

# Lowell Parks and Open Space Master Plan

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## Executive Summary

The City of Lowell Parks Advisory Committee was created in 2005, with one of its primary tasks being the creation of a Parks and Open Space Master Plan. This document is a result of regular meetings of the Park Advisory Committee, outreach to the community, and cooperation with City staff, all in partnership with the University of Oregon Resource Assistance or Rural Environments (RARE) Program.

Although planning is an ongoing process, and communities grow and change over time, this document provides a formal strategy for approaching both current and future parks and recreation needs for the City of Lowell. The purpose of the City of Lowell Parks and Open Space Master Plan is to create a long-term strategy for the City of Lowell to adequately meet the needs of residents and to ensure a high quality of life. More specifically, this plan:

- Inventories existing park facilities, including an analysis of appropriate park classifications;
- Identifies a vision and related goals for the park system;
- Outlines a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to guide the City in meeting these goals. The CIP includes identified projects, estimated project costs, suggested funding sources, and completion timeframes;
- Identifies potential implementation strategies and funding sources to execute the Capital Improvement Plan.

This executive summary highlights community needs, vision and goals, and a Capital Improvement Plan for Lowell's parks.

### Park Inventory

The City of Lowell is currently adequately served by parks. As of July of 2006, the City owned and maintained 8.24 acres of parks, historical areas and open space; 2.74 acres were developed as parks at that time. Developed acreage includes one Community Park and one Neighborhood Park.

As the complete park inventory will demonstrate, the Lowell area is fortunate to be served by numerous and varied regional parks, many of which are within a five mile radius of the City center. These regional assets will be recognized throughout the Parks and Open Space Master Plan; however, it is noted that these facilities are owned and operated by outside agencies, and are meant to serve a much wider population. Table ES.1 shows currently developed City park facilities by name, classification and area (in acres).

**Table ES.1 Developed Park Acreage and Level of Service**

<b>Park Classification</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Neighborhood Park	Paul Fisher Park	1.33
	Subtotal	1.33
Community Park	Rolling Rock Park	1.41
	Subtotal	1.41
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.74</b>

## **Community Needs Assessment**

Future park improvements need to reflect community needs. To assure an accurate reflection of these needs in this plan, the public was involved at several levels in the development process. These included a public survey, student workshops, and multiple work sessions with the Parks Advisory Committee. Park needs in the Lowell community were expressed through this process and are based on the location of the parks, park use and amenities, demographic characteristics, and activity participation trends. Lowell residents indicated a need for a number of improvements, including:

- Construction of restroom facilities
- Rehabilitation of play equipment
- Paved and unpaved trails
- Improved park maintenance

## **Park System Vision and Goals**

The Lowell Parks Advisory Committee assisted in identifying eight goals to address the findings of the parks master plan. They provide a framework to plan for the future of Lowell's parks, and the accomplishment of specific, measurable actions. The goals, in non-priority order, are highlighted below.

**Goal 1. Rehabilitate Paul Fisher Park**

**Goal 2. Provide Lowell's residents with improved access to Dexter Lake**

**Goal 3. Increase diversity of park and recreational opportunities**

**Goal 4. Create a trail system**

**Goal 5. Perform needed park maintenance**

**Goal 6. Advance community partnerships**



**Goal 7. Enhance Rolling Rock Park****Goal 8 Equitably distribute and develop parks and recreational services in response to community growth****Capital Improvement Plan**

The Capital Improvement Plan provides a detailed roadmap for implementing needed improvements and additions to the park system in the next 20 years. As part of this program, goals and actions for the City of Lowell were identified, and then specific projects to target these goals were developed.

The CIP reflects community priorities and resources. Input was gathered through a community survey, workshops, city staff, and the Parks Advisory Committee. The CIP prioritizes projects and provides cost estimates. High priority projects should be addressed within the first 5 years, medium priority projects addressed within 10 years, and low priority projects addressed within 20 years.

The CIP provides information for needed improvements to meet Goals for both existing parks and new park and recreation facilities. The following table provides summary of estimated costs for existing and new park facilities improvements. The total estimated cost for these improvements is \$1,103,000. This estimate is very preliminary, and that actual costs can vary greatly depending on procurement and implementation strategies. This figure shows the need to develop a funding strategy to pay for these improvements. Funding options such as partnerships, grants, donations, and various other strategies may be used to leverage City funds for park improvements and development.

**Table ES.2 Cost Estimates for Capital Improvement Projects**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Estimated Cost of Action</b>
Paul Fisher Park	Rehabilitation/Development	\$104,000
Rolling Rock Park	Rehabilitation/Development	\$362,500
Railroad Right-of-Way	Planning and Development for Natural Park and Trails	\$105,000
Undetermined	Planning, Acquisition, Development for Skate Park	\$250,000
East of Wetleau Drive and north of 6 <sup>th</sup> Street	Planning, Acquisition, Development for new Mini-park Facilities	\$300,000
Lake Access	Planning, Acquisition, Development for Pedestrian and Boat Access to Lake	\$250,000
<b>Total for all parks</b>		<b>\$1,371,500</b>

## Summary

This plan should serve as a guide to ensure the appropriate, cost effective and systematic development of Lowell parks according to the needs of the community. It should be reviewed and updated at least every five years, to address changing needs and park use. Used effectively, The Lowell Parks and Open Space Master Plan will prove a valuable asset in achieving each of the goals outlined herein.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Located approximately 20 miles from the Eugene-Springfield area in the Cascade foothills, Lowell is a community regionally known for accessible recreational opportunities. Just off Highway 58 along Lookout Point and Dexter Reservoirs, the Lowell area is a destination among anglers, rowers and other water sport enthusiasts, as well as hikers and equestrians. This chapter will describe and assess these and other recreational opportunities in the City of Lowell and surrounding area, as well as delve into the particular socioeconomic data and development trends that could help predict future park needs.

The City of Lowell is located on the east side of the Southern Willamette Valley in Lane County, Oregon. Situated on the north side of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River and bordered by Lookout Point and Dexter Dams, Lowell has immediate access to Dexter Lake. To the east is Butte Disappointment, a prime example of the hilly terrain surrounding the community. Lowell is located approximately 20 miles southeast of Eugene and approximately 17 miles southeast of Springfield. It is accessed from two of the area's major transportation corridors – Highway 58 and Jasper-Lowell Road.

The City of Lowell currently owns and maintains one community park, one neighborhood park, a historic cemetery and an undeveloped parcel of land for future park use. In addition to these, Lowell residents have access to a variety of excellent regional parks in the area. The Lowell Parks and Open Space Master Plan provides a systematic approach to address the park needs for the City of Lowell over the next 20 years.

### **The Purpose of a Parks Master Plan**

Parks facilities are key services provided by cities or special recreation districts that meet demand for recreational experiences and enhance a community's quality of life. Parks provide a variety of resources and opportunities for communities. These include active and passive recreation, preservation of open space and wildlife habitat, and preservation of historic, cultural and natural resources.<sup>1</sup> They also serve as formal and informal gathering places, and often provide a community focal point.

Careful planning is key to maintaining and further developing park and recreation facilities. Throughout the planning process, staff and financial resources must be considered, as well as changing community needs, park system priorities and goals. In order to thoroughly and effectively address these concerns, many communities develop and adopt a park master plan to guide development of their parks system.

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<sup>1</sup> Mertes, James D. and James R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. National

Local governments may prepare and adopt local parks master plans pursuant to Statewide Planning Goal 8: Recreational Needs and OAR 660-034-0040. These plans may be integrated with local comprehensive land use plans. Park master plans help give a community direction in developing future parks and making improvements to existing parks to meet community needs.

## Steps in the Planning Process

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends a systems approach to parks planning. This approach “places importance on locally determined values, needs, and expectations... The systems planning approach is defined as the process of assessing the park, recreation, and open space needs of a community and translating that information into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial, and facility requirements to satisfy those needs.”<sup>2</sup> NRPA provides guidelines that may be adapted by individual communities to best suit local needs. The systems plan can then be integrated into planning decisions and strategies that address other community needs such as housing, commerce, schools, environmental management, transportation, and industry.<sup>3</sup>

The parks planning process involves several steps, as shown in Figure 1.1. Conducting an inventory of local park facilities and the condition of their amenities is the first step. Public input assists planners in determining the level of satisfaction with current park resources, needed improvements and new facilities and recreational opportunities that might be desirable.

This steps lead to the community needs analysis, which determines what improvements need to be made to current facilities and the type and size of additional facilities needed for the future. The needs assessment considers factors such as historical and projected population growth, demographic characteristics, and outdoor activity participation trends. Another vital component of a needs analysis, and every other step in the planning process, is public involvement and input.

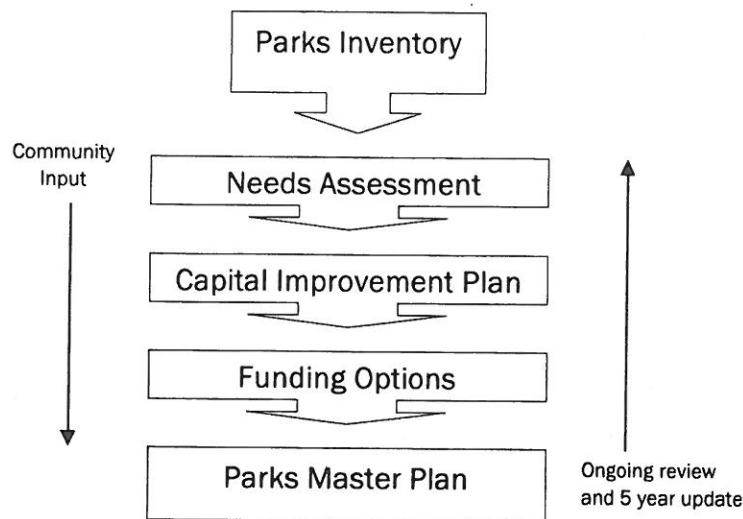
Once a community needs assessment and park facility inventory have been completed, a capital improvement plan (CIP) can be developed. The CIP contains specific recommendations for improvements and land acquisition, determines the cost of each of these recommendations, and prioritizes them. Lastly, funding options must be evaluated, and implementation strategies determined. Together, these components form a comprehensive plan for future park development.

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<sup>2</sup> Mertes, James D and James R Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. 1995.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

**Figure 1.1 The Parks Planning Process**



## Methods

A variety of methods were employed to create this plan. In general, the planning process involved the following steps:

1. Background research on community demographics and existing park facilities;
2. An inventory of the condition and amenities of each existing park, school facility and regional facility within a five mile radius;
3. Facilitation of a community survey, multiple student workshops, and work sessions with the Parks Advisory Committee to identify opportunities and constraints of the parks system;
4. Research on costs for capital improvement projects; and
5. Research on possible funding options for the capital improvement plan.

## Organization of this Plan

This plan is organized into five chapters, including the introduction, and four appendices. The following chapters are organized as follows:

### Chapter 2 - Community Profile

This Chapter outlines trends in population, housing, age composition, school enrollment, racial composition, income levels, poverty rates, and employment as they relate to parks planning.

### **Chapter 3 - Park Classification and Inventory**

This Chapter includes information on all parks and recreational facilities within a five mile radius of Lowell, including facilities managed by the City of Lowell, the Lowell School District, Lane County Parks, Oregon State Parks, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and several privately or otherwise owned facilities. The inventory provides information on the condition, amenities and classification of each facility.

### **Chapter 4 - Goals and Proposed System Improvements**

This Chapter examines park and recreation needs for Lowell, as determined through regional park usage and recreation trends, local survey results and public work sessions. It then identifies a park system vision and goals, which formulate a capital improvement plan.

### **Chapter 5 - Implementation Strategies**

This Chapter outlines funding and implementation options and makes recommendations.

### **Appendix A - Lowell Parks Survey Results**

### **Appendix B - Advisory Committee Prioritization Results**

### **Appendix C - Funding and Support Options**

### **Appendix D – Oregon Arts Commission Technical Assistance Report for Rolling Rock Park**

## Chapter 2 Community Profile

Lowell's location and demographic characteristics will continue to play a large role in the park development process. This chapter describes socioeconomic characteristics and development trends in Lowell, as they relate to parks planning. Demographic trends provide an understanding of present and future park needs, and should be considered when siting future park facilities and prioritizing capital improvements.

### Demographic Characteristics

#### Population

The City of Lowell has had a relatively low population growth rate over the past 40 years, ranging from about 1.2% during the 1960's to a more rapid rate of 2.0% in the 1990's.<sup>4</sup> The overall annual average growth rate for 1960-2000 was 1.4% for Lowell, while both Oregon and Lane County grew by approximately 1.7% a year.<sup>5</sup> In upcoming years, Lowell expects to reach a growth rate more comparable with regional trends; the Lane County Coordinated Population Projections currently predict a 2.16% average annual growth rate through 2025, to reach a population of 1,500. By 2030, the growth rate will have reached 2.22%, with a population of 1,700.<sup>6</sup> The City of Lowell is required to use these Coordinated Population Projections as part of the Lowell Comprehensive Plan to guide future development. However, these figures may be replaced by future regional coordinated population allocations. As a part of the Comprehensive Plan, any newly adopted figures will also apply to the Lowell Parks and Open Space Plan.

These trends are illustrated in Table 2.1. The Lowell parks are currently serving a population of approximately 900 people, with coordinated population projections predicting a 60% increase in that number by 2025. The implication of this predicted population growth will be increased demand on infrastructure, including parks. The City of Lowell will need to consider this when estimating future park needs.

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<sup>4</sup> Lowell Comprehensive Plan

<sup>5</sup> Lane Council of Governments website, accessed February 21, 2006  
<<http://www.lcog.org/lgs/ira.html>>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

**Table 2-1. Population Trends for Lowell, Lane County and Oregon**

Year	Lowell	Lane County	Oregon
1980	661	275,226	2,633,105
1990	785	282,912	2,842,321
2000	857	322,959	3,421,399
2004	900	333,350	3,582,600
<b>Population Projections</b>			
2025	1,500	409,159	4,626,015
2030	1,700	430,454	4,891,224

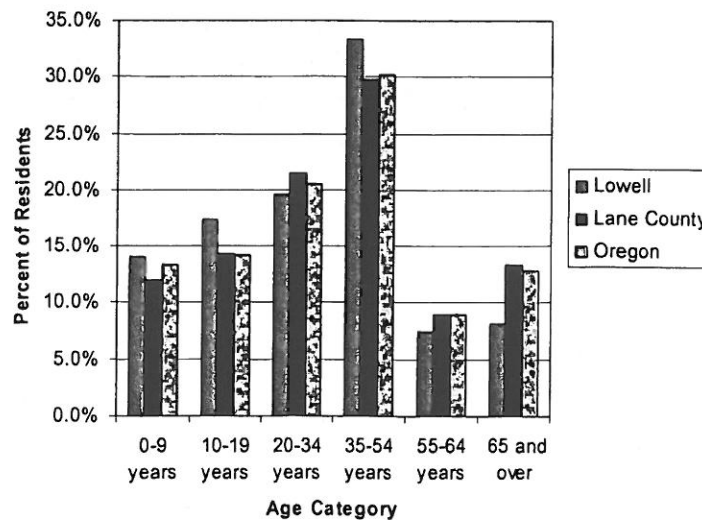
Source: US Census, Oregon Blue Book, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, Lane Council of Governments

### Age Characteristics

Age is an important factor in parks planning. Recreational needs and desires differ greatly by age group, and it is important to consider the current and projected age distribution of a community when planning for future park amenities and facilities.

Looking at age distribution in Lowell, average age tends to be slightly younger than in Lane County or Oregon. According to the 2000 US Census, Lowell's median age was 34.5, while Lane County and Oregon had median ages of 36.6 and 36.3, respectively. 27.9% of Lowell residents were under 18 in 2000, as compared to 22.9% in Lane County and 24.7% in Oregon. Lowell had a slightly lower percentage of the population in the 55-64 and over 65 age categories than did Lane County and Oregon. Only 8.1% of the Lowell population was over the age of 65, according to the 2000 US Census.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 2.2. Age Distribution for Lowell, Lane County and Oregon, 2000<sup>8</sup>**



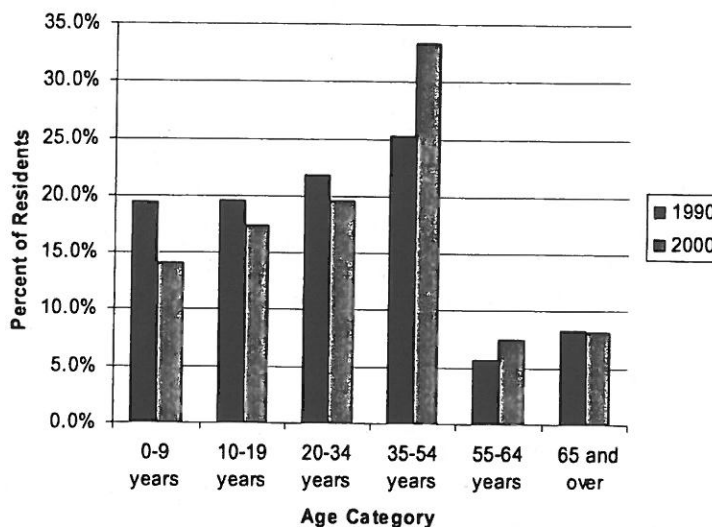
<sup>7</sup> US Census, 2000

<sup>8</sup> Ibid



Looking at age distribution in Lowell; however, there has been a significant increase of residents in the age categories 35-54 and 55-64 between 1990 and 2000 as depicted in Table 2.3. In 1990, the 35-54 age category composed 25.2% of the population while in 2000 it composed 33.3%, the largest portion of Lowell residents. A lesser increase was seen in the 55-64 age category, which increased from 5.6% to 7.55%. Coinciding with this, there was a decrease in all age categories under 35 years old.<sup>9</sup> Although youth under the age of 18 still constitute a large percentage of the population, as noted above, this shift towards an older population should be noted for future parks planning.

**Figure 2.3. Age Distribution in Lowell, 1990 and 2000<sup>10</sup>**



### Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2000 US Census approximately 90.6% of Lowell residents are White, followed by 4.6% Hispanic or Latino and 4.4% of two or more races. 2.0% of the population is American Indian and Alaska Native. Less than 1% of the population is Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander<sup>11</sup>.

### School Enrollment

Residents of Lowell attend Lundy Elementary School and Lowell High School, both within Lowell School District 71. Of the total school age population, 3.7% were enrolled in Nursery School or Preschool, 10.4% were enrolled in Kindergarten, 44.4% were enrolled in Elementary School (grades 1-8), 27.0% were enrolled in High School (grades 9-12), and 14.5% were enrolled in college or graduate school<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> US Census, 1990 and 2000

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> US Census, 2000

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

Reported enrollment for Lowell School District 71 in 2005-2006 was 291, with 170 students at the Elementary School and 121 at the High School. In past years, enrollment has declined as a result of a decrease in young families with children and an increase in 'empty nesters' in the community. However, recent enrollment has stabilized and with several subdivisions of single family homes being developed, the number of school aged children is expected to increase in upcoming years.

## Housing Trends

Housing characteristics and development trends are an important factor in parks planning. The type, location and rate of housing development are all variables that can affect location and amenities of future parks. Additionally, this data can give insight into the potential funding base regarding property taxes and systems development fees.

The US Census showed that of 342 total housing units, 315 were occupied in 2000. This translates to a 7.9% vacancy rate. Census data estimates a homeowner vacancy rate of 1.7%, and a rental vacancy rate of 5.7%. Of the 315 occupied housing units 74% are owner occupied and 26% are renter occupied. The average household size was 2.76 for owner occupied units and 2.62 for renter occupied units.

## Income and Poverty

Household income is an important consideration for future parks planning for it can directly effect the support level for the bonds, levies and system development charges that allow parks systems to grow and improve their facilities. According to the 2000 US Census, the median household income for Lowell was lower than that for both Lane County and Oregon, at \$35,536. The median household income, county wide, was \$36,942; at the state level it was \$40,916. Of Lowell residents 16 years and over, 60.5% were employed. This was comparable to 60.2% for Lane County and slightly lower than the national rate of 62.3%. It was estimated that 8.3% of families and 11.5% of individuals in Lowell were living below the poverty level in 2000, which is slightly lower than the county totals of 9.0% of families and 14.4% of individuals.<sup>13</sup>

## Summary

- Between 1990 and 2000, Lowell grew by about 1.1% with an accumulative population change of 12.1%. According to Coordinated Population Projections, this growth rate is expected to increase 2.16% by 2025 and 2.22% by 2030 which equates to account a population of 1,500 in 2025 and 1,700 by 2030. Future population projection allocations will change the above population estimates.
- The average age of Lowell residents is 34.5, slightly less than the regional average. In 2000, 27.9% of Lowell residents were under 18. There has been a significant increase of residents in the age categories 35-54 and 55-64 between

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<sup>13</sup> US Census, 2000

1990 and 2000. These two age categories should be taken into account when addressing park development and capital improvements.

- Demographic trends should be periodically reviewed to ensure parks planning keeps pace with community needs.



## Chapter 3

# Park Classification and Inventory

Park classifications provide a framework in which to evaluate both current park assets and future needs. The following classifications are based on those of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and have been tailored by the Parks Advisory Committee to better fit the community. The classifications were developed to reflect the specific functions and uses of individual parks in Lowell. While all classifications may not be currently represented, they are listed to aid in the planning process.

### **Park Classifications**

#### **Mini Park**

As the smallest park classification, Mini Parks provide limited and specialized recreational opportunities. Often located in commercial districts, residential neighborhoods, or as scenic overlooks, they are typically less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre in size and serve residents within a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile radius. Amenities can include picnic tables, multipurpose trails, play areas and landscaping.

#### **Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood Parks are a basic unit of the park system, providing a focal point for many neighborhoods. Serving residents in the immediate vicinity (0.25 to 0.5 mile), these parks are developed for passive and active recreational use. Generally 0.75-5 acres in size, these parks often contain picnic areas, sports facilities, multi-purpose trails and play areas.

#### **Community Park**

Community Parks provide a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities for residents within a 1-5 mile radius. Larger than Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks are generally 0.5-50 acres in size, providing approximately 5-8 acres per 1000 residents. Focused on community needs, these parks contain many of the amenities of Neighborhood Parks; as well as sports facilities, community centers, multi-purpose trails and natural areas. They often host organized group activities and community events.

#### **Regional Park**

Generally state or federally owned parks and facilities, Regional Parks serve a wide area and offer many recreational opportunities. These may include benches, picnic areas, multi-purpose trails, camping amenities, swimming or fishing and natural areas. Regional Parks vary in size, with 50 or more acres being standard.

#### **School Facilities**

Local schools offer many amenities that can be used for the efficient and cost effective expansion of community recreational resources. With range and extent of service determined by the school district, facilities can include play areas, sports courts and fields, gymnasiums, running tracks and open space.

### **Trails, Connectors and Open Space**

Trails, connectors and open space vary in size and service area, and are often developed as natural areas. Trails and connectors serve to provide linkages between parks and public areas and as alternative transportation routes; they may be used for any combination of hiking, biking, running or horseback riding. Open Spaces can be used for hiking, bird watching, botanical study and a variety of other passive and active recreational activities.

### **Historic Sites**

Historic Sites are special areas that celebrate unique local resources. This may include Native American and cultural heritage points of interests, interpretive demonstration sites, and preserved historic landmarks and landscapes.

### **Special Use Areas**

Special Use Areas are designed for a specific recreational activity, such as a swimming pool, skate park, interpretive center, botanical gardens or a community garden. There is no standard size or service area.

## **Park Facility Inventory**

A primary component of planning for the future of a city's parks is to inventory and assess the current facilities and amenities. This inventory can aid in planning for future development, including the assessment of maintenance and repair, and the creation of a capital improvement plan.

To give a full perspective of the recreational opportunities in the Lowell area, the following inventory includes parks and open spaces owned by the City of Lowell, as well as the Lowell School District, Lane County, Oregon State Parks, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and privately or otherwise owned assets within a five mile radius. Although the primary focus of assessment and future planning will be on City owned properties, it is important to take these facilities into account for a more accurate determination of current and future needs.

To preface the full inventory, Table 3.1 summarizes park classifications for the City of Lowell's park and open space system. For each park classification, the benefits, functions, size, service area, and amenities are defined. Map 3.1 depicts the location of parks and historical areas owned by the City of Lowell and the Lowell School District.

**Table 3.1 Lowell's Park Classification System**

TYPE OF FACILITY	DEFINITION	BENEFITS AND FUNCTION	SIZE CRITERIA	SERVICE AREA	DESIGN CRITERIA	EXISTING PARKS OF THIS TYPE	
						NAME	ACREAGE
Mini Parks	Mini Parks offer open space within neighborhoods, providing passive or limited active recreational opportunities. Mini Parks may simply be open lots within neighborhoods or may be developed with a limited number of amenities. These should be accessible by sidewalks, trails, or low-traffic streets.	Mini Parks provide a balance between developed parkland and/or open space and residential development. They offer neighboring residents passive recreation and/or limited active recreation opportunities. Mini Parks add activity and character to neighborhoods and may be an appropriate space for neighborhood gatherings.	0-0.75 acres	¼ mile or less	Mini Parks may offer low-intensity facilities such as benches, picnic tables, multi-purpose paved trails, landscaping, and public art. If the mini park also offers active recreation, it may include children's play areas, community gardens, and a limited number of sports courts. Due to their size, mini parks typically do not include off-street parking facilities.	N/A	N/A
Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood Parks offer accessible recreation and social opportunities to nearby residents. These should be accessible by sidewalks, trails, and low-traffic residential streets. These should accommodate the needs of a wide variety of age and user groups.	Neighborhood Parks provide access to basic recreation activities for nearby residents of all ages; contribute to neighborhood identity and create a sense of place.	0.75-5.0 acres	1/4 - 1/2 mile	Neighborhood parks should include both passive and active recreation opportunities such as children's play areas, sports courts and fields, picnic facilities, public art, open turf areas, swimming pools, sitting areas, landscaping, community gardens, restrooms, and pathways. Security lighting and off-street parking may be provided if necessary.	Paul Fisher Park	1.33

TYPE OF FACILITY	DEFINITION	BENEFITS AND FUNCTION	SIZE CRITERIA	SERVICE AREA	DESIGN CRITERIA	EXISTING PARKS OF THIS TYPE	
						NAME	ACREAGE
Community Parks	Community Parks provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities for all age groups. These parks are larger in size and serve a wider base of residents than neighborhood parks. Community parks often include facilities for organized group activities as well as facilities for individual and family activities. Community parks may also preserve open spaces and unique landscapes.	Community parks provide a variety of accessible recreational opportunities for all age groups. They also provide educational opportunities, serve recreational needs of families, preserve open spaces and landscapes, and provide opportunities for community social activities and events. They often serve as a community focal point.	3.0-5.0 acres	1/2 - 5 miles	In addition to amenities offered at neighborhood parks, community parks may also offer sports facilities for large groups such as baseball diamonds, football and soccer fields, tennis courts, amphitheaters, group picnic areas, botanical gardens, interpretive facilities, and community centers. Higher quality children's play areas may be provided to create a family play destination.	Rolling Rock Park <i>Orchard Park<sup>1</sup></i> <i>Unity/Fall Creek Park</i>	1.41 10.0 4.0
School Facilities	School facilities can serve many of the same functions as Neighborhood Parks, if a partnership between the City and the School District is established. Residents may be allowed to use school grounds during non-school, daylight hours.	School facilities offer an opportunity to expand recreational, social, and educational opportunities in an efficient and cost effective manner.	Varies	Determined by location of school district property	School facilities offer varying amenities such as children's play areas, open turf, sport courts and fields, running tracks, benches, picnic tables, landscaping, and multi-purpose trails.	<i>Lowell High School</i> <i>Lundy Elementary</i>	8.0 8.0

<sup>1</sup> The City does not own italicized parks, and maintains partial ownership or responsibility for portions of properties with an asterisk

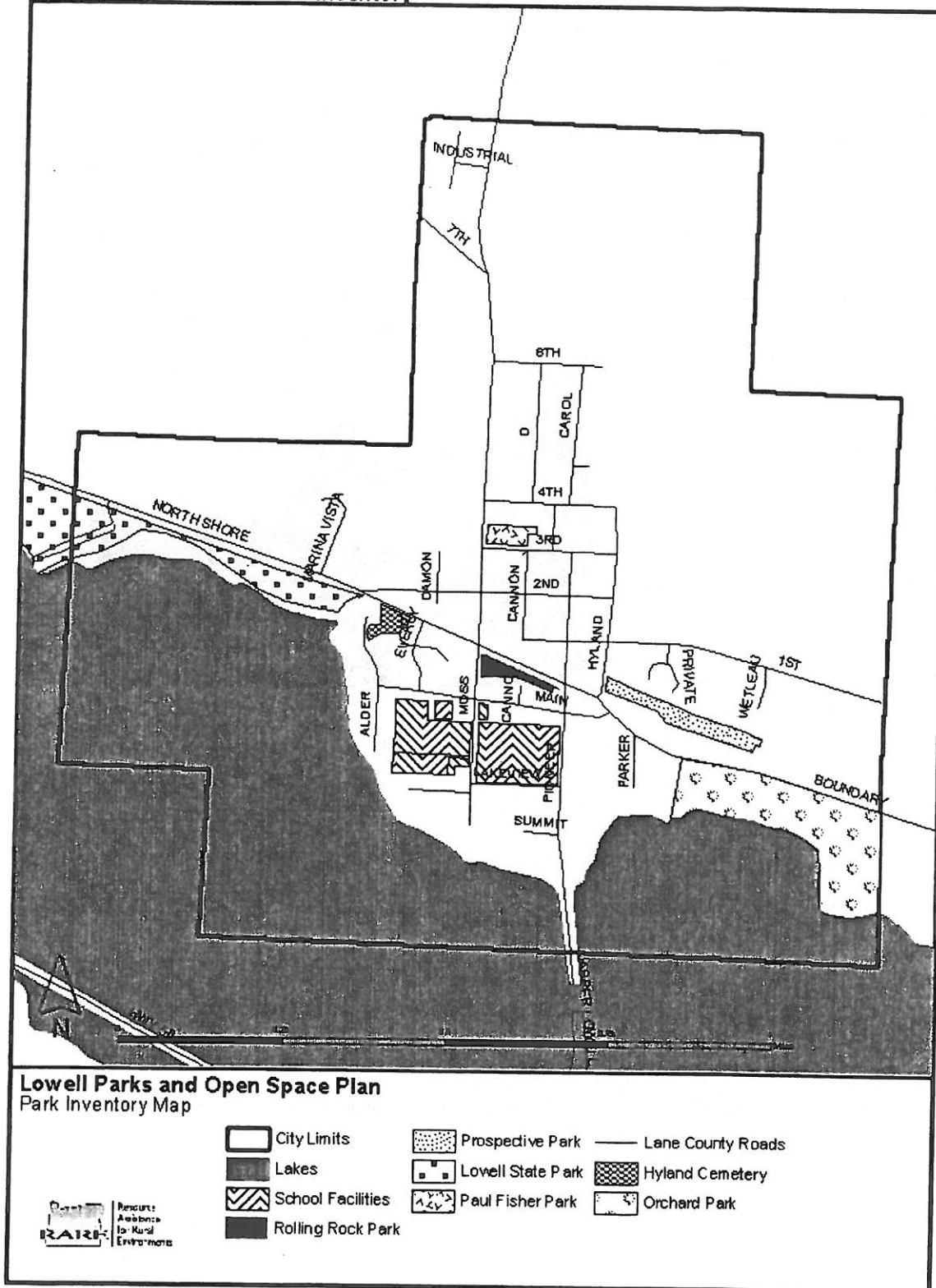


TYPE OF FACILITY	DEFINITION	BENEFITS AND FUNCTION	SIZE CRITERIA	SERVICE AREA	DESIGN CRITERIA	EXISTING PARKS OF THIS TYPE	
						NAME	ACREAGE
Regional Parks	Regional Parks provide a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities for persons of all ages and serve to preserve unique landscapes. These parks are larger than community parks and may attract people from outside of the community. As such, they may offer overnight opportunities such as camping. These are generally county or state owned parks but can include city parks.	Regional Parks offer opportunities for large expanses of open space that draws both residents and visitors. These offer opportunities to attract tourist to the community while also benefiting residents.	50+ acres	Determined by location, size, and amenities offered	Regional Parks should offer a variety of recreation opportunities such as benches, picnic tables, multi-purpose trails, landscaping where appropriate, camping amenities, and natural areas.	<i>Jasper State Recreation Site</i>	62.0
						<i>Elijah Bristow State Recreation Site</i>	847.0
						<i>Dexter State Recreation Site</i>	93.0
						<i>Lowell State Recreation Site</i>	46.0
						<i>Winberry Creek Park</i>	62.0
						<i>North Shore Park</i>	19.0
						<i>Sky Camp</i>	109.0
						<i>Middle Fork Boat Launch</i>	61.0
						<i>Meridian Park/ North Shore Boat Ramp</i>	7.0
Special Use Areas	Special use areas are sites occupied by specialized facilities, which may include interpretive facilities, community gardens, sports facilities or other specialized buildings.	Special Use Areas address the specific needs or interests of the community. These areas can focus on cultural, educational or athletic facilities, and can often times serve a more regional population.	Varies	Varies	Design is based on the specific function of the facility, whether it be sports fields, a skate park or a community center.	<i>Dexter Holding Pond</i> (facility at Dexter Hand Launch site)	
						<i>Lowell Covered Bridge Interpretive Center and Rest Area</i>	1.0

TYPE OF FACILITY	DEFINITION	BENEFITS AND FUNCTION	SIZE CRITERIA	SERVICE AREA	DESIGN CRITERIA	EXISTING PARKS OF THIS TYPE	
						NAME	ACREAGE
Historic Sites	Historic Sites are special areas, which celebrate unique local resources. This may include Native American and cultural heritage points of interest, interpretive demonstration sites, and preserved historical landmarks and landscapes.	Historic sites offer historical, educational, and cultural opportunities, which are unique to Lowell. These create a sense of place within the community and may also function as a tourist attraction.	Varies	Varies	The designation of a Historic site results from a site or feature, which is associated with a significant event, and important person, or a cultural activity of the past. Emphasis will be placed upon preservation and/or restoration where appropriate for historic sites and cultural areas within the park. A balance between historic preservation and change will need to be identified and then adhered to. <sup>2</sup>	Hyland Cemetery <i>The Grange</i> <i>Lowell Covered Bridge*</i> <i>Unity Covered Bridge</i> <i>Parvin Covered Bridge</i> <i>Pengra Covered Bridge</i>	1.5 0.48 N/A N/A N/A N/A
Trails, Connectors and Open Space	Trails and connectors should be established to link elements of the park system or community.	Trails and connectors provide opportunities for alternative transportation routes. Open space provides opportunities for habitat conservation and restoration.	Varies	N/A	Trails and connectors should be established based on their ability to link parks or other areas of the community. Only limited improvements should occur in open space areas. Trails and connectors may also play important roles in transportation and emergency evacuation routes.	Railroad Right-of-Way Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail* <i>Butte Disappointment Trail</i> Lake Access Points* <i>Lake Shoreline</i>	8.0 N/A N/A N/A N/A

<sup>2</sup> This classification was created with information from the National Parks service document entitled "Planning, Treatment, and Management of historical Landscapes" by Charles A. Birnbaum.

Map 3.1 City of Lowell Park Inventory



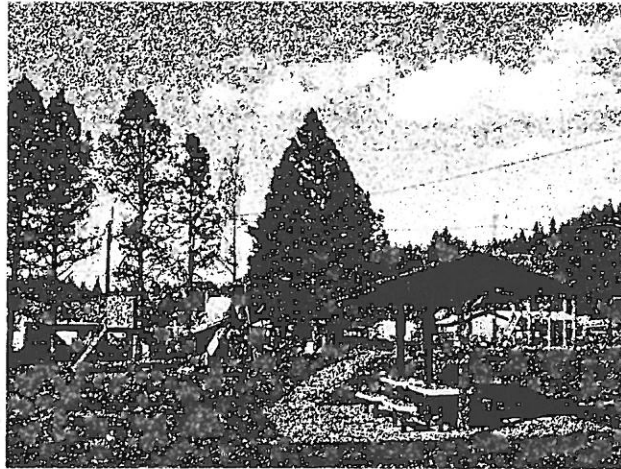
## City of Lowell Parks

The City of Lowell maintains approximately 2.74 acres of park land, owns an additional 4 acres of open space and a 1.5 acre historical cemetery. The developed parkland is split between a neighborhood and a community park, while the open space is proposed for development as a nature park. These parks provide a variety of primarily passive recreational activities for the residents of Lowell. Both parks contain areas for children to explore and play and limited open space for sports activities. These parks are well supplemented by an abundance of regional parks in the immediate vicinity which promote a wide variety of active and passive recreational pursuits.

### Neighborhood Parks

#### **Paul Fisher Park**

Paul Fisher Park is located at the intersection of Moss and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street next to the City Hall and provides several active and passive recreational opportunities. It is located within a residential area, although it is bordered on one



side by a major road, and shares a lot with the Lowell City Hall. This developed park is approximately 1.33 acres in size, and is used primarily by families with young children. It is also the site of Food For Lane County's Summer Food Program in Lowell.

While the location of Paul Fisher Park allows for pedestrian access from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, it's frontage along Moss Street may inhibit pedestrian access. A major county collector road, Moss Street has a daily traffic count of approximately 1,100 cars<sup>14</sup>. There are no bike lanes along Moss, nor is there a painted crosswalk across either Moss or 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Racks are not available for bicycle parking on-site. A sidewalk extends for much of the west side of Moss, opposite the park. The park is maintained through volunteer efforts and part time summer staff. Parking for approximately five vehicles is available at the City Hall, with additional parking along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Although a sidewalk leads from the ADA accessible parking lot into the play and picnic areas, the park is not ADA accessible.

#### Amenities

- Toddler swing set
- Youth swing set
- A 2 to 5 year old play structure
- A 5 to 12 year old play structure
- Picnic shelter

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<sup>14</sup> Communication with Oregon Department of Transportation staff member Eric Anderson, March 20, 2005

- 4 picnic tables
- 4 benches
- Two large shade trees

#### Concerns

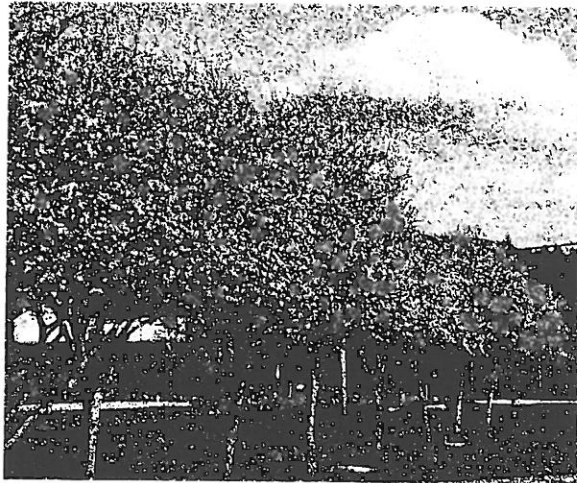
- Lack of restrooms or drinking fountain
- Unsound and inadequate picnic shelter
- No signage
- Not ADA accessible
- Limited maintenance and cleanup
- Exposed and inoperable irrigation system
- Lack of pedestrain and bike access along Moss Street
- Ungraded lawn
- Limited off street parking

### **Community Parks**

#### **Rolling Rock Park**

Rolling Rock Park is located on the south side of North Shore Drive between Moss Street and Pioneer Street, in the downtown district. Developed as a heritage park with grants from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the Oregon Arts Council, the park highlights Lowell's history. Interpretive displays tie together historical artifacts and railroad themed amenities. This park is used for passive recreation by all age groups and is also the site of the annual Blackberry Jam Festival.

Bordered on three sides by highly trafficked roads, and abutting commercial properties on the fourth side, Rolling Rock Park has no on-site parking. Possible parking exists along Main, Cannon and Moss Streets. The park is accessible by sidewalks along Pioneer and part of Moss, however painted crosswalks do not exist at the corner of North Shore Drive and Moss Street. The roads do not contain designated bike lanes, nor are there racks for bicycle parking on-site.



These amenities include ADA accessible sidewalks, restrooms, drinking fountains, and three picnic shelters. Additionally, Rolling Rock Park contains a replica covered bridge, interpretive and standard benches and displays.

#### Amenities

- ADA accessible sidewalks
- ADA accessible restrooms
- ADA accessible drinking fountain
- Three picnic shelters
- 7 Picnic tables
- 8 benches
- 4 Trash cans
- 3 Barbeque pits
- 2 Memorial benches
- Replica covered bridge
- 4 interpretive displays
- Natural Amphitheatre area

#### Concerns

- Difficult to maintain dirt mounds
- Unleveled grade and low-lying areas
- No sprinkler system
- Unpaved pullout off North Shore Drive
- Lack of mature shade trees
- Maintenance of private property adjacent to park
- Maintenance of equipment, interpretive displays and benches
- Center circle development
- Public amphitheater/stage area development
- Undeveloped Cannon Street entrance

### **Trails, Connectors and Open Space**

#### **Former Railroad Right-of-way**

The City owns approximately 8 acres of wooded land on the east side of town, which was formerly the Railroad Right-of-Way. Currently undeveloped, half of this land has been proposed as the future site of a nature park with hiking and picnic facilities. It is also intended for incorporation into the EPCT, as the railroad bed is graded and currently used as a multi-purpose trail. When developed, this park would form a natural link to several additional hiking trails and natural parks on Butte Disappointment.

#### Concerns

- Area has been identified as a wildfire hazard by the Fire Chief; however, this places it as a priority for grant-funded management efforts
- Funding for development
- Funding for future maintenance
- The proposed park needs a name.

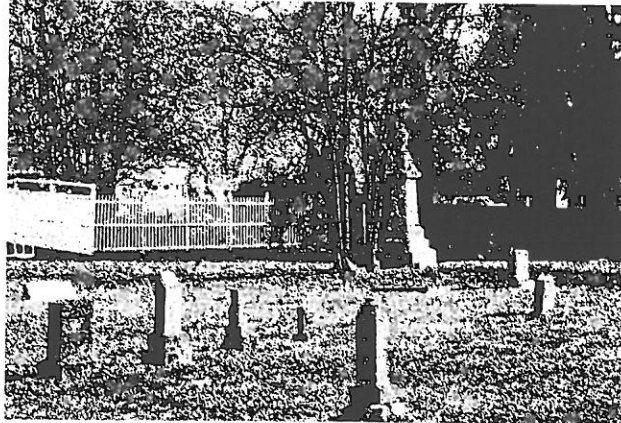
## **Historic Sites**

### **Historic Hyland Cemetery**

The historic Hyland Cemetery was originally created in 1867 by Joseph Bagley and is a prospect for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Cemeteries. It is located near the corner of Everly Street and North Shore Drive and contains burial sites for Lowell's earliest settlers. The land was deeded to the city by the Hyland family and Methodist Church.

#### **Concerns**

- Should pursue inclusion on the National Register of Historic Cemeteries
- Many grave markers have been lost over the years
- The site is not universally accessible
- Parking issues
- Lack of informational sign or plot map on site
- Lack of flag pole



### **The Grange (not City owned)**

The Lowell Grange Hall was constructed in 1913 to serve as a schoolhouse, and served this purpose until 1940, when it officially became the Grange Hall. Home to the Lowell Grange, formerly known as the Lowell White Oak Grange, the building continues to serve as a center for community activities. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Lowell School District 71 Facilities**

The local schools are a very important component of Lowell's culture and community, and can provide many additional recreational resources. Generally accessible to the public during non-school hours, school facilities offer an efficient, cost-effective way to expand recreational opportunities for the residents of Lowell. Lowell School District 71 maintains approximately 16 acres within the city limits, which contain both Lowell High School and Lundy Elementary School.

### **Lundy Elementary School**

Lundy Elementary School sits on an approximately 8 acres along Moss Street, near the downtown district and Rolling Rock Park. Access points to the Elementary School property are through the parking lot on Moss, or frontage access along Main Street. Facilities that may be accessed during non-school hours include a playground on Moss Street, a partially enclosed courtyard containing basketball hoops, wall ball, tetherball, foursquare and hopscotch, a gymnasium suitable for youth sports, two youth sized ball fields, one youth sized soccer field, and a heavily used softball field with backstop. One

little-used ball field along Main Street was named as a potential site for a future skate park. Additionally, the School District owns a small parcel of land opposite the Elementary School, containing a wooden gazebo.

### **Lowell High School**

Lowell High School faces Pioneer Street, at the entrance to Lowell from Highway 58. It is also bordered by Main Street to the North, Lakeview Drive to the south and Moss Street at the rear of the property. On the approximately 8 acres there are a variety of recreational amenities including a large baseball and football field with lighting, a wrestling practice room, a non-regulation running track, a pole vault training area, a tennis court, and a large gymnasium and weight room used primarily by school athletic teams.

## **Lane County Parks**

### **Community Parks**

#### **Unity/Fall Creek Park**

Commonly referred to as Fall Creek Park, this rural park is 7.7 acres in size, and is maintained by the Fall Creek Park Association. This park is accessible from Jasper-Lowell Road, along Fall Creek. Fall Creek Park has one grill, 9 picnic tables, fishing access, a seasonal portable toilet, horse shoe pits, and a parking area with capacity for 15 cars.

### **Historic Sites**

#### **Lowell Covered Bridge**

Originally built in 1907, and rebuilt in 1945, the Lowell Covered Bridge is the widest covered bridge in Oregon. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Lowell Bridge is situated at the entrance to Lowell off Highway 58 and is closed to traffic. It has been fully restored and enhanced as a scenic viewpoint and interpretive center. This site contains parking for approximately 27 vehicles, a restroom, a picnic area with 5 tables, and street lighting. It has an interpretive kiosk, viewing platform, ample fishing areas and concession area. It is ADA accessible; however there is no dedicated pedestrian access from the city.

The greater Lowell area contains several additional historic covered bridges. These are Unity Bridge, at the intersection of Big Fall Creek Road and Jasper-Lowell Road; the Parvin Bridge, located near Dexter off Rattlesnake Road on Lost Valley Lane; and Pengra Bridge, located on Place Road, just off Jasper-Lowell Road.



## Oregon State Parks

### Regional Parks

#### **Lowell State Recreation Site**

Lowell State Park consists of 46 acres along Dexter Lake between the City of Lowell and Dexter Dam, with a variety of options for passive or active recreation. As a primary regional destination for water sports, Lowell State Park contains a 56-slip marina, boat ramps, and a privately owned boat house maintained by the Oregon Association of Rowers and the University of Oregon rowing team. There is a seasonal swimming area, as well as full basketball and volleyball courts, a play area (including two large play structures), a group picnic shelter, 2 horse shoe pits, restrooms and hiking trails (to include a portion of the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail – see below). The park has a sprinkler system, 23 picnic tables, a seasonal concession area run by local students, and is ADA accessible.



#### **Dexter State Recreation Site**

Dexter State Recreation Site is located on 93 acres adjacent to Highway 58 and Dexter Lake. This park contains a regionally popular 18 hole disc golf course and access to Dexter Lake. Additional amenities include a boat ramp, hiking and horse riding trails, picnic facilities, and a dry restroom. Dexter Park is ADA accessible, and has parking for approximately 70 vehicles. A 5 mile, seasonal connector trail links Dexter and Elijah Bristow State Parks.

#### **Jasper State Recreation Site**

Jasper State Recreation Site is a 62 acre park along the southern shore of the Willamette River, across from Jasper. The park has potable water, 2 restrooms, group picnic areas, a ball field, volleyball court, horse shoe pits, and gravel walkways. It is ADA accessible, and is used for both passive and active recreation. There is a proposed expansion of 71 acres on the eastern side (rural riverfront).

#### **Elijah Bristow State Park**

Elijah Bristow State Park contains 847 acres of meadows, wetlands, ponds, and woodlands along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. The primary usage area is north of Highway 58 on Wheeler Road, along the southern shore of the river. There are several entrance ways. The park maintains 12 miles of multi-use trails, which include horse riding, mountain biking and dedicated walking trails. It also contains a portion of the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail. Amenities include two restrooms, potable water, picnic areas, and three designated parking lots (to hold approximately 50 vehicles). Additionally, this park contains a Pengra Road access point on the northern shore of the

river, which is partially developed. The Pengra Road Access contains a boat ramp, two parking areas, to hold approximately 30 vehicles, hiking trails and a restroom. Both sections of Elijah Bristow State Park are ADA accessible.

### **Winberry Creek Park**

Located Northeast of Lowell on Winberry Creek Road, this partially developed 62 acre park is on the south shore of Fall Creek Lake. As a day use area, it provides many options for active and passive recreation, especially during the summer months, when the lake is at peak levels. The park contains a seasonal boat ramp and boarding dock, a waterfront picnic area with 30 tables, swimming beach and swim dock, access to forested hiking trails and on-shore fishing, a restroom with flush toilets and a restroom with a vault toilet, as well as potable water and a sewage disposal site. Winberry Creek Park has two parking areas, for 90 and 35 vehicles, respectively, including trailers. The park is ADA accessible.



### **North Shore Park**

North Shore Park is a 19 acre park located northeast of Lowell off Big Fall Creek Road. On the north shore of Fall Creek Lake, adjacent to the dam, this park is on the opposite shore from Winberry Creek Park. A popular park for watersports, such as boating and fishing, the park contains a year-round boat ramp as well as a higher, seasonal ramp. Approximately half of the park is forested. There is a small picnic area, vault toilet, a view point, and a parking lot with capacity for 21 vehicles or trailers.

### **Sky Camp**

Sky Camp is a 109 acre park on the south shore of Fall Creek Lake, accessible from Peninsula Road. With its primary function being provision of youth camp facilities, the park is managed and operated by the Springfield School District, and usually requires a reservation. Partially developed, with a large portion remaining forested, Sky Camp has a large lodge, seven cabins (bunkhouse style, sleeping 20-24 people each), a restroom and shower building, a boat house, a small shop, a caretaker residence, potable water, a gravel parking area with undefined capacity, and a sewage disposal site. Providing for both active and passive recreation, Sky Camp has forested hiking trails and fields for volleyball and other sports as well as a swimming beach and canoe launch. It is not ADA accessible.

## **Army Corps of Engineers Parks**

The completion of Dexter and Lookout Point Dams in 1954 made the Lowell area a regional destination for water sports and other outdoor activities, including rowing, boat racing and fishing. The two dams are located approximately 22 miles southeast of

Eugene, directly to the west and east of Lowell, respectively. Accessible along Highway 58, these two dams were created on the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. Both are earth and gravel fill dams with concrete gated spillways, and the two lakes that have been created work to control flooding in the area and generate electricity. Dexter and Lookout Point Lakes offer an abundance of recreational activities, and have numerous access points. Boat launch sites are located on the south side of the river at below Dexter Dam. A fish ladder and holding pond are located on the northern side. Other parks and facilities owned and controlled by the Corps of Engineers within a five mile radius of Lowell are listed below.

## **Community Parks**

### **Orchard Park**

Orchard Park consists of 10 acres of shore front land along Dexter Lake below Lookout Point Dam. The park contains restrooms, a gravel parking area with space for approximately 10 cars and two picnic tables. The park is partially developed with an apple orchard and fishing access. The park is at the eastern edge of town along North Shore Drive.

## **Regional Parks**

### **Middle Fork Boat Launch**

The Middle Fork Boat Launch is a 61 acre site located just west of Lowell off Pengra Road. With a gravel parking area, boat ramp and restroom, this small park provides access to the Middle Fork Willamette River below the dam and onshore fishing opportunities. The park also features a nature trail which has been used for educational purposes, and a fish holding pond. This area is not ADA accessible.

### **Meridian Park / North Shore Boat Ramp**

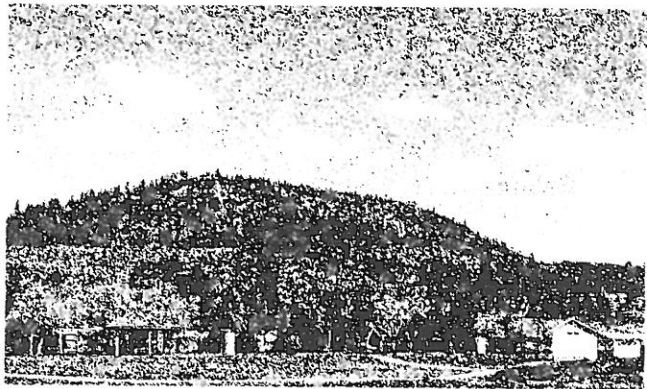
Meridian Park / North Shore Boat Ramp and viewpoint are accessible from North Shore Drive, 1.5 miles to the east of Lowell. Adjacent to Lookout Point Dam, this 7 acre site contains restrooms, a picnic area with several tables, and a high water boat launch. This park provides access to hiking trails and onshore fishing, and contains a parking area which can hold approximately 20 cars. The park is not ADA accessible.

## **Other Facilities**

### **Trails, Connectors and Open Space**

#### **Butte Disappointment Trail**

Directly northeast of Lowell and partially within its city limits is Butte Disappointment, an important physical landmark. A trail is being developed to the summit, at 2,141 feet, where community members can hike for views of



the Willamette Valley and snowcapped Cascades. The trail is being developed through grassroots efforts with support from several local agencies and non profit organizations, and is planned for use as both an educational and recreational site. It will augment the EPCT and local trail networks.

### **Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail**

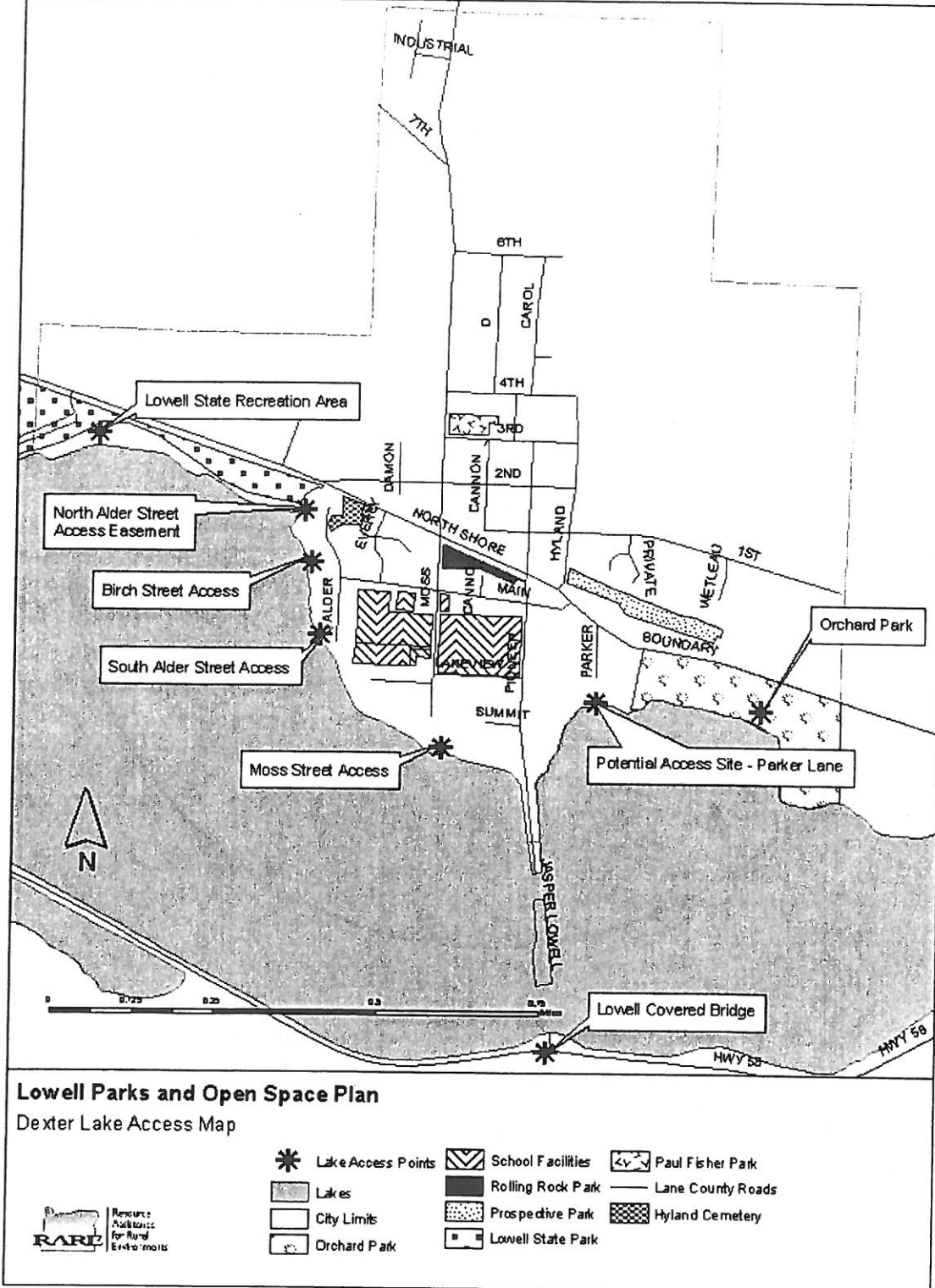
The Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail (EPCT) is currently being developed as part of a network of trails covering the state of Oregon. Upon completion, the trail should link Eugene to the internationally known Pacific Crest Trail, which passes approximately 80 miles to the east of Lowell. The EPCT trail will cover 108 miles and pass through Lowell along Dexter and Lookout Point Reservoirs. The trail is being developed by the nonprofit Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail Organization, with support from Oregon State Parks, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Lane County Parks and the US Forest Service. The trail will pass through downtown Lowell and follow the former railroad right of way.

### **Lake Access Points within the City of Lowell**

The shoreline of Dexter Lake is owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers, is open to public access by boat at all points along the shore. Pedestrian access is limited by development; however, the following pedestrian access points are available:

1. Lowell State Recreation Area
2. Access Easement between 81 and 93 N. Alder Street
3. Birch Street Right-of-way between 29 and 11 North Alder
4. At the end of South Alder Street, after 51 South Alder, on the west
5. At the end of Moss Street, adjacent to the sewage plant
6. Orchard Park
7. Potential access point on Parker Lane, adjacent to water treatment plant

Map 3.2 Dexter Lake Public Access Areas



Map 3.3 Regional Parks and Facilities

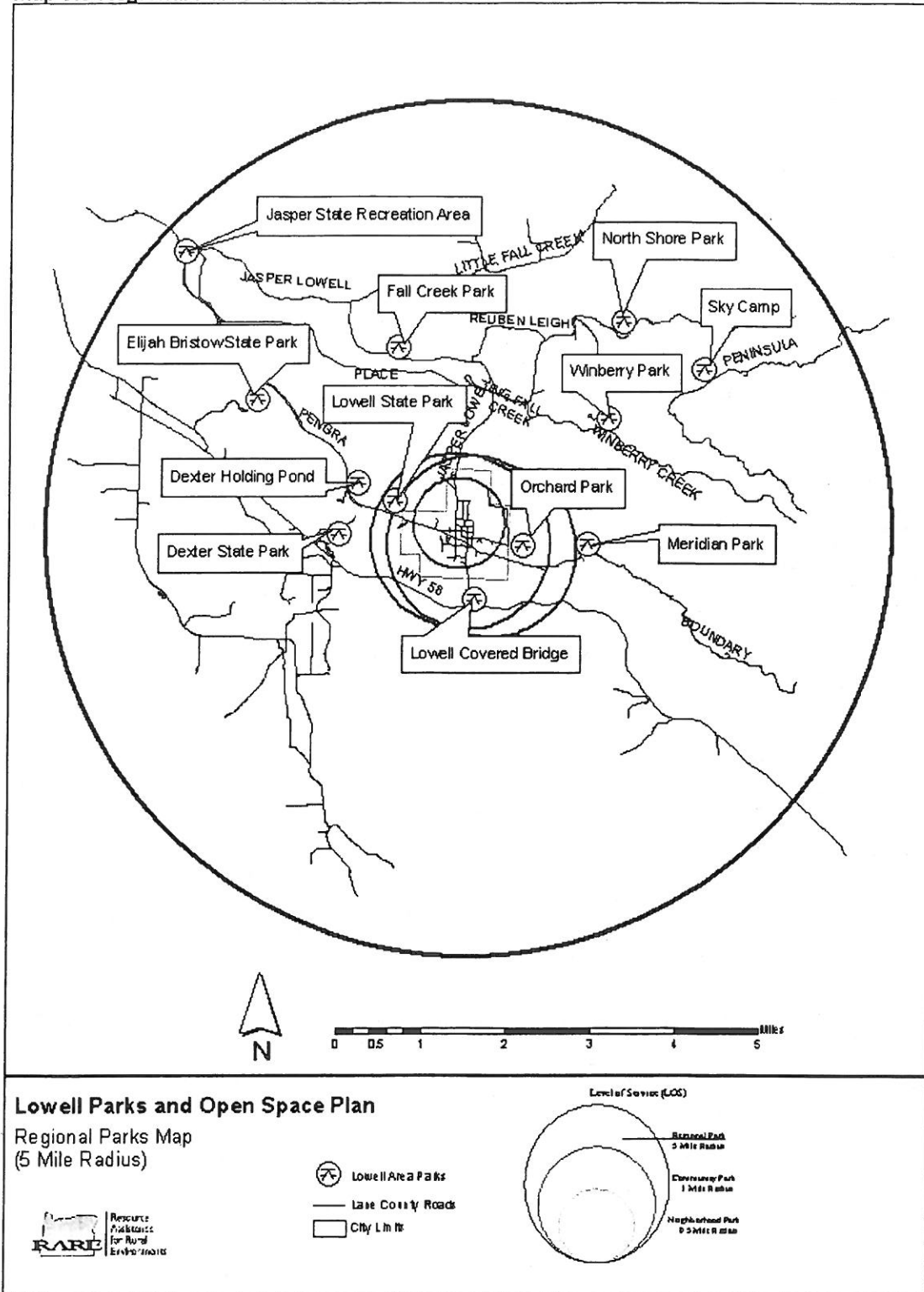


Table 3.2 – Summary of Lowell Area Park and Open Space Facilities

Park or Open Space Site	Park Classification	Acreage	Ownership
<b>City Parks and Historic Sites</b>			
Rolling Rock Park	Community Park	1.41	City of Lowell
Paul Fisher Park	Neighborhood Park	1.33	City of Lowell
Hyland Cemetery	Historic Site	1.50	City of Lowell
Railroad ROW	Future Park	4.00	City of Lowell
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8.24</b>	
<b>Lowell School District Facilities</b>			
School Property	School Facilities	16.76	School District
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16.76</b>	
<b>Lane County Parks &amp; Historic Sites</b>			
Lowell Covered Bridge	Historic Site	1.00	Lane County
Unity/Fall Creek Park	Community Park	8.00	Lane County
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9.00</b>	
<b>Oregon State Parks</b>			
Jasper State Recreation Site	Regional Park	62.00	State
Elijah Bristow State Park	Regional Park	847.0	State
Dexter State Recreation Area	Regional Park	93.00	State
Lowell State Recreation Site	Regional Park	46.00	State
Winberry Creek Park	Regional Park	62.00	State
North Shore Park	Regional Park	19.00	State
Sky Camp*	Regional Park	109.00	School District
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1238</b>	
<b>US Army Corps of Engineers Parks</b>			
Orchard Park	Community Park	10.00	Corps
Middle Fork Boat Launch	Regional Park	61.00	Corps
Meridian Park/ North Shore Boat Ramp	Regional Park	7.00	Corps
Dexter Lake Shoreline	Trails/Open Space	n/a	Corps
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>78.00</b>	
<b>Privately or Otherwise Owned Facilities</b>			
Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail	Trail/Connector		Various
Butte Disappointment Trail	Trail/Open space		Private Ownership
Lake Access Points	Connector Trails		Various
	<b>Subtotal</b>		
<b>Total Acres of Parkland</b>		<b>1350</b>	
<b>Total Acres of City Parkland</b>		<b>8.41</b>	
<b>Total Acres of Developed City Parkland</b>		<b>2.74</b>	

\* Although located on state park land, these facilities are managed and operated by the Springfield School District

## Level of Service

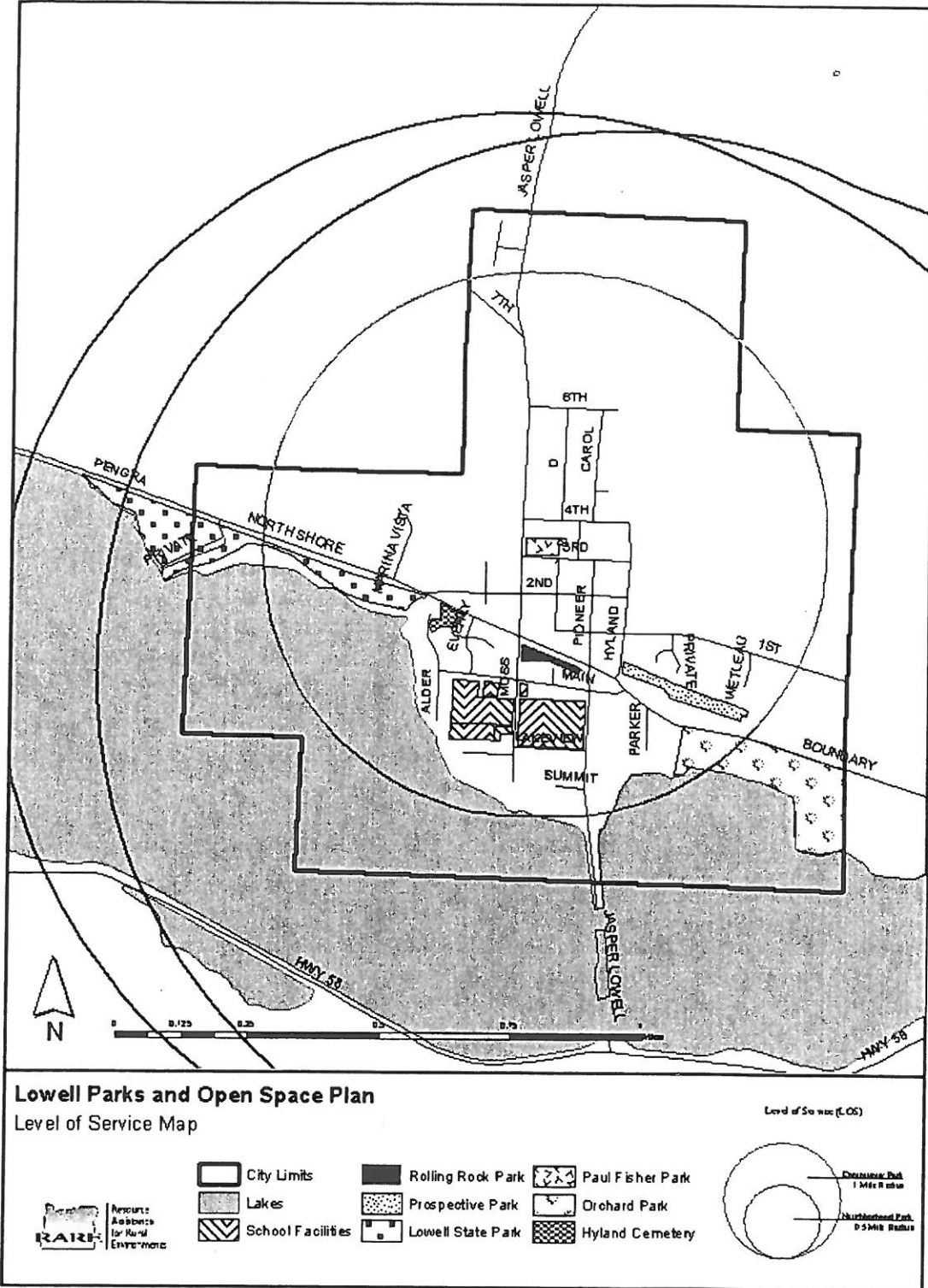
The summary of Lowell area parklands depicted in Table 3.2 demonstrates the unique accessibility of local and regional park assets. While the majority of the 1,350 acres of parkland listed within a five mile radius are predominately owned by the Oregon State Parks or the US Army Corps of Engineers, they provide an added level of service above and beyond that provided solely by city facilities.

Many cities use a level of service based on parkland acreage per 1,000 residents to determine the need for additional park assets. Because of the large amount of dedicated park space within five miles of Lowell owned by others, but available for use by residents, the City has determined that a level of service determination based on acreage per 1,000 residents does not apply.

Instead the City has determined that the standard for new park facility development should be based upon distance from an available park facility. For park planning purposes, it has been determined that park facilities should be available to all residential dwelling units within no more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and that park land acquisition shall be considered for all new residential developments where no park facilities exist within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. All distances are measured in a straight line and not street distance. Because of the central location of City owned Paul Fisher Park and Rolling Rock Park and the nearby locations of several regional parks owned by others, it has been determined that additional park land within the existing UGB should be for mini-parks approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre in size. Based on the above distance criteria, new park acquisition will be required for the area east of Wetleau Drive as established in the Master Road Plan and north of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. These mini-parks should be developed, as a minimum, with playground facilities.



Map 3.4 Park Service Areas





## Chapter 4

# Goals and Proposed System Improvements

This chapter provides a framework for the development of parks and recreational facilities in Lowell through the year 2025. This chapter describes park needs, park system goals and objectives, a parkland acquisition strategy, and a capital improvement plan for the City of Lowell.

Park needs are based on current national and regional recreational trends, an evaluation of the current parks and open space areas, and input from community members through public survey, workshops and the volunteer Parks Advisory Committee.

The goals provide a framework for achieving the broader vision for Lowell's parks and open spaces. Each goal is detailed with specific actions that can be taken to work towards the broader vision. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was developed from these goals and objectives.

The CIP identifies park improvement projects and estimated costs for each project. This Plan outlines capital improvements for Rolling Rock Park, Paul Fisher Park, and the Lowell Covered Bridge, as well as prospective parks. Capital improvements are outlined for a prospective nature park along the railroad right of way, a nature park on a proposed land dedication, and a skate park. The City should use the CIP in coordination with annual budgeting to systematically fund park projects. In addition to the CIP, this Plan also outlines a Parkland Acquisition Strategy, intended to assist the City in acquiring and developing of new parklands. The Plan is based on coordinated population projections for the City by 2025, and areas of anticipated growth.

### **Outdoor Recreation Participation Trends**

#### **National, state and regional trends**

The identification of national, state and regional recreation trends can allow a city to anticipate demand for facilities, and thus better plan for future development. Both the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) have compiled sports participation data, illustrating trends at each of these levels. This data can be referenced when evaluating Lowell's park system.

The National Sporting Goods Association publishes data for participation in 45 sports at the national level and 33 at the state level. Trends outlined in this data may be useful in predicting future needs, as both Lowell and the Lowell region grow in upcoming years. According to the 2004 NSGA survey data, the following sports have the highest level of participation nationwide<sup>15</sup>:

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<sup>15</sup> <http://nsga.org>, accessed on April 4, 2006

<b>Sport</b>	<b>People participating more than once (in millions)</b>
Exercise Walking:	84.7
Camping (vacation/overnight):	55.3
Swimming:	53.4
Exercising with Equipment:	52.2
Bowling:	43.8
Fishing:	41.2
Bicycle Riding:	40.3
Billiards/Pool:	34.2
Workout at Club/Aerobic:	31.8
Exercising:	29.5

As compared with national averages, additional NSGA data from 2003 show a number of sports that are popular in Oregon. The five most popular sports at the state level, compared to the national average include:

1. Skateboarding : 2.57 times greater in Oregon
2. Snowboarding : 2.19 times greater in Oregon
3. Scooter Riding: 1.93 times greater in Oregon
4. Target Shooting: 1.89 times greater in Oregon
5. In-line Roller Skating: 1.83 times greater in Oregon

While the sports listed above are significantly more popular in Oregon than across the United States, they are not necessarily representative of overall most commonly enjoyed recreational activities. According to the 2003-2007 Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan, the top ten Oregon outdoor recreation activities are<sup>16</sup>:

1. Running/Walking for Exercise
2. Walking for Pleasure
3. Bird Watching
4. Nature/Wildlife Observation
5. Sightseeing/Driving for Pleasure
6. RV/Trailer Camping
7. Golf
8. Using Playground Equipment
9. Bicycling
10. Ocean Beach Activities

According to SCORP, the most significant participant growth over the previous fifteen year period occurred in:

- Nature/wildlife observation
- Golf

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<sup>16</sup> 2003-2007 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, January 2003

- RV/Trailer Camping
- Using Playground Equipment
- Sightseeing/Driving for Pleasure

In the SCORP analysis, the City of Lowell was placed in Planning Region 3, which is comprised of inland portions of Lane, Benton and Linn Counties. For planning purposes, the SCORP combines Region 3 with Region 2, which includes the inland portions of Clackamas, Hood River, Marion, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill and Polk Counties.

The five activities that experienced the greatest increase in participation in Regions 2 and 3 between 1987 and 2002 include:

- Nature/Wildlife Observation
- Golf
- Using Playground Equipment
- Sightseeing/Driving for Pleasure
- Baseball

The SCORP identifies three major demographic trends, which will continue to have a significant impact on Oregon recreational activities. These are: “rapidly increasing population, rapidly increasing diversity within the population, and a growing gap between the rich and the poor.”<sup>17</sup> Recreation providers are advised to proactively address these trends, in order to provide adequate and equal access to current and future residents.

## Community Needs

A Lowell Parks Survey was conducted in March, 2006. Questionnaires were distributed to approximately 350 local residences, with additional questionnaires available at the City Hall. A total of 66 responses were returned from the general public, and an additional 38 responses were provided through workshops with several high school classes. The high school workshops involved approximately 75 students and generated youth input on individual parks in the area.<sup>18</sup>

Results from the survey indicated that 78% of the general public and 79% of high school students feel that parks are important or very important to the community’s quality of life. 52% of the general public and 18% high school students responded as satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of the parks and recreation system. 48% of the general public and 29% of high school students responded as dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. When asked to further explain their level of satisfaction, a common response was that they are ‘fairly well kept but need upgrading’.

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<sup>17</sup> 2003-2007 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, January 2003, 4-32

<sup>18</sup> Appendix A contains complete results from both the public and student surveys

Given a variety of park amenities, the following is a listing in order of importance, with importance determined by the percentage of respondents naming the amenity 'important' or 'very important'. It should be noted that several factors can effect ranking, including the desire to spend limited park funds on maintaining current facilities before budgeting for major capital improvements.

Responses from the General Public:

1. Restrooms 83%
2. Lake/River Access 79%
3. Playgrounds 77%
4. New Playground Equipment 71%
5. Paved trails 56%
6. Unpaved Trails/Community Gardens 47%
7. Sprinkler Systems 42%
8. Skate Park 41%
9. Stage/Amphitheater 18%

Responses from High School Students:

1. New Playground equipment/Restrooms 63%
2. Lake/River Access 61%
3. Playgrounds/Skate park 58%
4. Sprinkler System 53%
5. Paved Trails/Unpaved Trails 50%
6. Community Gardens 42%
7. Stage/Amphitheater 32%

The following is the percentage of the general public naming the following park types as important or very important:

Trails and Open Space 81%  
Neighborhood Parks 74%  
Community Parks 63%  
Mini Parks 47%

The following is the percentage of high school respondents naming the following park types as important or very important:

Trails and Open Space 61%  
Community Parks 53%  
Neighborhood parks 47%  
Mini Parks 34%

## Lowell Parks and Open Space Vision

The City of Lowell recognizes the value of its parks, open space and recreational facilities, not only as places to relax and recreate, but to also build relationships, carry on traditions, and create a sense of place. For this reason, the Lowell Parks and Open Space Master plan will focus on strengthening community and familial ties among users, aiding in positive and educational youth development, and providing a place for healthy exercise for a diverse set of residents. The City of Lowell Parks and Open Space Master Plan will:

- Foster pride in City parks
- Recognize our local heritage
- Enhance and connect people with local natural areas
- Provide safe areas for children to play
- Promote healthy family and community interaction
- Encourage active lifestyles
- Adequately serve Lowell's growing population
- Identify Lowell as a unique and beautiful tourist destination

## System Wide Goals and Actions

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan establishes a series of goals and actions to define system priorities and guide implementation. Together the goals and actions provide a framework to develop and maintain the parks through the year 2025. The City will implement the goals and actions through the Capital Improvement Plan, as well as the Parkland Acquisition Strategy.

### Goals

The goals are intended to reflect the general direction in which the City seeks to develop its park and recreational facilities. Goals frame how the City should work towards meeting identified community needs.

### Actions

The actions are specific recommendations for activities the City should undertake to fulfill its goals.

The City of Lowell Parks and Open Space Master Plan establish the following goals and actions. The goals and actions are not listed in order of priority.

#### Goal 1: Rehabilitate Paul Fisher Park

- Action 1A. Rehabilitate existing picnic shelter for compliance with safety standards and aesthetic design.
- Action 1B. Improve Universal Accessibility, to comply with ADA standards.
- Action 1C. Develop permanent restroom facilities.

- Action 1D. Improve safety by removing non functional sprinkler system and covering exposed drainage pipe on west side of park.
- Action 1E. Improve safety by enabling pedestrian and bike access along Moss Street.
- Action 1F. Regrade surface for ease of maintenance.
- Action 1H. Install park sign to better identify Lowell's parks.
- Action 1H. Install drinking fountain.

**Goal 2: Provide Lowell's residents with improved access to Dexter Lake**

- Action 2A. Create a brochure noting current public access points to improve public awareness.
- Action 2B. Work with Oregon State Parks and the US Army Corps of Engineers to improve accessibility.
- Action 2C. Research possibility of pedestrian walkway to Covered Bridge to increase local access.
- Action 2D. Research possibility for boat dock at the Covered Bridge to increase local access.
- Action 2E. Research possibility for moorage dock by sewer plant to increase local access.

**Goal 3: Increase diversity of park and recreational opportunities**

- Action 3A. Develop a skate park facility to meet needs of youth.
- Action 3B. Publicize School District facilities for use during non-school hours to expand recreational options.
- Action 3C. Develop a basketball court.
- Action 3D. Promote music in our parks to increase family-oriented recreational opportunities.

**Goal 4: Create a trail system**

- Action 4A. Develop safe pedestrian trails to Lowell State Park.
- Action 4B. Support construction of the Butte Disappointment Trail.
- Action 4C. Develop Railroad Right-of-Way as a Universally Accessible, multi use trail.
- Action 4D. Connect Railroad Right-of-Way with a natural park near the Sunridge development to recognize a need for parks in newly developed areas.
- Action 4E. Actively work with the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail Association to define and advertise the Lowell portion of the trail to promote Lowell as a tourism destination.
- Action 4F. Advocate for a pedestrian walkway to Covered Bridge as a response to public request and for public safety.
- Action 4G. Enhance pedestrian and bike routes throughout the City for public safety.
- Action 4H. Develop a Master Trail Plan to insure interconnectivity and extension of trail system.



**Goal 5: Perform needed park maintenance**

- Action 5A. Encourage community and Park Advisory Committee volunteerism to sustain adequate park maintenance.
- Action 5B. Work with the School District to incorporate parks involvement into community service learning projects.
- Action 5C. Evaluate possible acquisitions and improvements to determine maintenance needs and capabilities.
- Action 5D. Hire additional City Staff to assist with maintenance
- Action 5E. Research possibilities for court ordered community service to aid in sustaining adequate park maintenance.

**Goal 6: Advance community partnerships**

- Action 6A. Work with Lowell School District Superintendent to create facility use plan.
- Action 6B. Research feasibility of joint recreational programming with Lowell School District to expand recreational opportunities.
- Action 6C. Collaborate with Oregon State Parks on facilities development at Lowell State Recreation Area to better address local needs.
- Action 6D. Collaborate with the US Forest Service on facilities development at local parks to better address local needs.
- Action 6E. Collaborate with the US Army Corps of Engineers on facilities and Dexter Lake shoreline development at local parks to better address local needs.
- Action 6F. Collaborate with Oregon Association of Rowers and the University of Oregon Rowing Team to expand recreational opportunities.
- Action 6G. Promote community involvement in planning, operating, maintaining and enjoying the parks to promote citizen ownership.

**Goal 7: Enhance Rolling Rock Park**

- Action 7A. Develop Cannon Street entrance as a focal point of the downtown commercial district.
- Action 7B. Maintain interpretive displays for visitor usage and aesthetic appeal.
- Action 7C. Determine installation for center circle to complete interpretive display.
- Action 7D. Level grade in low-lying areas, and regrade as needed for ease of maintenance.
- Action 7E. Pave pullout off North Shore Drive to improve accessibility.
- Action 7F. Collaborate with adjacent landowners to develop a maintenance plan.
- Action 7G. Develop a multi purpose stage to be used for public events such as concerts and ceremonies.
- Action 7H. Install sidewalks and bike routes wherever possible on all adjoining streets to improve accessibility.
- Action 7I. Pursue acquisition of eastern portion of park for ease of maintenance and ensured public access.

**Goal 8: Equitably distribute and develop parks and recreational services in response to community growth**

- Action 8A. Recognize areas of future growth and plan for additional acquisitions to maintain an adequate level of service.
- Action 8B. Implement CIP.
- Action 8C: Review CIP during annual budget review process.
- Action 8D. Conduct comprehensive review of parks master plan at least every 5 years to address changing needs and park use.

## **Capital Improvement Plan**

A basic component of any parks master plan, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the parkland acquisition strategy provides a roadmap for implementing goals and actions as identified in the planning process. The CIP provides specific details and costs of projects that the City of Lowell should implement to fulfill its vision for parks and open space in the community. The intent of the CIP is to provide the city with a capital-budgeting tool that clearly identifies priorities, costs, and potential funding sources. The CIP was developed for implementation over the course of 20 years.

The CIP was developed to reflect community priorities and resources. To develop the prioritized list of capital improvement projects, and coinciding administrative functions, the advisory committee considered public input as well as overall feasibility, budget constraints and the establishment of a cohesive parks vision. The resulting plan has been carefully developed to represent the current goals and needs of the community, and should undergo periodic review to assure those and future needs continue to be addressed. Results of advisory committee prioritization exercises are included as Appendix B.

### **Capital Improvement Projects by Park**

#### **Rolling Rock Park**

Rolling Rock serves as a focal point of the community as a park, gathering place, and a geographic center. Located adjacent to the downtown commercial district in close proximity to the two schools and bordered by major arterial roads, this park has been, and should continue to be the focus of capital improvement efforts. In May of 2004, the Oregon Arts Commission's Arts Build Communities (ABC) Technical Assistance Program visited with the Mayor, City Administrator, and community members to review and plan for future development of Rolling Rock Park. Resulting from these conversations was a document entitled "Furthering Public Art and Park Enhancements – City of Lowell, Oregon", which contains a plan for the future development of Rolling Rock Park. This plan will provide the foundation for many of the capital improvement projects outlined below, and should be referenced as Rolling Rock Park is further developed. It is attached as an Appendix to this Plan.

Considering this vision, as well as public input, the following improvements should be considered:

- Determining installation for center circle
- Developing Cannon Street entrance
- Constructing a permanent, multi-use performance stage
- Screening and creating an edge to the southern park boundary
- Pursuing acquisition of eastern portion of park
- Regrading and leveling low lying areas
- Creating a formal entry to the park
- Paving the turn around area

A primary focus of capital improvements at Rolling Rock Park should be determining and acquiring an installation for the center circle of the interpretive display. Although this project was not included in the public survey and did not receive public comment, it is an unfinished component of the initial park development plan, and should be completed. Original plans included a sculpture of an osprey holding a fish for this site. Additional ideas include a water feature or flower bed. The conceptual plan produced by the ABC Team recommends a flowerbed, as an extension of botanical garden development at the Cannon Street entrance.

Seeking cohesive park design, members of the ABC team visualized a botanical garden at the south end of the park, which would tie into the rest of the part through the above-mentioned flowerbed. The area suggested for the garden is a public right of way that is currently undeveloped.



**Figure 4.1 Conceptual View of Cannon Street Garden**

The proposed garden would anchor the existing covered bridge as an integral component of the park, “revitalize Main Street, and provide a safe, sensory and enjoyable route from the schools to the park”.<sup>19</sup> Starting with an arbor on Main Street, the paths would link the commercial district to the park, and lead to the covered bridge and riparian area, which can be restored and enhanced with rocks, boulders and native plants. Installation of a pump for water recirculation is not recommended in this area, as it is a drainage swale, meaning that pump maintenance and cleaning would be prohibitive. Additional arbors can be installed at other park entryways to provide cohesion, and edge treatments installed along the remaining southern border of the park. The public survey produced many general comments regarding the desire for landscaping and welcoming, natural areas, as well as safe walkways, and this would satisfy those needs.

<sup>19</sup> “Furthering Public Art and Park Enhancements – City of Lowell, Oregon” Oregon Arts Commission, August 2004

The need for a permanent, multi-use stage was discussed throughout the Rolling Rock conceptual plan. Such a stage would provide a home to events such as the Blackberry Jam Festival, and would encourage public programming in the community. For this purpose, a concrete pad can serve as a stage, with decorative poles to support high canvas banners. The poles themselves would provide an opportunity for local woodcarvers to showcase their talents while depicting local heritage. High banners would draw attention and symbolize the recreational features of the marina, and a backdrop of Cypress trees could provide a decorative screening for the neighbors. Non-intrusive, with swaths of grass separating the low walls would provide an area for picnicking or play. Survey results indicate that those in the community value maintenance of current facilities, and construction of basic amenities such as restrooms over new development projects, thus, it is recommended that grant monies be sought out for this justifiable need.

**Table 4.1 Capital Improvement Costs for Rolling Rock Park**

Capital Improvement Project	Prioritization	Cost Estimate
Cannon Street Improvements	Medium	\$200,000
Riparian Restoration ( rocks, boulders and native plants)	Low	\$2,000
Center Circle Installation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Center Circle Installation Sculpture/ Water Feature</li> <li>• Garden</li> </ul>	Medium	\$10,000
Regrade Surface/Reseed as necessary/Install Sprinkler System	High	\$35,000
Pave Pullout	High	\$2,500
Multiuse Stage	High	\$100,000
Acquire eastern portion of park	Low	\$13,000

**Paul Fisher Park**

Paul Fisher Park is the primary family park in Lowell, and families often walk to the playground on clear days. With its two large shade trees and open grassy areas, this park is a popular spot for picnics and impromptu gatherings at the shelter. Additionally, it is the site for Food for Lane County’s Summer Food Program, and is adjacent to the Lowell Community Library Room, located in the Lowell City Hall. It is important to keep these uses in mind, and strive to maintain a relaxed, family atmosphere while planning for future site development.

Based on input from Lowell residents and the Lowell Parks Survey, the following capital improvements are recommended:

- Construct permanent restrooms
- Replace and expand picnic shelter
- Improve universal accessibility
- Install new sprinkler system

Patrons of Paul Fisher Park currently have access to the public restrooms in the City Hall, and a portable restroom during the summer months. It is recommended that separate facilities be located in the park, as it receives high use, especially as a site for Food For Lane County’s Summer Food Program. This capital improvement is resoundingly supported through the public survey, with 83% of respondents ranking ‘restrooms’ as “important” or “very important”. This was the number one priority amongst both the general public and high school students. A basic, universally accessible restroom with separate men’s and women’s facilities is recommended.

Replacement and expansion of the existing picnic shelter should also be considered a high priority. Considering the park’s high usage, this is a basic amenity that the park should maintain. Keeping the picnic shelter in its current location would provide easy access to both the younger children’s play area and the open grassy area. This would encourage usage of the park for family activities, according to the park vision.

Capital Improvement Project	Prioritization	Cost Estimate
Restroom	High	\$25,000
Install Drinking Fountain	High	\$3,000
Install Park Sign	Medium	\$1,000
Picnic Shelter 22x40 ft Corrections kit	Medium	\$20,000
6 Picnic Tables Wood and Galvanized Metal	Medium	\$5,000
Sprinkler System Removal and Installation, regrade and reseed as necessary	Medium	\$50,000

**Table 4.2  
Capital  
Improvement  
Costs for Paul  
Fisher Park**

### **Covered Bridge Interpretive Center**

The Lowell Covered Bridge was recently renovated as an interpretive center, with parking, restroom and picnic facilities. Owned by Lane County, the bridge will become an increasingly popular attraction in the area, drawing a growing number of sightseers, boaters, and anglers. To better serve these visitors and increase public lake access in Lowell, the City has researched the possibility of constructing a public boat dock on site. Engineered drawings and estimates have been drawn up, and the City should join with Lane County to seek funding through the Oregon State Marine Board or other funding sources. An engineering estimate for the project is \$163,800. Cost estimates are based on moorage for up to eight transient boats with universal access. Facilities would also be

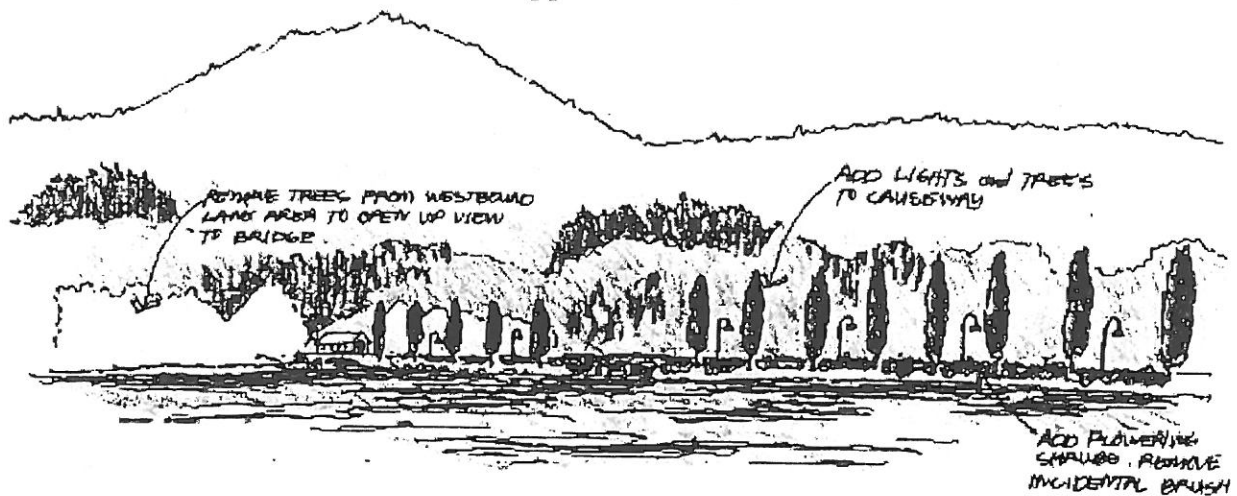
provided for transient tie-ups. Dock construction would include piles, a gangway, and boarding floats.

The need for safe pedestrian access to the Covered Bridge has been brought up as a priority by the general public as well as the Oregon Downtown Development Association. Although the proposed walkway is on County property, it is recommended that the City advocate for its development. Conceptual drawings of the proposed walkway are depicted in Figures 4.7 and 4.8.

**Figure 4.2 Possible Improvements to Pioneers Street Causeway:  
To Promote Pedestrian Access**



**Figure 4.3 Possible Improvements to Pioneer Street Causeway:  
To Increase Aesthetic Appeal**



## **Parkland Acquisition and Development**

The City of Lowell is currently adequately served by parks and is well served by neighborhood and community parks, but potentially underserved in the mini-park, trails, and open space classifications as development expands outward within the City. The development of several new recreational areas will both diversify recreational options for current residents, and ensure an adequate level of service for the future.

This section describes parkland development and acquisition needs for Lowell, based on growth projections and input from current residents. It discusses both capital improvements on existing publicly owned land, as well as cost estimates and strategies for long term land acquisition.

### **Railroad Right-of-Way Development**

The City of Lowell owns an 8 acre parcel on the east end of town just north of North Shore Drive. This parcel is the former site of a Southern Pacific Railroad, which historically served as a major supply and transportation line. The site is currently used as a walking path and has been incorporated into the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail. Approximately half of the site is being considered for an affordable housing development, while the remaining 4 acres would be developed as parkland. Currently undeveloped, the area is valued as a local natural area with a variety of wooded areas. The development of this area as a nature park and pedestrian trail would address several current recreational needs.

In the Lowell Parks Survey, 81% of respondents named trails and open space as “important” or “very important” making the development of this area a high priority.

Many people move to Lowell for its natural beauty and it is important to promote access to natural spaces, especially along two of Lowell’s most prominent features - Dexter Lake and Butte Disappointment. Developing the railroad right-of-way into a nature park would facilitate this by creating a foundation for a local trail system that could eventually tie into the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail system, the proposed Butte Disappointment Trail, and trail connections to Orchard Park and east Dexter Lake.

In developing the old railroad bed, its position as a rural-urban interface must be addressed, and proper precautions must be taken to mitigate any wildfire hazard. It is recommended that the existing stands of trees be managed to decrease any fire hazards, while maintaining forest health. It is recommended that the existing railroad bed be regraded where necessary and developed into a multi-purpose trail suitable for pedestrians and bicycles. In response to public requests for access to natural areas, the installation of several benches along the trail is also recommended. The development of this property should be conducted with an overall vision of its role in a larger trail and nature park network.

**Proposed Land Donation.**

A 2 acre parcel within the Sunridge subdivision has been proposed for voluntary dedication as park land for incorporation into the natural park proposed for the Railroad Right-of-Way. This location would create a natural tie between development to the north and the natural park on the railroad bed and continued access to Dexter Lake.

It is recommended that the City accept this proposed land donation and that improvements to the natural park be extended to this area and include the construction of interconnecting pedestrian trails within the park, linking new development to the north with the natural park and trail access to Dexter Lake and other park areas.

**Table 4.3 Capital Improvement Costs for Railroad Right-of-Way**

Capital Improvement Project	Prioritization	Cost Estimate
Fire hazard mitigation and brush control	High	\$10,000
Walking Path, Looped Walking Path Connecting to North and Walking Path Connecting to Orchard Park	Medium	\$90,000
Benches	Medium	\$5,000

**Proposed Skate Park**

One of the goals of the Lowell Parks and Open Space Master Plan is to increase the diversity of park and recreational opportunities in Lowell to better serve Lowell residents. Public input identified a need for increased recreational options for youth, particularly high school aged residents, and supported the construction of a skate park to serve this



population. It is recommended that the Parks Advisory Committee continue to research the possibility for a skate park in Lowell. If the Committee recommends the development of a skate park, capital improvement costs will vary based on the type of park constructed.

**Table 4.4 Capital Improvement Costs for Proposed Skate Park**

Capital Improvement Project	Prioritization	Cost Estimate
Skate Park Concrete, 7 - 10,000 sq ft plus amenities	Medium	\$250,000

**New Park Acquisition.**

The Level of Service analysis on page 36 identified the need for future acquisition and development of two mini-parks, one located east of Wetleau Drive and one located north of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. These parks should be around ½ acre in size and be developed with a small playground, benches and one or two picnic tables. Any property being planned for development in these areas should be considered for siting of a minipark using the Scoring Matrix in Table 5-2.

**Table 4.5 Capital Improvement Costs for New Park Acquisition and Development**

Capital Improvement Project	Prioritization	Cost Estimate
Fully Developed Mini-park east of Wetleau Drive	As Required	\$150,000
Fully Developed Mini-park north of 6 <sup>th</sup> Street.	As Required	\$150,000

**Lakeshore Access and Trail Development**

Because access to the Dexter Lake shoreline within the City is of prime concern, as a part of the trail system established for the City, a shoreline trail extending from the Lowell State Recreational Site on the west to Orchard Park on the east needs to be developed. The intermediate public access point that already exist also need to be developed as public pathways that do not impact adjoining private properties. A need for additional public boat dock capacity has been identified. The City could provide those facilities, without a boat launch ramp, at some later date at the lake access point at the south end of Moss Street,

**Table 4.6 Capital Improvement Costs for Lake Access**

Capital Improvement Project	Prioritization	Cost Estimate
Lakeshore Trail and Access Development	Medium	\$50,000
Moss Street Boat Dock	Low	\$200,000



## Chapter 5

# Implementation Strategies

The previous chapter described parks and open space needs in the City of Lowell, and outlined a series of specific goals and actions designed to meet the demonstrated community needs. In order to successfully accomplish these goals and carry out the Capital Improvement Plan, Lowell must develop and pursue a sound implementation strategy. This strategy should include new and ongoing funding sources, diverse partnerships and strong volunteer efforts.

This chapter will outline a recommended implementation strategy. This strategy includes an evaluation of a variety of public (federal, state, and local) and private (foundations, corporations, individuals) funding sources. It will also present options for non-monetary support, in the form of partnerships and volunteerism.

Key questions the City should ask as it pursues an implementation strategy are:

- How much funding is needed to maintain existing park and recreation facilities?
- How much will be needed to maintain future park and recreation facilities?
- What stable, long-term funding sources can be created for ongoing maintenance, land acquisition and capital improvement needs?
- What long-term partnerships can be pursued?
- Where should future parks be located that maximize the use of available funding?

Table 5.1 summarizes a variety of funding and support strategies. A listing of sources falling under each category, including contact information, is found in Appendix C. Each of these funding strategies has a different implementation time requirement. Staff can immediately act upon short-term strategies. However, before any action is taken, staff should consider the time and effort necessary to proceed with each strategy. Long-term strategies will likely take five or more years to implement. In some cases, a funding strategy can be pursued immediately, and provide ongoing support. These sources have the advantage of providing support or funding over an extended period of time. In other cases, a funding strategy will provide support for a limited period. Some sources, such as grants, last for only specified periods and require renewal.

**Table 5.1 Funding and Support Sources**

Funding Source	Implementation Time	Duration	Pros	Cons
Partnerships	Short-term	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Builds cooperation</li> <li>Increases ability to pursue projects through sharing of resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires ongoing coordination</li> <li>No guarantee of success</li> </ul>
Donations	Short-term	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be a win-win situation</li> <li>May include land, financial, or materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires continuous time and effort</li> </ul>
Grants	Short-term	Varies and Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good track record with grants often leads to more grants</li> <li>Often support new, one-time expenditures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires staff time for applications (with no guarantee of award) and ongoing reporting</li> <li>Often short-term and only for specific projects (not usually including staff time)</li> <li>Often require matching funds</li> </ul>
Parks and Recreation District	Long-term	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides on-going source of funds</li> <li>All area parks users (not only City residents) would pay for services</li> <li>Funds would directly and only benefit parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long time to form</li> <li>Some citizens may oppose</li> <li>Could mean loss of revenue and control for City</li> </ul>
Land Trusts	Long-term	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good way of working with landowners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Often have very specific projects in mind</li> <li>Lengthy process</li> <li>Land trusts may have limited resources</li> </ul>
Bonds	Long-term	Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributes costs over life of project</li> <li>Can generate substantial capital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debt burden must not be excessive</li> <li>May require voter approval</li> </ul>
Levies	Long-term	Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can generate reduced-interest funding</li> <li>Can provide substantial funding for short-term (under 10 years) projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intergenerational inequity (levies are carried by current users, although future users will benefit)</li> <li>Requires voter approval (double majority)</li> </ul>
System Development Charge	Long-term	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development helps pay for the capital improvements, which will be necessary to provide residents with adequate park services</li> <li>Ordinance in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can only be used for capital improvements, not for deferred or ongoing maintenance needs</li> </ul>
Mandatory Dedication	Long-term	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures parkland is located near or within future developments</li> <li>In conjunction with fee-in-lieu of dedication provides flexible way for City to provide parkland for new residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires legally defensible methodology</li> </ul>
Local Improvement District	Short-term	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can have specific purpose</li> <li>Costs are paid by, but without additional burden on, benefiting property owners</li> <li>City or property owners can initiate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be abandoned if property owners provide written and signed objection</li> </ul>

Source: CPW

## Recommended Funding and Implementation Strategies

### Partnerships

Partnerships can play an important role in the acquisition of new park and recreation facilities and in providing one-time or ongoing maintenance and support. Public and private organizations as well as the Lowell School District may be willing to partner with the City. Such partnerships can provide resources needed to acquire additional parks and recreation services. Certain organizations may be interested in improving or maintaining an existing facility through a sponsorship. This method is a good way to build cooperation among public and private partners.

The specific partnering process employed depends on who is involved. Potential partners include State agencies such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (especially for acquisition of lands with habitat potential), the Oregon State Parks, local organizations, land trusts, and national organizations such as the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

Partnerships with local organizations can also provide an educational component. Likewise, retirees could use their knowledge and experience to research and compose grant applications. While researching grant opportunities, retirees could train others in skills needed to perform the tasks.

Although partnerships may not yield monetary benefits, there are other important benefits including:

- Removing service duplication or use of complementary assets to deliver services;
- Enhancing stability because future service is more probable where partnerships exist;
- Pursuing projects that the city would not have the resources to complete;
- Identifying opportunities through partner organizations; and,
- Providing educational opportunities

### Grants

Grants are a good strategy to supplement park acquisition and development funds. Many grant organizations fund park acquisition and improvements, although few provide funds for ongoing maintenance activities. Two factors that make grants challenging are (1) most grant organizations have lengthy processes that will require staff time and effort, and (2) grants usually have very specific guidelines and only fund projects that specifically address their overall goals. Moreover, grants should not be considered a long-term funding source.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants administered by the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, for example, require that the proposed project be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the State

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Because grants are usually highly competitive, staff time should be allocated carefully to apply for grants that are a good fit. Likewise, partnerships should be pursued for volunteer grant writing.

Because many grant agencies look favorably upon collaborative projects, a potential benefit of grant proposals is that they can foster partnerships between agencies, organizations, and the City. Appendix C outlines organizations' goals and provides contacts for state, regional, and federal grant opportunities.

### **Systems Development Charges**

A system development charge or SDC is a one-time fee imposed on a new development to equitably cover the cost of facility capacity needed to serve new customers. The purpose of the system development charge is to fairly distribute the costs of new infrastructural developments over the area in which they will be implemented. SDCs are for capital projects only, both in their collection and use. They can be implemented as improvement fees (for costs of capital improvements to be constructed later) or reimbursement fees (for costs associated for projects already constructed or under construction).<sup>20</sup>

The methodology used to establish the reimbursement or improvement fee is included in state statute guidelines (ORS 223.297 – 223.314). Since every community is different, each City establishes how they will apply the system development charge. Examples of how some local Oregon communities levy park SDC's include the following:

- Non-residential and residential facilities (single family, multi-family, manufactured homes)
- Commercial development
- Industrial development

Currently, Lowell has a Systems Development Charge Ordinance (Ordinance No. 234). This establishes the authority to impose a portion of the cost of capital improvements upon those developments that create a need for or increase the demands on capital improvements. Currently, an SDC in Lowell can be charged for planned parks and recreation development, as well as water, supply, treatment and distribution; sewage and wastewater collection, transmission, treatment and disposal; drainage and flood control; and transportation. The ordinance includes a reimbursement fee, when applicable, and a system development or capital improvement fee. Currently, the City of Lowell charges a capital improvement fee, but no reimbursement fee, for parks development.

SDCs should be periodically reviewed to assure that they are actually meeting the costs of development. The methodology for assessing SDCs in the future should be reviewed

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<sup>20</sup> League of Oregon Cities website, accessed June 26, 2006  
<http://www.orcities.org/portals/17/A-Z/finadm273d.pdf>

to assure that fees will be sufficient to meet the projects specified in the Capital Improvement Plan (Chapter 4).

**Dedications**

The City of Lowell currently does not have a mandatory dedication ordinance, and does not foresee a need for one in the future, due to geographic and related infrastructural limitations. For this reason, creation of a mandatory dedication ordinance is not recommended; however, voluntary dedications should be considered, according to the parkland acquisition scoring matrix depicted in Table 5.2. In the case of voluntary dedications, an SDC credit would be considered.

**Table 5.2 Scoring Matrix for Parkland Donations and Acquisitions**

Criteria	Meets Criteria (Yes/No/Partially)	Comments
It is within an area identified as strategic or a priority? (List appropriate reference)		
Is the topography, geology, access to, parcel size, and location of land in the development good for parks? (List characteristics)		
Is the action compatible with the Parks Master Plan, Public Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan, and the City of Lowell Parks Acquisition Plan in effect at the time of dedication?		
Is the site accessible by multiple modes of transportation?		
Are there potential adverse/beneficial effects on environmentally sensitive areas? (List threats, if any)		
Does it protect natural and historic features, scenic vistas, watersheds, timber and wildlife parks? (Describe)		

Source: CPW

## **Land Trusts**

Land trusts use many tools to help landowners protect their land's natural or historical qualities. Land in trusts may provide open space for aesthetic, visual or recreational purposes. Tools used by land trusts include:

- Conservation easements (which allow land to be protected while a landowner maintains ownership)
- Outright land acquisition by gift or will
- Purchases at reduced costs (bargain sales)
- Land and/or property exchanges

A landowner can donate, sell, or exchange part of their land rights to a land trust, in cooperation with the City. There is a tax incentive to donate the land as a charitable gift, although it is the responsibility of the landowner to pursue the tax deduction.

Collaborating with land trusts and landowners takes considerable time and effort. Steps included in the process are:

- Determining the public benefit of a landowner's property for preservation. This step identifies the natural or historic values of the land
- Working with the landowners to develop goals and objectives for the land
- Gathering information including title and deed information, maps, photographs, natural resources information, structural features, and land management and mining history
- Conducting an environmental assessment for evidence of hazardous materials or other contaminants
- Determining whether a new survey is needed to establish easement boundaries
- Designing the terms of the easement

Land trusts and easements may be useful in the development of a trail system, and to secure public access points along the lake. Appendix C contains contact information for land trusts that operate in the area.

## **Donations**

Two key motives for donations are philanthropy and tax incentives. These benefits should be emphasized when collaborating with landowners. There are many strategies for securing donations, including building public relations, creating a healthy community, and boosting public morale. Another strategy includes existing tax structures that have built in incentives for donating land. It is important to note that for some potential donors, tax considerations are the primary reason for considering a major land donation.

Soliciting donations, like partnering, takes time and effort on the part of City staff, but can be mutually rewarding. However, before donations are secured, it is important to set up a foundation to accept and manage them. The City should begin working to set up



such a group or recruit volunteers to provide the services. Generally, donations are not stable sources of land or finances and should not be relied upon for a major portion of the funding.

Pursuing donations through partnerships may provide advantages to all parties involved. For example, working a land transaction through a non-profit organization may provide tax benefits for the donor, can provide flexibility to the City, and can reap financial benefits for the non-profit.

### **Urban Renewal District**

Urban Renewal is a program authorized by the Oregon State Statutes, with the intent of assisting communities in improving and redeveloping “blighted” areas. “Blighted” areas are defined as areas detrimental to the safety, health or welfare of the community, by reason of deterioration, faulty planning, inadequate or improper facilities, deleterious land use or the existence of unsafe structures.<sup>21</sup> According to the program, when such an area is defined, it can become an urban renewal area, and then be eligible for urban renewal taxes.

To designate an urban renewal area, first, an urban renewal plan must be drafted, which will include a report outlining and describing each project to be undertaken, a map of the district, an indication of proposed land uses, a description of the conditions within the district, the reasons for selecting the district boundaries, the estimated cost of each project and its completion date, the year in which it is anticipated that indebtedness will be retired, a financial plan for the district, and an estimate of the fiscal impact of the district on all taxing entities within the district.

Once the plan is completed and the urban renewal district is designated, the assessed property value in the district is “frozen” at a point in time. Each taxing jurisdiction – schools, city, county, fire district – continues to collect revenue, as calculated by multiplying their respective tax rates times the frozen assessed value base. In reality, the property values do increase, and this incremental increase is multiplied by the total tax rate and credited to the urban renewal district. This only occurs as long as the district is in effect. The property owners pay no more in property tax than they would have without the district, and the resulting public improvements leverage business investment in that area, thus strengthening the tax base and benefiting tax payers over all. Urban renewal taxes can then be used for projects such as rehabilitation, property acquisition, street construction, and the repair and rehabilitation of buildings or other improvements.

Urban renewal can benefit communities by providing matching funds for money from other sources such as grants, funding infrastructure development, increasing property values, and improving overall quality of life through improved cultural facilities, new or rehabilitated park and recreational facilities, and expanded economic development.

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<sup>21</sup> Oregon State Statutes 457.010

Table 5.3 displays proposed capital improvements for each city-owned park, and several parks belonging to collaborative agencies. For each project, estimates have been given for overall cost per item, amount of each item needed, total cost estimate, the source of each estimate, and potential funding sources. Additionally, each project is given a prioritization ranking of high, medium or low. Prioritization was determined through a survey of committee members, in which individual rankings were totaled and divided by the number of responding committee members. Average rankings between 8 and 10 (including 8) were considered “high”; average rankings between 4 and 8 (including 4) were considered medium; average rankings below 4 were considered of low priority.

**Table 5.3 Prioritized Capital Improvement Projects, Costs, and Funding Sources**

Site	Capital Improvement Projects	Prioritization	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources
<b>Paul Fisher Park</b>	Restroom	High	\$25,000	Donations, SDC
	Install drinking fountain	High	\$ 3,000	Donations, SDC
	Install Park Sign	Medium	\$ 1,000	Grant, Donations
	Picnic Shelter 22x40 ft Corrections kit	Medium	\$20,000	Grant, Donations, SDC
	6 Picnic Tables Wood and Galvanized Metal	Medium	\$5,000	Grant, Donations, SDC
	Sprinkler System Removal and Installation, regrade and reseed as necessary	Medium	\$50,000	Grant, Donations
<b>Rolling Rock Park</b>	Regrade Surface as necessary/Install Sprinkler System and reseed as necessary	High	\$ 35,000	Grant, Donations
	Pave Pullout	High	\$ 2,500	Donations
	Multiuse Stage	High	\$100,000	Grant, Donations, SDC
	Cannon Street Improvements	Medium	\$200,000	Grant, Donations, Urban Renewal District
	Center Circle Installation • Center Circle Installation Sculpture/ Water Feature • Garden	Medium	\$ 10,000	Grant, Donations, SDC
	Riparian Restoration	Low	\$ 2,000	Donations
	Acquire eastern portion of park	Low	\$ 13,000	Donations, SDC
<b>Railroad Right-of-Way</b>	Fire Hazard Mitigation and Brush Control	High	\$ 10,000	Grant, Donations
	Walking Paths	Medium	\$90,000	Grant, Donations, SDC
	Install Park Benches	Medium	\$ 5,000	Grant, Donations, SDC
<b>Skate Park Site</b>	Install 7 – 10,000 sq ft Skate Park plus amenities.	Medium	\$250,000	Grant, Donations
<b>Mini-Park Site</b>	Develop Mini-Park east of Weteau Dr.	As Required	\$150,000	Grant, Donations, SDC
	Develop Mini-Park north of 6 <sup>th</sup> St.	As Required	\$150,000	Grant, Donations, SDC
<b>Lakeshore</b>	Shoreline Access Development	Medium	\$ 50,000	Grant, Donations, Partnerships
	Moss Street Boat Dock	Low	\$200,000	Grant, Partnership



## Appendix A Survey Results

# Lowell Parks Survey

GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONDENTS - 66

**Complete this survey and win a free dinner for two!**

**We want Lowell residents to play a role in the development of our parks. Do you want a skate park? More hiking trails? This is your chance to tell us. And, each resident who returns a questionnaire to the Lowell City Hall (107 E. Third St.) by March 22nd will be entered in a drawing for free dinner for two at one of Eugene's tastiest restaurants! Simply drop the survey in our City Hall drop box, at the front desk, or fax it to 541-937-2936.**

**Q-1** In your opinion, how important are parks to your community's quality of life? Why? \_\_\_\_\_ Very important - 79%

- Somewhat important - 18%
- Less important - 2%
- Not important - 2%
- No opinion - 0

**Q-2** How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the parks and recreation system in the City of Lowell? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

- Very Satisfied - 11%
- Satisfied - 41%
- Neutral - 20%
- Dissatisfied - 24%
- Very dissatisfied 24%
- No opinion -

**Q-3** Approximately how often do you or members of your household use the following park and recreation facilities? (Please check the appropriate box for each facility.)

Park	Never	Rarely (1-3 times/ year)	Occasionally (4-12 times/ year)	Sometimes (2-3 times/ month)	Often (1-3 times/ week)	Daily (4-7 times/ week)	Don't know
Rolling Rock Park (at Pioneer and Moss Streets)	15%	27%	26%	12%	6%	12%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Fisher Park (next to City Hall)	24%	32%	32%	5%	6%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lowell State Park (West on Jasper Lowell Road)	14%	20%	36%	12%	8%	8%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orchard Park (down North Shore on the lake)	20%	24%	30%	8%	11%	3%	2%
Fall Creek Area	14%	23%	32%	18%	9%	2%	2%

Lowell School Facilities	29%	15%	17%	12%	12%	11%	2%
Dexter State Recreation Site (West on 58)	35%	32%	14%	12%	3%	3%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elijah Bristow State Park (West on 58)	26%	41%	14%	17%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q-5 Do you think that the Lowell region and the City of Lowell need, or don't need, additional parks?

- The Lowell region *needs* additional parks – 26%
- The Lowell region *does not need* additional parks – 52%
- The City of Lowell *needs* additional parks – 21%
- The City of Lowell *does not need* additional parks – 36%
- Don't know – 23%

Q-6 If you think the Lowell region or the City of Lowell need additional parks, please indicate what kind of parks and the type of facilities you would like.

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Q-7 Please circle the number that best indicates the level of importance for each of the following categories of parks and recreation service for existing and/or new facilities and services in the Lowell region. (Circle one response for each item.)

Category	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Don't Know
<b>Population Served</b>						
Children (0-12)	65%	23%	3%	<input type="checkbox"/>	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teenagers (13-19)	38%	39%	14%	<input type="checkbox"/>	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults (20-64)	26%	48%	14%	5%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Citizens (65+)	35%	35%	17%	<input type="checkbox"/>	2%	3%
Families	64%	29%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low-income	41%	30%	20%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>	3%
Disabled	42%	29%	21%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>	3%
<b>Facilities</b>						
Stage /Amphitheater	5%	14%	55%	6%	8%	2%
New Playground Equipment	41%	27%	20%	2%	2%	2%
Lake / River Access	42%	36%	11%	<input type="checkbox"/>	3%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Gardens	18%	29%	32%	9%	2%	3%
Paved Trails	21%	35%	21%	12%	5%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unpaved Trails	27%	44%	15%	8%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	48%	29%	12%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sprinkler Systems	6%	36%	38%	11%	2%	2%
Restrooms	53%	30%	11%	5%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skate Park	24%	17%	39%	11%	8%	2%
<b>Sports Fields</b>						
Baseball / Softball	35%	23%	32%	2%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football	29%	21%	35%	3%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer	26%	24%	35%	3%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Sports Courts</b>						
Basketball	36%	33%	21%	2%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Squash	12%	21%	38%	17%	11%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	20%	26%	35%	11%	11%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volleyball	23%	35%	30%	5%	3%	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Parks</b>						
Mini parks (2,500 ft <sup>2</sup> to 1 acre)	21%	26%	38%	3%	5%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighborhood parks (1.1 acres to 10 acres)	30%	44%	15%	2%	2%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community parks (10.1 acres to 50 acres)	35%	29%	23%	<input type="checkbox"/>	5%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails and Open Space	50%	32%	9%	2%	5%	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q-8 Please provide any additional comments or suggestions related to parks in Lowell in the space provided below.

Thank you for your assistance! Don't forget to enter the drawing for a free dinner for two at a one of Eugene's best

Questionnaire created with assistance from the University of Oregon Community Planning Workshop.

## Additional Comments – General Public Survey

### 1. In your opinion, how important are parks to your community's quality of life?

#### Very Important

- 'our children need an outlet!'
- 'it's hard to fit a park in the average sized backyard!'
- 'it helps with socializing'
- 'recreation for community'
- 'a place to go and hang out'
- 'after a hard day at work/relax at the park'
- 'Family activities'
- 'for exercise'
- 'associate and enjoy others'
- 'great place to enjoy life'
- 'ability to use and congregate with others'
- 'it brings families and communities together'
- 'Beautifies the town, provides a communal area for citizens to socialize' 'recreation'
- 'Parks help give a sense of community'
- 'shows people we care about our community'
- 'for relaxation, exercise and balance'
- 'children in rural outskirts'
- 'family interaction'
- 'parks allow for families to get together. Strong families make strong communities'
- 'brings kids and families together'
- 'parks help build community ties while providing invaluable spaces to relax and be outside'
- 'shows pride in community'
- 'shows community pride'
- 'reinforces family values and ecological respect'
- 'parks create a more active community'
- 'gives everyone a place to play safely'
- 'they bring people together, help young and old stay fit, improve property values, provide access to places for recreation'
- 'people need a place to go with their kids and hold events'
- 'every city should have a place for recreation'
- 'play for kids'
- 'beautify city/area'
- 'open spaces, exercise, doing activities with family'
- 'they really add to a 'family' community atmosphere'
- 'families spend time together there'
- 'they are important cuz its somewhere to hang out and to play'



- 'a place for residents to gather'
- 'children have a place to go to play'
- 'they provide a peaceful place to relax'
- 'a public place to enjoy the outdoors within walking distance of home'
- 'our lots are very small. Parks make a statement about our community'

Somewhat Important

- 'the kids of Lowell need a safe place to go, away from traffic with good play equipment'
- 'kids need a place (safe) to play'
- 'to have a quiet place to be enjoyed by the people who live here'
- 'a fun place to take the kids'

**2. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the parks and recreation system in the City of Lowell? Why?**

Very Satisfied

- 'they are very well maintained for the City's limited resources'
- 'I think most people take some pride in our parks'
- 'they are working towards improvement'
- 'for a small town, we have a great variety of parks, lake access, trails, nearby campgrounds, paved sidewalks for wheelchair access, activities for all ages!'
- 'usable, nice'
- 'we have four nice parks'
- 'we have an abundance and variety'

Satisfied

- 'one concern: the park with swings by City Hall has a large pipe coming out of the ground facing Moss that doesn't appear to have anything keeping kids of pets from crawling in'
- 'we are improving places for kids and family to meet others'
- 'clean and cared for'
- 'they seem to be maintained nicely'
- 'fairly well kept but need upgrading'
- 'hate boat races!'
- 'close, neat and clean'
- 'because the volunteer and excellent city staff is caring'
- 'there are more important things we need'
- 'the city is doing a nice job on the parks'
- 'first impressions of the City are important – we appreciate the well maintained grounds'
- 'always improving and well maintained'
- 'the parks are nice but we need more activities'
- 'so far they are generally uncrowded'
- 'well maintained, nice'

- 'Rolling Rock Park is good and we often go to Lowell Marina'
- 'always clean – a tennis court would be great!'

Neutral

- 'some needs met/some not'
- 'need community center for recreation use after school and evenings for all & to offer college classes and recreation'
- 'maintenance needs to be upgraded'
- 'they could be cleaner'
- 'too small'
- 'they are adequate but very lacking, they need bathrooms!'
- 'My kids are teenagers now'

Dissatisfied

- 'lack of trees and landscaping'
- 'not enough variety'
- 'old equipment'
- 'limited use'
- 'lack of funds has created substandard city parks. Rolling Rock has lack of flowers, shrubs and greenery. Machinery is unsafe for children and could be displayed more attractively. Paul Fisher Park needs new play equipment'
- 'because they aren't all that pretty'
- 'very poor'
- 'outdated and dirty – goose poop'
- 'playground equipment really old and outdated; weeds and unkept grass and appearance is shabby'
- 'not serving the needs of the majority only the needs of a few'
- 'need more accessible open space and trail for hiking/walking; need safer routes to parks'
- 'poor quality and doesn't range for all ages'
- 'the Paul Fisher Park is poorly designed and use of land with no restrooms or drinking facilities. Need a park like in Creswell, but with a fence around it'
- 'need to be able to stay after dark and or camp'
- 'closed a lot'

Very Dissatisfied

- 'unsafe playground'

**5. Do you think that the Lowell region and the City of Lowell need or don't need, additional parks? Additional Comments:**

- I think we need to first improve on what we have, and make repairs
- Just expand and make the ones we have better
- Lowell needs 'a trail system'
- The Lowell region 'needs to clean up and refurbish our current parks (get rid of geese)'
- Lowell needs 'a trail system'

- Needs improved parks
- Needs improvement in parks they already have
- Lowell Region needs additional parks – ‘Lookout Point boat ramp!’ The City of Lowell does not need additional parks – ‘just update existing ones with new play equipment’
- I would like to see safer places to walk – bike like trails or bike path
- Lowell region does not needs additional parks – ‘at least today, I believe Lowell and the regions needs improvements on existing parks, rather than new ones’
- Lowell needs additional parks – ‘skate park’
- Lowell needs additional parks – ‘maybe in the future, the trail park on RR ROW would be nice, but its not a high priority ‘need’. Skate park is a need.

**6. If you think the Lowell region or the City of Lowell need additional parks, please indicate what kind of parks and the type of facilities you would like.**

- ‘skate park or a passive use minimally developed trail on the old RR bed between Hyland St and City limits to the east’
- ‘tennis courts, bike trails’
- ‘I would like it if the ones we have were improved’
- ‘skate park, hiking trails’
- ‘more playground equipment, skate park, open spaces for kites, area for musical venues, craft fairs’
- ‘there really should be a paved pathway outside the guard rail on the causeway from the new covered bridge area up to town! Perhaps a park with a vista in the NE uplands of Lowell, and a trail up the west side of Lowell Butte to the top’
- ‘I think Lowell needs a skate park. I see lots of kids with them around the post office; they would be treated better by adults if they had a place to ride them in turn less aggravation and vandalization to those who oppose the skate boarders’
- ‘improvements: better playground equipment at Paul Fisher, improved track at high school, kayak/canoe launching dock at Orchard park, camping/yurts at Lowell Marina’
- ‘a skate board park for the kids so they don’t get hurt down by the Post Office’
- ‘I would like to see a bike path from the covered bride on the causeway to Unity Bridge’
- ‘Lookout Lake boat ramp area is the most underutilized area around here. 13 miles of lake to boat on, and families can’t get to it and use the surrounding lakeside very easily!’
- ‘play fountains for children at Paul Fisher Park, basketball courts at Rolling Rock Park’
- ‘need improved and more accessible parks’
- ‘a skate park would be nice for kids’
- ‘updated, safe playground with new equipment so children won’t be hurt or burned (hot weather) on the equipment’
- ‘picnic/ family use areas; trails; separate dog and horse trails’
- ‘I would like to see a native park with trails for walking’

- 'I would like a small park in the Sunridge area with picnic table and restrooms; it would be used as a break stop area for those utilizing a good trail system around the lake'
- 'more parks by Lookout Point and some camp grounds with restrooms'
- 'flowers/plants area with a lot of seating; skateboard park'
- need more trails for walking/hiking'
- 'the City of Lowell needs 'cozying' up – say a City Park modeled on a 'town square' type with big trees and nicely landscaped (example: conifers and rhododendrons'
- 'for fishing and boats'
- 'I would like to see a skateboard park, but at the same time wouldn't want any resources taken from the other parks' maintenance'
- 'a trail to the top of Disappointment Butte with a clearing to maximize the view and maybe picnic tables'
- 'skate boarding and horse riding'
- 'park with walking path for parents and a nice playground /basketball area for kids'
- 'I don't think we need more parks, just make the ones we have better'
- 'indoor pool would be great'
- 'like a camp ground on Lookout Point Reservoir'
- "need somewhere that kids can skateboard! Not at the Post Office!"

**8. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions related to parks in Lowell in the space provided below.**

- I know a lot of time and money went into Rolling Rock Park and it looks so much better, but what a good location it would have been for more businesses in this growing community
- Plants and conifers in Rolling Rock... for the future...
- Need to have out door basketball courts in town or on HS property for recreation time at lunch, and available/open to public when school is not in session. A community center or stage to bring concerts and generate income for the community
- It you are looking for something to keep teens out of trouble then they need freedom and direction at the same time, if you put in a skate park, you'll want to organize competitions for the kids too. I think an activity center would be better.
- The existing parks need to be better kept up, better equipment – make it fun for kids to go and parents to watch their kids. I believe there would be less trouble id kids have a place to hang out and be with their friends. There's always going to have competitions – that's a part of life – make it fun so kids are busy. I would love to take my kids to the park more often, but the two parks we go to are not kept up. The equipment in the park next to the City Hall needs to be replaces. The park on the lake has good equipment, but they needs swings and some other activities for the kids that are learning to walk and a place for middle aged kids to go. I hope my feedback helps.

- We would like to see the Lowell State Park open an hour after dusk, so we could watch a complete sunset. The current caretaker rudely warns you during a sunset that you must leave soon. The sunsets from this park are spectacular all year
- I don't think we need any new parks in our area. As long time resident of the Lowell area, it is nice to enjoy our serene setting in the country. So much of the time when we want to go to a favorite spot there is a constant run of town people; much of which is very unpleasant. For this reason, I don't think we need to attract any more people'
- 1. seen improvement in 4 years living here 2. Suggest care is taken to remove from the paths the grass clippings after mowing (slippery) 3. Suggest a pathway from parking lot to new bathrooms at Rolling Rock 4. Suggest move parking at Rolling Rock
- Blackberry Festival should be held later on in the summer – when the blackberries are ripe!
- The City of Lowell is in a very picturesque setting, but once you enter the town proper you notice the lack of trees and shrubs or any kind of landscaping. We live in the NW which is noticed for its conifers; Lowell seems like an ideal setting for these trees. Basically, Lowell would be more welcoming place with the addition of BIG shade trees and evergreen trees. Thanks for listening to our input~
- Enhance the trail system
- I would love a quiet, beautiful spot to sit and enjoy the birds, plants, the view. Maybe a memorial park for past residents. Benches with small brass plaques with name of passed to residents; good way to raise funds. And we need a skateboard park.
- This survey addresses parks primarily. I would like to have a trail system to encircle the lake for walking, biking etc. I think Lowell could benefit by offering/renting water equipment/bikes etc to encourage water and sport activities
- New and existing parks should be well lit
- I feel it is important to make the park safe. Paul Fisher needs to be leveled out so it is more useable. Remove some of the 'stuff' would help as well
- I live in Sunridge. I believe that the area proposed to be a park would be great. I think people up in Sunridge would be willing to volunteer on the clean up and maintenance of a park
- Skate boarders are hard on picnic tables, benches - I have observed in Lowell
- All parks should have flushable toilets and sinks to wash hands and places to change clothes if needed. All should be equipped for handicapped, babies and toddlers – men and women s-(example: changing beds and toilets, sinks and drying). All parks that have playgrounds should be for babies up to teens, so that all will be amused and have fun. And things for adults, too (horse shoes)
- I think we don't need more parks – I think we need a walkway to the new rest area and covered bridge from Lowell. I think there will be a lot of people walking to and from this area and it will be very dangerous for pedestrians
- The playground on Moss needs to be updated – my child burned his legs on the slide during the summer due to how hot the slide was

- Clean up the goose problem, fix up basketball courts. Put up some new play equipment. Clean up trails.
- We need safe hiking, walking trails. #1 on our list! Biking too!
- More trails for walking or biking, can be used year round
- We need to update and improve current parks before creating new ones – work to make parks more functional and beautiful community assets
- How about some kind of water feature or play area for kids, like Disneyland, where it's a flat surface that water shoots up from holes at various times. We need kid friendly parks!
- As a society, we do not get enough exercise. We drive to work, drive to the gym, drive to shopping. We pull our cars into our garages and as a result we don't get to know our neighbors. If we have a nice place to walk we will become healthier and friendlier and have more pride in our homes and yards – this all would result in a better looking community.
- More paved sidewalks would provide a great 'trail system' through neighborhoods to parks. A street tree program could help this 'trail system' become a wheelchair/tricycle accessible recreation facility (urban hike)
- What we really need is a full time police officer and a way to get a hold of them if needed
- I mainly use the parks for walking and walking my dog
- Rolling Rock Park needs to be moved away from the busy streets of Pioneer and Moss
- Lowell State Park needs more beach/water access closer to town
- I realize maintenance and grass clipping is an issue, I plan to volunteer for that in the near future- and hope the planning committee and City Council devote space to this cause
- Plenty of parks within a short drive
- As a small community we to be treated as members of a close knit community and not to be run out of a park once the sun goes down. Small camp fires for family reunions and other social gatherings would be nice
- I believe people in Lowell would love a park where they could go, sit and read or listen to music or even to meet friends without worrying about duck poop! Not to mention dog poop!
- We do not need additional parks. We need to maintain and possibly upgrade the parks we already have
- Our current parks are important, but we probably don't need much more land devoted to this use. A skate park could be located on school property. The city already owns the RR Right of Way trail and access points to the lake

# Lowell Parks Survey

## HIGH SCHOOL RESPONDENTS - 38

Complete this survey and win a free dinner for two!

We want Lowell residents to play a role in the development of our parks. Do you want a skate park? More hiking trails? This is your chance to tell us. And, each resident who returns a questionnaire to the Lowell City Hall (107 E. Third St.) by March 22nd will be entered in a drawing for free dinner for two at one of Eugene's tastiest restaurants! Simply drop the survey in our City Hall drop box, at the front desk, or fax it to 541-937-2936.

Q-1 In your opinion, how important are parks to your community's quality of life? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

- Very important - 37%
- Somewhat important - 42%
- Less important - 5%
- Not important - 3%
- No opinion - 11%

Q-2 How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the parks and recreation system in the City of Lowell? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

- Very satisfied - 5%
- Satisfied - 13%
- Neutral - 45%
- Dissatisfied - 18%
- Very dissatisfied - 11%
- No opinion - 8%

Q-3 Approximately how often do you or members of your household use the following park and recreation facilities? (Please check the appropriate box for each facility.)

Park	Never	Rarely (1-3 times/ year)	Occasionally (4-12 times/ year)	Sometimes (2-3 times/ month)	Often (1-3 times/ week)	Daily (4-7 times/ week)	Don't know
Rolling Rock Park (at Pioneer and Moss Streets)	21%	26%	13%	3%	21%	16%	3%
Paul Fisher Park (next to City Hall)	47%	21%	11%	13%	<input type="checkbox"/>	5%	3%
Lowell State Park (West on Jasper Lowell Road)	26%	24%	21%	16%	5%	5%	3%
Orchard Park (down North Shore on the lake)	58%	18%	5%	3%	11%	<input type="checkbox"/>	5%
Fall Creek Area	21%	13%	24%	8%	5%	18%	3%
Lowell School Facilities	13%	13%	21%	8%	8%	13	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dexter State Recreation Site (West on 58)	47%	18%	16%	5%	3%	3%	5%
Elijah Bristow State Park (West on 58)	58%	16%	18%	3%	3%	<input type="checkbox"/>	3%

Q-5 Do you think that the Lowell region and the City of Lowell need, or don't need, additional parks?

- The Lowell region *needs* additional parks – 50%
- The Lowell region *does not need* additional parks – 21%
- The City of Lowell *needs* additional parks – 21%
- The City of Lowell *does not need* additional parks – 18%
- Don't know – 21%

Q-6 If you think the Lowell region or the City of Lowell need additional parks, please indicate what kind of parks and the type of facilities you would like.

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Q-7 Please circle the number that best indicates the level of importance for each of the following categories of parks and recreation service for existing and/or new facilities and services in the Lowell region. (Circle one response for each item.)

Category	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Don't Know
<b>Population Served</b>						
Children (0-12)	26%	34%	11%	5%	<input type="checkbox"/>	16%
Teenagers (13-19)	32%	13%	18%	5%	5%	16%
Adults (20-64)	5%	18%	32%	16%	<input type="checkbox"/>	18%
Senior Citizens (65+)	3%	16%	34%	5%	3%	24%
Families	24%	32%	8%	11%	3%	26%
Low-income	21%	29%	8%	3%	3%	26%
Disabled	5%	21%	21%	8%	<input type="checkbox"/>	34%
<b>Facilities</b>						
Stage /Amphitheater	21%	11%	21%	8%	5%	26%
New Playground Equipment	39%	24%	11%	3%	8%	11%
Lake / River Access	37%	24%	11%	3%	8%	13%
Community Gardens	21%	21%	21%	3%	8%	18%
Paved Trails	21%	29%	16%	8%	8%	13%
Unpaved Trails	24%	26%	16%	8%	<input type="checkbox"/>	18%
Playgrounds	32%	26%	16%	3%	3%	13%
Sprinkler Systems	21%	32%	21%	<input type="checkbox"/>	3%	18%
<b>Restrooms</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Skate Park	37%	21%	11%	<input type="checkbox"/>	5%	21%
<b>Sports Fields</b>						
Baseball / Softball	45%	11%	18%	3%	3%	13%
Football	42%	8%	16%	<input type="checkbox"/>	11%	13%
Soccer	18%	18%	18%	11%	13%	11%
<b>Sports Courts</b>						
Basketball	45%	13%	8%	3%	11%	11%
Racquetball	13%	26%	24%	5%	5%	13%
Tennis	26%	26%	16%	3%	3%	13%



Volleyball	45%	21%	3%	3%	8%	8%
<b>Parks</b>						
Mini parks (2,500 ft <sup>2</sup> to 1 acre)	11%	24%	18%	13%	3%	18%
Neighborhood parks (1.1 acres to 10 acres)	21%	26%	18%	3%	3%	16%
Community parks (10.1 acres to 50 acres)	29%	24%	16%	□	5%	16%
Trails and Open Space	42%	18%	5%	3%	3%	16%

Q-8 Please provide any additional comments or suggestions related to parks in Lowell in the space provided below.

**Thank you for your assistance! Don't forget to enter the drawing for a free dinner or two at a one of Eugene's best restaurants!**

Q-8 Structure created with assistance from the University of Oregon - Community Planning Workshop

## Additional Comments – High School Survey

1. In your opinion, how important are parks to your community's quality of life?

- very important- 'because is a place to relax and enjoy'
- somewhat important – 'because their wouldn't ever be anything to do without them'
- very important – 'to get tourist'
- very important – 'they give people something to do'
- somewhat important – 'they give people a place to relax and have fun'
- very important – 'we need stuff to do'
- very important – 'it's a great place to relax and holds many memories'
- very important – 'because they make good memories; keep people busy and entertained'
- very important – 'tourism'
- somewhat important – 'because their wouldn't ever be anything to do without them'
- somewhat important – 'not many people visit the parks'
- somewhat important – 'give you somewhere to go'
- very important – 'I love to play outside'
- somewhat important – 'creates jobs and keeps some people from doing drugs'
- somewhat important – 'give kids something to do!'
- somewhat important – 'because I would like a nice place to do this'
- very important – 'gives people something to do'
- somewhat important – 'I don't usually go every day'
- less important – 'because I don't go to them much'
- less important – 'its Lowell'
- very important – 'because I use them too'
- very important – 'because of the kids'
- very important – 'gets people out of the house doing something they like'
- somewhat important – 'good place for many people to interact'

2. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the parks and recreation system in the City of Lowell?

- Dissatisfied – 'un maintained'
- Very dissatisfied – 'absolutely nothing to do'
- Satisfied – 'need more clean'
- Dissatisfied – 'not much to do, no astornauts'
- Very dissatisfied – 'nothing to do'
- Satisfied – 'I think they are relaxing not to complicated not too many people'
- Satisfied – 'because they aren't too complicated and are all enjoyable'
- Very dissatisfied – 'not at all'
- Neutral – 'because I would like change but I'm also happy with it now'

- Very dissatisfied – ‘they aren’t kept up with’
- Dissatisfied – ‘they’re not very well maintained’
- Neutral – ‘kind of dirty!’
- Neutral – ‘new bathrooms’
- Dissatisfied – ‘because all of the stuff is for little kids’
- Dissatisfied – ‘old equipment, nothing to do for teens/adults’
- Neutral – ‘I don’t go to the parks’
- Neutral – ‘because there are things broken in parts’
- Very satisfied – ‘because I like playing outside’
- Very satisfied – ‘its good 2 have many parks’
- Neutral – ‘because there are some good parts and some bad’
- Dissatisfied – ‘not enough stuff’
- Neutral – ‘I know they can be better’
- Neutral – ‘I don’t usually use them’
- Satisfied – ‘most things are outdated’
- Neutral – ‘I don’t use them often’
- Neutral – ‘could be better’

3. Comment on use of Orchard Park ‘often – during summer’

4. Comment that the Lowell Region and City of Lowell do not need additional parks, ‘but more things in parks’.

6. If you think the Lowell region or the City of Lowell need additional parks, please indicate what kind of parks and the type of facilities you would like.

- ‘skateparks...a volleyball court with sand... a rock wall that you can climb’
- pools or board parks’
- ‘we need a swimming pool!’
- ‘I think pools, skate parks and sand volleyball’
- ‘a skateboarding facility in rolling rock park, since that is the main skating place, besides the school’
- ‘I think Lowell would benefit from a restaurant. Also a skate park or swimming pool’
- ‘different types’
- ‘McDonalds’
- ‘we need some better source of entertainment’
- ‘fast food, restaurants, skate park, restrooms, water fountains’
- ‘skate park, pool (indoor)’
- ‘fountain, skate park, basketball courts, pool’
- ‘we should have more parks for older kids to hang out at’
- ‘skate parks’
- ‘usable bathrooms and lots of seating. Good equipment, things that entertain old & young kids’

- 'we need really big parks that are fun for everyone also so there are a lot of different things to do'
- 'basketball parks. Skateboarding parks'
- 'probably skate parks or B-Ball court'
- 'skate park'
- 'I would like a variety of parks, skate parks, biking and walking parks, water parks'
- 'skate park'
- 'fish pond, running water, water fountains, gardens, community garden'
- 'parks for high schoolers (bike trails, skate park, fields, volleyball nets, Frisbee golf)'
- 'skate parks'

8. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions related to parks in Lowell in the space provided below.

- 'Community garden would help build community involvement and better food'
- 'museum'
- 'Lowell is a beautiful place & I think many more people would be attracted to it if there were more things we could do'
- 'I think it's a good idea but for the skate park I probilby won't go too'
- 'we don't really need additional parks just need to improve the old ones!'
- 'Fisher park needs a working water fountain'
- 'If we had pool & skate park it would attract people, then we might get restaurants'
- 'Lowell needs a restaurant!'
- 'need a skate park!!!'
- 'skate park, pool, and sand volleyball are all very important along with community gardens and unpaved trail, and rock wall'
- 'we need park to relax, I like here the parks but always we can not do anything'
- 'only add little details to the marina don't screw up the relaxing environment'
- 'I think Lowell's parks are a great part of our community. People come to relax, have fun, and make memories. I think we don't need more just make it better'
- 'we need paintball place, basketball, skatepark'
- 'cool parks'

## High School Workshop Results: Park Comments

Students in three high school classes were broken into groups to discuss and evaluate individual parks. Students were given an opportunity to comment on current park usage and facilities and potential development ideas. The following is a listing of their comments, and the number of times each was repeated for the duration of the three classes.

### Paul Fisher Park

Needs more/better equipment 24  
Needs something for teens/older kids 14  
Needs restroom 12  
Needs concession/food area/vending machine 10  
Water park/ pool (huge slide)(kiddy pool) 10  
Needs basketball court 10  
Skate park 9  
Needs to be cleaned up 8  
Needs working drinking fountain 8  
Sandpit (covered or fenced) 7  
Need picnic tables 4  
Good place for toddlers 4  
Needs more attractions 4  
BBQ Pit 4  
Needs more plants/scenery 3  
Needs new swings 3  
Some nice equipment 3  
Need benches 3  
Don't like 2  
Horseshoe pits 2  
Need more toys for little kids 2  
Keep lawn better 2  
Volleyball/ Badminton court 2  
Tennis court 2  
Merry Go Round  
There isn't much to do  
Not much there  
Too much stuff in it  
Not close enough to the school  
Sprinkler system can be a hazard  
Can ride on sidewalks – good  
People don't go there much  
Table tennis  
Trampoline  
Activity Center (w/bowling alley and pool tables)  
Batting cages

Roller coaster  
Amphitheater  
Drive in Movie  
Don't Care  
Like the shade and quiet 2  
Needs to expand

### **Rolling Rock Park**

Skate park/bikes 22  
More stuff for teens to do 13  
Needs ice cream/food vending area 11  
Fountain for kids (with benches nearby for parents) 7  
Do something with extra space/needs more amenities 7  
Needs to be cleaned up 5  
Swimming pool / kiddy pool 5  
Basketball court 4  
Don't like historical focus 4  
Appealing signs/displays 4  
All I do is walk through (negative) 4  
Nice to walk/ride through 3  
More trees 3  
Train (need train with train tracks!) 3  
Amphitheater 3  
Not much for kids 3  
Most maintained of all parks 2  
Needs flowers 3  
Looks nice 2  
Good location 2  
Close to school 2  
Playground equipment 2  
Pond / water under bridge 2  
Red vs Blue theme park 2  
Nice to eat lunch at  
New picnic equipment  
Working lights  
Rock wall  
Museum  
Slide  
Trampoline  
Badminton  
'A movie thing'  
Fix up displays  
Tennis court  
Mural that everyone can paint on  
Put in more logging equipment

Too open to the road  
I like the buildings because I helped build them

### **Railroad Right Of Way**

Hiking trails 13  
ATV trail 8  
No park/playground 6  
Wildlife trail or center/enclosed area with wildlife 5  
Play equipment 5  
Swimming pool 5  
Climbing wall 5  
Bathrooms 4  
Pave the road 4  
Biking 4  
Swimming hole/ pond/ fake hot springs 4  
Guided hunting/hunting range 4  
Benches/Picnic area 4  
Basketball court 4  
Benches/tables 3  
BMX trail 3  
Running trails 3  
Paint ball 2  
Boat ramp 2  
Mountain biking 2  
Camping area 2  
Street hockey 2  
Some history on the park/heritage park 2  
Paved trails 2  
Widen waterfall  
Build some sort of attraction 2  
Tennis courts  
Water activities  
Amusement park  
Rename 'The Green Gate'  
Skate park  
Drinking fountain  
Volleyball net  
Horseback riding trails

### **Lowell State Park**

Needs vending machine/ more concession service 16  
Take care of lawn/ duck poop 13  
Improve basketball court 11  
Fix up bathrooms/ install lights 5

Pool 5  
Sand volleyball court 5  
Tennis court 4  
BMX track 4  
New swings 4  
Need more equipment 3  
Needs facilities for older kids 3  
Bird food machine 25 cents a handful 3  
Clean up 3  
No one goes except in summertime 2  
Need cleaner water to swim in 2  
Skate park 2  
Cover over basket ball court 2  
Working water fountain 2  
Needs camping area  
Merry go round  
Rock wall  
Equipment rental  
Good for climbing trees and playing hide and seek  
More events (eating contest)  
Don't like small playground  
Like the playground, BBQ, shelter  
I like this park! There's nothing wrong with it!  
Remove poison oak  
Nicer trails, for joggers  
Host boat races  
More trees (willows)  
Needs to have some equipment replaced  
More sports activities



## Appendix B

## Advisory Committee Prioritization Results

Results of Committee survey regarding priorities in parks capital improvements and administrative functions. Actions and functions are ranked and scored to reflect the total average prioritization of advisory committee respondents.

### Capital Improvements -

- Action 1A. Remove and replace existing play equipment for compliance with safety standards **9.00**
- Action 3A. Develop a skate park facility to meet needs of youth **8.00**
- Action 4A. Develop safe pedestrian trails to Lowell State Park in response to public request **7.89**
- Action 4C. Develop Rail Road Right of Way as a Universally Accessible, multi use trail, in response to public request **7.78**
- Action 1C. Improve Universal Accessibility, to comply with ADA standards **7.33**
- Action 4D. Connect Rail Road Right of Way and Butte Disappointment Trail with a natural park near the Sunridge development to recognize a need for parks in newly developed areas and as a response to public request **7.33**
- Action 7I. Pursue acquisition of eastern portion of park for ease of maintenance and ensured public access **7.22**
- Action 7D. Level grade in low-lying areas, and regrade as needed for ease of maintenance **7.11**
- Action 1D. Develop permanent restroom facilities in response to public request **7.00**
- Action 3D. Develop a safe, multi-use trail system in response to public request **7.00**
- Action 7C. Determine installation for center circle to complete interpretive display **7.00**
- Action 3C. Develop a basketball court to utilize existing materials **6.78**

- Action 1B. Rehabilitate existing picnic shelter for compliance with safety standards and aesthetic design **6.56**
- Action 7B. Maintain interpretive displays for visitor usage and aesthetic appeal **6.33**
- Action 2D. Install boat dock at the Covered Bridge to increase local access **6.22**
- Action 1K. Install sprinkler system **6.22**
- Action 2E. Install public boat slip by sewer plant to increase local access **6.11**
- Action 7A. Develop Cannon Street entrance to create a focal point of the downtown commercial district **6.11**
- Action 1H. Create signage to better identify Lowell's parks **6.00**
- Action 1E. Improve safety by removing non functional sprinkler system and covering exposed drainage pipe on west side of park **5.78**
- Action 1F. Improve safety by enabling pedestrian and bike access along Moss Street **5.78**
- Action 7G. Develop a multi purpose stage to be used for public events such as concerts and ceremonies **5.56**
- Action 7H. Install sidewalks and bike routes wherever possible on all adjoining streets to improve accessibility **5.56**
- Action 7J. Install sprinkler system **5.56**
- Action 1J. Install drinking fountain in response to public request **5.44**
- Action 4G. Enhance pedestrian and bike routes throughout the City for public Safety **5.38**
- Action 7E. Pave pullout off North Shore Drive to improve accessibility **5.11**
- Action 1G. Regrade surface for ease of maintenance **4.78**
- Action 7K. Install frames and mulch around trees **unranked**

## Administrative Functions

- Action 8B. Implement CIP **9.00**
- Action 8C: Review CIP during annual budget review process **9.00**
- Action 8D. Conduct comprehensive review of parks master plan at least every 5 years, to address changing needs and park use **8.89**
- Action 4F. Advocate for a pedestrian walkway to Covered Bridge as a response to public request and for public safety **8.78**
- Action 4E. Actively work with the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail Association to define and advertise the Lowell portion of the trail to promote Lowell as a tourism destination, and as a response to public request for a trail system **8.67**
- Action 2C. Research possibility of pedestrian walkway to Covered Bridge to increase local access **8.00**
- Action 4B. Support construction of the Butte Disappointment Trail in response to public request for a trail system **7.44**
- Action 8A. Recognize areas of future growth and plan for additional acquisitions to maintain an adequate level of service **7.38**
- Action 3B. Publicize School District facilities for use during non-school hours to expand recreational options **7.33**
- Action 2B. Work with Oregon State Parks and the US Army Corps of Engineers to improve accessibility **7.22**
- Action 7F. Collaborate with adjacent landowners to develop a maintenance Plan **7.11**
- Action 2A. Create a brochure noting current public access points to improve public awareness **6.22**
- Action 3E. Promote music in our parks to increase family-oriented recreational opportunities **4.89**



## Appendix C

# Funding and Support Options

The following list provides brief descriptions and contacts for the funding strategies presented in Chapter 5. This list includes monetary sources as well as non-monetary sources such as partnerships with community groups and volunteerism.

### Partnerships

#### Federal

##### Bureau of Land Management

The BLM uses a multiple-use approach to managing public land in Oregon. It manages land for wildlife, recreation, timber harvest, livestock grazing, mineral extraction and other public uses. Their mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM does have grants available for land acquisition if it is to be used for recreation and public purposes. Local government can also obtain parklands at very low or at no cost if there is a developed park plan.

##### **Contact:**

Oregon State Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
333 SW First Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97208

Phone: (503) 808-6002  
Fax: (503) 808-6308  
Website: <http://www.or.blm.gov/>

Eugene District Office:  
2890 Chad Street  
P.O. Box 10226  
Eugene, OR 97440

Phone: (541) 683-6600  
Email: [or090mb@blm.gov](mailto:or090mb@blm.gov)

##### United States Forest Service

The Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service offers recreation information and opportunities on federal lands. They offer urban and community forestry funds and assist with economic diversification projects.

**Contact:**

Group Leader, Grants and Agreements  
USDA Forest Service – Pacific Northwest Region  
333 SW First Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97208

PO Box 3623  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3623

Phone: (503) 808-2468  
Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/>

**United States Army Corps of Engineers**

The Corps of Engineers may provide specialized or technical assistance to local governments in areas including land and water resources; engineering, facility design, construction management and other technical services; and environmental restoration and management. As a prominent agency in the Lowell area, the Corps of Engineers would be valuable partners in areas such as water resources

**Contact:**

Robert Duncan Plaza  
333 SW First Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 2946  
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

Phone: (503) 808-5150  
Website: <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pa/contact.asp>

**State**

**Division of State Lands, Wetlands Mitigation Banking**

The Wetlands Program staff work with local governments to complete wetland inventories and planning. The Department provides technical assistance and information on wetland identification, wetland functions, wetland regulations, and wetland planning. This information is provided through publications, workshops, and presentations to various groups.

**Contact:**

Wetlands Mitigation Specialist

Division of State Lands  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100  
Salem, OR 97301-1279

Phone: (503) 378-3805  
Website: <http://statelands.dsl.state.or.us/>

### **Oregon Youth Conservation Corps**

Through assistance received from the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC), communities receive needed services, and unemployed youth are placed in gainful activities. The program can provide an opportunity for youth to serve as role models for others, which instills a growing commitment to community. OYCC funding is distributed in equal amounts to each county in Oregon every summer. The program funds individual projects ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The OYCC program consists of grants of labor and capital financing. These grants generally support conservation or environment-related projects proposed by non-profit organizations. Youth corps members work on projects such as:

- Construction of trails, boat docks, disability access ramps, fences and picnic tables;
- Restoration/preservation of wetlands, stream banks, endangered species and other wildlife habitat, and historical and cultural sites;
- Maintenance of all of the above after wind, floods, fire or normal use;
- Plantings, water quality testing, removing non-native plants and weeds, watershed work, managing nurseries, landscaping, mapping, surveying, recycling and community service projects.

#### **Contact:**

Oregon Youth Conservation Corps  
255 Capital Street NE, Third Floor  
Salem, OR 97310-0001

Phone: (503) 378-3441  
Fax: (503) 373-2353  
Website: <http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/OYCC/>

#### **Local**

Public, private and non-profit organizations may be willing to fund outright or join together with the City of Lowell to provide additional parks and recreation facilities and service. This method may be a good way to build cooperation among public and private partners in the Lowell area. A list of potential partners besides police and fire departments, utility providers, and the school district include:

- 4-H
- Boy Scouts of America

- Lost Valley Education Center

Local businesses may also be willing to partner with the city to provide parks services.

## **Grants**

### **Private Grant-Making Organizations**

#### **National Grants**

##### **Kodak American Greenways Awards Program**

This program is a partnership of the Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society. The Program provides small grants, maximum \$2,500, to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. A Kodak American Greenway Award could be used in the development of additional trails and open space areas, such as the Railroad Right of Way and along the Pacific Crest Trail route.

##### **Contact**

The Conservation Fund  
1655 . Fort Myer Drive  
Suite 1300  
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2156  
Phone: (703) 525-6300  
Fax: (703) 525-4610

Willamette Valley Office  
The Nature Conservancy of Oregon  
87200 Rathbone Road  
Eugene, OR 97402  
Phone: (541) 343-1010  
Fax: (541) 343-1737

Website: <http://www.conservationfund.org/conservation>

#### **Regional Grants**

##### **Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Fund**

The Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation focuses its grant making on the acquisition of old growth and other critical forestlands. Priority is given to projects that protect forestlands with a strategic biological value that extend or preserve wildlife habitat, and, where possible, offer opportunities for public recreation and education. The foundation is particularly interested in landscape-scale projects that provide optimal



potential for protection of ecological integrity, functional and intact ecosystems, connectivity, and biodiversity.

**Contact:**

Grants Administrator  
PGA Foundations  
505 5<sup>th</sup> Ave South, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
Phone: (206)342-2030  
Website: <http://www.pgafoundations.com>

**Bonneville Environmental Foundation**

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) watershed project grants to date have ranged from \$5,000 to \$40,000. Any private person, organization, local or tribal government, located in the Pacific Northwest (OR, WA, ID, MT) may submit a proposal to BEF. Proposals will only be considered, however, from applicants proposing to complete a watershed biological assessment or applications operating within the context of a previously complete watershed biological assessment.

**Contact:**

Bonneville Environmental Education Foundation  
133 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 410  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Phone: (503)248-1905  
Fax: (503) 248-1908  
Website: <http://www.b-e-f.org>

**Ben B. Cheney Foundation**

Washington and Oregon institutions are eligible for Cheney Foundation grants. The foundation prefers to focus on areas where the Cheney Lumber Company was active, which included Tacoma and Pierce County, Southwestern Washington, Southwestern Oregon (particularly around the Medford area), and portions of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity counties in California. The foundation usually funds socially oriented programs in such categories as charity, education, and health services for youth and the elderly. A parks application should emphasize these areas. Letters of inquiry outlining the proposed projects are required. Full applications are accepted only from those inquiry letters of interest to the foundation. There are no deadlines.

**Contact:**

Ben B. Cheney Foundation  
1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1600  
Tacoma, Washington, 98402  
Phone: (206) 572-2442

Website: <http://www.benbcheneyfoundation.or/index.html>

**The Ford Family Foundation**

The Foundation places a high priority on continuing to respond to the needs of rural communities in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. Communities with a population under 30,000 are eligible for grant funding requests for capital support or time-limited project support rather than ongoing operational funding. Grants are made in one of the following categories: Rural K-12 Education, Rural home Services, Rural Civic and Community Enhancement.

**Contact:**

The Ford Family Foundation  
1600 NW Stewart parkway  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470  
Phone: 95410 957-5574  
Fax: (5410 957-5720  
Website: <http://www.tfff.org/>

**Meyer Memorial Trust**

The Meyer Memorial Trust seeks opportunities to make program related investments in Oregon and Clark County, Washington. General Purpose Grants support projects related to arts and humanities, education, health, social welfare, and a variety of other activities. Proposals may be submitted at any time under this program, and there is no limitation on the size or duration of these grants.

**Contact:**

Meyer Memorial Trust  
425 NW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 4000  
Portland, Oregon 97209  
Phone: (5030 228-5512  
Website: <http://www.mmt.org/>

**Nike Inc.**

Nike focuses its grant funding on programs supporting youth and physical activity; they specifically seek to: get kids more physically active, get kids involved in the teamwork of sport, and have a real, positive and measurable impact. Nike prefers to focus their giving on areas where Nike has a significant presence. There is no deadline. Funding for a skate park might be pursued with a Nike Grant.

**Contact:**

Community Affairs  
Nike, Inc.  
PO Box 4027  
Beaverton, OR 97076  
Website: <http://nike.com/nikebiz/>

## **State Grants**

### **Oregon Community Foundation**

Proposals to the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) are prioritized for funding based on their fit with a set of basic guiding principles and four specific funding objectives. They will potentially fund parks development and have done so on occasion in the past ten years, but all grants should stress these four objectives;

- To nurture children, strengthen families and foster self-sufficiency of Oregonians (40-50% of OCF grants)
- To enhance the educational experience of Oregonians (15-20% of OCF grants)
- To increase cultural opportunities for Oregonians (15-20% of OCF grants)
- To preserve and improve Oregon's livability through citizen involvement (10-15% of OCF grants)

Other considerations will include the strength of local community leadership, number of private donors, a focus on underserved areas, specific educational or recreational programming that would enrich the community, a feasible long term maintenance plan, and unique or historically and locally significant focus.

About 55 of Community Grants are above \$50,000. Larger grants tend to be made only for projects that are an exceptionally good fit with OCF priorities, have a broad scope of impact, and address an area to which OCF's board has decided to give special attention.

#### **Contact:**

Oregon Community Foundation  
1221 SW Yamhill #100  
Portland, Oregon 97205  
Phone: (503) 227-6846  
Fax: (503) 274-7771  
Website: <http://www.ocfl.org/>

### **Oregon Department of Forestry**

This department supervises all aspects of forest policy in Oregon, appoints the state forester and adopts the rules for forestry practices in the state. They have grants available for parks programs, however, they are restricted to development involving trees and forest canopy (for example, brochures, informational signage and planting trees are possibilities, but recreational facilities such as basketball courts are not).

#### **Contact:**

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grants  
Private and Community Forests Program  
2600 State Street

Salem, Oregon 97310  
Phone: (503) 945-7391  
Website: <http://www.odf.state.or.us/PCF>

### **The Collins Foundation**

The Collins Foundation's purpose is to improve, enrich, and give greater expression to the religious, educational, cultural and scientific endeavors in the State of Oregon and to assist in improving the quality of life in the state. In its procedures, the Foundation has not been an "Operating Foundation" in the sense of taking the initiative in creating and directing programs designed to carry out its purpose. Rather, the trustees have chosen to work through existing agencies and have supported proposals submitted by colleges and universities, organized religious groups, arts, cultural and civic organizations, and agencies devoted to health, welfare, and youth.

**Contact:**

Director of Programs  
The Collins Foundation  
1618 SW First Avenue, Suite 505  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
Phone: (503) 227-7171  
Website: <http://www.collinsfoundation.org>

## **Public Grant-Making**

### **Federal**

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

This fund provides federal dollars from the National Park Service that are passed down to states for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation areas and facilities. To be eligible for Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, the proposed project must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and elements of a jurisdiction's local comprehensive land use plan and park master plans. The applicant will be applying for funds allotted to the State of Oregon for distribution.

**Contact:**

Land and Water Conservation Fund  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, Oregon 97301

#### **U.S. Department of Transportation**

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) was enacted on June 9, 1998 as Public Law 105-178. TEA-21 authorizes the federal surface transportation

programs for highways, highway safety and transit. The TEA-21 Restoration Act, enacted on July 22, 1998, provides technical corrections to the original law. TEA-21 funding for parks and connection includes:

- Bicycle transportation and pedestrian walkways
- Recreational trails programs
- National Scenic Byways Program
- Transportation and Community and Systems Preservation Pilot

**Contact:**

U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Phone: (202) 366-4000

Website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/index.htm>

**State**

**Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)**

ODOT provides grants to cities and counties for pedestrian or bicycle improvements on state highways or local streets. Although there is no maximum grant, few projects over \$500,000 are funded. A minimum 10% local match is required. These grants require the applicant to administer the project. Projects must be situated in roads, streets, or highway right-of-ways. Project types include sidewalk infill, ASA upgrades, street crossings, intersection improvements, and minor widening for bike lanes. These grants are offered every two years.

**Contact:**

Oregon Department of Transportation  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Program  
355 Capitol Street NE, Fifth Floor  
Salem, OR, 97301

ODOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program  
Michael Ronkin (503) 986-3555  
Sheila Lyons (503) 986-3554

**Transportation Enhancement Program**

Funds are available from ODOT for projects that enhance the cultural, aesthetic and environmental value of the state's transportation system. Eligible activities include bicycle/pedestrian projects, historic preservation, landscaping and scenic beautification, mitigation of pollution due to highway runoff, and preservation of abandoned railway corridors. A minimum of 10.27% match is required, and funding is provided through reimbursement. The application cycle is every two years.

**Contact:**

Pat Rogers Fisher  
Transportation enhancement Program Manager  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
Phone: 9503) 986-3528  
Email: [patricia.r.fisher@odot.state.or.us](mailto:patricia.r.fisher@odot.state.or.us)

**Transportation Safety Grants**

This ODOT program promotes transportation safety such as programs in impaired driving, occupant protections, youth, pedestrian, speed, enforcement, bicycle and motorcycle safety. Over \$1.25 million is awarded annually. There is not an application process. Projects are chosen by problem identification.

**Contact:**

Julie Yip, Coordinator  
Bicyclist & Pedestrian Traffic Safety  
ODOT Transportation Safety Division  
235 Union St NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Phone: (503) 986-4196  
Email: [julie.a.yip@odot.state.or.us](mailto:julie.a.yip@odot.state.or.us)

Kelly Mason  
Grants Assistant  
Oregon Department of Transportation

Phone: (503) 986-4202  
Email: [Kelly.m.mason@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Kelly.m.mason@odot.state.or.us)

More ODOT funding can be found on Oregon's Economic Revitalization Team website:  
[http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov?ERT/about\\_us.shtml](http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov?ERT/about_us.shtml)

This website includes a detailed table of available state funding, program contacts, application cycles, and a description of who can apply.

**Oregon Economic and Community Development Department**

**Oregon Tourism Commission**

The Commission focuses on tourism related projects within a larger economic development strategy. They offer matching grants of up to \$100,000 for tourism projects such as marketing materials, market analyses, signage, visitor center development planning, etc., but not for construction. The funding cycle varies.

**Contact:**

775 Summer Street, NE  
Suite 200  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1280

Phone: (503) 986-0123

Fax: (503) 581-5115

Websites: <http://www.econ.state.or.us/>

<http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov/ERT/funding.shtml>

**Oregon Department Of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**

**Water Quality Non-Point Source Grants**

Approximately \$2.7 million is available each year in grants from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for non-point source water quality and watershed enhancement projects that address the priorities in the Oregon Water Quality non-point Source Management Plan. These grants require a minimum 40% match of non-federal funds and a partnership with other entities. Applications are generally due around June 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Contact the program for specific deadlines. Funds are awarded February of the following year.

**Contact:**

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Jamie Isaza - Eugene Office  
(541) 687-7341  
[isaza.jaime@deq.state.or.us](mailto:isaza.jaime@deq.state.or.us)

Mary Camarata - Eugene Office  
(541) 687-7435  
[camarata.mary@deq.state.or.us](mailto:camarata.mary@deq.state.or.us)

Websites: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/loans/srflloans.htm>

[http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov/ERT/about\\_us.shtml](http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov/ERT/about_us.shtml)

**Oregon Division of State Lands**

**Easements**

The Oregon Division of State Lands grants easements for the use of state-owned land managed by the agency. An easement allows the user to have the right to use state-owned land for a specific purpose and length of time. This does not convey any proprietary or other rights of use other than those specifically granted in the easement authorization. Uses of state-owned land subject to an easement include, but are not limited to gas, electric and communication lines (including fiber optic cables); water

supply pipelines, ditches, canal, and flumes; innerducts and conduits for cables; sewer, storm and cooling water lines; bridges, skylines and logging lines; roads and trails; and railroad and light rail track.

**Contact:**

Western Region  
Oregon Division of State Lands  
775 Summer St NE Suite 100  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Phone: (503) 3778-3805  
Website: <http://www.oregon.gov/DSL/>

**Wetlands Program**

The Oregon Division of State Land's Wetlands Program staff implements the wetland program elements contained in the 1989 Wetlands Conservation Act. They also help implement the Removal-Fill Law. The program has close ties with local wetland planning conducted by cities, providing both technical and planning assistance.

**Contact:**

Wetland Mitigation Specialist  
Division of State lands  
775 Summer Street, NE Suite 100  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1279  
Phone: (503) 378-3805 ext. 285  
Website: <http://www.oregon.gov/DSL/WETLAND/index.shtml>

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department administers several grant programs including the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (described under "Public Grant-Making Organizations" in this section), Local Government, and Recreation Trails grants.

**Local Government Grants**

Local government grants are provided for the acquisition, development and rehabilitation or park and recreation areas and facilities. Eligible agencies include park and recreation districts, and port districts. The Local Government Grant program provides up to 50 percent funding assistance. For cities/park districts with a population less than 5,000, and counties with populations less than 30,000, the program provides up to 60 percent funding assistance. Applications for grants of less than \$50,000 qualify as small grant requests.

**Contact:**

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department



Local Government Grants  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Michele Scalise  
Grants/Contracts Coordinator  
Phone: (503) 986-0708  
Fax: (503) 986-0793  
Website: <http://egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/GRANTS/local.shtml>

### **Recreation Trail Grants**

Every year, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department accepts applications for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants. Types of projects funded include:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
- Development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities;
- Construction of new recreation trails; and
- Acquisitions of easements and fee simple titles to property.

Grant recipients are required to provide a minimum 20% in matching funds. Projects must be completed and costs billed within two years of project authorization.

**Contact:**

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Recreation Trails Program Grants  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Michele Scalise  
Grants/Contracts Coordinator  
Phone: (503) 986-0708  
Fax: (503) 986-0793  
Website: <http://egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/GRANTS/trails.shtml>

### **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) administers a grant program that awards more than \$20 million annually to support voluntary efforts by Oregonians seeking to create and maintain healthy watersheds. Types of grants provided by OWEB include: upland erosion control, land and/or water acquisition, vegetation management, watershed education, and stream enhancement.

**Contact:**

Grants Program Manager  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360

Salem, Oregon 97301-1290

Phone: (503) 986-0203

Fax: (503) 986-0199

Website: <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/index.shtml>

Willamette Basin Region Office  
Pat Oman  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290

### **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

#### **Sport Fish and Restoration Program Funds**

Cities, counties, park and recreation districts, port districts, and state agencies may receive funding from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Funds are awarded at the start of each federal fiscal year to priority projects. This is a matching fund program of 75% federal and 25% by the State Marine Board. Eligible projects include acquisition and construction of public recreational motorized boating facilities, such as: boat ramps, boarding floats, restrooms, access roads, parking areas, transient tie-up docks, dredging and signs.

**Contact:**

Realty Manager

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Salem, Oregon 97303-4924

Phone: (503) 947-6000

Website: <http://www.boatoregon.com/facilities/FacilityFunds.html>

### **Oregon State Marine Board Facility Grant Program**

The Oregon State Marine Board is Oregon's recreational boating agency, dedicated to safety, education and access in an enhanced environment. The Marine Board returns user fees (marine fuel tax and title and registration fees) to boaters in the form of boating safety educational programs, marine law enforcement and improved boating facilities. Through its facilities program, the Marine Board provides grants and engineering services to local governments (cities, counties, park districts, port districts) to develop and maintain accessible boating facilities and protect water quality.

**Contact:**

PO Box 14145

Salem Oregon

97309-5065

Phone: (503) 378-8587

[marine.board@state.or.us](mailto:marine.board@state.or.us)

Website: [www.boatoregon.com](http://www.boatoregon.com)

## **Not-for-Profit Organizations**

### **American Farmland Trust**

This organization works for the preservation and protection of agricultural lands throughout the United States, with a focus on planning for urban growth that keeps agricultural needs in mind. It is a private non-profit that receives funding from foundations, corporations and government sources. The organization has a land acquisition division, as well as some grant programs. (For agricultural lands only.)

**Contact:**

American Farmland Trust  
1200 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: (202) 331-7300

Fax: (202) 659-8339

Website: <http://www.farmland.org>

### **The Nature Conservancy**

This is a national environmental organization focused on preservation of plants, animals and natural communities. They have worked in direct land acquisitions and in obtaining conservation easements for protection of wilderness and agricultural lands. Their grant programs are usually focused on their own acquisition of land, but they are willing to work with communities who want to purchase land if it is then to be set aside for environmental preservation.

**Contact:**

The Nature Conservancy of Oregon  
821 S.E. 14th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97214

Phone: (503) 802-8100

Fax: (503) 802-8199

Website: <http://nature.org/oregon>

### **Rails to Trails Conservancy**

The Rails to Trails Conservancy is a national 501 (c) 3 which promotes and enables trail building efforts at the national and state level. Rails to Trails promotes policy at the national and state levels to create the conditions that make trail building possible; works to protect federal trail building programs and funding, including those promoting the conversion of rail corridors to trails; provides information, technical assistance and

training to local trail builders; and are developing a Regional Trails and Greenways Initiative designed to make trails an essential component of the emerging smart growth and livable communities movement.

**Contact:**

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
1100 17th Street, NW, 10th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: (202) 331-9696

Website: <http://www.railtrails.org/>

## **Park and Recreation District**

Special districts, such as a park and recreation district, are financed through property taxes and/or fees for services. A governing body elected by the voters directs all districts. A good source of information is the Special District Association of Oregon (SDAO).

SDAO was established in 1977 to pursue the common interests and concerns of special districts. SDAO has outlined the process of forming a special district.

**Contact:**

Executive Director  
Special Districts Association of Oregon  
727 Center Street NE, Suite 208

PO Box 12613  
Salem, Oregon 97309-0613

Phone: (503) 371-8667; Toll-free: 1-800-285-5461

Fax: (503) 371-4781

Email: [sdao@sdao.com](mailto:sdao@sdao.com)

Website: [www.sdao.com](http://www.sdao.com)

## **Land Trusts**

Local and national land trusts may be interested in helping to protect open space in the Lowell area.

### **The Wetlands Conservancy**

The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC) is a non-profit land trust. It was founded in 1981 and is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting the wildlife, water quality and open space values of wetlands in Oregon.

**Contact:**

The Wetlands Conservancy  
PO Boc 1195  
Tualatin, Oregon 97062  
Phone: (503) 691-1394  
Website: <http://www.wetlandsconservancy.org/>

**Land Trust Alliance**

Since 1982, the Land Trust Alliance has assisted nonprofit land trusts and organizations protect land through donation and purchase by working with landowners interested in donating or selling conservation easements, or by acquiring land outright to maintain as open space. They are a member-based organization, so becoming a member is the first step towards applying for assistance from this organization.

**Contact:**

1331 H Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington DC 20005-4734  
Phone: (202) 638-4725  
Website: <http://www.lta.org/>

**Trust for Public Land**

Land conservation is central to the Trust for Public Land's mission. Since 1972, the Trust for Public Land is the only national nonprofit working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being. The trust helps conserve land for recreation, enjoyment and to improve the health and quality of life in American communities.

The Trust for public land offers the following:

- Research on park trends and best practices
- Help in forging a community vision for parks and open space
- Help in developing public-private partnerships for land protection
- Assistance with real estate negotiation to acquire new properties
- Help with private and public fund-raising for parks

**Contact:**

Oregon Field Office  
Trust for Public Land  
806 SW Broadway, suite 300  
Portland, Oregon 97205  
Phone: (503) 228-6620  
Fax: (03) 228-4529  
Website: [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

**Northwest Land Conservation Trust**

The trust works with Oregon landowners to establish conservation easements to preserve and protect agricultural land, forest land, wildlife habitat, wetlands, scenic open space, and other natural resources.

**Contact:**

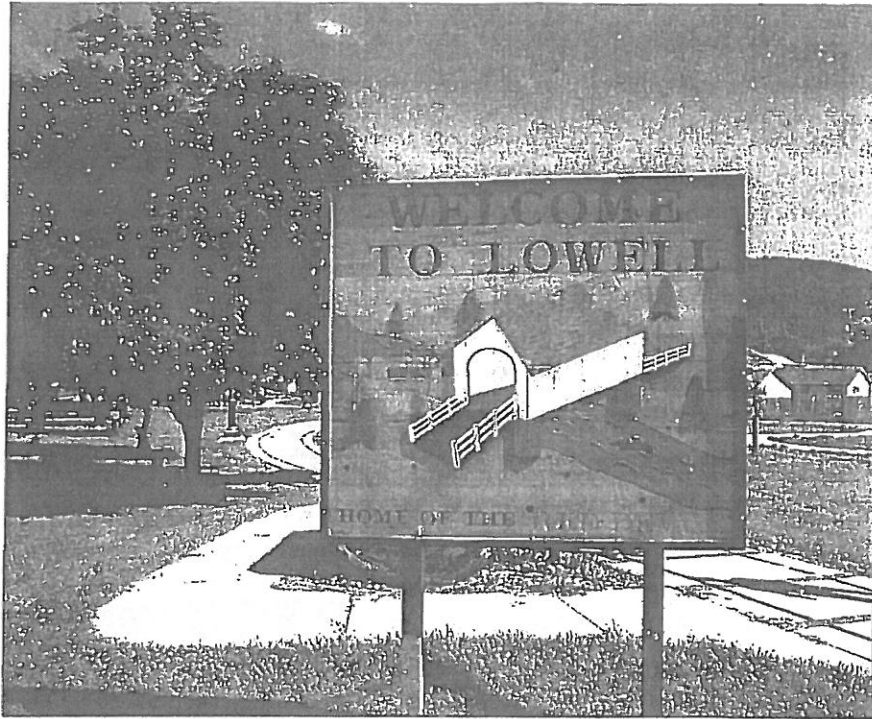
Northwest Land Conservation Trust  
PO Box 18302  
Salem, Oregon 97305-8302  
Email: [nwlct@open.org](mailto:nwlct@open.org)  
Website: <http://www.open.org/~nwlct/>

**The Greenbelt Land Trust**

The Greenbelt Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that works to protect and enhance the open space amenities essential to the quality of life in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

**Contact:**

The Greenbelt Land Trust  
PO Box 1721  
Corvallis, Oregon 97339  
Phone; (541) 752-9609  
Email: [info@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:info@greenbeltlandtrust.org)  
Website: [www.greenbeltlandtrust.org](http://www.greenbeltlandtrust.org)



**Furthering Public Art and Park Enhancements  
City of Lowell, Oregon**

June, 2004



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



OREGON ARTS  
COMMISSION

AUG 30 2004

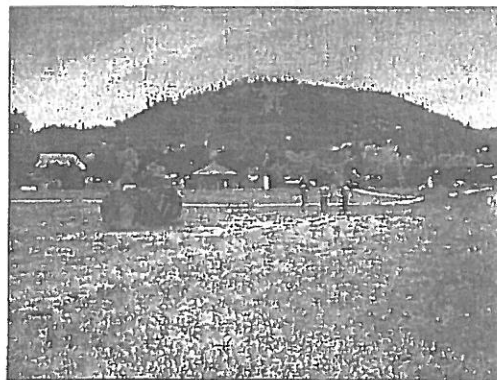
## Background

Strategic planning for the Oregon Arts Commission's Arts Build Communities Technical Assistance Program recommended that assistance efforts in 2004 be focused on revisiting past projects with the intention of providing a "shot in the arm" to projects that needed further refinement and ideas. Thus, an opportunity to revisit the community of Lowell, Oregon by the Arts Build Communities Technical Assistance Team (ABC Team) came about after talking to Mayor Warren Weathers about work to date since the last visit in 2000, and about possibilities for further assistance. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Oregon Arts Commission Community Development Director Bill Flood and ABC Team member Sally Sheridan visited Lowell to ascertain how the community realized goals set forth in the Cultural Opportunities Plan<sup>1</sup>, look for areas that could use focused design ideas, and provide ideas for further public art and community enhancement. The site visit included meeting with the City Manager, the Mayor, and the key Parks and Recreation District member to review plans to date and strategic community goals, followed by a tour of the town, Community Park, and areas with potential trail connections to Dexter Reservoir.

<sup>1</sup> Cultural Opportunities Plan, Lowell Oregon, January 2000. Developed in partnership with the City of Lowell, Oregon, Oregon Arts Commission's Arts Build Communities Technical Assistance Team, The National Park Service's River's, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, and the Lane Arts Council



Mayor Warren Weathers in front of the Community Park's covered bridge



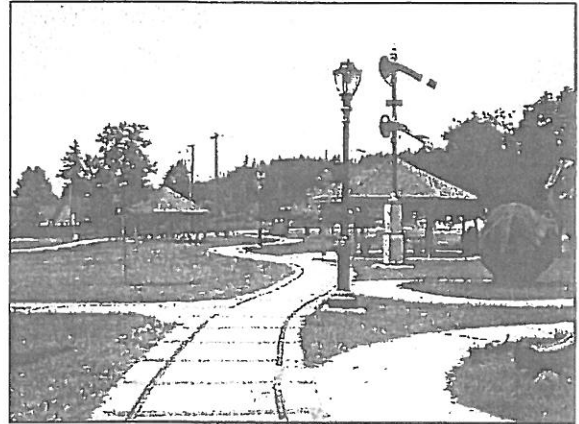
Mayor Warren Weathers, Mike Cobiskey and Oregon Arts Commission's Community Development Director Bill Flood looking at a potential amphitheater site in Community Park.



## Opportunities and Challenges

Great progress has been made by the City of Lowell staff, residents and partners on fulfilling many of the recommendations suggested in the Cultural Opportunities Plan. The suggestion to create a memorial to Lee Wetlau was realized through a memorial bench located in Community Park. Community pride in Lowell's heritage is visible with the siting and interpretive signage of logging memorabilia along the walkway in Community Park. Festivals such as the Blackberry Jam Festival continue to bring the community together. The backbone of a heritage trail weaves through the park and resembles the historic rail line. And, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soon to begin work on the Covered Bridge interpretive area as one enters Lowell.

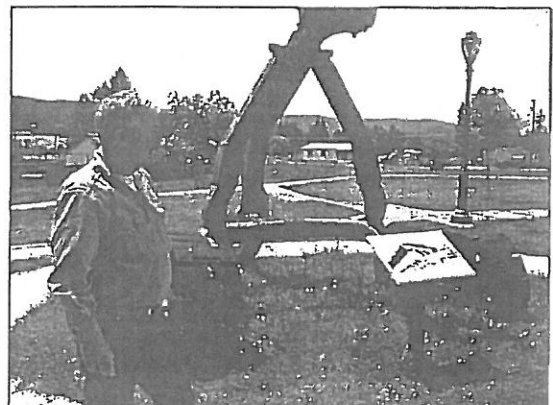
Enhancement challenges for Lowell remain the same, as well as some new ones apparent to the ABC Team. At the forefront is the challenge to create and maintain a balanced and sustainable economy for the citizens of Lowell. The population remains the same, but jobs are scarce. Lowell is trying to retain its small town image and sense of community in the face of pressure to transform into a commuter community serving surrounding towns such as Springfield. Heavy trucking traffic on North Shore is a hazard to the residents informally crossing the streets and to schoolchildren who may jaywalk. There is still a vacuum for a community core and gathering area, although the Community Park seems to be somewhat filling that role by default.



Community Park, Lowell Oregon



Memorial Bench to Lee Wetlau sited in  
Community Park



Mayor Warren Weathers shows the ABC Team  
logging interpretive sites in Community Park

While showcasing Community Park, the Mayor discussed two key challenges for the future of the park: Money and Maintenance. The City of Lowell has competing issues for operating and capital budgets, making it difficult to fund park improvements. In addition, a volunteer staff with no current hope of city staff assistance is performing all park maintenance. Additional improvements to the area need to be sensitive to these two issues as the town can barely maintain and fund what they have. Additional design challenges to the park include:

- A lack of distinct edges to the park, especially near the port-a-potty site
- Too many different materials and objects currently in a small space, and trees planted in a random fashion
- A lack of activities for the kids that cross the park from the high school to town
- A more formal connection from the park to the high school.
- A multi-use performance area is needed for the Blackberry Jam Festival
- A formal entry to the park, complete with restrooms, signage and parking, is needed.

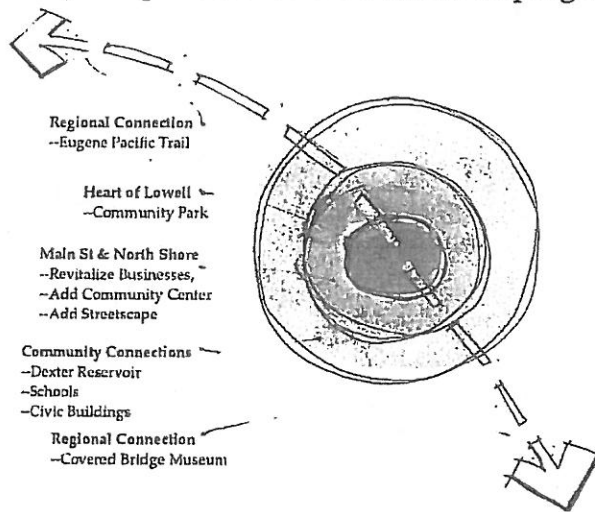
The ABC Team noted that there are several opportunities to strengthen connections to the park while expanding it's role as a community gathering area:

- Revitalize Main Street and the empty lot adjacent to the park
- Acquire and renovate the Green Tortoise building into a community/cultural/commercial center and create parking
- Construct a multi-use performance area for the Blackberry Jam Festival and other community gathering events
- Provide directional signage to other trail links such as the Eugene Pacific Trail along North Shore and neighborhood connections to Dexter Reservoir.

Existing construction and features at the Community Park, such as the logging memorabilia and pathway incorporating the look of the railroad, reinforce the uniqueness and heritage of Lowell. The ABC Team advocates that any new improvements to the park continue in this vein! Other themes that could be highlighted either through interpretation or public art: Native American migration patterns; historic agricultural uses; the transition from the river to the reservoirs, including the history of the dams and the buried town; the covered bridge era; the cultural diversity in Lowell's past; enhance the logging theme by incorporating information about the old mill site across street; and the history of Chinese rail labor.

## Key Design Concepts

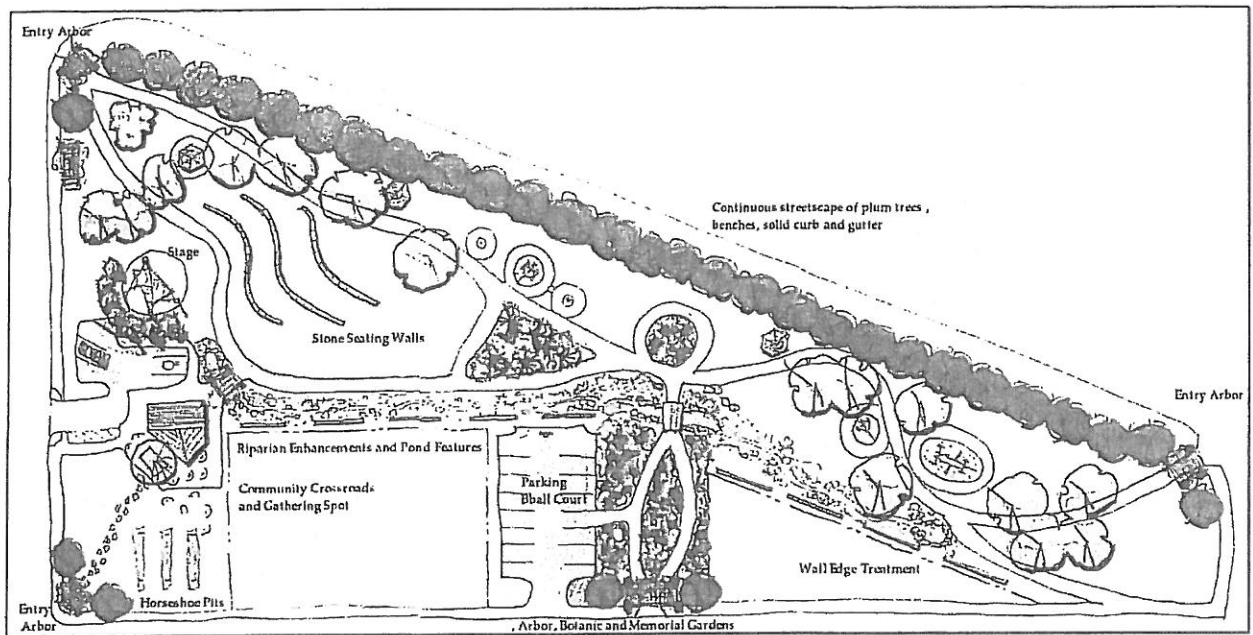
The ABC Team envisions community revitalization and beautification projects for Lowell starting with the Community Park and radiating throughout the community. First, Community Park is suggested to be the Heart of the Lowell community. Emphasis should be on developing the park as a community focal



point and gathering spot, and the park should present a welcome face to the visitor and to the citizens of Lowell. Quality economic development around the park edges provides a vibrant edge to the park. Main St. and North Shore improvements include: acquiring and transforming the Green Tortoise site into a

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## A Master Plan for Community Park



### The Vision

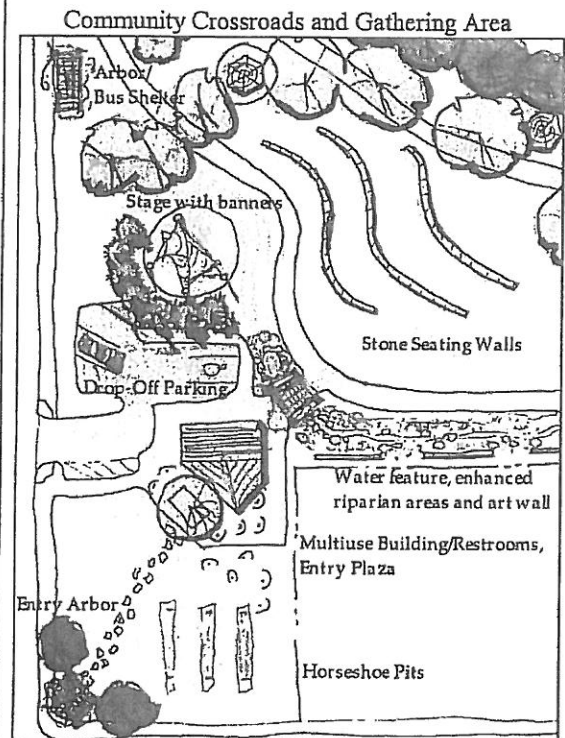
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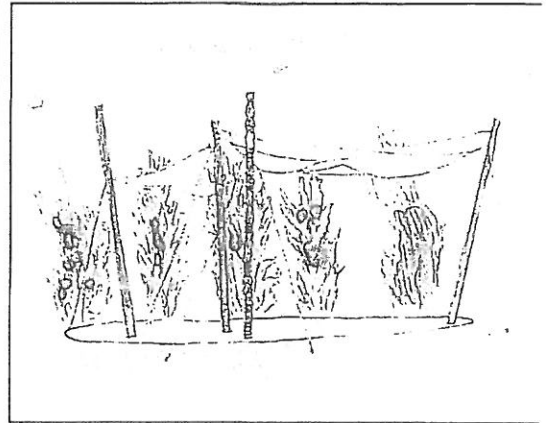
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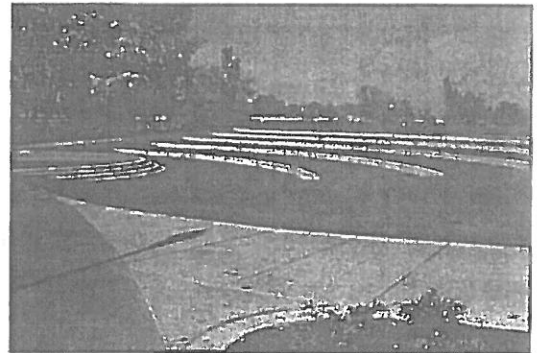
- A major **entry arbor** located at the corner that invites the user into an informal green area with three horseshoe pits.
- A **multiuse building** houses restrooms and covered storage for performance equipment. A coffee cart can be stored here as well, and operated during the day by the students from the local schools. Moveable chairs enable relaxed use of a plaza and green grounds. An informative kiosk advertises community events and displays interpretive information.
- **Parking** is limited here, but allows for handicapped and drop off use. The proposed shuttle from the covered bridge museum to the park would stop here for users.



- A permanent stage and performance amphitheater area will be the home to such events as the Blackberry Jam Festival. A circular concrete pad serves as a stage and is punctuated by four tall timber poles supporting high canvas banners. The poles are opportunities for local woodcarvers to design art poles — totems, symbols of the natural world, abstract designs and so forth. The banners are meant to be high enough to be visible from the Covered Bridge Museum and symbolize the recreational features of the marina. Tall cyprus trees provide a backdrop to the stage and provide screening for the neighbors. These would be beautiful decorated with Christmas lights during the holiday season.
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Circular concrete stage with signature art poles supporting canvas banners.



An example of tiered seating walls and stage, Salem, Oregon Riverfront Park

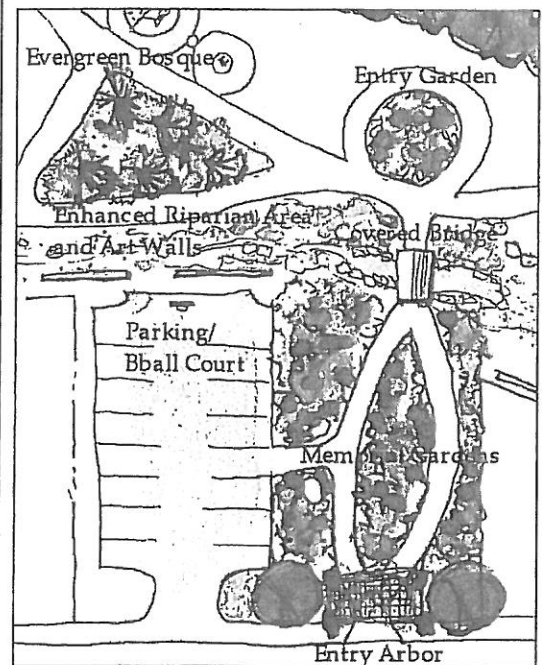
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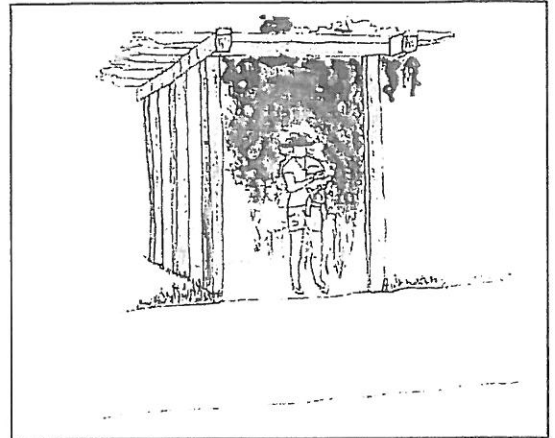
View of Botanic Gardens from Main St.



Detailed plan of Botanic Gardens

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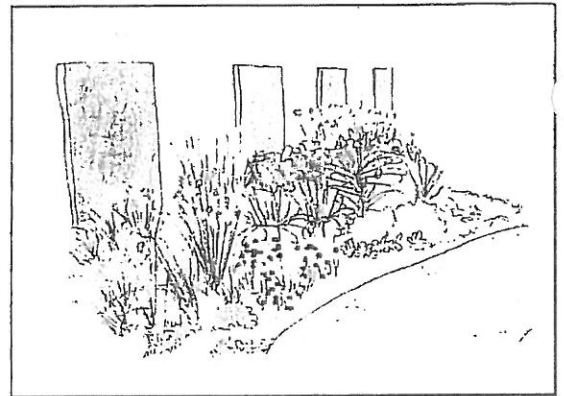
Entry features provide an edge and clear definition for the park. Simple arbors can be constructed that utilize the talents of the lumber trade and hop vines can remind folks of the agricultural richness of the past. An arbor placed over the existing bus stop provides shade and cover while integrating the stop into the rest of the park. Speed bumps or other such traffic calming mechanisms should be located at each of these arbor entries for safer road crossings.



Arbors help define park entrances and add visual definition to park edges

## Edge Treatments

Creating defined edges to the park help screen unattractive views, provide privacy to adjoining neighbors, and create dynamic boundaries to the park. For example, along the south edge of park, slabs of local stone can be cut and set upright by local stonemasons and serve as a walking geology display and an edge to the park. Or, these could be simple concrete block that can be the canvas for local artists to create murals or relief sculpture.



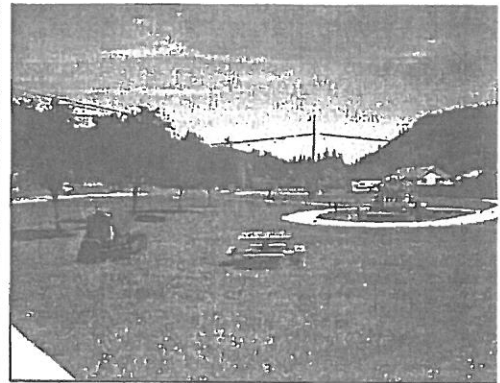
Art walls help add visual buffers to the edge of the park



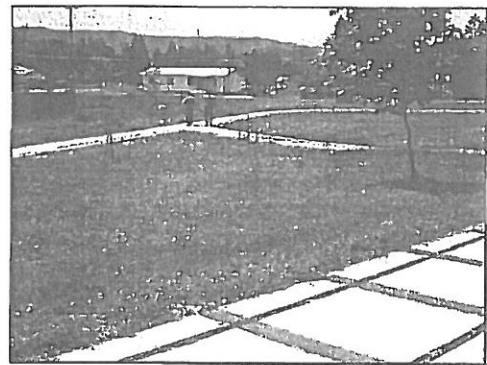
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The following list of ideas would help add a bit of finesse to the park by relocating some existing features to a more appropriate setting, and encouraging some design elements that would add consistency to the park.

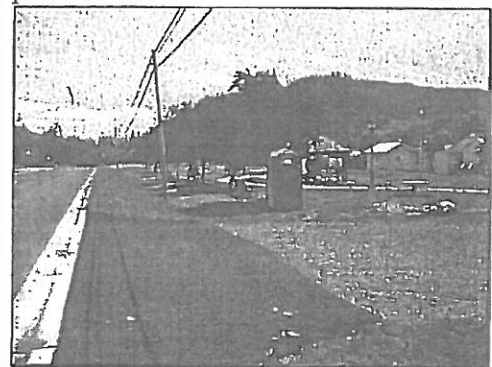
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- Continue the existing landscape treatment along North Shore. Extend the curb and gutter so there is no access point and repeat heavy plum street tree plantings.



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Keep future paving materials similar to existing: do not add another style to the park as it detracts from railroad theme.



Extend landscape treatment of plum trees, swale and benches along North Shore for consistent streetscape appeal and traffic control.

## Programming Ideas

Community Park, the heart of the community, will not pulse without people! Additional programming activities that can attract daily, seasonal events, and special event use to the park. Ideas include:

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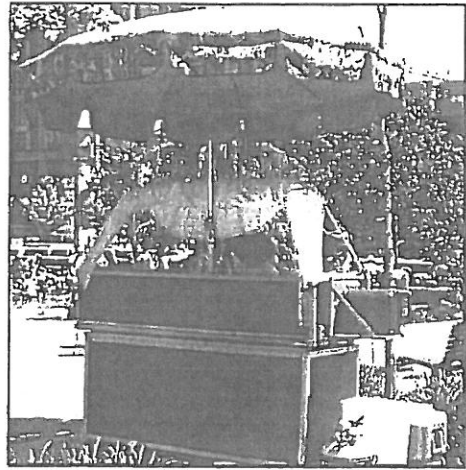


Temporary art exhibits such as this chalk art display in Santa Barbara, CA could be a special event held on the proposed basketball/parking area.

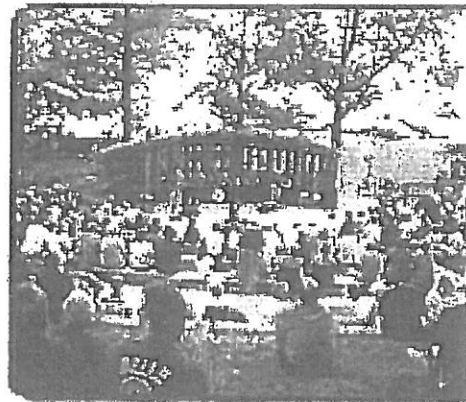
## Next Steps

Many of the ideas suggested above are large fiscal improvements that can be achieved through creative financing and partnership efforts. Pursue grants with Department of Transportation, State Economic Development Department, the Army Corps of Engineers and other large federal and state agencies for some of the bigger ticket items such as the restroom facility and amphitheater. Other projects could be realized with local partnerships. For example, the schools could operate their coffee cart in the park plaza area, or the Grange or Masons could adopt a project.

Look at the resources in the Lowell area and take advantage of any opportunity for in kind services. For example, two quarries are located near Lowell that could provide materials for the stone slabs. Or, wood from a nearby mill or shop could be donated for the stage support structures. Lowell is blessed with talented artists and craftspeople that could be consigned for specific projects. And, the local musicians should be featured on the performance lineup!



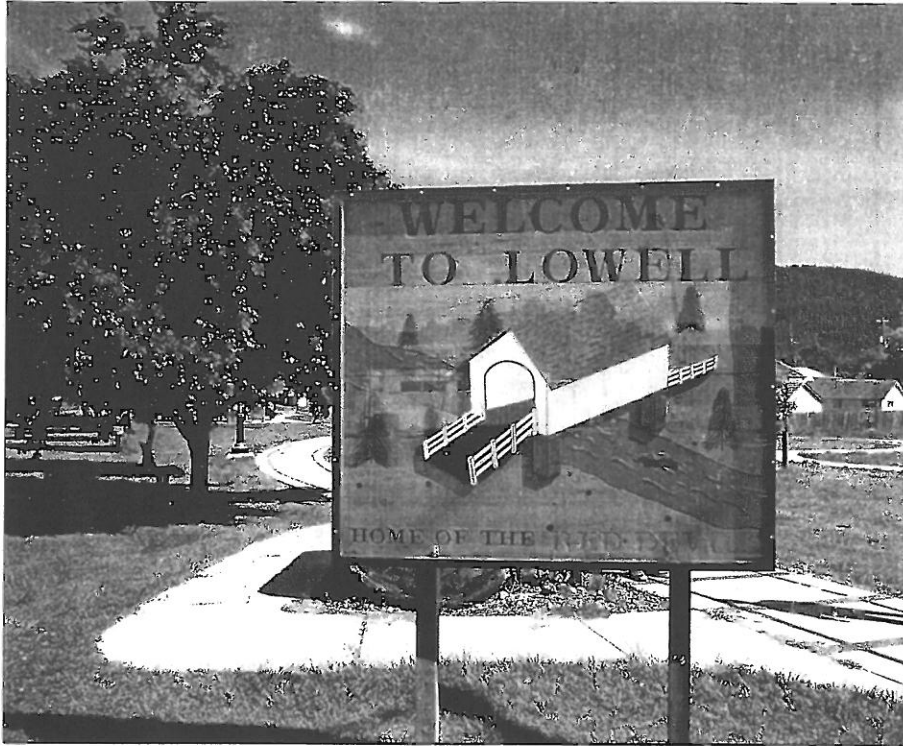
Funds from a coffee cart operation run by local high school students can help fund park improvements. Photo, Jackson Square Park, Portland, Oregon



Tap into local artists for performances at the proposed amphitheater. Photo of temporary stage in Tillamook, Oregon



APPENDIX D



**Furthering Public Art and Park Enhancements  
City of Lowell, Oregon**

**June, 2004**



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



OREGON ARTS  
COMMISSION

AUG 30 2004

## Background

Strategic planning for the Oregon Arts Commission's Arts Build Communities Technical Assistance Program recommended that assistance efforts in 2004 be focused on revisiting past projects with the intention of providing a "shot in the arm" to projects that needed further refinement and ideas. Thus, an opportunity to revisit the community of Lowell, Oregon by the Arts Build Communities Technical Assistance Team (ABC Team) came about after talking to Mayor Warren Weathers about work to date since the last visit in 2000, and about possibilities for further assistance. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Oregon Arts Commission Community Development Director Bill Flood and ABC Team member Sally Sheridan visited Lowell to ascertain how the community realized goals set forth in the *Cultural Opportunities Plan*<sup>1</sup>, look for areas that could use focused design ideas, and provide ideas for further public art and community enhancement. The site visit included meeting with the City Manager, the Mayor, and the key Parks and Recreation District member to review plans to date and strategic community goals, followed by a tour of the town, Community Park, and areas with potential trail connections to Dexter Reservoir.

<sup>1</sup> *Cultural Opportunities Plan, Lowell Oregon*. January 2000. Developed in partnership with the City of Lowell, Oregon, Oregon Arts Commission's Arts Build Communities Technical Assistance Team, The National Park Service's River's, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, and the Lane Arts Council



Mayor Warren Weathers in front of the Community Park's covered bridge



Mayor Warren Weathers, Mike Cobiskey and Oregon Arts Commission's Community Development Director Bill Flood looking at a potential amphitheater site in Community Park.

## Opportunities and Challenges

Great progress has been made by the City of Lowell staff, residents and partners on fulfilling many of the recommendations suggested in the Cultural Opportunities Plan. The suggestion to create a memorial to Lee Wetlau was realized through a memorial bench located in Community Park. Community pride in Lowell's heritage is visible with the siting and interpretive signage of logging memorabilia along the walkway in Community Park. Festivals such as the Blackberry Jam Festival continue to bring the community together. The backbone of a heritage trail weaves through the park and resembles the historic rail line. And, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soon to begin work on the Covered Bridge interpretive area as one enters Lowell.

Enhancement challenges for Lowell remain the same, as well as some new ones apparent to the ABC Team. At the forefront is the challenge to create and maintain a balanced and sustainable economy for the citizens of Lowell. The population remains the same, but jobs are scarce. Lowell is trying to retain its small town image and sense of community in the face of pressure to transform into a commuter community serving surrounding towns such as Springfield. Heavy trucking traffic on North Shore is a hazard to the residents informally crossing the streets and to schoolchildren who may jaywalk. There is still a vacuum for a community core and gathering area, although the Community Park seems to be somewhat filling that role by default.



Community Park, Lowell Oregon



Memorial Bench to Lee Wetlau sited in  
Community Park



Mayor Warren Weathers shows the ABC Team  
logging interpretive sites in Community Park

While showcasing Community Park, the Mayor discussed two key challenges for the future of the park: Money and Maintenance. The City of Lowell has competing issues for operating and capital budgets, making it difficult to fund park improvements. In addition, a volunteer staff with no current hope of city staff assistance is performing all park maintenance. Additional improvements to the area need to be sensitive to these two issues as the town can barely maintain and fund what they have. Additional design challenges to the park include:

- A lack of distinct edges to the park, especially near the port-a-potty site
- Too many different materials and objects currently in a small space, and trees planted in a random fashion
- A lack of activities for the kids that cross the park from the high school to town
- A more formal connection from the park to the high school.
- A multi-use performance area is needed for the Blackberry Jam Festival
- A formal entry to the park, complete with restrooms, signage and parking, is needed.

The ABC Team noted that there are several opportunities to strengthen connections to the park while expanding it's role as a community gathering area:

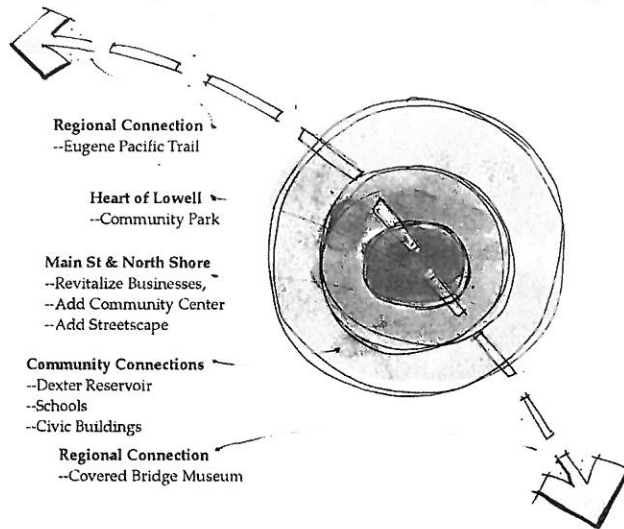
- Revitalize Main Street and the empty lot adjacent to the park
- Acquire and renovate the Green Tortoise building into a community/cultural/commercial center and create parking
- Construct a multi-use performance area for the Blackberry Jam Festival and other community gathering events
- Provide directional signage to other trail links such as the Eugene Pacific Trail along North Shore and neighborhood connections to Dexter Reservoir.

Existing construction and features at the Community Park, such as the logging memorabilia and pathway incorporating the look of the railroad, reinforce the uniqueness and heritage of Lowell. The ABC Team advocates that any new improvements to the park continue in this vein! Other themes that could be highlighted either through interpretation or public art: Native American migration patterns; historic agricultural uses; the transition from the river to the reservoirs, including the history of the dams and the buried town; the covered bridge era; the cultural diversity in Lowell's past; enhance the logging theme by incorporating information about the old mill site across street; and the history of Chinese rail labor.



## Key Design Concepts

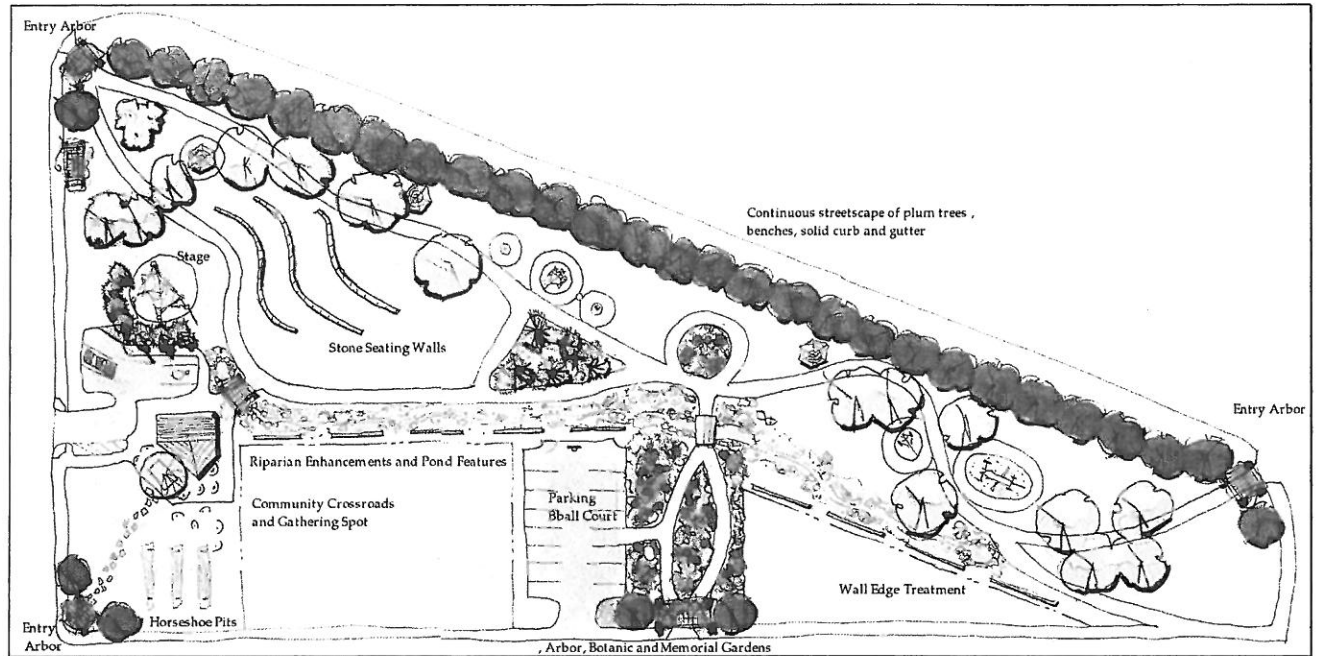
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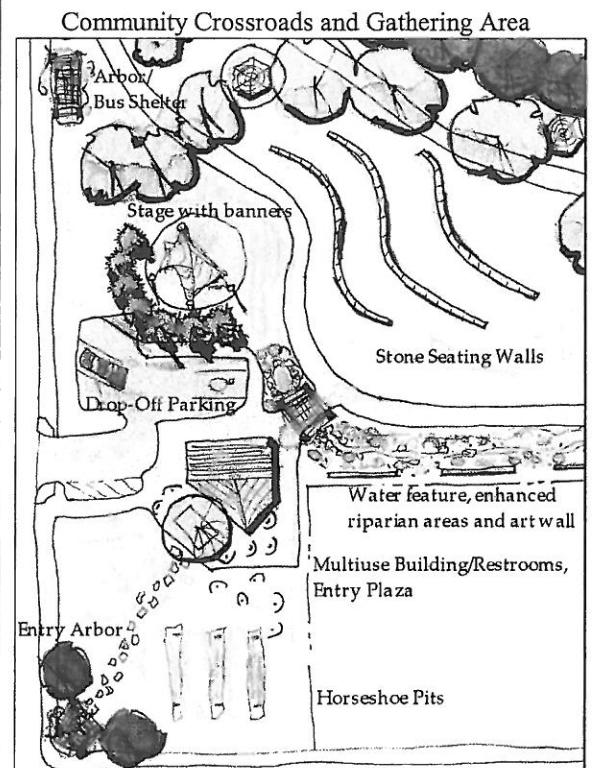
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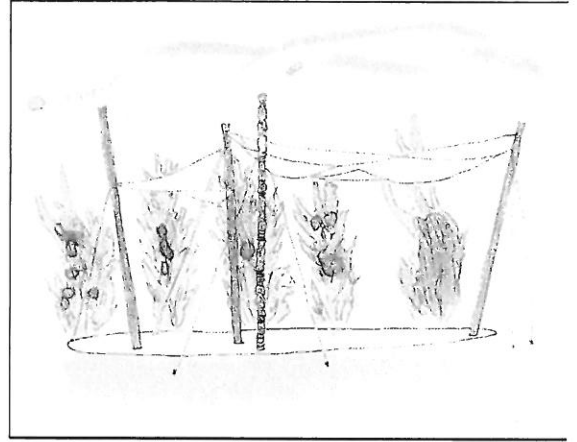
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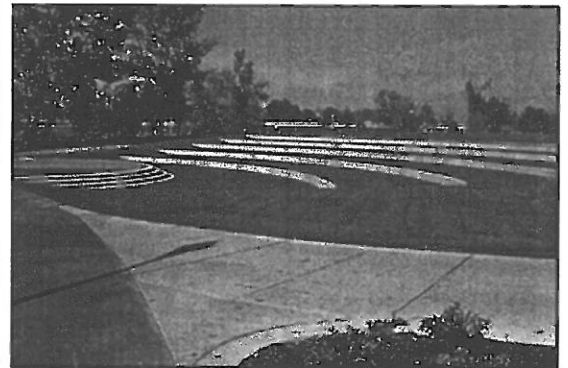
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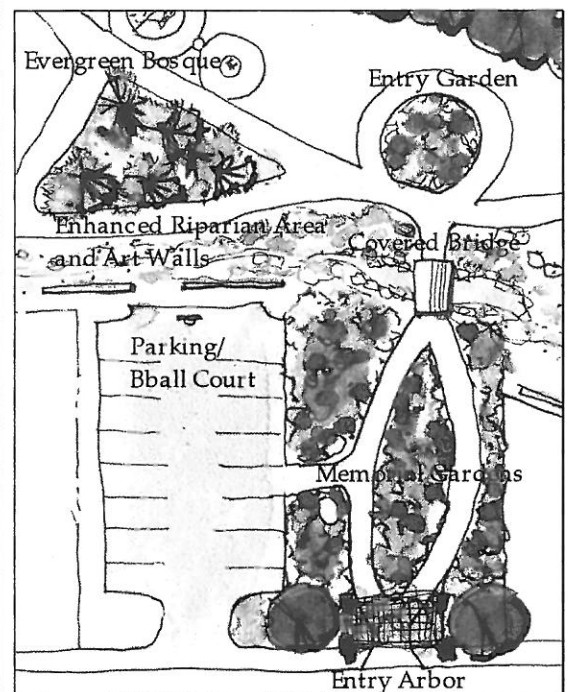
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View of Botanic Gardens from Main St.



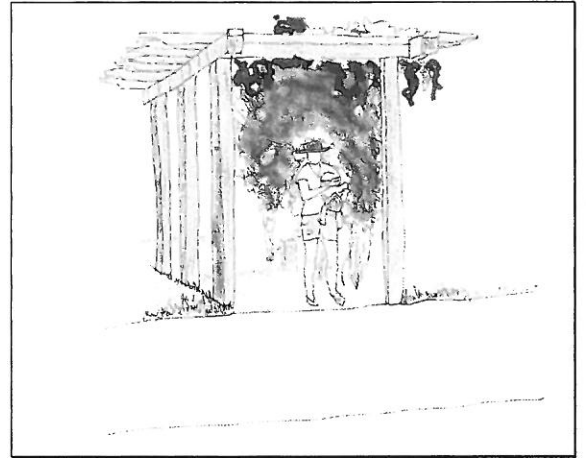
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## Entry Arbors

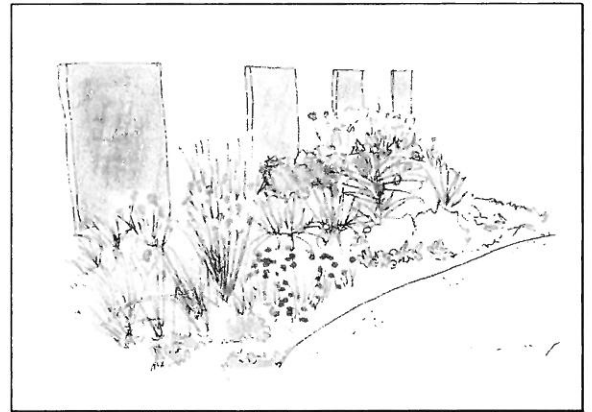
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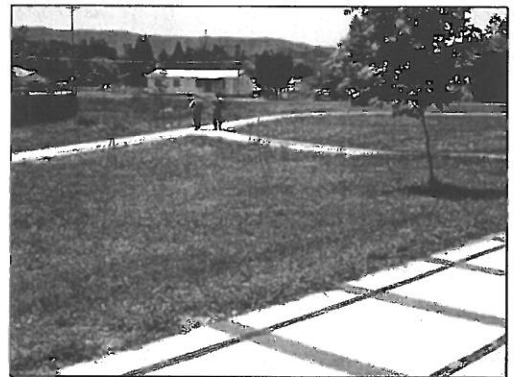
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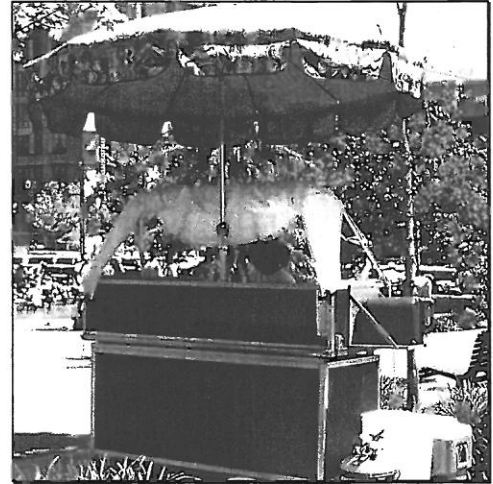
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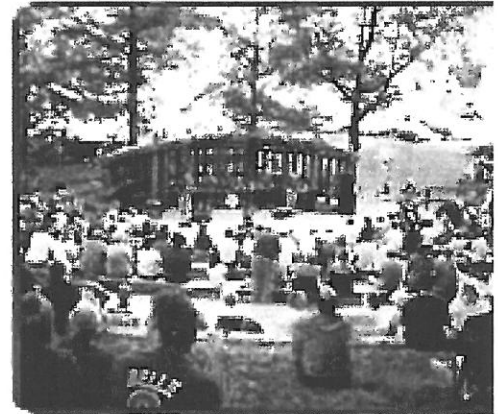
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Tap into local artists for performances at the proposed amphitheater. Photo of temporary stage in Tillamook, Oregon