
SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

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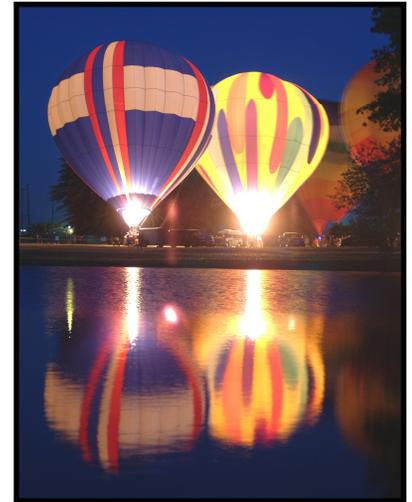
In Spring 2005, the City of Albany began creating a plan for the redesign and development Timber Linn Park. The Timber Linn Park Master Plan addresses neighborhood, community, and citywide needs for a variety of recreation facilities and experiences. It incorporates many different types of recreation opportunities into the unique and appealing park setting at Timber Linn.

The Master Plan is based on feedback provided by City residents during a public involvement process. Consequently, the plan supports diverse recreation interests and reflects the vision of the entire community. The implementation of this Master Plan will give the City a park that is uniquely Albany's, but serves as a regional attraction as well. The park will provide the kind of recreation experiences that the community desires and encourage recreation participation and use from as many residents as possible.

1.1 PLANNING PROCESS

The goal of the Timber Linn Park Master Plan is to provide a conceptual model and implementation strategy for the redevelopment of Timber Linn Park. Figure 1.1 introduces the three-part planning process that was established to meet this goal.

- **Phase I: Vision Formulation:** Public opinion, recreation patterns, and perceived community needs were measured through several public involvement activities, including a citywide recreation survey, community fair, focus group meeting, sport group questionnaire, and advisory committee meetings. Key findings from all public involvement activities contributed toward a community vision for Timber Linn Park.
- **Phase II: Site Assessment:** Phase II involved assessing and mapping the site characteristics, facilities, and general use zones at Timber Linn Park. Opportunities and constraints for park redevelopment were identified to create a basis for the Master Plan.
- **Phase III: Plan Development:** Three conceptual models of the park were developed to illustrate various design options, each reflecting different aspects of the community's vision for Timber Linn Park and the opportunities noted in the site assessment. Phase III involved refining these concepts into one model to present in the Master Plan. The final plan, including cost estimates and an implementation strategy to develop the park, was presented to the community, Park & Recreation Commission, and City Council for review and approval.



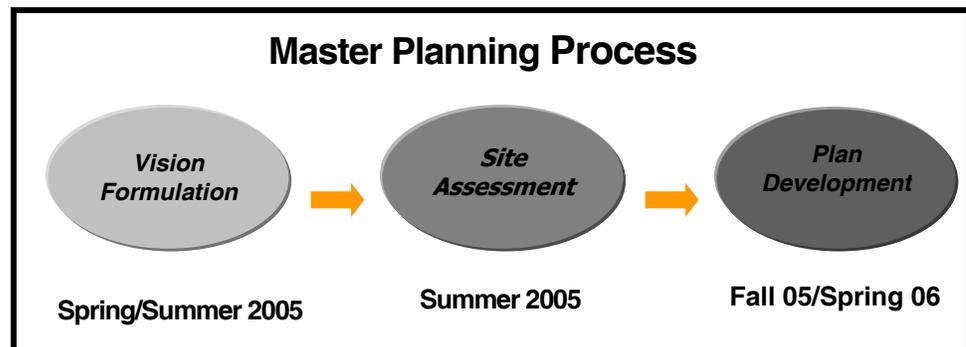


Figure 1.1: Planning Process

1.2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Key findings from all public involvement activities in the master planning process contributed toward a community vision for Timber Linn Park. Feedback from Albany residents was solicited through several public involvement opportunities, including:

- **Timber Linn Workshops:** Three public workshops were held in Fall 2004 (October 9, October 20, and November 9) to discuss the re-design and development of Timber Linn Park.
- **Needs Assessment Survey:** A statistically valid survey designed to elicit information about citywide recreation interests, behavior, attitudes, and participation was conducted in Albany between April and June 2005. Two questions in the survey specifically addressed activities and improvements for Timber Linn Park. A total of 305 questionnaires were completed by City residents, which is sufficient to represent all residents with a 95% confidence level and less than 5.6% variation in results.
- **Community Fair:** A Park and Recreation Community Fair was held on Saturday, April 2, 2005, at Heritage Mall in conjunction with Super Fitness Saturday, the Shape Up Across Oregon Kick-Off, and the KGAL/KSHO Family Living Expo. Because the fair was part of these popular events, over 300 residents who may not otherwise have participated in the Master Planning process answered questions about their recreation preferences.
- **Organized Sports Questionnaire:** Representatives from several sports organizations responded to questionnaires to provide information on sport teams in Albany and their facility needs. Several comments related specifically to sports programming and field quality at Timber Linn.

- **Recreation Providers Focus Group:** Seven private providers and five City staff met on June 22, 2005, to discuss park and recreation services, service gaps, and programming and facility needs in Albany.
- **Timber Linn Focus Group:** Twenty-two focus group participants met on July 11, 2005, to discuss community needs and preferences for park improvements and facilities at Timber Linn Park.



The planning process also included input and review by two advisory groups:

- **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):** Members of the Technical Advisory Committee met three times during the planning process to discuss their vision for the city's park system and priorities for the renovation and development of parks and facilities, including Timber Linn.
- **Key City Staff:** The director, managers, and coordinators from the Park and Recreation Department met during the planning process to provide direction for the development of the Park and Recreation Master Plan and the Timber Linn Master Plan. These staff represented the following service areas: park maintenance, recreation, sports, seniors, and youth and family.

These efforts contributed toward a better understanding of the physical attributes of the Timber Linn site, public attitudes regarding site use and development, community recreation interests and participation, and issues to be addressed in the park design. This community vision was incorporated into the conceptual model presented in this report. Key findings from each of the public involvement activities are summarized in the *Timber Linn Site Analysis and Vision Report*, which is available from the Park and Recreation Department.

1.3 REPORT ORGANIZATION

The Master Plan is organized into three sections and one appendix:

- **Section 1: Introduction** includes the purpose of the report, the planning process, public involvement activities, and the organization of this document.
- **Section 2: Park Design** presents the three design options for Timber Linn, as well as the final conceptual model for the park. Key features and facilities in the model are highlighted in this section.

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- **Section 3: Implementation** describes an implementation strategy for the redevelopment of the Timber Linn site. This section includes a summary of the estimated costs, phasing, and a proposed timeline for park improvements.
- **Appendix A: Existing Site Conditions** summarizes the key findings from the site assessment, including the park's location, park classification, site characteristics, general use zones, and opportunities and constraints for developing the site.

The Timber Linn Master Plan also utilized information developed during the City of Albany Park and Recreation Master Plan update. Key findings from the following documents were included in the development of the Timber Linn Master Plan. These documents have been published under a separate cover and are available from the Park and Recreation Department:

- *Existing Parks and Facilities*, May 2005
- *Needs Assessment Survey*, July 2005
- *Community Needs Assessment*, August 2005
- *Timber Linn Site Analysis and Vision*, September 2005