of the general population. Only 7.4 percent of Fairview residents are seniors.
- Of 46 percent who responded to the optional question on race, 90 percent identified themselves as white.
- Twenty five percent of respondents indicated they would be willing to volunteer for the City in some capacity. While this is probably much higher than the willingness of the general population, it is an indication of a high potential for more volunteer activity in Fairview. In addition to clean up of parks, an overwhelming majority of volunteers indicated that they would be willing to do more, such as lead/develop recreation programming or adopt a park.
- Survey responses from five key areas of the City are described in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: Percent of Respondents by Neighborhood**



### *Responses to Survey Questions*

Below responses from the recreation survey are presented, each with a brief discussion of their implications for recreation planning in Fairview. Summaries of responses to closed ended questions 1, 2, 5 and 8 are followed by responses to the open-ended questions 3, 4, and 6.

**Question 1: Recreation facilities used by participants.**

**Figure 2: Recreation Facility use by Percentage of Respondents**

Recreational Facility Used	Percentage of Respondents Using Park
Blue Lake Park	54%
*Local Pocket Parks	43%
Salish Ponds Wetlands Park	43%
Imagination Station (Troutdale)	40%
Chinook Landing Marine Park	38%
Fairview Woods Park	35%
Outdoor Areas on School Sites	29%
Park Cleone	24%
Mt. Hood Pool	24%
Reynolds Pool	13%
Indoor Gyms at School Sites	8%
Other	8%

\*There may have been some confusion on the part of survey respondents regarding the definition of a "pocket park", so inclusion of neighborhood parks in this category may have skewed results.

Blue Lake Park was clearly visited by more residents than any other. Salish Ponds Wetlands Park was used by almost half of the respondents and Fairview Woods Park wasn't far behind, indicating the importance of nature-oriented parks within Fairview. Imagination station, though located in Troutdale, attracts forty percent of survey respondents. High visitation to this large-scale play structure indicates a potential need for a larger play structure in Fairview.

**Question 2: Frequency of recreational Facility visitation within and outside of Fairview.**

**Figure 3: Frequency of Activity by Number of Respondent Answers**

Location of Activity	Never	1-2 times/year	Several times/year	Several times/month	Several times/week
Within Fairview	5	3	15	16	20
Outside Fairview	11	5	20	14	8

When responses to this question were aggregated and adjusted for number of visits per respondent, the average survey respondent visited recreational resources within Fairview an estimated 59 days per year and outside of Fairview 29 days. While this calculation is rough, it indicates that Fairview residents will use spaces inside their community much more frequently than those outside Fairview. This has implications for the provision of spaces within Fairview.

**Question 5: Frequency of family participation in selected activities and level of need for more recreational opportunities.**

**Figure 4: Frequency of Activity and Perceived Need for Opportunities**

Recreation Activity	User Days Per Year	Recreational Activity	Level of Need (as compared with Walking)
1. Walking/ Hiking/ Dog Walking	79	1. Walking/ Hiking/ Dog Walking	1
2. Nature Walks/ Bird Walks	50	2. Nature Walks/ Bird Walks	0.85
3. Gardening	33	3. Special Events for Youth and Families	0.79
4. Biking	26	4. Biking	0.73
5. Canoeing/ Boating/ Fishing	21	5. Canoeing/ Boating/ Fishing	
6. Swimming	19	6. Fine Arts and Crafts	0.65
7. Soft Ball	12	7. Developing Practical Skills	0.53
8. Skateboarding/ Inline skating	11	8. Swimming	0.53
9. Basket Ball	10	9. Skating/ Inline Skating	0.51
10. Fine Arts/ Crafts	10	10. Interest Clubs	0.50

It should be noted, that while not listed as a potential recreational activity on the survey, family picnics and use of play structures were emphasized by respondents in other survey questions.

**Question 8: “Based on the needs of your family and those around you, circle the one or two groups with needs that should take a higher priority” (for recreation in Fairview).**

**Figure 5: Priorities for Recreational User Groups**

User Groups	Number of responses
Families	25
Elementary age youth	23
Teens	19
Seniors	15
Adult	11
Opportunities for Meetings	5
Persons with Disabilities	2

Although pre-elementary age children were not listed as a potential group, one response was received indicating the importance of focusing on this group.

**Question 8 B:** “Please describe the need that one of these groups has or a program that might meet the needs of this group.”

**Figure 6: Responses Categorized by Group in Need of Activity**

Group in Need of Activity	Number of Responses
Youth	(Teens 9) 20
Families	6
Adults	5
Seniors	4
People with Disabilities	2
All ages	1
Women	1
Other Activities	2

Responses to question 8B, like those of other questions, demonstrate the community’s priority for a focus on youth activities. Twenty respondents described activities such as: dances, games, anti-vandalism, girl scouts, boy scouts, and after school programming. Nine respondents specifically identified teens. Comments indicated a perceived need to keep teenagers involved in constructive activities and prevent vandalism.

Responses regarding families included suggestions for “anything that creates parent child interaction in a positive way.” Sports, hiking, biking, music, and “field-days” were mentioned as other family opportunities.

Two respondents identified a need for parental support groups.

Wheelchair accessibility and “more help” were needs identified for people with disabilities.

*Open Ended Questions*

Open-ended responses 3, 4, and 6 are listed in the following sections. Each of the three open-ended survey questions was categorized by response. Key trends that emerged are presented in the following section.

**Question 3: “What one improvement would you most like to see to Fairview’s parks and recreation facilities?”**

**Figure 7: Categorized Responses to Question Three.**

<b>General Response Categories</b>	<b>Specific Responses</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
New Facilities	Play Structures	6
	Picnic Tables	5
	Other	4
Monitoring/ Policing of Parks	Dealing with Car Damage at Salish Ponds Wetlands Park	4
	Police Parks	4
Paths and Trails	Bike/ pedestrian/ children/ wheelchairs	5
Information	Needs for information on Parks and Programming	4
Park Maintenance	Clean up/ weeding/ trash	4

The most striking pattern emerging from responses to question three was the need for additional play structures. It was clear from the survey data that more facilities are needed. Several of these requests indicated a need for a larger play structure. Requests for updated, covered areas, more equipment for elementary age, rather than younger children were requested, indicating that there is a need for both more numerous and larger scale play structures. The Parks and Recreation survey conducted in 1995 identified play structures as the number one resident priority for park structures in Fairview. The Parks Master Plan addresses this need, however, it does not address the need for a larger scale structure. “I sure would like to see something like the Imagination Station closer to 201<sup>st</sup> and Sandy so we could walk there”, one respondent mentioned. Picnic tables were also indicated as a strong need.

Comments on trails indicated the need for walking, jogging and bike paths. Connections to blue lake and with the Springwater Corridor trail were mentioned, as well as the need to improve access to Blue Lake Park.

**Question 4: “What one thing would you like to see the City’s new community center used for?”**

**Figure 8: Categorized Responses to Question Four.**

Topic of Comment	Number of Responses in Category (out of 36 respondents)
Youth	27
Classes	16
Meetings	10
Community Gatherings	10
Families	7
Seniors	3
Adults	3

Clearly, 27 comments on youth indicate a strong interest in focusing recreation programming on youth. This feeling is corroborated by responses to other questions. Out of 36 responses to this question, 75 percent mentioned youth. Five comments regarding youth specifically addressed teens and five listed “children” specifically.

With 16 responses, classes also show up as major interests for the community center. Responses to other survey questions also emphasize classes. Ideas for topics included, Gardening, dance, CPR training, photography, yoga, arts and crafts, Spanish language and practical skills classes that train citizens to be responsible.

Ten responses each for community gatherings and meetings indicate a priority for the community center to act as a focal point for community organizations and other community building activities. Two requests for concerts were also made within this category.

**Question 6: “Please comment on what you feel is most important for a recreation program in Fairview to focus on.”**

**Figure 9: Categorized Responses to Question Six.**

Top Categories of Responses	Number of Responses
Youth	16
Development of New Facilities	14
Educational Programs	6
Pathways and Trails	5
Activities for All ages	4
Information on Parks and Programming	4
Park Maintenance	4

Two key themes emerged from responses to this survey question. Firstly, 16 responses emphasizing some type of recreational opportunity for youth reinforce responses from several other questions.

Secondly, the need for development of new facilities was strongly emphasized by respondents. Responses included three responses emphasizing the need for play structures. Two of these emphasized a need for larger scale structures. Ball fields and sports courts were mentioned four times and a skate park twice.

The need for educational programs also emerged as an important theme in this category. This need is reinforced in responses to other questions. Nature education, Naturescaping, crafts, "skill development", Red Cross and recycling were all mentioned as possible educational topics.

### **Community Center Neighborhood Meeting**

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001 a community meeting was held in the Fairview Community Center at the Old City Hall site. Over 20 members of the community participated in the meeting. In addition to addressing the interests and concerns of local neighbors, this meeting focused specifically on potentials for the community center building.

The following comments regarding potential uses of the community center were collected.

#### **Potential Community Center Uses:**

- Health Programs-immunizations
- Day camps
- Service Projects
- After School tutoring
- Computer Lab for students and seniors
- Girl/ Boy Scouts
- Other Meetings
- Tutoring Programs
- Exercise Classes
- Arts and Crafts
- Dance

Comments on groups in need of the community center were also collected.

#### **Groups In Need of Community Center:**

- After school groups
- Senior citizens
- Broad based efforts/ events to help community
- Youth/ Kids
- Service priority
- Minorities-ESL

**Historical Groups**

**A way to teach kids about the City's History  
Base for Walking Tours of the City**

**Comments collected at the meeting indicate that Fairview citizens are interested in the development of a community center serving a wide range of uses and a diversity of users.**

## **IV. The Recreation Plan**

### **A. Marketing of Existing Programs and Facilities**

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#### *Issues and Benefits*

Currently, Fairview does not have an organized recreation program and has limited recreation facilities. This is especially true of ball fields and sports courts. Financial constraints limit Fairview's ability to develop extensive programming in the near future. However, organizations and jurisdictions adjacent to Fairview provide a great variety of recreational opportunities. It is likely that residents are unaware of many opportunities. Thus, bringing information about these programs and facilities to the City's residents is a cost-effective opportunity for expanding the potential for recreation. It makes sense to start with raising residents' awareness of existing resources available to them, as this is much less expensive than developing new programs and facilities.

#### *Recommendations*

##### Comprehensive Brochure

Create a brochure and corresponding web page that describes the following:

- All City parks and recreation resources. Fairview has many existing park resources but not all residents realize they exist or what these parks have to offer. The community center at the old City Hall site will be a brand new amenity for many residents. Due to recent construction of Fairview Park facilities, many residents may not have had a chance to discover these new and improved parks. Describing these new facilities will help residents find access to these parks and the community center.
- Parks and recreation opportunities controlled by community groups. There are a wide variety of ball clubs, as well as community groups such as the Historical Society that have membership within the City. These groups can be promoted. Appendix B is a list of community groups identified by the recreation survey and background research conducted in developing this plan.
- Significant parks and recreation resources outside Fairview but highly accessible to Fairview residents. Troutdale, Gresham, Sandy, Portland and Wood Village all have parks and other facilities that are highly accessible to many residents. The most significant of these should be highlighted as opportunities for Fairview Residents
- Fairview Recreation Programs and highly significant programs and festivals outside Fairview. As Fairview develops its' programming and schedules special community events, these should be advertised in a brochure that is regularly updated. Major events and programs in other communities such as programs sponsored by the East

Area Special Events for Youth and Families (EASEY) organization and festivals sponsored by other jurisdictions should also be promoted.

- Give contact information for local recreation providers. These should include other jurisdictions as well as clubs and organizations that meet in near-by communities.

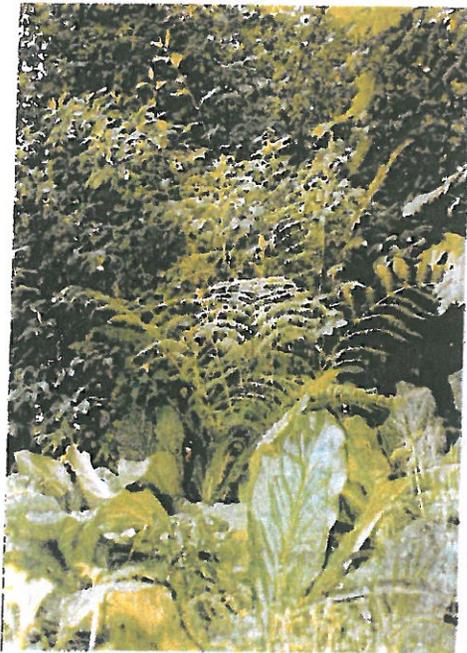
Include:

Reynolds School District  
Local Community Organizations  
Gresham  
Sandy  
EASEY (East Area Special Events for Youth and Families)  
Y.M.C.A  
Mt. Hood Community College  
Troutdale  
Wood Village  
Portland

Other Informational Resources

Provide detailed Information on non-City opportunities where possible by collecting brochures from other local recreation providers and provide public access to these at City Hall, the Community Center and library, and other local community focal points. Provide direct links to recreation resources at various cities at Fairview Parks web site.

**B. Natural and Historical Resource Preservation and Recreation**



Wetland at Fairview Woods Park

While opportunities for active recreation are somewhat limited, the City of Fairview has a rich set of natural and cultural resources. These resources represent opportunities to build recreation opportunities fulfilling a unique niche. Fairview is, as one of its mottoes suggests, a "Community of History and Vision". Part of this vision is to preserve its heritage and rich wetlands that create a unique setting for the City. It is natural for the City to develop educational, exercise and enjoyment opportunities from these resources, while preserving and enhancing them. Creating recreational opportunities that draw on natural resources will allow Fairview to use the resources at hand. Fairview can fill a niche for nature and culture-focused opportunities not emphasized as heavily in neighboring communities.

## **Active Restoration**

### *Issues and Benefits*

Other local jurisdictions, such as the City of Portland, have identified a growing trend toward participation in environmental restoration activities. As this activity occurs during leisure hours it can be viewed as a recreational activity. Regionally, volunteer resources are at an all time high for the restoration activities. Other jurisdictions do not have the staff to capitalize on all of the volunteer resources available to them. The City of Fairview faces a similar and more acute challenge. Due to the limited staff, the ability to coordinate volunteer resources has been constrained. At the same time, maintenance staff is stretched-thin maintaining park resources. Environmental Restoration and Park Care offer an opportunity for the City to provide greater recreational opportunities while providing the City with a more cost effective and community integrated way of managing natural resources. Some of the City's most successful recreational events have been clean up efforts at City Parks and Natural Areas. These events should be expanded and widely marketed. Restoration opportunities will foster stewardship with hands-on opportunities to have a positive impact on the environment.

Existing volunteer service organizations and other groups may be willing to help coordinate volunteer services and an adopt-a-park program or restoration program. They have the ability to help organize volunteers around key community clean up days as well as manage an ongoing volunteer adoption program. Coordination will be required to engage these groups.

### *Recommendations*

The following recommendations are made to improve opportunities and increase accomplishments of restoration volunteers. In order to implement the recommendations in this section, significant resources from Public Works and Community Development departments would be required.

#### Regional Environmental and Volunteer Groups

The Existing Partnership with Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV) should be used to continue to sponsor and support restoration events in the community. Other groups such as Friends of Trees can help organize successful community or school events to restore natural areas. The City should also facilitate local native-plant gardening programs through local gardening clubs. Volunteer Works, a clearinghouse for volunteers in the Portland area, can be enlisted to ensure a core of volunteers are available for events.

#### Coordination with Local Schools

There is an existing partnership between the City, Reynolds School District, and SOLV, the Environmental Education Partnership. Much has already been accomplished through this partnership. Specifically, two grants have been obtained through Metro allowing for an educational resource binder to be developed and distributed to all Reynolds Schools as

well as funding for a brochure and signage for the Salish Ponds Wetlands Park. This existing partnership should be expanded to allow for the adoption of specific trail segments from schools and classes throughout the Salish Ponds Wetlands Park. This could become part of a larger park/ trail adoption program and be expanded to include Fairview Woods Park and a potential creek restoration at Park Cleone.

#### Adopt-A-Trail/ Park Program

Many successful volunteer programs for helping with maintenance of parks and trails can be found throughout the region. Portland's adopt-a-trail program and "The No Ivy League" may be good examples. A few dedicated volunteers can produce many more to lend a hand during a company workday, or Saturday event.

#### Fairview Creek Watershed Council / AmeriCorps Employee

This group and others like it may be willing to help coordinate/adopt and prioritize restoration activities at natural areas throughout the City. Beginning in the fall of 2001, an AmeriCorps Employee began developing a restoration Master Plan for Fairview Creek, to be completed in the summer of 2003. The role of education, organized volunteer labor and recreation that draws on the beauty of the creek should be addressed in this plan. The Fairview Creek Watershed Council will coordinate the development of the plan. The City should use its influence to encourage educational programming and restoration activity associated with the plan.

#### Scout Troops and Community Youth Organizations

Groups such as Eagle Scouts often look for opportunities to build trails, picnic tables, etc. in their community. Coordination with these well-organized groups can provide the City with significant resources.

### Educational Opportunities

#### *Issues Benefits*

Educational resources can further Fairview's "History and Vision" by fostering stewardship of the local environment and appreciation for Fairview's rich past. The City is currently engaged in developing opportunities for residents to learn about the benefits of restoring habitat on their own land. The City is also working in cooperation with the schools to provide opportunities for children to learn about their environment. This effort can be expanded to include educational programs on the history, and natural environment as well as sustainable fishing, boating, and hiking.

#### *Recommendations*

Interpretive Resources – Grant funding for Salish Ponds Wetlands Park for Interpretive signs and materials should continue to be pursued and expanded to include Fairview Woods Park and other Parks such as Park Cleone. Fairview should continue to pursue its relationship with Reynolds School District to this end.

*Model Native Plan Garden* – A native plant garden that has a high level of interpretation, stressing the opportunity for nature restoration at home, should be developed. The location of this garden should be picked to be highly visible as well as blending with the natural landscape.

*Interpretive Signs* – The goals of the Salish Ponds Wetlands Park Master Plan should be expanded upon and interpretive signage should be placed in Fairview Woods Park and at Cleone Park, if restoration along the creek takes place.

*Guided Nature Walks* – Nature Hikes for Families on weekends and evenings should be conducted to engage them in using Salish Ponds Wetlands Park and Fairview Woods Park. With consistent networking by City Staff and the Parks Advisory Committee, volunteer organizations and groups such as the Audubon Society may provide these programs.

Historical Interpretation – The Heslin house has the potential to serve as an interpretive center, focusing on the history of Fairview, both natural and cultural aspects. In addition to tours at the Heslin, sponsored by the Historical Society, a walking, biking and driving tour of Fairview should be developed. This should incorporate the key historical elements such as the historic jail,



City of Fairview Jail

the Missoula Boulders, the railroad, and the historical significance of natural elements such as Fairview Creek, historic trees, etc. Such a tour is recommended by the Fairview Cultural Resource Inventory and Historic Context document prepared for the City in 1992. Once developed, the City should work with the Historical Society to expand this tour into a program with a tour-guide. The Historical Society may be willing to develop such programming in cooperation with the City in exchange for the use of the Heslin house and the Fairview Community Center for meetings. The historic context document also recommends tapping into grant funding from the State Historic Preservation Office for special projects such as the development of interpretive materials. If a connection with the 40-mile loop trail succeeds, the City should cooperate with the 40-mile loop trail planners to develop interpretive signage for Fairview Historic Resources.

*Native American Interpretation* – Fairview served as a site used by Native Peoples. Celebrating this culture could create exciting educational opportunities for all ages. Grant funding may be available from the Grand Ronde tribes to construct interpretive elements such as signage, or even a plank-house replica.

Coordination should be made with Metro staff, who are currently planning a potential Native American history interpretive center and kiosk at Blue Lake Park. Native American history might be combined with interpretation of the area's natural history. For instance, a walk might be held focusing on the historic use of plants used by native peoples.

*Integration of Historical and Environmental Themes Into Recreation Programming* – Craft programs and dancing can focus on Native American influences, nature-oriented topics, or traditions that date back to historic settlement. City celebrations can focus on the rich natural and cultural history of Fairview.

**Summer Camps and After School Programs** – Fairview and other recreation providers should be encouraged to provide day camps with themes relating to natural and cultural history in Fairview. Groups such as the Mt. Hood Family YMCA or the Outdoor School may wish to run programs at Salish Ponds Wetlands Park or the Community Center. Interpretive resources at Blue Lake Park might also serve as a focal point for a day camp there.



Children Sketching Artwork at Fairview Creek

**Community Events** – Restoration and clean up days should have an educational component on such topics as watersheds and local plant identification in addition to instructional elements on planting/ clearing invasive species. Major community events can offer naturalist lead nature walks and native plant garden demonstrations.

**Community Riparian Buffer Education Program** – Members of the watershed council have committed to helping residents develop native plantings in their riparian areas. They are available to educate residents and help them use Native Plants in riparian buffer areas. This program can be used to generate broader interest in nature restoration and native plant gardening. The City should work in cooperation with the Naturescaping for Clean Rivers program or other programs in the region to develop these resources.

## ***C. Partnerships with Local Schools***

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### ***Issues and Benefits***

Based on the experiences of Parks Advisory Committee members and local ball club organization, as well as the Gresham Youth Sports Alliance (GYSA), it is likely that the fields on school sites are currently at capacity. The potential capacity available inside school buildings for performance spaces and gymnasium spaces is unknown.

The Reynolds School District contains four schools that offer Fairview significant recreation resources. These are Fairview Elementary, Fairview Woods Elementary, Reynolds Middle School, and Reynolds High School in Troutdale. Additionally, Clear Creek Middle School in the Gresham-Barlow School District in Gresham, located south of Glisan, may offer potential resources. Finally, the administration building adjacent to Reynolds Middle School is planned for renovation into an elementary school and the Reynolds Learning Academy will be constructed in a new building on the Reynolds Middle School campus. These may offer additional potential.

### ***Recommendations***

#### **Assess Current Uses of Local Schools**

Letters from the Community Development Department should be sent to school administrators in Fairview requesting information on how their school indoor and outdoor facilities are used and how much potential capacity remains based on current uses.

#### **Potential Agreements with Schools**

Currently, management at The Reynolds School District gives each school principal primary responsibility for management of the building and uses of its facilities. The City could consider agreements with individual schools in lieu of a school district-wide agreement. Agreements regarding field spaces would only be valuable if the fields are not currently at capacity. In this case, however, agreements securing indoor spaces can still be valuable. Any agreements should be formal enough that the City can be guaranteed the needed space in each building. A school-district wide agreement may not be necessary at this time and may not be as effective in the short term as working with individual schools. Any agreements with individual schools would depend on relationships between the City and individual administrators.

In the long term, a more formal agreement with the school district could facilitate more efficient use of fields and building spaces. As well, such an agreement can facilitate the development of additional active recreation capacity and new space on school sites. The active recreation section of this document outlines development opportunities on school sites. The City should investigate a formal agreement with Reynolds School District. Such an agreement could potentially allow the City to coordinate the use of ball fields at five schools. Facilitating the use of these fields would effectively expand their capacity by coordinating their use more efficiently. A Steering Committee made up of representatives

from volunteer ball club organizations could be established to plan the details of scheduling and to aid with maintenance procedures. Recreation districts such as Tualatin Hills Recreation District use such committees. If the field spaces are currently being used efficiently then this step is unnecessary but community access to performance space and gymnasium space might be secured through a long-term agreement as well. The City should consider offering significant financial or in-kind resources for improving and maintaining recreational facilities at school sites. Such resources might include existing sites such as Salish Ponds Wetlands Park. Finally, rather than acting alone, the City should consider cooperating with other entities such as the Gresham Youth Sports Alliance in developing such agreements.

**Potential Resources at Local Schools:**

The following are potential resources at school sites listed by school in order of importance.

Reynolds High School: This site offers ball fields and indoor sports facilities for all ages as well as a community pool. The City should facilitate the use of these active recreational spaces for use by local community organizations and the public. Reynolds High School is planning for a remodel that would develop a stage and performance space. The completion of this project may occur in 2003. An agreement with Reynolds High School would offer an opportunity for Fairview to gain access to a community performance space. Its location in Troutdale makes it somewhat less accessible than the elementary schools and Reynolds Middle School within the City limits.

Reynolds Middle School: Ballfields, gymnasium and a theatre are potential resources here. This space also offers access to Salish Ponds Wetlands Park. It represents the most significant potential community space in Fairview. Lighting fields at Reynolds Middle School is potentially the most successful

Woodland Elementary School: This space offers access to Salish Ponds Wetlands Park. Use of the school indoor space for bathroom access, day camps, after-school programs should be a priority. The City should work to create agreements for access to Woodland Elementary for community groups.

Fairview Elementary School: This school is located in the heart of Old Town Fairview and is within walking distance to Park Cleone and the Community Center. Fairview Elementary should be used for programs that focus on residents of Old Town Fairview.

## **D. Community Centers**

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Community Center Spaces are a central part of the City's Recreation Resources. These resources are key opportunities for year-round recreation in Fairview for a wide variety of ages. In addition to the community center functions found at Fairview Schools, the Fairview Community Center (Old City Hall), Fairview Community Park, the Heslin House, and the Library can serve as community center resources. Discussions with local recreation providers and residents indicate the need for community center spaces. The nearby City's of Gresham, Sandy and Wood Village do not have a community center. The development of community centers will benefit not only Fairview residents, but surrounding populations as well, especially because Troutdale's community centers are at capacity.

### ***High demand***

A qualitative judgment derived from conversations with community groups and local jurisdictions without access to community center resources indicates that community center facilities in the local area are in particularly short supply.

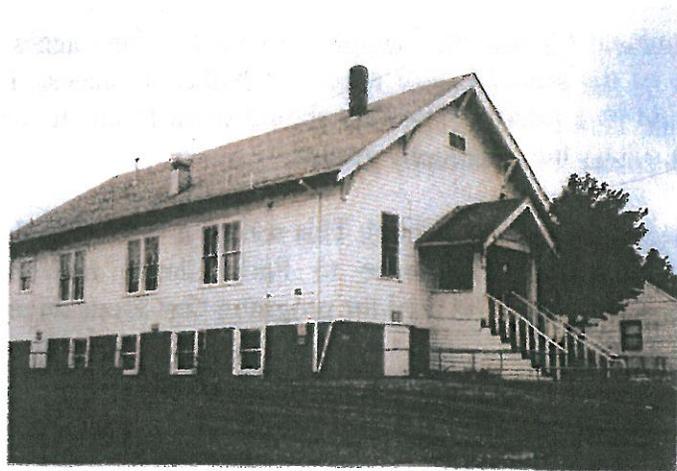
### ***General Recommendations***

A "Friends" group should be established for the City's community centers. This group would help with opportunities at the Fairview Community Center and at other potential community center spaces such as: the new Community Park Pavilion, library, and school performance spaces. This group should work with a sub committee of the Parks Advisory Committee in order to plan for the community centers.

### **Fairview Community Center – Old City Hall**

#### ***Issues and Benefits***

The City has a unique opportunity to develop an existing building into a community center. Located in the center of old-town Fairview, this facility can serve as a focal point for recreational activity. Because this center was once a Grange Hall, serving essential community functions, it has many features that make it ideal for conversion into a



Fairview Community Center

community center. Such resources include a kitchen, already equipped with commercial appliances and hard wood dance floors that might be restored. There are no load-bearing walls on the top floor, so the main hall on the upper floor can be expanded without

extensive structural revision to the building with existing office spaces with windows offering easier monitoring opportunities. These offices might be expanded into a classroom or a computer lab for youth and seniors. The greatest current constraint on the building is the existing non-accessible bathrooms on the lower level. Grant funding may be available through the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECD) specifically for handicapped access improvement with the possibility of fully subsidizing the improvement. Uses of the building are constrained by the site's location in the heart of a residential neighborhood. Uses that generate noise and traffic will therefore have to be managed carefully.

## *Recommendations*

### Multi-functional Uses

The Fairview Community Center should serve the whole community from toddlers to seniors. Recreation survey data and comments from a community meeting indicate that residents want the community center to be available to a wide range of groups and activities. Building improvements should design for flexibility, allowing for simultaneous use by multiple groups and meetings and activities of various sizes. Many uses of the site do not exclude other uses. For instance, the center might be used for a senior crafts program during the day, an after school program in the afternoon, and an adult club meeting in the evening.

### Access for All

The center will serve as a meeting space, currently in short supply. It should remain accessible to all community groups, as these groups will help build a strong sense of community. Local Fairview groups should take a high priority for use of the Community Center.

### Generate Revenue

The center will need to develop ways to bring in commercial revenue that can help support the cost of maintenance. Certain groups such as businesses should be asked to pay a higher rental fee than non-profit organizations to help support the cost of the facility. Recreation program fees can also help support building costs.

### Maintain a Staff Presence

Having staff members programming and using the building as office space will keep it open and accessible for a greater period of time and produce more programming. The City has had significant problems with vandalism on this structure and having. Staffing the building will establish visual control over the site that will reduce vandalism. This staff presence could come in the form of a City employee or another recreation provider contracted by the City.

### Create a Performance Space

There is currently a deficiency of performance and dance space in Fairview. Creating a premier performance space, while retaining the multi-use function of the Center, could

attract a variety of professional performers as well as provide dance space for local residents. Due to the residential location of the center, performances and dancing may be limited to low noise levels. This plan should be investigated carefully.

## **Fairview Community Park**

### *Issues and Benefits*

This park is an outdoor space; however, it will serve many functions of a community center during the dry months. It will also serve as the City's major focal point for park resources. The Pavilion in this area will provide space for community gatherings, and performances as well as a shelter for outdoor meetings or day camps. The Pavilion and plaza will offer a performance area with more capacity for spectators than any other space in Fairview. In the long-term bathrooms on-site will provide for a high level of public use.

### *Recommendations*

#### Pavilion

This can serve a dual function as a rain shelter for picnicking or day camps. This use should be facilitated through the acquisition of appropriate equipment.

#### Day Camps

The City already has plans for the development of restrooms on site, with a storage space. This addition will make the Fairview Community Park a premier site for nature-oriented summer day camps, capitalizing on proximity to Salish Ponds Wetlands Park.

## **Heslin House**

### *Issues and Benefits*

The Historical Society is renovating the building in cooperation with the City and will use it as a history center. The Historical Society currently has plans to have historical displays and interpretation in the front of this center. This center offers a way to bring interpretation and enjoyment of Fairview's rich history into focus while serving as an alternative space for smaller meetings.



Heslin House

### *Recommendations*

#### Interpretive Programs and Exhibits

As proposed in the "Natural and Historical Resource Preservation and Recreation" section of this document, the potential for long-term expansion of this site into a fully developed interpretive center should be examined.

### Meetings

This space can be used for smaller community meetings. Renting the facility to a business for a retreat or work session could generate income.

### Library

#### *Issues and Benefits*

Although the Library is owned and controlled by Multnomah County, it serves many functions of a community center. The Library offers a meeting space for up to 25 persons and staffing for in-house programming. In addition, the library has staffing and funding for programs that could be held in the neighboring Fairview Community Park to accommodate additional patrons.

#### *Recommendations*

Cooperation with the Library and Multnomah County should be pursued. The City should include events at the Library in its promotional materials and work with Library staff to find meeting and program space for community groups.

## **E. Staffing for the Coordination, Development and Implementation of Recreation Programming**

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Success of the City's recreation programming will depend on having qualified staff to coordinate and conduct programming. Without staff resources, it is not possible to develop a wealth of successful programming.

Up until this time, the City has had to depend on programs offered with other jurisdictions to meet the needs of its residents. The development of this plan prepares the City to bring recreation staff resources to Fairview itself. The City may ultimately choose to have a bond measure to fund recreation programming. Financial support for a half time or full-time recreation coordinator will be critical to create an effective program. In the next five years, this plan recommends a phased approach toward recreation staffing. This plan recommends that the City:

1. Seek out cooperative agreements with other recreation providers who might want to use Fairview Facilities;
2. Invest staff resources in volunteer coordination to develop recreational programming;
3. Consider contracting with an experienced external recreation provider, allowing the City to provide programming at a limited cost with greatly reduced overhead and startup costs; and
4. Fund a recreation coordinator position.

### **Partnerships with Local Providers**

#### *Issues and Benefits*

Until the City has time to develop a wide range of recreation services, it may make sense to partner with local organizations that want to use recreation resources in Fairview. For instance, the new community center will offer a resource that the surrounding cities, of Gresham, Wood Village, and Sandy, do not have. For little more than the cost of subsidizing building use, the City could facilitate the provision of a wide range of programming.

#### *Recommendations*

##### Private Recreation Providers

Existing organizations such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and YWCA may be interested in using local Fairview facilities. Agreements could bring these groups into the community centers or parks, bringing recreation programming close to home. The City has facilities that could draw programs including the Community Center, Heslin House, Fairview Community Park and Salish Ponds Wetlands Park.

### East Area Special Events for Youth and Families (EASEY)

EASEY brings several local jurisdictions together to plan special programming focusing on teens and their families. This includes Gresham, Sandy, Troutdale, Mt. Hood YMCA, and Mt. Hood Community College. Fairview should take steps to become involved with this group, bringing special events for teens to the community. The City would need to devote some staff time to EASEY in order to draw on this resource. A Parks Advisory Committee member or other volunteer might act as the initial liaison between this organization and the City.

### School Teachers

Public School Teachers within the community have expressed interest in developing programs for students on weekends as well as day camps. The City can pursue cooperative agreements with teachers to provide programming at the Community Center or at local parks. The City could facilitate these programs, leaving the development and management of the programs to the teachers themselves. Grant funding would need to be acquired or some other compensation given to the teachers.

### Other Cities

The neighboring Cities of Troutdale, Wood Village, and Gresham, may also be interested in using building space to conduct programming. Cooperative agreements might be arranged to allow neighboring communities to use the Community Center spaces for classes and programming. Programs at other jurisdictions are already available to Fairview residents, cooperation would just bring these programs closer to home. The City of Troutdale may offer the most potential for this kind of collaboration because of its proximity and the wide variety of programs and classes. Conversations with Troutdale staff indicate that Troutdale's current community center resources are close to capacity. It may therefore be beneficial for Troutdale to house some programs in Fairview. Potential partnerships with the City of Wood Village might also be beneficial. Pooling staff resources to develop new programming might benefit both cities. Wood Village might be able to offer financial support for the Community Center and other programming spaces in exchange for its use.

### Volunteers

#### *Issues and Benefits*

Fairview has limited financial resources with which to support recreation staff; however, the willingness of community members to volunteer their time is evident within the community. Over 25 percent of survey respondents indicated they were interested in some type of volunteering. Local organizations and individuals are willing to develop and lead programs. The recreation survey identified community members, such as senior center management staff and master gardeners, who are willing to help develop recreation programming. Others are willing to help set up for community programs and special

events. In order to capitalize on these volunteer resources, it is essential that the City designate staff resources for the purposes of volunteer coordination.

### *Recommendations*

#### Volunteer Facilitated Programming

A community recreation survey has identified volunteers and organizations with a variety of skill sets. For example, Reynolds' High School Volunteer Services has a mission to engage top students in ongoing projects that involve challenge tasks such as coordinating volunteers. Such an organization might help run an Adopt-a-Park program or a Restoration-Corps program. Such organizations have the ability to organize volunteers around key community clean up days as well as help manage an ongoing program.

In the future, more opportunities should be taken to identify potential volunteers. An ongoing communication link between the City and these residents should be fostered. This process will take significant staff time, but is likely to have a high yield for the time invested.

### Contracting External Recreation Providers

#### *Issues and Benefits*

The experience and expertise a professional recreation provider can provide the City with recreation services for a lower cost than developing programming from scratch. Overhead could be greatly reduced. For instance, program liability coverage would no longer need to be handled by the City. An organization with a track record could create a new program with fewer start-up costs and name recognition that would improve success. Such a provider might be a Boys' and Girls' Club, the YMCA or YWCA. Other providers such as Sky Hawks, a sports provider, can be contracted for individual programming or summer camps. A private recreation provider could use the Fairview Community Center as office space as well as program space, providing a staff presence in the building.

### *Recommendations*

#### Potential Agreements with the Mt. Hood YMCA

The YMCA may offer the best fit for Fairview and the greatest opportunity to program space. The Mt. Hood YMCA currently has only limited office space and potentially has staff available to work in the Fairview Community Center. For example, over 242 youth from Fairview Schools participated in YMCA sports activities in the first half of 2001. Because serving Fairview residents with all types of programming is in line with this organization's mission, the YMCA may be willing to provide services in exchange for building space. The YMCA already serves many Fairview residents. This organization has over 100 years of experience and the ability to develop programming for all age levels on topics ranging from sports to arts and crafts to nature walks. Such an organization would also organize volunteers within the Fairview community, augmenting staff resources.

The Mt. Hood YMCA currently has limited office space and no building space dedicated for their use. Working in a building that has office space and program space is potentially attractive to this organization. The City of Silverton has an agreement with the YMCA to manage their community center and Pool. The City of Silverton management has been quite satisfied with the level of service provided. The YMCA also manages the Westside Community Center in Portland and a new facility in Sherwood. These arrangements have satisfied the City's involved.

In order to capitalize on the potential of any agreement with the YMCA or other provider, the City will need to decide how it wants to approach management of recreation programming and the Community Center in Fairview, then approach an organization that fits the City's needs. Based on the following:

1. Background research and communications with YMCA staff;
2. Interviews with management as well as City staff who administrate community centers managed by the YMCA; and
3. The realities of funding resources in Fairview.

This plan recommends further pursuit of a potential agreement with the YMCA after the City has evaluated its priorities.

#### Possible management solutions for Recreation Provision and Facilities

A recreation provider can conduct programs at the Community Center site and at local parks and community spaces. The City can provide office space and program space in exchange for the development of programming.

One option would be for a recreation provider to use the Community Center and other sites to conduct camps and programs only. Potentially, the City could get a percentage of all program revenues. The City would manage all other rentals and facility use.

A second option would be for the recreation provider to provide much more than just programming. Having recreation employees housed in the Community Center through a well thought out agreement would provide the City with the essential functions of a recreation coordinator, for little more than the cost of providing building space. The City might have this provider schedule all groups in the building, saving staff resources. The provider would leave a designated amount of time available for groups not sponsored by this provider to assure space for community groups and meetings. The City would still set community group rental fees and private party rental fees, which could go to the City maintenance fund for supporting the building.

Any agreement should assure that the community is involved in planning for programs and the goals of the City's recreation program are addressed. In Silverton for instance, an advisory board, which is representative of the community and managed by the YMCA, sets priorities for programming at the local community center. If this model was applied to Fairview, the City's small size would probably mean that employees housed in the

community center would be serving near-by communities as well as Fairview. Any advisory board would need to have representation from other local communities as well as Fairview. This plan recommends pursuing an agreement similar to the one described here in order to gain the most recreation programming and volunteer coordination for the least number of financial resources.

## **Recreation Coordinator Position**

### *Issues and Benefits*

The City could have its own recreation coordinator. This coordinator would be in a better position to develop programming specific to Fairview's needs than an outside contractor. This option would require higher over-head costs; however, sharing a position with another City might offset such costs. In the long term, funding such a position could provide a stable and rich recreation program, fully integrated with other City activities. Although they might not have the same level of experience and resources, a City recreation coordinator might develop programming specialized beyond the capability of external recreation providers. They could also focus more explicitly on the themes identified as priorities for recreation in Fairview.

### *Recommendations*

#### Maintain Long-term Flexibility

If the choice is made to enter an agreement with a recreation provider such as the YMCA, the option for Fairview to hire its own recreation coordinator in the long term should be maintained. Contracts with providers should be made for no more than five years at the onset.

#### Cost Effective Recreation Staffing

A recreation position can be shared with another city, combined with another position, such as volunteer coordinator, or created as a half-time position to reduce costs. This position might even start out as a half-time volunteer coordinator position. A volunteer coordinator would capitalize on existing volunteer resources. After a period of time, this position could be expanded into a recreation coordinator position. Another option is to hire a parks/environmental planner who would manage parks and recreation resources as well as coordinate recreation programming.

## ***F. Addressing Active Recreation***

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### **Traditional Active Recreation Spaces & Alternatives**

There is a clear need for active recreation facilities in Fairview. The Parks and Recreation/Open Space Master Plan Update clearly identifies active recreation spaces as a priority. Regionally and nationally the demand for ball fields has grown steadily. Since Fairview has tripled in size in the last ten years, demand for sports fields and other active recreation spaces has also grown. Growing numbers of youth, who are involved in a variety of ball clubs, have placed a strain of field capacity in the area. As previously discussed in the "Partnerships with Schools" section of the document, it is likely that field spaces on school sites are close to their use-capacity. Agreements with local schools will increase capacity only if it is determined that these spaces could be used more efficiently.

Several locations within the City are already planned for open fields that can be used for casual field sports. While the Parks Master Plan has identified opportunities to develop more spaces for casual field sports, much of the demand for field spaces comes from organized clubs who need more formal fields. For instance, a large open turf area appropriate for casual field sports is being developed at Lakeshore Park. This site will help fill the need for casual places to play sports. It will not, however, provide additional spaces for community groups who need formal sports fields. The Parks Master Plan recommends the development of a formal soccer field adjacent to Park Cleone to serve this function as well as the possibility of partnering with a private organization to develop a sports complex.

#### ***207<sup>th</sup> and Halsey Park***

The Parks Master Plan identifies the area just west of Park Cleone on 207<sup>th</sup> and Halsey as a potential site for a soccer field. A portion of this 14.48-acre site has since been sold leaving approximately 9 acres remaining. The creation of a high quality soccer field and a maximum of 40 parking spaces and restroom facilities to serve the park are identified as priorities.

#### ***Future Sports Park***

The Gresham Youth Sports Alliance is currently building a 33-acre sports park in Gresham approximately 20 minutes away from Fairview. The success of this endeavor will inform Fairview on how it might proceed with a similar development. A major sports park requires major coordination of resources. The City currently has no resources available for this type of coordination. GYSA may be able to provide these resources after their project in Gresham is well underway. In the long term, this may even be part of a scenario to develop an east county recreation district.

While the need for field spaces is strong and must be addressed, alternative active recreation spaces such as skate parks, indoor gymnasiums, and volley ball courts should also be discussed. Local schools can also play a large role in providing these spaces.

## **New Active Recreation Resources on School Sites**

As discussed earlier in the school coordination section of this document, working with local schools is essential to augment capacity and build new fields. Fairview's Community Park Resources are identified at only one park, Fairview Community Park. This park does not offer any sports resources. All other community resources and all those with sports facilities are located exclusively on school sites at Reynolds Middle School, Woodland Elementary School and Fairview Elementary School. Coordinating with local schools to improve and better utilize existing fields and indoor active recreation spaces is the first step. The next step is the development of additional capacity. Improving field spaces will not necessarily increase capacity however, as ball clubs are currently using even marginal fields for game spaces. The City currently has no funding to provide for additional maintenance at any new City-owned fields. Combining field maintenance through an agreement with the school district would greatly reduce maintenance costs over all and allow the school district to provide at least some of the necessary maintenance.

### ***Baseball Field Improvement at Fairview Elementary***

The baseball field improvement project at Fairview Elementary School is scheduled for completion in 2002. This will serve as an example of cooperation with local schools to move other projects forward.

### ***Soccer Field at Woodland Elementary***

The development of a soccer field at Woodland Elementary School is identified as the next most important resource. Since the school district has no current plans to update this site, City aid in improving the site would represent an expansion of community resources that would not otherwise be realized.

### ***Expansion of Basketball Facilities at Reynolds Middle School***

Expansion of the Basketball Facilities at Reynolds Middle School might entail covering of these sites with a rainshelter, greatly expanding seasonal use of the facility. This facility is constantly used by informal community groups.

### ***Soccer Field at Fairview Elementary***

A small site is located on Depot Street adjacent to Fairview Elementary School. This site is just large enough for one soccer field. It may not contain enough space to house spectators; however, it could serve as a practice field and as expanded capacity for school activities. This field is adjacent to school property and might be maintained by school district staff.

### ***Expansion of Baseball Field Use Capacity at Reynolds Middle School***

Addressing the need to increase available fields will require new construction or expansion of use capacity on current fields. The lighting of existing baseball fields at Reynolds Middle School as one of the most cost effective ways of increasing capacity without constructing new fields. Lighting these fields would increase capacity by opening the field for evening use by older students and adults, who are currently excluded from field use

due to high demand by youth. Lighting baseball fields is potentially more effective than lighting soccer fields. This is due to the fact that the infield where most activity takes place during baseball is not turf, and therefore is less susceptible to damage from increased use.

The placement of two baseball fields back to back at Reynolds Middle School increases the potential by allowing these fields to be lighted by one set of infrastructure. No other field space has been identified within the area as having as great a potential for lighting. A recent study in Corona California found that one-lighted field is equal to one and two-thirds of a non-lighted field in terms of use capacity. This indicates that lighting two fields at Reynolds Middle School would provide the capacity of one and one-third additional fields.

### **Need for A Larger Play Structure**

In 1995, the parks and recreation survey identified the need for a play structure as a top priority for community parks. Survey respondents in the recreation survey conducted in 2001 also indicated the need for play structure. Particularly, they identified a large-scale play structure as a need. Nearly half of survey respondents said they visited the Imagination Station in Troutdale. This is a major play-structure adjacent to a nature park. Several respondents identified the Imagination Station as something that should be emulated in Fairview. While the Parks Master Plan addresses the need for a variety of accessible play structures it does not address the need for a structure of larger scale. This plan recommends developing a larger scale play structure that might serve the entire City of Fairview.



Imagination Station (Troutdale)



Play Structure at Park Cleone

### **Cooperative Development of Sports Park**

The area just east of Blue Lake Park was identified as a potential site for a major sports park, which would be run through a partnership with a private, for profit organization. This location offers a connection with the planned amenities at Blue Lake Park. Neither this plan, nor the Parks Master Plan has explored the feasibility of such a facility. The feasibility of this site as a sports park should be explored more thoroughly. The site is over 100 acres and is under investigation for the development of a technology campus. Upon completion of the 33-acre sports park in Gresham by the Gresham Youth Sports Alliance (GYSA), its success might serve as impetus for a project in Fairview. Currently two

soccer fields, three American Soccer Association standard fields and two Babe Ruth fields as well as other indoor and outdoor sports and performance facilities are planned for the facility. Eight million out of an estimated 16 million has been raised in in-kind donations. GYSA estimates that many more fields are needed in their service area, which includes Fairview. This organization represents over 20,000 youth, including Fairview residents. Over 100 companies are already involved with the proposal.

Fairview may offer a strategic location for a second sports park managed by GYSA. Conversations with the chair of this organization indicate that the alliance would be receptive to partnering with the City to develop a sports park once the park in Gresham has proved successful. The City should pursue involvement with GYSA. A relationship with this organization should be developed before conversations regarding a sports park begin. Partnerships with adult sports organizations should be pursued in any effort to develop the park. The GYSA facility planning has looked beyond sports to develop an amphitheater and indoor classroom spaces and planning for a sports park in Fairview should do the same.

### **Capitalizing on Opportunities at Blue Lake Park**

#### **Improving Access**

Over half of recreation survey respondents indicated that they used Blue Lake Park. Blue Lake Park offers many casual field sports areas and picnic sites, however, its distance and barriers to alternative mode travel reduce its usability for active recreation. These barriers are identified in the Parks Master Plan and several recreation survey respondents focused on the need to improve access to Blue Lake Park along 223<sup>rd</sup> Avenue with the construction of a walking and biking path. This possibility is discussed in further detail in "Paths and Trails".

During the summer months, Blue Lake Park is used heavily by visitors from throughout the region. This makes it less available to Fairview residents during these periods.

#### **Planned Improvements to Blue Lake Park**

Metro is planning improvements at Blue Lake Park, which will be constructed in the next three to five years. There are no plans formal ball fields planned, however, several facilities will serve the active recreational needs of Fairview residents. These include:

- Golf Learning Center with a driving range
- A "Youth Destination Center" with a rock climbing-wall and skate park. Metro has indicated an interest to work with the local community in developing this center.

## Potential Improvements to Park Cleone

This park site is underutilized and may currently offer untapped opportunities for casual field sports. A site analysis for the Parks Master Plan indicates that this site could support parking, restrooms, a play structure, picnic sites, and sports fields. This site is centrally located and may offer Fairview the greatest opportunity for the development of new formal field space. Any fields developed in this area should be sized to meet the



Gazebo at Park Cleone

regulations and needs of local ball clubs as these clubs cannot currently find enough practice space. Ball clubs may be willing to help maintain and line the fields as well as fund raise for their construction. Priority of use should be for those groups local to the Fairview area.

An expanded Park Cleone may offer the best site for a major play structure. Park Cleone represents the most centrally located site for a major play structure. This site would then draw parents and children from throughout the community. With creative design, a large play structure might be incorporated into the existing gazebo and play area.

### Volley Ball Court

Lakeshore Park is currently under development. The City should consider placing a lakeside sand volleyball court at Lakeshore Park or some other location. This could add to the value of the space for active recreation at a relatively low cost. A permanent grass court should also be considered.

### Skate Park

Skateboarding and rollerblading are alternative forms of active recreation that target teens. Reynolds Middle School has expressed interest in the development of such a park with the City and this option should be furthered pursued. One quarter of survey respondents indicated a need for a skate park, and one respondent offered to help finance such a park. The development of a teen destination center at Blue Lake Park will include a skate park. Until Metro has completed the planned skate park, siting of a skate park should be postponed. Skate Park. The development of a skate park at Reynolds Middle School, is a long-term possibility as such a park could be developed from the conversion of existing tennis courts at either site. Both areas are currently in disrepair. Teens are the greatest potential users of a skate park site.

## **G. Trails and Pathways**

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### *Issues and Benefits*

Trails and paths include sidewalks, bikeways, and hiking/ walking trails. Because of the popularity of trail activities and the potential to provide alternative modes of transportation for the citizens of Fairview, development of the trail system identified in the Parks Master Plan should be a high priority. Recent recreation trends have shown that adults are less involved with sports and are using trails as exercise facilities with increasing frequency. Trails also serve as resources for family groups. Trail-related activities including walking, hiking, horseback riding, biking, roller-skating, and running were identified as the most popular recreation activities among Gresham Residents in a survey conducted for the City of Gresham in 1995. "Walking/ Dogwalking" was identified by Fairview recreation survey respondents as the most frequent recreational activity. "Nature walks/ Birdwalks" was identified as the second most popular activity.

Although the region as a whole has a rich set of trail and pathway resources, these resources cannot substitute for those close to home. Residents desire trails that can be accessed close to home, without the use of an automobile. Comments on walking, biking and nature trails indicate that Fairview residents set a high priority on new, safer pathways and trails. Several comments expressed a need for a better way to get to Blue Lake Park.

### *Recommendations*

#### General Recommendations

The Parks Master Plan identifies safe trails and paths with access for bikes, walkers and joggers that could be created throughout the City and sets the highest priority for these connections. In order to maximize recreational benefits, community parks should be connected with pathways and trails. Salish Ponds Wetlands Park, Fairview Woods Park, Park Cleone, Lakeshore Park and Blue Lake Park should serve as destination points along these trails. Existing recommendations in the Parks Master Plan such as trail access to Fairview Lake from existing and proposed parks should take a priority. The local schools should also be connected to this network. In addition, a community process should be conducted to gather information about other important places that might be connected throughout the City.

#### Improving Access to Blue Lake Park

The most significant barrier to connectivity identified by the Parks Plan Update process is along 223<sup>rd</sup> avenue. The perception of this barrier by residents was reinforced by survey data. This creates a barrier to accessing Blue Lake Park, which makes current facilities there less useful to community members who do not have access to cars. This barrier will become even more significant with the development of additional amenities focusing on youth at Blue Lake Park. To mitigate this issue, the feasibility of developing a bike and walking path to Blue Lake Park should be explored. Funding options for developing such a path need to be researched.

### Gresham/Fairview Trail

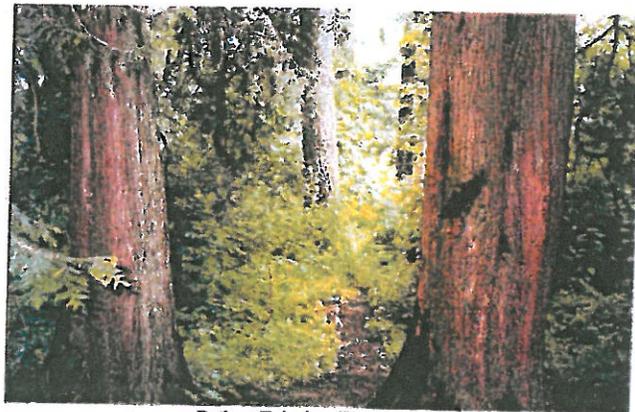
The proposed Gresham/Fairview Trail connects to the Spring Water Corridor Trail. A connection with the Spring Water Corridor Trail, a regionally significant trail system as designated by Metro's Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee, would offer Fairview residents a connection with communities beyond it. It could facilitate the use of this connection for commuting purposes. This connection should be a high priority as it offers access to an extensive trail system in the City of Gresham and the City of Portland through alternative modes.

### Nature Trails

In addition to opportunities for exercise, nature trails serve as opportunities for nature walks, birding, and interpretive education. The value of existing Nature Parks should be maximized through maintenance and careful planning.

*Salish Ponds Wetlands Park* - Over 40 percent of recreation survey respondents said they use Salish Ponds Wetlands Park. Visual quality and exposure of the trail are priorities and should be protected by supplementing the new native plantings on the Target site. While a new trail would require additional disturbance to the park and therefore should be thought out carefully, in the long-term, a new alignment may preserve the quality of the park.

*Fairview Woods Park* - Over 35 percent of recreation survey respondents said they use Fairview Woods Park. Trails in this location are currently in disrepair. The boardwalk is beginning to rot in some places and much of the signage is damaged or no longer existing. A number of user-created trails are beginning to degrade habitat in the park. Campfires and refuse are evident. This park



Path at Fairview Woods Park

should be rehabilitated so that it creates the most benefit to the community. This park is adjacent to the City's highest density, apartment community, Fairview Oaks and Woods, opening many possibilities for community stewardship.

Limitations on uses of funding from System Development Charges constrain funding for improvements to this park. Thus, improvements to this park were not included in the Parks Master Plan. This recreation plan recommends improving trails, creating a visible and easily accessible entry point to the trail, and eliminating some user-generated trails. A visible entry point should be a high-priority as the park currently has no obvious entry-point. Residents adjacent to the park should be involved in choosing which trail alignments should be kept and which areas should be restored. This community should also be enlisted to adopt the park, as it has been vandalized in

consistently. As mentioned in the natural and historical preservation section of this document, interpretive resources on this site should be expanded through grant funding and an agreement with Reynolds School District.

## **H. Recreation Programming for The Whole Community**

### ***Issues and Benefits***

In developing recreation programming, the needs and interests of Fairview Citizens of all ages and walks of life will need to be taken into account. In addition, financial constraints and existing resources in Fairview and adjacent cities point toward certain priorities for programs. In accordance with the objectives of this plan, priorities for programming should include a focus on the natural, historical, and cultural resources in Fairview. As more active recreation spaces are built, programming will begin to draw on these resources as well. This plan recognizes that recreation programming will depend largely on the staff developing this programming. The amount of staff time and level of expertise will be critical in the success of programming. Initially, much of this time may be spent on coordinating volunteers and working with recreational organizations within and close to the City. As programming evolves, a wider variety of new programs, tailored to the needs of Fairview residents will be developed. The following sections suggest possible directions for programs targeting specific user groups. Generally, educational culture and nature-oriented activities, community building programs, and fee-supported programs are emphasized.

### ***General Recommendations***

#### **Develop a Community Garden**

Developing a site for a community garden to serve all user groups would be a relatively cost effective way of providing recreational opportunities. A site in Old Town Fairview would be a central location that can serve adjacent apartment dwellers without garden space of their own.

#### **Purchase Vans**

Once some recreation programming is in place, the purchase of vans or a small bus could expand the range and functionality of programming capability. This would allow for field trips such as visits to Mt. Hood on day camps and senior programs or shuttles to youth programs at the Blue Lake Park Youth Destination Center.

### **Programs for Teens**

#### ***Issues and Benefits***

Fairview Residents have identified a strong need for Teen opportunities in Fairview, identifying them in the recreation survey as the third most important group to focus on. Teens need self-facilitated opportunities for recreation that allow for highly active and engaging pursuits. Teens should also be empowered and given the opportunity to develop leadership skills through recreation programming. Several survey respondents indicated a need for youth to be engaged in positive activities that reduce the likelihood of destructive behaviors.

## *Recommendations*

### EASEY (East Area Special Events for Youth and Families)

EASEY is a cooperative effort between Troutdale, Gresham, Sandy, Mt. Hood YMCA and Mt. Hood Community College. The mission of this organization is to develop programs specifically targeting teens. Currently, EASEY sponsors basketball tournaments, a music festival for teens, a flashlight Easter-egg hunt and other programs that draw hundreds of participants. As discussed in the recreation staffing section of this document, cooperation with this organization could bring such programs to Fairview. Teens should be encouraged to get involved with existing EASEY events.

### Coordination with Anti-vandalism Program

In 2000, the City started an anti-vandalism program. This program should be coordinated with the City's recreation program. Recreation can take the pro-active and empowering form of improving the community. For instance, teens can be involved in improving the Community Center, repairing signs and trails or removing invasive plants. Existing organizations, such as the Student Volunteer Service Organization at Reynolds High School should be engaged to help coordinate restoration and clean up activities that reach all income levels and cultural groups.

### Youth Destination Center

The proposed Youth Destination Center at Blue Lake Park, if constructed, will offer an important recreational resource. The City might work cooperatively with Metro to offer programs at these facilities or even shuttle Fairview youth to this center.

### In The Long Term

In the years to come, the City should continue involvement with EASEY to develop recreation programming focusing specifically on teens. Field trip opportunities to destinations around Oregon could be facilitated with the purchase of City vans. Cooperation with the schools to develop opportunities for use of school facilities in the evening and on weekends can be facilitated. For instance, a basketball tournament for local teams could be held at Reynolds Middle School.

### Elementary Age Youth

#### *Issues and Benefits*

Survey respondents identified elementary age youth second only to families as the recreation group that the City should focus the most on. Youth from five to twelve years need programming that enhances child development, and helps to build self-esteem. This age group also offers an opportunity to foster a sense of stewardship for the biological and social community. Currently, there are few opportunities in Fairview for after-school and summer care of Elementary School Students. Programs for Elementary age youth should address this need while providing quality recreational and educational opportunities.

Currently, there are many opportunities for sports oriented programs offered for this age group. Ball clubs and recreation providers in neighboring jurisdictions provide many choices for competitive sports. As discussed in previous sections of this document, it is likely that ball fields are already at capacity in Fairview. Therefore, while the City works to increase the number of ballfields it should seek out a niche that is somewhat less sports-dominated. The City can focus on programs that draw on nature and the arts for this age group.

### *Recommendations*

#### After School Programs

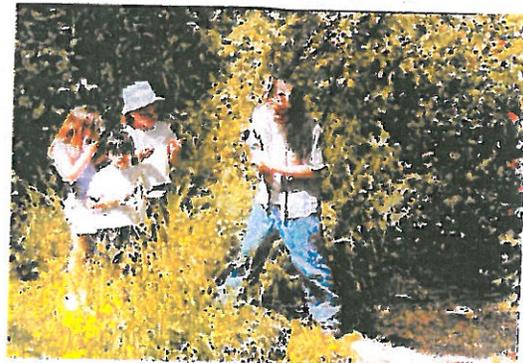
After renovation, the Fairview Community Center could offer a facility for after school programming and day care. This could create a source of revenue to help support the program. An after-school day care for older children would not preclude the center from being used during the day or evening. Programs could include arts and crafts programs and tutoring.

The City might include in its partnerships with schools, opportunities for the use of Woodland Elementary as a base for nature-oriented after school programs at Salish Ponds Wetlands Park.

#### Summer Camps and Saturday Programs

The Fairview Community Park could become the City's premier location for day camp activities, especially in late summer. Once bathroom facilities are installed, permission for use of school facilities will be unnecessary, though still beneficial. The park will offer plenty of open- space for active recreation and the potential for nature-based day camps that focus on building a sense of stewardship for the environment. Elementary School Teachers in the area may serve as a potential staffing resource for this age group over the summer period. In addition, staff at the Outdoor School or YMCA could provide programming.

Blue Lake Park is currently under-utilized during weekday working hours. The City could act to facilitate summer day camps, working cooperatively with Metro for use of park facilities. Park management is currently seeking ways to expand day use at the park.



Fairview Elementary Students at Fairview Creek

#### Volunteer Lead Programs

The potential for volunteer groups to lead youth programs should not be overlooked. For instance, local members of the Bass Club might help to develop fishing workshops for this age group. Providing affordable rates at the Community Center for groups such as Boy and Girl Scouts and other community organizations could foster the ability of volunteer

organizations to provide programming, increasing opportunities without significant costs to the City.

## **Adult Programming**

### *Issues and Benefits*

Adults in the Fairview community seek opportunities for community involvement and social interaction. Recent trends show that adults are increasingly interested in opportunities for self-improvement, and intellectual engagement. The City should also provide volunteer leadership opportunities for adults to volunteer in the City. Recreation survey results demonstrated a high interest in adult classes on topics ranging from yoga, to arts and crafts. Dances were also suggested as an opportunity for adults. Opportunities for existing community groups to meet as well as the development of parental support groups and book clubs were also mentioned as needs.

### *Recommendations*

Adult programs should have as wide appeal as possible, attracting young and old. Attracting a diverse age range will increase program success and help to strengthen the community.

### Classes

Classes listed as possibilities by recreation survey respondents included topics on: gardening, dance, CPR training, photography, yoga, arts and crafts, Spanish language and practical skills. Future community involvement should be conducted to determine programs most needed by adult residents.

### Leadership Opportunities

Adults with the expertise to develop and lead programs in many areas are living in Fairview. Volunteer opportunities to lead clubs and develop programs for young and old should be facilitated through volunteer coordination.

## **Seniors**

### *Issues and Benefits*

Fairview has a significant population of senior residents. Over seven percent are over 65 and over 14 percent are over 55. "Senior" citizens are increasingly becoming more active. The "Baby Boomers" are re-defining aging. Seniors are interested in life long learning and remaining productive members of society late into life. Benefits of programs for seniors include reducing alienation and loneliness, improving health and providing opportunities for community interaction. In addition to participating in programs, senior citizens have the potential to offer the recreation program in Fairview significant volunteer resources.

Although seniors are busier than ever before, individuals in this life stage have more time and expertise to offer to lead and develop programs than any other group.

### *Recommendations*

#### Existing Programs

Providing opportunities for existing groups attractive to seniors to meet in the Community Center, at City Hall and at the Heslin House and Museum could help to foster existing opportunities for seniors.

#### New Programs for Seniors

Programs should foster community involvement and stewardship. City staff should enlist seniors as volunteer leaders in mentoring youth, leading birding hikes, craft programs, etc. Opportunities for birding and nature walks geared toward seniors will help to foster environmental stewardship within the community. Community gardening may also appeal to seniors, especially those in rental properties without garden spaces. Adult and family programs should be designed to attract seniors as well. Survey respondents also recommended opportunities for Bingo, and potlucks.

### Family Programming

#### *Issues and Benefits*

As families with children increasingly move to Fairview, developing programs that can help build strong families and communities becomes increasingly important. In the recreation survey, families were identified as the number one group for recreation programming to focus on. Successful family programming requires providing something for all family members. Celebrations around special days, concerts, and environmental education programs offer ways to involve whole families. Many of these programs will also appeal to community members without children at home including a variety of cultural groups, adults, couples and seniors.

#### *Recommendations*

#### Special Events

Opportunities for community celebrations will increase greatly with the development of the Fairview Community Center, Fairview Community Park, and Lakeshore Park. Celebrations around Earth Day and Mayday should be continued and expanded. Such celebrations can celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of Fairview. Picnicking opportunities, music and activities for children will be key elements of success in such events.

#### Trail Walks

Weekend afternoon trail walks in Salish Ponds Wetlands Park can engage all ages. Volunteers from existing organizations might be willing to lead these walks. The City

could also train volunteers to lead walks in Salish Ponds Wetlands Park. For instance Full moon, night walks in the park might provide a fun family evening alternative.

## **Diverse Cultural Groups**

### *Issues and Benefits*

The Fairview community has a population that is increasingly diverse. Based on the 2000 census data, the Hispanic population alone has expanded to over 16 percent of the City's population. Including those of more than one race, racial minorities now make up 25 percent of Fairview's population. With this growth comes increasing cultural diversity. Programs that attract a wide range of cultural groups can promote harmony between community members from diverse backgrounds. This builds a stronger community. Developing multi-cultural events may draw a wider range of participants. All programs should be inclusive and sensitive to the needs of diverse cultures and individuals speaking English as a second language.

### *Recommendations*

#### **Partnerships**

To engage a variety of cultural groups, it will be important to tap into the community. Volunteers who represent Latinos and other cultural groups should be enlisted in developing recreation programming. Input from such stakeholders in planning programs will be essential to their success in attracting citizens from diverse cultures.

#### **Programs**

All programs should be as inclusive as possible. Certain programs may target particular communities. For instance, a community gardening program might provide activities that appeal to cultures with gardening traditions. Certain family programs might target Hispanic populations who are inclined to participate in activities as a family.

## **People with Disabilities**

### *Issues and Benefits*

It is unlikely that the City will have the resources available to develop a wide range of specialized programs for people with disabilities. However, the City should place emphasis on making all programs as inclusive as possible. Inclusionary Programming is becoming the standard in recreational programming. Programs involving people with disabilities should provide social interaction with the community, and be positive builders of self-esteem.

## *Recommendations*

### Inclusionary Programming

Physical barriers present the first obstacle to inclusionary programming. Wherever feasible, facilities used for recreation should be made accessible to people with disabilities. Volunteer organizations may provide aides to assist participants.

### Specialized Programming

Grant funding or local providers outside the City may provide opportunities to develop funding specific to persons with disabilities.

### Low Income Groups

#### *Issues and Benefits*

Low-income groups have needs similar to those of other groups. These groups, however, are much more likely to be dependent on resources close to home. An effort to make all programming accessible to these groups is needed. Subsidizing programs for lower income participants as well providing some free programs, and programs within lower income communities will be important.

#### *Recommendations*

##### Scholarship program

A scholarship program should be developed to cover a percentage of program fees for those eligible. Lower-income residents should be encouraged to participate in all programming.

##### Free Programs

Having some free programming would include residents who may not be able to afford fee-based programs but are hesitant to apply for a scholarship program.

##### Programs Close to Home

Transportation can be a significant barrier for lower income residents. Programs, close to lower income housing should be available. The City is fortunate to have a community center in a very accessible location. Holding programs directly within lower income apartment communities would increase participation even more

##### Community Gardening

Community gardening can serve a dual function for low-income residents. Besides generating a program to involve whole families, community gardening can reduce expense and improve health by generating abundant and nutritious food. A site in Old Town Fairview might be an appropriate location for a community garden.

## **J. Priorities for Implementation**

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Given the City's limited economic resources, the City must focus on supporting a limited number of actions in the short term. These implementation priorities are intended to direct the City's actions toward recreation for the next two to five years. This section should be re-examined continually and updated on a bi-annual basis to assure it reflects actual priorities of the City. Long-term priorities are also identified in this section to allow for a vision reaching beyond the next three to five years.

Through examination of this draft recreation Master plan and ongoing discussions with City Staff, the local community, Parks Advisory Committee and City Council, two main interests emerge as top priorities for implementation. These are:

- Improving the Community Center facility (Old City Hall) and assuring full use of the center through developing and facilitating high quality recreation programming.
- Providing additional capacity and higher quality spaces for sports activities.

### **Community Center & Recreation Service Development**

The development of recreation programming can be addressed in two major ways. One is to provide City staff to coordinate recreation resources. A second is to contract with an existing recreation provider. Either approach would help refine plans for redevelopment of the building. In the light of fiscal constraints affecting the City for the foreseeable future, the second option makes the most sense. It is potentially much more cost effective. This approach can be used to address many of the goals identified in this plan.

The primary role of a recreation provider (such as the YMCA) will be to develop and provide programming at the Community Center. This programming will substitute, at least in the short term, for a City-run recreation program. A variety of programming within the Community Center can be developed. A recreation provider should involve the community in the decision making process. Youth, especially teens, seniors, and lower income groups have been identified as top priorities for a focus on recreation programming. In addition to a focus on the Community Center, the recreation provider can develop programming at City parks. An advisory committee, or similar entity, specific to the development of programming and the new community center, will assure programming addresses specific needs, such as focusing on lower income residents and taking advantage of natural areas. The programming section of this recreation plan should be used as a guiding document for this programming. Once the recreation provider is in place, this entity can provide additional resources including the following, identified as priorities by the City:

- Foster support for program development at the Community Center.
- Coordinate existing volunteers. Many recreation providers actively recruit and use local volunteers in the community. Once a recreation coordinator is working within the City, such recruitment is likely to take place.
- Work with the City to create a new brochure summarizing programming within Fairview and neighboring communities.
- Collect brochures from other cities and programs.

- Work with other local recreation providers to host programs in Fairview. This includes East Area Events for Youth and Families, an organization of local City's, Mt. Hood Community College, and the YMCA, focusing on teen programming.
- Support building costs by sharing program revenues with the City.

### *Long Term Priorities*

Long-term, a grant should be developed to improve bathrooms in the Community Center and upgrade other amenities at the Center. Grants written cooperatively with a non-profit, tend to be more competitive. Grant funding is available from the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD), which addresses ADA upgrade needs. This is the first step in developing a multi-functional performance space at the Community Center. Funding for improvements to the Community Center may also come from System Development Charge funds.

### Funding

The recreation provider (YMCA) will offer its services as part of its mission. The City will support these services by subsidizing the cost of maintaining the community center building. This revenue is currently allocated from the general fund.

Grant funding from local businesses, such as Target, the Metro Regional Arts Council and local organizations supporting recreation programming, can help supplement programming. Funding can be distributed through the recreation provider to target specific groups within the City.

Ongoing maintenance could be funded through a bond measure providing park resource maintenance.

### Development of Active Recreation Spaces

Currently, funding for capital improvements is designated for community level park resources only at Fairview Community Park. All other community park resources are located exclusively at school sites. Given the high demand for sports-fields and courts, increasing use of current facilities is unlikely. Thus, cooperating with schools to expand capacity of existing resources and build new sports facilities on school properties is appropriate. This process will also address the identified goal of developing agreements with local schools. Cooperating with schools is the most cost effective means possible to expand active recreation resources. This will include financial support to schools and updating the capital improvement plan to allow use of SDC funds on school sites.

Working cooperatively with schools is a goal identified both in the Parks Master Plan and the Recreation Master Plan. The City currently has no funding to provide for additional maintenance at any new City owned fields. Combining field maintenance through such an approach would greatly reduce maintenance costs over all and allow the school district to provide much of the necessary maintenance. The first criteria for spending City capital improvement funds on school property should include determining whether the expanded resources provide an additional community benefit that would not otherwise be provided

by the school district and whether the City could legally expend funds on school property. An intergovernmental agreement that assures facilities meet general community as well as school needs must be created. The City should continue to have meetings with school employees to leverage resources and discover shared funding opportunities.

The following projects are identified priorities; a specific project should be selected and pursued:

Baseball Field Improvement at Fairview Elementary

The improvement of baseball fields at Fairview Elementary School was completed in 2002. This will serve as an example to move other projects forward.

Soccer and Baseball Field at Woodland Elementary

The development of a soccer field and baseball field at Woodland Elementary School is identified as a high priority. Local soccer clubs may be able to contribute resources to the development of this field. The City should consider if financial resources would make this project a greater success. According to school district staff, the Reynolds School District has no plans to develop this resource further, as the elementary school finds it acceptable for day-to-day use. Developing the field into a league quality field would greatly increase its value to the community. The estimated cost of this project is less than \$30,000.

Expansion of Basketball Facilities at Reynolds Middle School and Fairview Elementary School

The outdoor basketball area at Reynolds Middle School is used constantly by the local neighborhood, especially the Latino community. Expansion of the basketball facilities at Reynolds Middle School would entail a rain shelter, greatly expanding seasonal use of the facility. Since the school district has no current plans for expansion of this site, involvement of the City may create an additional community resource. At Fairview Elementary School, the tennis courts are currently unusable. Current plans are to resurface these courts, however, school district staff is supportive of redeveloping the area into a multifunctional sports court.

Development of a Skate Park

Two sites have been identified as potential sites for a skate park. One is located at Fairview Elementary and one at Reynolds Middle School. Both potential sites are currently unusable tennis courts. More safety concerns are likely to arise from a site at Fairview Elementary due to the younger age of students, and lack of buffer space between the site and the neighborhood. Further, the eminent construction project at Fairview Elementary does not leave enough time for planning of such a park. Plans for a skate park at the middle school should be coordinated with the new skate park being developed at Blue Lake Park. This park should be designed to meet demands not met by the regional facility at Blue Lake. The City could work with the school district to provide a resource neither could develop on its own.

#### Soccer Field at Fairview Elementary

A small site is located on Depot Street adjacent to Fairview Elementary School. This site is just large enough for one soccer field. It may not contain enough space for spectators; however, it could serve as a practice field and as expanded capacity for school activities. This field is adjacent to school property and might be maintained by school district staff. While zoned as industrial land, it might be rented on an indefinite basis for the use of a soccer field. The estimated cost of improving this area is between \$4,000 and \$10,000 dollars. Due to the small cost of potential site development and proximity to Fairview Elementary School, the potential for the development of this site should be pursued.

#### Expansion of Use Capacity at Reynolds Middle School Baseball Fields

Addressing the need to increase available fields will require new construction or expansion of use capacity on current fields. The lighting of existing baseball fields at Reynolds Middle School is one of the most cost effective ways of increasing capacity without constructing new fields. Lighting these fields would increase capacity by opening the field to evening use by older students and adults, who are currently excluded due to high demand from younger players.

The placement of two baseball fields back to back at Reynolds Middle School increases the potential by allowing these fields to be lighted by one set of infrastructure. Lighting two fields at Reynolds Middle School would provide the capacity of one and one-third additional fields at an estimated cost of \$175,000 dollars. This is a great savings over construction and maintenance of a new field and associated facilities.

Compared with the City's priority of constructing a quality soccer field at Park Cleone, the estimated cost of such a project appears high. However, when land value or the cost of amenities such as bathrooms, power and parking faculties and long-term maintenance costs are considered, such an option is much more attractive.

#### Creation of New Fields at the Middle School Campus

The City should investigate joint provision options for installing new fields at the new elementary school. The School District has planned one soccer field for the alternative school located adjacent to Reynolds Middle School. The City should facilitate the construction of these fields as much as possible.

#### City Athletic Fields and Park Development at Park Cleone

While addressing school sites as a priority for construction makes the most sense in the short term, the City has committed to the development of its own field adjacent to Park Cleone. Given the extremely limited availability of sites for field development, new field space should be acquired as soon as possible.

The Parks Master Plan identifies one site, located just west of Park Cleone on 207<sup>th</sup> and Halsey, as a potential site for a soccer field. The City should proceed with the development of this field. Such a field will not only help meet the high and increasing demand for soccer fields, it would simultaneously transform one of its neighborhood parks

into a second City-owned community park resource. The Parks SDC budget in the Parks plan indicates \$1,400,000 will be needed for development of this site. An additional \$868,000 is budgeted for park development. Costs of field construction and amenities add up to under \$150,000 so some savings may be possible. The estimated cost of creating a top quality field adjacent to Park Cleone is \$40,000, however, this does not account for the additional costs of picnic areas, restrooms and parking. A maximum of 40 parking spaces would cost approximately, \$60,000. Since the site is located on a utility easement, long-term use of the land may be free of charge. Bathroom construction costs are estimated at \$25,000; however, construction of bathrooms could be postponed to reduce maintenance burdens on City staff.

This recreation plan identifies the need to create a major play structure, larger than those currently constructed. Park Cleone may serve as a prime location for a significant play structure costing in the range of \$100,000. Any major play structure should complement what is available at Woodland Elementary School, which is currently planning significant play equipment. The combination of these facilities would make Park Cleone a community level park resource, rather than the neighborhood park it currently functions as. Unfortunately, no construction can begin until the City procures additional maintenance dollars. A future bond measure may provide new maintenance funding.

### *Long Term Priorities*

#### Development of Sports Park

Construction of one or two sports fields will not come close to meeting the demand for high quality sports fields. The Parks Master Plan proposes the development of a major sports park at a site just off of Marine Drive. The development of such a site would require the purchase of significant land and development costs between four and sixteen million dollars. The coordination of such a project requires a great deal of time and energy. The City does not currently have the volunteer or staff resources to pursue such a project. No other entity has emerged with the necessary coordination energy.

The potential site is being assessed for the development of a technology park. Various constraints, such as large areas of wetland and power-line easements may make this site less desirable for a campus and more ideal for sports field development. As suggested in the active recreation section of this document, the City should continue to seek out cooperation and search for those who may be interested in the development of such a park. As the Gresham Youth Sports Alliance completes their project in Gresham, the City should encourage them to look at a site within or adjacent to Fairview. The City should consider actively coordinating interested parties as soon as the City can afford to fund human resources to do so. Ultimately, such a park could be constructed by an East County Park District. Given the limited park and recreation resources currently available in Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, and Wood Village, such a district makes sense in the long-term.

Increasing Access to Blue Lake Park

Bicycle access improvements along 223<sup>rd</sup> Avenue were identified in the Parks Master Plan and in this document as a major priority. Funding might be available through Federal ISTEPA funds, which support the development of bicycle and pedestrian pathways. Connecting Fairview with Blue Lake & Chinook Landing Regional Parks will effectively increase local recreation spaces by providing access to residents who would otherwise be cut off from these parks. While few funding programs exist to address the development of sports fields, a variety of funding programs are available for trail and accessway improvements. The City staff should pursue this funding and develop a grant proposal for the project.

## Matrix of Priorities for Recreation Resources

The following matrix summarizes potential action items identified in this plan by category.

Category	Recommendation	Priority	Action
<b>Promote Existing Parks &amp; Programs</b>	Create brochure listing parks and recreation programming of Fairview and major resources of neighboring areas	1	Parks committee, and local volunteers help staff develop brochure.
	Provide information and brochures from other cities and programs	2	City staff should make contact and collect brochures from local Cities and organizations for distribution at City Hall and other community sites.
<b>Staffing and Coordination, Development and Implementation of Recreation Programming</b>	Pursue agreement with YMCA to develop recreation programming in City in exchange for space in Community Center	1	Continue to have staff coordinate with YMCA. Have staff and Parks Advisory Committee develop a potential agreement based on existing agreements with other Cities.
	Coordinate existing community volunteers to staff and develop recreational programming.	2	City should allocate staff resources to the coordination volunteer resources already in the city.
	Partner with East Area Events for Youth and Families to develop Teen programs in Fairview	3	Have staff or parks advisory committee members attend EASEY meetings to coordinate efforts.
	Existing Recreation Providers invited to host programs in Fairview	4	Offer community center and other resources as spaces for events led by other organizations. This can be facilitated through contacts made at EASEY meetings.
	Create Recreation Coordinator Position	Long term	Acquire funding to have a half time or full time recreation coordinator. Position might be shared with another City and would focus first on volunteer resources.
<b>Community Centers</b>	Create advisory group for community center programming and development.	1	Have staff work with parks advisory committee, YMCA and volunteer organizations to develop community center advisory group.
	Help support cost of community center through rentals and program fees.	2	Adopt community center rental policies and seek out tenants that can provide regular income.
	Facilitate use of bandstand as rain-shelter and picnicking area.	3	Invest in appropriate equipment
	Create interpretive exhibits and programs at Heslin house.	4	Coordinate and support historical society in generating interpretive exhibits for Heslin House, as well as site tours.
	Cooperate with Multnomah Library County Staff	5	Devote staff and volunteer time to the coordination of programming with library staff.
	Develop a multifunctional/ performance space at the Fairview Community Center.	Long term 1	Secure Grant funding for upgrade of restrooms and redevelopment of upper floor. Partner with non-profit group to seek this funding.
	Facilitate the use of the Heslin House for small retreats and meetings to generate revenue.	Long term 2	Set clear policies and market restored house

Category	Recommendation	Priority	Action
<b>Active Recreation</b>	Complete Baseball Field Improvement Project at Fairview Elementary	1	Facilitate installation of sprinkler system through waiving of existing fees. Continue to check on progress made by school district
	Develop agreement with local schools to increase planning possibilities.	2	Set up a series of meetings with school administrators and managers.
	Expand capacity/ construct fields on school sites	3	Continue meeting with school officials, identify top priority project and facilitate development or expansion of priority resource
	Expand capacity through the construction of lighting facilities.	4	Work with school district to light baseball fields at Reynolds Middle School, securing use for older youth and adults in evenings.
	Develop Soccer Field at Park Cleone	5	Secure funding from Parks budget and proceed with refined cost estimates.
	Develop Sand Volley Ball Court	6	Determine best site for the cost-effective development of a volleyball court.
	Cooperatively develop Skate Park	Long term 1	Work with school district to develop a skate park at Reynolds Middle School to compliment Blue Lake facility.
	Develop larger play Structure, serving entire city.	Long term 2	Determine the best location for structure. Have Parks Committee visit multiple sites such as "Imagination Station" to investigate options for larger-scale structure.
	Development of Large Scale Sports Park	Long term 3	Develop a strategic relationship with the Gresham Youth Sports Alliance to work toward development of facility in Fairview once the 33-acre park in Gresham is complete.
<b>Trails</b>	Restore Fairview Woods Park	1	Work with volunteers, & advisory committee to repair trails and eliminate extraneous trails at park. Acquire grant funding to post interpretive signage in park.
	Preserve and improve quality of Salish Ponds Wetlands Park	2	Work with school district to acquire grant funding for interpretive signage. Consider re-alignment of trail sections adjacent to Target.
	Facilitate Access to Blue Lake Park through pathway system.	Long term 1	Acquire grant funding to increase pedestrian infrastructure.
	Develop Connections with Spring Water Corridor Trail	Long term 2	Have Member of Parks advisory committee get involved with planning for the Spring Water Trail, to investigate issues and explore potential connections.

Category	Recommendation	Priority	Action
<b>Natural and Cultural Resources and Recreation</b>	Restoration oriented community events	1	Continue to coordinate events centered around planting and restoration efforts.
	Create Adopt-A-Park Program	2	Devote staff volunteer coordination resources to work with existing community to develop adopt-a-park program and tap in to existing community groups while strengthening existing partnerships.
	Community Garden	3	Work with local community and volunteers to develop a community garden in Old Town Fairview
	Expand interpretive elements in Salish Ponds Wetlands Park and Fairview Woods Park	4	Follow through with existing school partnerships and implement Salish Ponds Wetlands Park. Work with schools to expand existing education programming to Fairview Woods Park.
	Develop partnerships with community organizations,	5	Devote staff volunteer coordination resources to work with local youth organizations and the Fairview Creek Watershed Conservation Group
	Develop Historic Walking Tour of the City	6	Contract with Historical Society to Develop Tour in exchange for use of Heslin House and new Community Center.
	Encourage AmeriCorps Employee to focus on educational elements and restoration opportunities	7	Have parks advisory committee member work with AmeriCorps employee to guide educational programming.
	Summer Camps and After School Programs	Long Term 1	Devote staff resources to encouraging recreation providers such as YMCA and Outdoor School to have camps at Salish Ponds Wetlands Park; work with local schoolteachers to develop self-supporting programming.
	Develop Model Native Plan Garden	Long Term 2	Acquire grant funding and determine the best site for garden.

## **V. Appendices**

### **Appendix A: Recreation Survey**

The attached survey was sent to all residents of Fairview in May 2001

## **Appendix B: List of Local Organizations**

### **Organizations Identified by Survey Respondents**

<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Bally's Athletic Club	Fairview
Boys and Girls Club	Lents, Portland
CAC	Gresham
CCI	Longview
Columbia Aviation Club	Aurora Airport
Dan Anderson Karate	Gresham
Gold's Gym	Gresham
Greater Portland Aquarium Society	Portland
Historical Society	Fairview
Interlachen Inc.	Blue Lake
Men's Softball Assoc.	Portland
Nat'l Hot Rod Association	Portland
Nat'l Kart Association	Portland
OHSU Extension Services	310 SW 4th Avenue, Portland OR, 97204
Portland Area Model Aircraft Association	Portland
Red Cross	Portland
Reynolds Little League	Troutdale
YMCA	Gresham
Royal Neighbors of America	Portland

### Appendix C: Sports User Groups

<p>Gresham Youth Soccer Association                  Ron Bateman                  Home #503-663-2155                  Work #503-416-2352</p>	<p>Gresham Little League                  Terry Wells                  Home #503-663-4016  <a href="mailto:Email-terrywells@cs.com">Email-terrywells@cs.com</a></p>
<p>GYSC                  Lyle Van Gorden                  Home #503-674-8518</p>	<p>Multnomah Cricket club                  Kerry Jeffrey                  Home #503-226-3244</p>
<p>Greater East Multnomah Softball Assoc.                  GEMSCA                  Robert Van deborg                  Home #503-666-6760</p>	<p>Portland Cricket Club                  Humayun Malik                  Home #503-618-2631                  Work #503-748-8171  <a href="mailto:Email-kmgj@hevanet.com">Email-kmgj@hevanet.com</a></p>
<p>Rockwood Reynolds soccer                  Teri Sutherland                  Home #503-666-3031</p>	<p>Rockwood Junior baseball                  Jim Stewart                  Home #503-667-6056</p>
<p>West Villa Soccer Association                  Steve Miller                  Works #503-622-4900                  Fax #503-622-4944</p>	<p>Gresham Women's Soccer Club                  Mary Jane Mullaney                  Home #503-661-7783</p>
<p>Reynolds ASA                  Mike Korst                  Home #503-661-3819</p>	<p>Mt Hood YMCA-Sports                  Matt Wallace                  Phone #503-665-8150</p>
<p>Portland Police Badgers                  Mark Georgioff                  Home #503-708-2920                  Works #503-312-5355</p>	<p>Purple Haze                  Alisha Hamel                  Home #503-252-7648</p>
<p>Gresham/Barlow Girls Softball                  Walt Stockfleth                  Home #503-669-7390</p>	<p>Mexican Tazero Cordenas                  Eva Cortex                  Home #503-762-1018</p>



# Parks and Recreation Survey

The City of Fairview is currently planning for recreation programs and facilities to meet the needs of citizens at all age levels, needs and walks of life. This year, the City plans to open the former grange hall and city hall as a community center, providing a home for cultural and educational programs as well as meeting spaces for community organizations. In addition we are completing four new parks: Fairview Community Park; Lakeshore Park; Pelfrey Park and Marilyn's Park. In creating a ten-year vision for recreation in Fairview, the City seeks to celebrate our unique natural and historic features while providing for the recreation needs of our citizens.

The results of this survey will help the City to develop a recreation program serving you and your family. By taking a few minutes to complete this survey and returning it, you will provide the city with invaluable information about your needs.

**Thank you for your participation!**



This survey and other opportunities for comment are available for submission via worldwide web at [www.ci.fairview.or.us/survey.htm](http://www.ci.fairview.or.us/survey.htm)

1. Please place an "X" by the parks and recreation facilities you or your family use. For school-sites, please include only non-school functions.



2. How often do you or other family members use recreation facilities or parks within and outside of Fairview? (Please place an "X" in the appropriate blank.)

Parks and Recreation Resources Visited	
Local Pocket Parks	
Fairview Woods Park	
Salish Wetlands Park	
Park Cleone	
Pettijohn Park	
Indoor gyms and cafeteriums at local schools	
outdoor areas at local schools	
Reynolds Pool	
Blue Lake Park	
Chinook Landing Marine Park	
Mt. Hood Comm. College Pool	
Imagination Station (Troutdale)	
other:	
other:	

Location of Recreation Activities	Frequency of Recreation Activity			
	1-2 times/ year	monthly/ several times/ year	several times/ month	several times/ week
Within Fairview				
Outside Fairview				

3. What one improvement would you most like to see to Fairview's parks or recreation facilities?

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4. What one thing would you most like to see the city's new community center used for?

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5. In developing a long-term recreation plan to serve you, the City of Fairview would like to know what kinds of activities you and your family are currently involved in and what kinds of activities you would like more opportunities for.

A. Place an "X" in the appropriate blank representing how often you and members of your family participate in the activities below.

B. Please place an "X" in the second column based on the need you and your family are experiencing for more opportunities to participate in that activity.

Activity Type	A. Frequency of Participation in Activity				B. Level of Need for more Opportunities			
	1-2 times/ year	monthly/ several times/ year	several times/ month	several times/ week	Needs are satisfied	Some need	Strong need	Great need
Nature walks/ birding								
Gardening, nature restoration								
Canoeing/Boating/ Fishing								
Biking								
Walking/ Hiking/ Dog Walking								
Basketball								
Soft Ball/ Baseball								
Soccer								
Tennis								
Swimming								
Skateboarding/ in- line skating								
Fine arts/ crafts								
Developing practical skills								
Interest clubs								
Day camps								
Special event for youth or families								
Other:								
Other:								

6. Please comment on what you feel is most important for a recreation program in Fairview to focus on.

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7. Think about the activities you checked on the previous page. Were some of these activities sponsored by an organization such as a city, ball club, after school program, special interest clubs, etc? If so, please list the name, location, and if possible, the contact information for each organization you or members of your family are involved with. This information will help the city to develop a data-base of recreation organizations.

Recreation Organizations You and Your Family Are Involved With		
Name of Organization	Location (City)	Contact Information (Optional)

8. Future recreation programming will focus on serving many different types of users but there may be certain groups with special needs for recreation services. Based on the needs of your family and those around you, circle the one or two groups with needs that should take a higher priority.

**User Group:**

- Elementary age youth
- Teens
- Families
- Adults
- Senior adults
- People with disabilities
- Diverse cultural groups
- Meeting opportunities for local Clubs/ organizations
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the need that one of these groups has or a program that might meet the needs of this group.

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<p align="center"><b>Important Background Information</b></p> <p>Where do you live? (Circle one)</p> <p>Old-town Fairview    Fairview Village</p> <p>Fairview Lake Area    Sandy Boulevard Area</p>	<p>Ages of Children _____</p> <p>Number over 65 in household _____</p> <p>Race (optional) _____</p>
	<p>How long have you lived here? (Circle one.)</p> <p>Less than 1 year    1-3 years    3-6 years</p> <p>6-10 years            11-25 years    over 25 years</p>
<p>Do you rent or own your home? (Circle one)</p> <p align="center">rent            own</p>	

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Community Development Department



**Be A Volunteer!**

If you would like to volunteer to help with the city's parks or recreation program please place a check in the appropriate boxes below. Please also provide us with your contact information.

My organization or myself would be willing to...

Participate in a city parks clean up day or tree planting and nature restoration activities

Adopt a park or trail and help maintain it.

Help to lead a recreational event.

Help to develop recreation programming.

Contact Information (optional)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/ \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**After completing this survey, please place a stamp in the space indicated below, re-fold the survey and staple or tape it where indicated. Please return by May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Please address any questions regarding this survey or the recreation program to Melissa Widman in the Community Development Department at 503-674-6205; widmanm@ci.fairview.or.us

Place stamp here

**Att: Parks & Recreation Survey Administrator  
City of Fairview  
Community Development Department  
P.O. Box 337  
Fairview, Oregon 97024**

Staple Here  
X