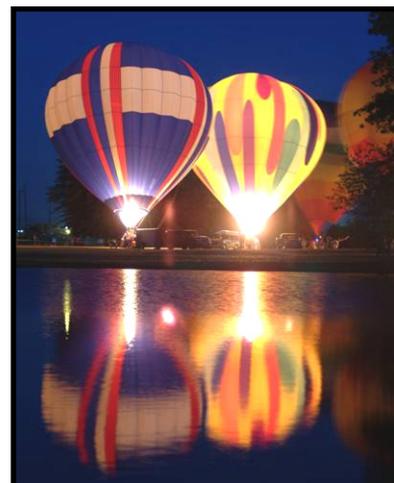


RECOMMENDATIONS

The ideal park system for Albany is one made up of a hierarchy of different types of parks, each offering a variety of recreation and/or open space opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve a primary function, but collectively these parks will meet the needs of the entire community.

This chapter describes the recommended park system for Albany, which is based on providing recreation experiences on a neighborhood scale, community scale, and city-wide. These recommendations were developed from the findings of the Community Needs Assessment, a comprehensive analysis of park and facility needs. In addition, this chapter describes the park and facility improvements needed at all existing and proposed sites. Pathways and trails, athletic facilities, and indoor recreation centers are given special attention because of their significance within the park system. Additional recommendations and strategies for non-capital projects and operations are included at the end of the chapter.



5.1 PARK SYSTEM

Planning Concept

Albany's future park system should provide every resident in Albany with convenient access to a variety of recreation opportunities and parkland experiences. To achieve this goal, every neighborhood in Albany should be served by either a neighborhood park or a community park with adequate size and amenities to serve the population in that area. Parks should be located within each identified neighborhood for easy access by bicycle or foot. (Neighborhood areas are illustrated in Figure 3.1.)

The proposed park system expands on the existing system, adding a neighborhood park or a community park in each area that is currently unserved but growing in population. Developing four additional neighborhood parks and one community park in Albany in the next five years to serve Areas #4, 5, 13, and 22 is recommended. Only Area 6, with the smallest population of any neighborhood zone and the least anticipated growth, will not have a park within this planning timeframe.

Recommendations are presented for city-wide trail development, including two trails to be built in the next five years. This proposed trail development will add a south section to the Swanson Park/Transit Center Pedestrian Loop and a new trail running along the Thurston and Santiam Canals near the Willamette River. In time, additional

recreation resources will be added, such as a natural area near the Calapooia River and six additional trail corridors.



This plan also recommends the development of more sport facilities citywide, such as seven new ball fields at Timber Linn Park and a new soccer complex at the proposed community park. New recreation facilities are proposed as well, such as an off-leash dog park and a new community center to be built in partnership with other providers to meet Albany's need for indoor activity space. Moreover, the plan identifies several new facilities to support the activities that residents participate in most, such as playing on playgrounds, picnicking, and walking for pleasure and exercise.

Along with the development of new parks and facilities, this plan recommends improvements to existing parks and renovations to existing facilities. These upgrades will protect existing investments, enhance user safety and accessibility, maximize maintenance efficiency, and support recreation activities. Plans for park renovations include proposed improvements to the amphitheater at Timber Linn Park, as recommended in the new master plan for that site. Other improvements include replacing aging playgrounds that do not meet current design and safety requirements.

Finally, recommendations are proposed to have the City identify and address specific park, facility, and maintenance needs throughout the park system. The most significant of these projects includes a Goal 5 Study to identify significant natural resource areas within the City; an ADA Transition Plan to evaluate accessibility in parks and recreation facilities as required by the American with Disabilities Act; a Maintenance Management Plan to develop and define a maintenance level for each park type; and Facility Use Agreements to strengthen partnerships with other agencies for joint scheduling, use, and maintenance of sport facilities.

Proposed Park System

Figure 5.1 illustrates the proposed park system. The map illustrates the location of existing park and recreation resources, along with the conceptual location of proposed park sites and trails that are recommended for development.

This map does not pinpoint exact locations for proposed sites and trails. Instead, it suggests a general trail route or area for park development, based on community needs, land-use patterns, the expertise of key City staff, and current plans for development within the City.

Insert Figure 5.1: Proposed Park System map

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Important notes about the map include:

- Proposed park sites and trails are coded with a letter and number (such as NP-3). The code refers to the following: neighborhood parks (NP), community parks (CP), natural areas (NA), and trails (T). The numbers are for reference only and are included on the system map and with recommendations for each site.
- Colored asterisks indicate proposed neighborhood parks, community parks, and natural areas. The symbols show the general location for each proposed park. The final location of park sites will be determined later in the development of City plans. Actual park locations will be influenced by land availability, acquisition costs, property ownership, and opportunities to purchase property.

This chapter presents recommendations for parkland development and improvements to be implemented in the next ten years. Recommendations for proposed park sites are discussed first, followed by existing parks, which are listed in alphabetical order by park name. Trails and recreation facilities are included in Sections 5.2 and 5.3 respectively.

Proposed Parks

This 10-year plan recommends the acquisition and development of five neighborhood parks, one new community park, and one natural area to meet community needs for accessible recreation opportunities to the year 2015.

Proposed Neighborhood Park

NP-1

A neighborhood park is proposed to serve Area #4, which has a current population of 1,609 people and has an anticipated population of 1,828 in the year 2015. Two new subdivisions, North Pointe Meadows and North Albany Village, have been approved for this area, and the target site for the park is a 9-acre open space tract including a pond near these subdivisions. Area #4 is currently unserved, and this proposed site will provide needed recreation opportunities in this area. The neighborhood park should be developed in accordance to the guidelines presented in Chapter 4, with facilities appropriate for the park size.



Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop Phase 1 of new site acquired by gift.
- Develop Phase 2.

Proposed Neighborhood Park**NP-2**

A neighborhood park is proposed to serve Area #5 in northeastern Albany, which is predicted to be the most rapidly growing residential area in the city. While the current population is 1,803 people, the area anticipates an 80% growth rate, increasing to 3,278 people by the year 2015. Five new subdivisions have added 756 lots in this vicinity since 2001, and another subdivision of 202 lots was proposed in June 2005. The neighborhood service area analysis conducted with the citywide Needs Assessment indicated that 7.5 acres of parkland will be needed in this area by the year 2015.

Area #5 is currently unserved; however, a future school site is proposed north of Knox Butte Road. This proposed site may offer an opportunity for joint facility development. Potential park land here would provide needed recreation opportunities and open space in this rapidly developing area. A neighborhood park should be developed in accordance to the guidelines presented in Chapter 4, with facilities appropriate for the park size. If the site is developed as a school park in partnership with GAPS, it should reflect joint facility needs.

Recommendations for this site include:

- Acquire a 5-7-acre site to serve this area.
- Develop 3 acres as a neighborhood park, leaving the remaining acreage as natural open space.

Proposed Neighborhood Park**NP-3**

A neighborhood park is proposed to serve Area #13 in central Albany, which is one of the more densely-developed neighborhoods in the city. The area has a current population of 2,549 people and an anticipated population of 2,681 people in the year 2015. Although the Periwinkle Bike Path runs through the eastern portion of this neighborhood, Area #13 currently does not have neighborhood-scale recreation facilities--such as a playground, picnic area, and outdoor basketball court--available to residents without crossing major roadways. The Albany Boys & Girls Club provides indoor recreation for youth at their facility in this area. The plan recommends exploring a potential partnership with the Boys & Girls Club to jointly develop a site east of the indoor facility as a neighborhood park.

Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop site as a neighborhood park.

Proposed Neighborhood Park**NP-4**

A neighborhood park is proposed to serve Area #16 in western Albany, which has a current population of 1,730 people and an anticipated population of 1,818 in the year 2015. This area is currently served by Hazelwood Park, which is located in the northwest corner of the area. Because the park is not centrally located and has limited potential for further development, this plan recommends developing a new neighborhood park in a more geographically accessible location. The City should consider possible opportunities to partner with GAPS or others in order to identify a feasible and centrally-located site for park development. The neighborhood park should be developed in accordance to the guidelines presented in Chapter 4.

Recommendations for this site include:

- Acquire a 3-acre site to serve this area, in lieu of developing Hazelwood Park.
- Develop site as a neighborhood park.

Proposed Neighborhood Park**NP-5**

A neighborhood park is proposed to serve Area #22 in southern Albany, which has been identified as a potential growth area. The recent annexation of the Henshaw property will likely contribute to development in this zone. The current population of Area #22 is 149 people, but it is expected to grow to 1,189 in the year 2015. The City should use dedicated land in this area to develop a neighborhood park in accordance to the guidelines presented in Chapter 4.

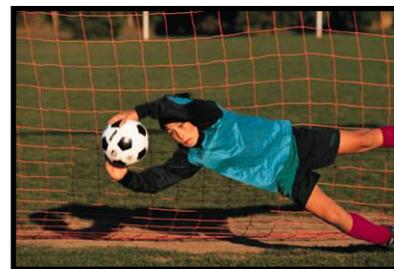
Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop a 3-acre site as a neighborhood park.

Proposed Community Park**CP-1**

The Community Needs Assessment identify a need for the following types of facilities commonly located in community parks:

- Sport fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)
- Outdoor basketball court
- Skate park
- Picnic pavilion/large group picnic area
- Play area
- Open space for children's and family activities
- Dog park



- Community garden
- Internal pathways and trails



Some, but not all, of these facility needs (baseball/softball fields, dog park) will be met through the redevelopment of Timber Linn Park. For this reason, a new community park is proposed in south Albany (Area #22) to provide space for other facilities (soccer/football fields, skate park) and to make certain facilities (picnic pavilion, community-scale play area) more geographically accessible to residents living in this part of the City. The City should develop the community park in accordance to the guidelines presented in Chapter 4. In selecting a site, the City should consider opportunities to link the park to the proposed Oak Creek Greenway and evaluate the natural resource value of wetlands in this area for possible preservation.

Recommendations for this site include:

- Acquire a 40-acre site for a community park in south Albany.
- Develop a soccer field complex.
- Develop additional community park facilities as indicated by needs identified in the needs assessment.

Proposed Natural Area

NA-1

A City-owned site near the Calapooia River in southwest Albany is recommended for preservation as a natural area. This former landfill site may require revegetation and habitat enhancement. Potential connections from this area to the existing Oak Creek Greenbelt trail, Spring Meadows Park, and Teloh Calapooia Park should be evaluated. Park development should include a riverfront trail, trailhead, overlooks, interpretive signage, and other appropriate amenities as indicated in the design guidelines in Chapter 4.

Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop/preserve 50 acres as natural area park, including a riverfront trail and trailhead, at the City-owned former landfill site along the Calapooia River.

Existing Parks

Several improvements are recommended in existing City parks to renovate and revitalize these sites. Existing parks with recommended improvements and/or new facility development are noted in alphabetical order.

Bowman Park

Bowman Park is a 26-acre riverfront park on the south side of the Willamette River in Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop new site master plan.
- Redesign trails and pedestrian access to park. Consider closure of some sections of park and trail to help resolve management issues.
- Provide more lighting.
- Relocate restroom closer to parking and shelter.



Bryant Park

Bryant Park is a 71.74 acre community park on the south side of the Willamette River. Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop new site master plan.
- Renovate ball fields (or relocate to another site).
- Redesign vehicle circulation and parking.
- Renovate/repair/relocate river shelter.

Burkhart Park

Burkhart Park is a 1.9 acre neighborhood park in north-central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Remove or renovate tennis court.
- Add shelter.

Burkhart Square

Burkhart Square is an urban open space of 0.15 acres in downtown Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop new site master plan to redesign and develop as more open, safer pedestrian urban space.
- Repair/replace concrete and bricks in plaza.
- Add public art.

Dave Clark Riverfront Path

The Dave Clark Riverfront Path is a 5-acre trail corridor/greenway that links parks on the south side of the Willamette River. Recommendations for this site include:

- Complete Bowman to Simpson Park connection.
- Provide additional fencing along steep riverbank.

Deerfield Park

Deerfield Park is a neighborhood park of 11.67 acres in southeast Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop new site master plan.
- Replace playground equipment.
- Install irrigation system.
- Install portable toilet station.
- Improve signage.



Draper Park

Draper Park is a neighborhood park of 5.18 acres in central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Replace playground equipment.
- Develop additional pathways.
- Replace lighting.
- Replace irrigation.

Gibson Hill Park

Gibson Hill Park is a newly-developed neighborhood park of 6.6 acres in northwest Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Add picnic shelter.

Grand Prairie Park

Grand Prairie Park is a neighborhood park of 9.49 acres in central-southeast Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Replace playground equipment.
- Evaluate/renovate restrooms for ADA compliance.
- Provide more parking.
- Extend irrigation to uncovered areas north of pond.



Hackleman (Eleanor) Park

Eleanor Hackleman Park is a neighborhood park of 3.51 acres in north-central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Remove/replace old picnic shelter.

Henderson Park

Henderson Park is a small neighborhood park of 0.44 acres in west-central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Provide lighting on back side.
- Replace single tennis court.
- Replace playground.

Lehigh Park

Lehigh Park is a neighborhood park of 5.12 acres in east-central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Replace playground equipment.
- Replace old picnic tables and benches and add wheelchair accessible tables.
- Replace irrigation system.
- Improve lighting.



Lexington Park

Lexington Park is a 10-acre neighborhood park in east-central Albany. Several park improvements projects for this site were included in the FY 05-06 City budget and are currently under construction. These projects include a perimeter walkway, a new basketball court, and an open play area. Additional recommendations for this site include:

- Add picnic shelter.
- Add more picnic tables and benches.
- Install portable toilet station.

Maple Lawn Park

Maple Lawn Park is a 2-acre neighborhood park in north-central Albany. The recommendation for this site includes:

- Extend irrigation to parking area on west.

Montieth Park

Monteith Park is a 10-acre citywide park of 6.27 acres on the south side of the Willamette River. Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop new site master plan, aligned with CARA objectives.
- Renovate stage.
- Remove or replace playground.
- Redesign parking and consolidate it with senior center parking.

Oak Creek Greenbelt

The OakCreek Greenbelt is a 52.29-acre natural area in southwest Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Provide new trailhead on west end.

Periwinkle Park

Periwinkle Park is a neighborhood park of 7.14 acres in central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Renovate overflow structure for pond and address water quality (stagnant during low flow).
- Replace bridge.
- Provide lighting along trail.
- Improve parking and pedestrian access from streets.

Pineway Park

Pineway Park is a neighborhood park of 1.01 acres in south-central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Replace playground equipment.
- Replace park furniture, signage.

Riverview Heights Park

Riverview Heights Park is a 1.75 acre neighborhood park in north Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Replace playground.
- Replace deteriorating sections of pathway.
- Add wheelchair accessible picnic tables.

Simpson Park

Simpson Park is a 129-acre natural area on the east side of the Willamette River, where the river turns northward. Recommendations for this site include:

- Develop new site master plan.
- Improve and use ponds as water quality enhancement feature, per State and City objectives.



Spring Meadows Park

Spring Meadows Park is a currently undeveloped neighborhood park of 1.80 acres in southwest Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Create a site master plan.
- Develop as a neighborhood park to serve Area #18.

Sunrise Park



Sunrise Park is a neighborhood park of 3.16 acres in central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Replace playground equipment.
- Widen pathways.
- Improve vehicle access and parking.

Swanson Park

Swanson Park is a neighborhood park of 3.16 acres in central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Complete improvements per 2005 site plan:
 - Replace playground.
 - Replace walkways.
 - Add shelter.

Takena Park

Takena Park is a 3-acre neighborhood park in west-central Albany. Recommendations for this site include:

- Complete new perimeter walks per new site plan.
- Add a new shelter building.
- Complete new portable toilet station.
- Remove wading pool.

Takena Landing

Takena Landing is a riverfront park of 71.92 acres on the north side of the Willamette River. Recommendations for this site include:

- Add security lighting.
- Install new pedestrian access from Highway 20 at the north end of bridge into the park.

Teloh Calapooia Park

Teloh Calapooia Park is a 28.70 acre neighborhood park in southwest Albany that encompasses natural area acreage. Recommendations for this site include:

- Replace playground.
- Provide lighting.

Timber Linn Park

Timber Linn Park is a 100.14 acre citywide park in east Albany. Timber Linn has a new site master plan, with recommendations for three phases of improvements. Recommendations include:

- Implement Phase I of Master Plan (Parking, NE playground, north gateway pavilion, dog park, landscaping).
- Implement Phase 2 of Master Plan (sport field development).
- Implement Phase 3 of Master Plan (amphitheater renovation, boardwalk, dock, bridge, trails, Veterans Memorial enhancement, new play area).

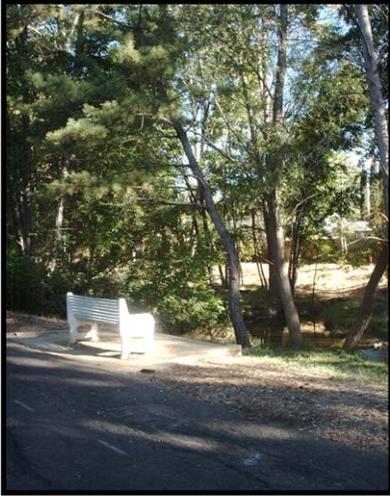
Waverly Park

Waverly Park is an urban open space of 19.81 acres at the City's entrance off Interstate 5 via the Highway 99 exit. Recommendations for this site include:

- Provide additional lighting along pathway.
- Replace irrigation.



5.2 PATHWAYS AND TRAILS



While there is a citywide need for several types of recreation facilities, perhaps the most significant demand has been noted for trails and pathways. According to the results of the Community Needs Assessment, the desire for more trails and opportunities for trail-related recreation was noted in nearly all public involvement events as well as national and statewide trends. Of various recreation activities, trail use is very popular in Albany. In fact, three of the ten most popular recreation activities in the City are trail-related: walking, bicycling for pleasure, and wildlife watching.

Trail development is needed to meet increasing community demands, to balance their geographic distribution, and to maximize opportunities for recreation along city canals, creeks, and rivers. To meet ADA requirements and provide for a variety of recreation uses, it is recommended that all new trails be accessible whenever feasible. Multi-purpose trails will encourage activities such as walking, jogging, biking, skateboarding, rollerblading, etc. Trails also provide linkages to parks, schools, and other key destinations.

Since trails are difficult to provide after an area has been developed, planning and designing trails for developing areas is essential. Particularly in northeast and south Albany, developers should be encouraged to provide linkages to proposed trail routes near residential developments, where such improvements would provide important connections to other parks and public destinations.

Good trail planning will consider existing and proposed development in the vicinity of a trail, but also the natural resources that a trail corridor may protect. Proposed corridors may vary in width, from 40 feet to more than 100 feet, depending on the land availability and the trail's location. Besides providing for recreation and non-motorized transportation, some trails may provide wildlife corridors within the city. Other trail corridors may protect riparian vegetation, wetlands, the water quality of streams, and other valued natural resources.

This section identifies recommendations for new trail development, along with additional considerations for trails and pathways.

Proposed Trails

Six new trails are recommended in this plan for development by the year 2015. The trails are noted by their map reference numbers, beginning in the north and proceeding clockwise.

In addition to the trails proposed here, one of the more significant trail connections will be provided with the completion of the Dave Clark Riverfront Path from Bowman Park to Simpson Park. This trail extension is listed in Section 5.1 with existing parks and facilities.



Canal Esplanade Trail

T-1

The Canal Esplanade Trail has an opportunity to link several significant recreational sites around downtown Albany, including Bryant Park, Monteith Park, the Dave Clark Riverfront Path, Swanson Park, COOL! Swanson Park Action Center, and Henderson Park. This trail, when linked to the riverfront path, will create a loop that serves park users and also employees and visitors to the downtown area. This path may help draw people to the waterfront as well. The 1.2 mile, hard-surfaced pathway would run along the Thurston Canal (Thurston Street) from the Willamette River to 8th Avenue, west along the 8th Avenue Canal, past Swanson Park and Henderson Park to the Santiam Canal, then north to the water plant on the Calapooia River.

- Acquire corridor and develop 1.2 mile Canal Esplanade along Thurston and Santiam Canals.

Swanson Loop Trail

T-2

An 0.35-mile existing trail on the north side of Highway 99 connects Swanson Park with the nearby Amtrak/Transit Center. A loop trail is proposed here by adding an extension on the south side of Highway 99. An ODOT right-of-way is available to complete this trail, which is recommended for development within the next five years. This trail may receive considerable use by visitors to the COOL! Swanson Park Action Center.

- Develop a 0.2 mile Transit Center/Swanson Park Pedestrian Loop.



Truax Creek Trail**T-3**

The Truax Creek trail was originally proposed in the Albany Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (adopted in the year 2000) as part of the “Albany Loop.” A proposal to loop the entire city with trails and pathways may not be feasible, but a trail along Truax Creek has the potential to link the rapidly developing northeast Albany area to Simpson Park and the riverfront trail system. When this trail is developed, a link to proposed neighborhood park (NP-2) should be evaluated.

- Acquire corridor and develop a 4.5 mile trail along Truax Creek.

Burkhart Creek Trail**T-4**

The proposed Burkhart Creek trail crosses Burkhart Creek to connect the proposed neighborhood park (NP-2) with Timber Linn Park. The trail corridor would follow an existing drainage south of NP-2 to Burkhart Creek, where the corridor would turn westward along the creek for a short distance. There the trail splits, with part heading northwest along the creek to Clover Ridge Road. The other part of the pathway would turn southward along a proposed street through the proposed development for a village center, connecting to Timber Linn via sidewalks on Dogwood Avenue. This corridor would provide needed opportunities for trail-related recreation in the rapidly developing northeast area.

- Acquire corridor and develop a 1.25 mile trail along Burkhart Creek.

Oak Creek Greenway/Trail**T-5**

Oak Creek crosses southern Albany, from Linn County’s Freeway Lakes Park near Interstate 5 to the Calapooia River. The creek runs through many undeveloped areas and wetlands, and thus, may offer one of the best opportunities for a new greenway and extended trail within the city. A trail is proposed along the creek from Highway 99 on the west side to Freeway Lakes Park on the east side. The trail may have opportunities to connect the newly proposed neighborhood park (NP-5) to the proposed community park (CP-1). Also, a linkage may eventually be made to the existing Oak Creek Greenbelt, Teloh Calapooia Park, Spring Meadows Park, and the proposed natural area along the Calapooia River.

- Acquire corridor and develop a 3.0 mile trail along Oak Creek connecting NP-5 and CP-1.

Calapooia River Trail**T-6**

A City-owned (former landfill) site near the Calapooia River in southwest Albany is recommended for preservation as a natural area. When a trail in this park is developed, a connecting trail is recommended to link this site to the existing Oak Creek Greenbelt trail. Since the trail will run along the Calapooia River, the trail corridor should be wide enough to protect natural resources and provide water vantage points.

- Acquire corridor and develop a 0.5 mile trail along Calapooia River connecting the proposed natural area to the Oak Creek Greenbelt trail.

Additional Recommendations

Additional recommendations for pathways and trails include:

- Maintain, widen, and repair existing pathways and trails, as noted within specific park recommendations.
- Increase recreational trails and pathways to provide a safe trail network that links neighborhoods, parks, natural open space, schools, recreation sites and other key community destinations. Consider the following:
 - Improve accessible pedestrian trail opportunities via internal pathways in existing and future parks;
 - Provide multi-use pathways and trails to meet the current need for an additional 7.5 miles of trails and pathways;
 - Provide multi-use pathways to meet the need for more than 9.5 miles of trails in the year 2015.
 - Provide off-street, hard-surfaced trails, wherever feasible, for opportunities for walking and recreational biking;
 - Emphasize park access and connectivity when acquiring trail corridors.
- Seek potential links with the Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway, which uses rural roadways to travel through the valley from Newberg to Eugene. In Albany, the southbound route crosses the Willamette River on the bridge for Highway 20 and passes Bryant Park and Monteith Park, providing opportunities for linkages.
- Partner with Linn County and Benton County to acquire trail corridors outside the UGB. Consider joint projects to develop the following trails:



- Willamette River—North Bank. Develop a 3.25 mile trail along the north bank of Willamette River extending the Takena Landing trail northward to Springhill Drive near Ridgeview Place.
- Willamette River—South Bank. Develop a 4.9 mile trail extending westward from Bryant Park along the south bank of the river to increase recreation opportunities for walking, biking, rollerblading, and wildlife watching.
- Provide centralized and effective staging areas for trail access. Major trailheads should include parking. Signage should be provided with orientation and other information.

5.3 RECREATION FACILITIES

According to the results of the Community Needs Assessment, there is a significant need for several types of recreation facilities in Albany. This section includes recommendations for meeting specific facility needs, focusing on indoor recreation centers, aquatic facilities, sport facilities, and other facility types.

Indoor Recreation Centers



Public involvement findings indicate a need for programmable indoor space and gymnasiums. This need occurs citywide, both for the Parks and Recreation Department and private providers, such as the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club.

Currently, Albany has several small indoor facilities (e.g., Albany Senior Center, Maple Lawn Preschool, COOL! Swanson Park Action Center, and the YMCA) and one larger specialty youth facility (Boys & Girls Club). However, the city does not have a large, multi-purpose center that serves all age groups. Neither the City nor private providers will be able to address this deficiency alone.

This plan recommends that the City pursue a major, new multi-purpose community center in partnership with other providers for the benefit of the entire city. The new center will serve all age groups and be an investment in the quality of life for all residents in Albany.

While small recreation centers were favored in the past as a means of providing less-expensive, indoor space locally, the operations and maintenance costs for several small community centers are higher. Current regional and national trends favor large, multi-purpose centers that meet a variety of community needs. The advantage of larger facilities (40,000-80,000 square feet) is that they are capable of being more self-supporting and cost effective. A single large center can serve 20,000 or more people and accommodate a broader range of activities than multiple, dispersed sites. Because of the cost efficiency of centralization, operations costs for a larger center can be

lower than for multiple, dispersed sites providing the same square footage.

Albany's community center should be a highly visible, state-of-the-art facility that acts as a magnet for community and family activities. The center may include:

- A gymnasium/indoor court
- Multi-purpose classrooms and meeting space
- Specialized activity areas, such as dance studios, stage for performing arts, indoor soccer courts, or a youth/teen room
- Places for large group gatherings
- Social gathering space, such as a coffee kiosk, lounge, etc.

The specific mix of facilities is the arrangement that best meets the needs of each provider involved in developing the facility, and the financial performance goals for the center, as determined through a feasibility study.

Indoor Recreation Center

Specific recommendations for an indoor recreation center through the year 2015 include:

- Conduct a feasibility study that includes an assessment of non-profit and public buildings (e.g., Albany Senior Center, Albany Community Pool) to determine opportunities for multi-agency partnerships in developing a multi-purpose community center.
- Construct new activity space, including program rooms for seniors, adult recreation and youth services, in concert with other service agencies.



Aquatic Facilities

According to the results of the Community Needs Assessment, a significant demand has been noted for indoor swimming in Albany, where participation levels are higher than in many other communities in the Northwest. The recent opening of the outdoor pool at the COOL! Swanson Park Action Center addresses current community needs for outdoor swimming. However, Needs Assessment findings indicate that one additional (indoor) pool will be necessary to meet future needs for Albany residents in 2015. A separate Albany Aquatics Assessment, completed in May 2004, confirms the citywide need for swimming opportunities.

At a time when many communities are developing indoor facilities that include water playgrounds, slides, spray features, and wave pools in an effort to capture more revenue and increase recreational swimming, Albany residents utilize the Community Pool and a smaller, older, YMCA pool. While these two facilities meet current needs for indoor swimming, the programming time at the Albany Community Pool and the lifespan of the YMCA pool are limited and will be unable to meet City needs indefinitely.

One possible option for meeting the City's future need for an indoor pool is to coordinate with the YMCA in the development a new community center and large, indoor pool, when the organization moves to a new location. This is an option worth investigating.

Aquatic Facilities



Specific recommendations for swimming pools include:

- Maintain the successful partnership with Greater Albany Public Schools in providing classes and recreational swim times at the Community Pool in South Albany High School.
- Conduct an assessment of existing public and non-profit buildings (including the Albany Community Pool) to determine opportunities for multi-agency partnerships in developing a multi-purpose community center (and possible aquatic center).

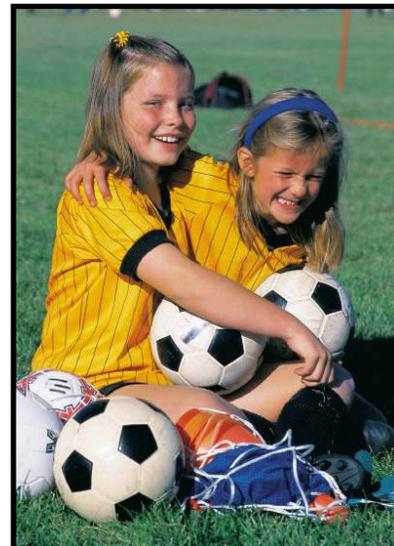
Sport Facilities

Albany is an active community, with a high level of recreation participation. The findings of the Community Needs Assessment indicate that existing sport facilities barely meet current levels of participation in organized sports and have little or no capacity to support more players. The findings also show that there is a current shortage of facilities such as gymnasiums and football fields. Organized teams compete for field and gym time, meaning non-team (recreational) players are excluded from facility use. By the year 2015, more sport facilities of all types will be needed to support the population increase within the city. More facilities would allow organized sport programming to encourage new players to participate. It would also provide programming opportunities to support non-team use, such as drop-in gym times.

The park system in Albany has sport facilities at several sites, with most sport fields located at Timber Linn Park and Bryant Park. Many fields are sub-standard and require improvements, as noted in recommendations for existing facilities. Several neighborhood parks have open grass fields and multi-use back stops that may be suitable for practice facilities, but many of these facilities are not suitable for heavy use and do not meet field requirements for games.

School sites, the YMCA, and the Boys and Girls Club contain the remainder of the athletic facilities in the city. Schools provide most of the city's available gymnasiums, as well as many sport fields. Use of school fields and gymnasiums is guided by the joint use agreement between the City and the Greater Albany School District. However, not all sport facilities noted in Appendix A are scheduled for citywide recreational use. In addition to scheduling constraints, field condition at some school sites is also a concern.

In light of these issues, this plan presents a guideline for the minimum number of facilities needed in Albany in 2015 based on current levels of play as the City continues to grow. The plan strongly recommends the following: 1) upgrading existing fields that were counted in the needs assessment analysis; 2) strengthening facility use agreements with the School District and evaluating the feasibility of a joint maintenance agreement to put more fields/facilities into play; 3) developing new fields as a high priority to meet the MINIMUM number of fields needed. Multi-use grass areas and backstops (at schools and in parks) could be evaluated for practices on a site-by-site basis, but scheduling and use should avoid situations such as allowing football teams to use open grass areas in parks where the wet turf is easily damaged.



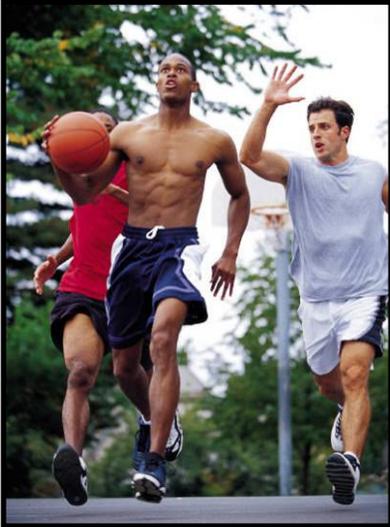
Sport Facilities

Specific recommendations for sport facilities through the year 2015 include:

- Develop 3 new softball/youth baseball fields.
- Develop 3 new soccer and/or football fields in 5 years and 3 more by 2015.
- Construct 1 additional gym in the next 5 years in partnership with other entities.
- Construct 2 additional gyms by 2015 to serve multiple agency needs, including City and non-profits.
- Develop a new soccer complex at the proposed community park.
- Follow Timber Linn Master Plan recommendations to develop 7 new ball diamonds that will include four adult fields and three multi-purpose ball diamonds (youth or adult).
- When developing site master plans for new and existing parks, consider community needs for sport facilities as well as the guidelines proposed in this plan.
- Strengthen use agreements with the Greater Albany School District for the scheduling of gymnasiums and sports fields.

- Coordinate with the School District for joint implementation of sport field improvements/maintenance at school sites in exchange for field use.

Additional Recreation Facilities



In Chapter 3, this plan proposed new guidelines for several types of recreation facilities. According to the findings of the Community Needs Assessment, the following types of recreation facilities are needed in Albany:

- Outdoor basketball courts
- Skate parks
- Picnic shelters/pavilions
- Play areas/playgrounds
- Tennis courts
- Dog park
- Community garden

Recommendations for improvements to existing parks and for development in new and existing parks (Section 5.1) address many of these facility needs. In this section, additional facility needs that are not tied to specific parks are noted. For each of these facilities, the City should consider its impact on other park uses and on the surrounding neighborhood in determining the best location for development.

Additional Recreation Facilities

Specific recommendations for recreation facilities through the year 2015 include:

- Develop 3 additional outdoor basketball courts in 5 years and 3 more by 2015.
- Develop a new skatepark to meet community needs and to address service and neighborhood impact issues at the Albany Skatepark.
- Add picnic shelters where recommended in existing City parks.
- Replace sub-standard playground equipment at existing parks and develop children's play areas at all new neighborhood and community parks.
- Remove or replace tennis courts as recommended in existing parks as needed to maintain the guideline proposed in this plan.

- Implement the Timber Linn Master Plan to add/renovate recreation facilities as recommended.
- When developing site master plans at new and existing parks, consider community needs for recreation facilities along with the guidelines proposed in this plan.

5.4 ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

During the Park and Recreation Master Plan update, several areas were identified where the City can improve, strengthen, or further develop its services. This section provides strategies and specific recommendations for partnerships, citywide plans and assessments, park and facility planning, and financing system improvements.

Partnerships

Collaboration among park, recreation and social service providers has become increasingly important in meeting community needs for facilities, programs, and services. Specific recommendations include:

- Facilitate collaboration among area recreation and facility providers, including Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS), Linn County, Benton County, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, AYSO, churches, service clubs, and other public and private agencies to improve services and maximize efficiency.
- Continue cultivating positive, strong relationships with current partners.
- Maintain the successful partnership with Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS) that allows the City to manage recreation at the Community Pool at South Albany High School.
- Strengthen facility use agreements with GAPS for the scheduling of gymnasiums and sports fields.
- Coordinate with the School District for joint implementation of sport field improvements at school sites in exchange for field use.
- Consider the joint design and development of school parks in partnership with GAPS as a strategy to meet neighborhood park needs in areas where opportunities for land acquisition are limited. School parks are innovative facilities that unite neighborhoods, provide convenient and safe recreation opportunities for students and neighbors, offer more interesting play environments than traditional school sites due to cost sharing, and maximize efficiency through the sharing or division of maintenance responsibilities in these joint use areas.
- Work with private developers to redevelop the Willamette riverfront.



- Partner with businesses to provide services and amenities, such as vendors in parks.
- Pursue and maintain effective partnerships with public, private, and non-profit organizations to acquire, develop, and maintain parks, open space, and recreation facilities that reflect the objectives and goals of this plan.
- Pursue multi-jurisdictional partnerships for trail development, providing linkages to existing City trails and facilities.
- Consider partnerships with GAPS, sports organizations, and others for joint facility development and maintenance of athletic fields, community centers, and other major facilities.
- Promote volunteerism and expand opportunities to involve volunteers in parks maintenance and natural area restoration through programs like Adopt-a-Park, Parks Cleanup, or the Urban Forestry Program to help with tree care, planting, etc.
- Continue and expand upon the existing relationship with the Linn County Expo Center for reciprocal use of parking and other facilities.

Citywide Plans and Assessments



The City should conduct and develop the following plans and assessments to support the provision of parks and facilities:

- Conduct a Goal 5 Study to identify significant natural areas in Albany.
- Develop a Natural Area Management Plan for managing resources in natural areas within Albany's park system.
- Develop an ADA Transition Plan for Albany's parks and recreation facilities.
- Work with other City departments to develop a Pedestrian Plan that identifies missing pedestrian links, ensures connections to parks and facilities, and promotes a walkable community.
- Conduct a Playground Safety Assessment to ensure that these facilities meet safety standards.
- Develop a Maintenance Management Plan to develop and define a maintenance level for each park type.
- Develop and adopt an Integrated Pest Management Plan to define the use of herbicides and pesticides within City parks, to develop a variety of strategies to control pests, and to minimize negative impacts on the environment and human health.

- Develop a park security and safety assessment in collaboration with City Police, Neighborhood Watch, and other key stakeholders.

Park and Facility Planning

Specific recommendations for the overall park system plan include:

- Resolve the lease/ownership issues at Deerfield Park and Burkhart Park. (These sites are owned by Greater Albany Public Schools).
- Explore the divestment of Eades Park.
- Explore the possible divestment of Hazelwood Park, if another more centrally located site can be acquired to serve Neighborhood #16.
- Explore a possible property swap at Periwinkle Park with Greater Albany Public Schools to improve the school/park interface.
- Evaluate opportunities to acquire property by how well the site supports the goals and guidelines identified in this Plan. Properties that offer a unique function or feature should be considered for acquisition according to the needs of the community.
- Conduct a cost impact analysis prior to design and development of all new major facilities.

Financing

Recommendations for financing park improvements and development include the following:

- Expand the Memorial Donation Program.
- Maximize donations, grants, and partnerships to increase the resources available for parks and recreation. Consider various strategies such as developing gift catalogs for key parks, recreation facilities, and programs.
- Encourage donations of land, facilities, equipment, services, and gifts that are consistent with goals and objectives of the Park and Recreation Master Plan and benefit the larger community.
- Explore opportunities to add revenue-generating facilities to parks where appropriate.
- Pursue grants provided through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) (revised as SAFETEA-LU in 2005) for trail and pathway development to establish walkable communities and safe routes to schools.

CHAPTER 5



- Re-evaluate annually the priority and timeline for the implementation of projects within the park system as part of the development of the annual parks and recreation capital improvement budget.
- Re-assess the priorities of capital projects when updating the long-range park and recreation capital improvement plan every five years.
- Implement the new rate recommended for the City's park System Development Charges (SDCs) as calculated in the SDC methodology update to be completed in 2006. Reevaluate SDCs every five years to ensure that the rates are providing adequate funds to enhance the park system capacity as the City grows.
- Create a "replacement fund" to be able to act on needed maintenance and/or replacement of damaged or unsafe facilities, equipment, and other assets.
- Create a separate line item in the budget for capital facilities development, rather than grouping it with park maintenance.