

PARKS AND RECREATION

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State-wide Planning Goal 8, Recreational Needs, provides the following goal statement: "to satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of the state and visitors and, where appropriate, to provide for the siting of necessary recreational facilities including destination resorts."

The Goal continues by describing a recreation planning process where "the requirements for meeting such needs, now and in the future, shall be planned for by governmental agencies having responsibility for recreation areas, facilities and opportunities: (1) in coordination with private enterprise; (2) in appropriate proportions; and (3) in such quantity, quality and locations as is consistent with the availability of the resources to meet such requirements. State and federal agency recreation plans shall be coordinated with local and regional recreation needs and plans."

The city will use the conceptual framework contained in the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Plan 1988-1993 and the draft Oregon Outdoor Recreation Plan 1994-1999 (these plans will be referred to as SCORP) to undertake the analysis of recreation resources as required by Goal 8.

The city is a residential resort community and as such recreation plays a more fundamental role in the community than it does in most cities. The city's physical location on the Pacific Ocean, and the recreation opportunities that the ocean and its beaches provide, has been an integral part of the development of the city. The city's physical location makes it a destination for people seeking recreational activities and experiences. The three major components of the city's economy, tourism, construction and the second home/retirement home housing market, are all directly related to the recreation activities available in Cannon Beach and its environs. In planning for recreation facilities and activities, the city's objective is to find a balance between providing for the recreational needs of its visitors and maintaining the essential elements of its residential character. Planning for recreational facilities and activities must also balance the needs of visitors with those of permanent residents.

City's Parks and Recreation Resources

The discussion of the city's park and recreation resources consists of the following elements: (1). an inventory of the recreation facilities and activities; (2). an assessment of the existing recreation facilities and activities; and (3) identification of additional recreational facility needs.

The city contains nine parks, six in city ownership and three owned by the state, two of which are managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Division. The following is a summary of each park and its characteristics.

Les Shirley Park

Les Shirley Park is located north of Ecola Creek, south of 5th Street and west of the Old Oregon Coast Highway. The park has an area of 5.7 acres. The park has approximately 800 feet of frontage on Ecola Creek. In addition to estuarine wetlands associated with Ecola Creek, the park contains Logan Creek at its confluence with Ecola Creek. All of the park is located in the floodplain associated with Ecola Creek.

The park site has historic significance,. The Lewis and Clark Expedition visited the site in 1806. The park is the official terminus of the Lewis and Clark Trail and is recognized as such by the National Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation and the Oregon Lewis and Clark Trail Committee.

The Les Shirley Park includes the following improvements: public restrooms; 28 parking spaces; picnic facilities, including tables and grills; open grassy areas available for a variety of play activities; public access to Ecola Creek and the ocean; and interpretive signs. The park provides unimproved angler access to Ecola Creek.

The park is one of the city's five main public access points to the ocean beach and Ecola Creek estuary. Each of these main public access points consists of three elements: parking, physical access improvements and appropriate signage. Les Shirley Park is the only fully developed public access point on the north side of Cannon Beach.

The park's interpretive signs provide information about the site's unique estuarine, riparian, and beach environments. A description

of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's visit to the site is also provided.

Ecola Creek Park

Ecola Creek Park is located on the southern bank on Ecola Creek, immediately east of the bridge crossing Ecola Creek. The park has an area of .7 acres. The park has approximately 250 feet of frontage on Ecola Creek. The park is located in the creek's flood plain. The park provides picnic tables and parking spaces. The site provides access to Ecola Creek for fishing and launching of non-motorized boats.

Whale Park

Whale Park is located in the northern portion of the downtown area, west of Third Street and north of Hemlock Street. The park has an area of 13,000 square feet. The park has 100 feet of frontage on Ecola Creek near its confluence with the Pacific Ocean. On its north, the park adjoins unimproved city property, of approximately 4.7 acres, which provides an additional 700 feet of frontage on Ecola Creek. Park improvements include covered seating areas and a wooden sculpture of a whale. Whale Park provides visual and physical access to the Pacific Ocean. The park is one of the city's five main public access points to the ocean beach and Ecola Creek estuary.

Elk Run Park

Elk Run Park is located in the southern portion of the downtown area, west of Spruce Street and south of First Street. The park has an area of 20,000 square feet and abuts the unimproved right-of-way of Taft Street, which provides an additional 10,000 square feet of area. The park contains a fresh water wetland that is classified, according to the National Wetland Inventory, as a palustrine, forested, seasonal wetland. The Cannon Beach Wetland Study describes the site as containing "a remnant of old growth Sitka spruce forest with depressions of pooled water, skunk cabbage, and a meandering stream channel. The wetland is small and isolated..."

The park's primary function is to provide a quiet picnicking/rest area in close proximity to the downtown area. The park contains the following improvements: 8 off-street parking spaces; picnic benches; and a viewing and seating platform.

City Park

City Park is located in the middle of the downtown area, east of Spruce Street and north of Second Street. The park has an area of approximately 3.5 acres. On its east, the park is adjacent to Ecola Creek and associated wetlands.

City Park is the city's community park. The park accommodates a variety of functions including: active recreational activities such as field games, court games, and skate boarding; play area for young children; picnicking; and summer concerts. The park contains the following improvements: a baseball diamond, soccer goals, two tennis courts, a skateboard park, basketball hoop, playground equipment, and a bandstand.

Madison Park

Madison Park is located in the Presidential Streets residential area, north of Madison Street and west of Spruce Street. The park has an area of approximately 8,000 square feet. The park contains several picnic tables in an open grassy area that is separated from the adjoining street by a landscaping berm.

Haystack Hill State Park

Haystack Hill Park, a state park, is located west of US Highway 101, south of Arbor Lane and North of Chena Street. The park has an area of 8.83 acres. The park is undeveloped. Portions of the park contain a dense stand of Sitka Spruce. The park provides sweeping views south to Cape Falcon. An informal network of trails has been established. The deed conveying the park to the state requires that the area remain in an unimproved condition.

Tolovana Wayside

The Tolovana State Wayside is located in the Tolovana area, west of S. Hemlock Street and north of Warren Way. The wayside has an area of 2.7 acres and is in the State Parks system. The park contains the following improvements: 100 parking spaces, picnic benches and a public restroom. The wayside is one of the city's five main public access points to the ocean beach.

South Cannon Park

South Park is located adjacent to the US Highway 101 right-of-way at the southern entrance to the city. The park area is .86 acres. The parcel is owned by the Oregon department of Transportation. The park contains picnic tables.

In addition to the parks described above, the city contains other recreational facilities. The Cannon Beach Grade School grounds provide: a play field, playground equipment and basketball courts. The school also has a gymnasium that can be used for community recreational and cultural activities. The Oregon Coast Trail, the Oregon Coast Bicycle Route and other bicycle paths are described in more detail in the Open Space element of the Background Report.

The city contains three private campgrounds (the RV Resort at Cannon Beach, Wright's For Camping, and Sea Ranch RV Park) which provide approximately 200 recreational vehicle and tent sites.

A number of organized recreational programs and activities occur in the city's parks. During the summer months, the City Park is the site of: a concerts in the park series sponsored by the Cannon Beach Arts Association; a summer youth recreation program sponsored by the city; and organized baseball and soccer league games.

The Tolovana Community Hall provides for a limited amount of indoor recreation in the form of exercise and activity classes provided by a variety of sponsors. The gymnasium at the Cannon Beach Grade School and a gymnasium at the Cannon Beach Conference Center provide indoor children play areas. There are a number of private commercial swimming pools; one of which is used for senior aquatic exercise classes.

Land within cities which is specifically designated and/or developed for recreation purposes is often classified as being one of four park types: neighborhood, community, district and regional. This classification is generally based on the activities that occur in the park, the principal user groups and the jurisdiction with management responsibility. Other parks, with more specialized functions, are defined as tot lots, mini-parks, sports fields, courts and pools. Parks under city jurisdiction are mainly intended to serve neighborhood and community needs within the city boundaries. Neighborhood parks are usually defined as those under 15 acres in size; community parks are usually 15 acres or more in

size. Neighborhood parks are those easily accessible to the community, offer high density activity or passive use, but with a limited range of facilities. Community parks are parks whose location provides for citizens of a community and immediate outlying areas, offers moderate density recreation use and/or cultural opportunities. Community parks have the potential for providing a greater diversity of recreational activities than do neighborhood parks. The city's larger parks, Les Shirley Park and City Park would generally be classified as neighborhood parks, but these parks do serve some community park functions. Whale Park, Elk Run Park, Madison Park, and Ecola Creek Park fall into the mini-park category. While the proposed playground equipment area of the Tolovana Wayside makes it a tot lot.

The city's parks also provide recreational activities for visitors to the city. The most common activities being: picnicking, use of playground equipment, and use of tennis courts and skateboard park.

In assessing how well the city's existing recreational facilities and programs provide for the recreation needs of the community, survey information on community based recreation contained in the draft SCORP is being used.

The Oregon Outdoor Recreation Plan 1994-1999 includes the results of a survey of community based recreation. The survey measured participation in 12 local outdoor community activities. The survey found that the following were the participation rates for common community based recreation activities: park walking/running (59%); picnicking (50%); unpaved trail walking and hiking (44%); nature and wildlife observation (39%); sports/games (38%); playground equipment use (35%); botanical/historical activities (35%); biking on pavement (33%); cultural events (29%); golf (25%); use of a swimming pool (23%); and rollerskate/skateboard use (8%).

The survey also measured participation in organized recreational programs. The most often listed programs in which survey respondents participated in were: community art, craft festivals and exhibits (48%); historical exhibits (44%); and outdoor concerts, music festivals (37%).

It is assumed that these survey results are reflective of the recreational activity participation rates of Cannon Beach residents. Thus the range of recreation facilities and activities available in the city can be evaluated in light of the types of recreation activities citizens are most likely to participate in.

Such an evaluation results in a general finding that the city's recreation facilities provide for its present community based recreation needs. This conclusion is based on the following comparison of city resources to identified activities. The ocean beaches provide an unparalleled setting for walking and running activities. All of the city parks provide some improvements for picnicking as does the Tolovana Wayside. The ocean beaches are an ideal locale for picnicking. The city's physical setting, adjacent to the Pacific Ocean and the Ecola Creek estuary, provide opportunities for nature and wildlife observation. The use of City Park for organized baseball and soccer games is constrained by its size and the variety of uses that occur in the park. Playground equipment is available at both the City Park and the Cannon Beach Grade School. These locations were found to be convenient to most of the community. However, a need for additional playground equipment in the southern portion of the city has been identified. In 1995, the city, in cooperation with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Division, will be installing playground equipment at the Tolovana Wayside. The city does not have an arboretum or other similar resource for the study and enjoyment of plants. However, given the city's rural location and proximity to thousands of acres of forest land, a need for such a facility has never been identified. The Cannon Beach Historical Society recently acquired a building and some adjacent land. The Society's long-range plans include a building expansion that will permit the development of historical displays open to the public. The Oregon Coast Bicycle Route passes through Cannon Beach. Over the years, a key element in the implementation of the city's bicycle master plan has been the development of dedicated bicycle lanes along the full length of Hemlock Street through Cannon Beach. This plan is nearing completion. In addition the bicycle master plan provides for the development of other bike routes. For a community of its size, the city supports a broad range of cultural events. The Cannon Beach Arts Association's cultural activities include a concerts in the park series and a lecture series. The Coaster Theater provides a setting for plays and concerts. Portland State University's Haystack Program provides a broad range of courses in the arts and the environment. As part of their courses, teachers and participants give community lectures, concerts and demonstrations. There are no golf courses located in Cannon Beach. However, there are four golf courses within 20 miles of the city. A public swimming pool is operated by the Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation district in Seaside, eight miles to the north. Portions of Cannon Beach are located in the Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation District. City Park contains a skateboard facility.

Among the most often listed organized community programs in which person's surveyed by SCORP participated, the city provides a variety of opportunities. The Coaster Theater, the Cannon Beach Arts Association, and the Portland State Haystack program provide a many art related exhibits and activities. The Cannon Beach Arts Association, with the city's support, sponsors a summer concerts in the park series.

The Parks and Community Services Committees, in its 1993 update of the Parks and Community Services Refinement Plan, also made a finding that the city's park system is generally adequate to respond to the city's recreation needs. The Refinement Plan identified three areas for potential park system improvement: (1). placing playground equipment at the Tolovana Wayside to serve residents in the Tolovana Park area; (2). development of a sports park to provide for baseball and soccer fields; (3). improvements that will facilitate park use by the disabled; and (4) extension of the bicycle path system.

The city's 1994 population estimate is 1,330. The city is estimating a population in the year 2010 of 1569 permanent residents. This modest population is not anticipated to create a demand for recreation activities that can not be accommodated by recreation facilities, either present or planned.

SCORP also identified a category of recreation activities defined as dispersed recreation activities. These activities are defined as ones which usually occur beyond the local community in which the person participating in the activity resides. SCORP notes that for these activities, the quality of the physical setting is often an integral part of the recreation experience.

Based on the SCORP survey results, the most popular dispersed recreation activities are: sightseeing (69%); swimming/wading at the ocean, a lake or river (59%); boat fishing (41%); tent camping (39%); and nature study/wildlife viewing (39%). It is the opportunity to participate in these dispersed recreation activities which forms the basis for a substantial portion of the city's tourist industry.

The Pacific Ocean and the ocean beaches are the city's dominant physical feature and are also the focus for dispersed recreational activity in the city. The Pacific Ocean and its beaches provide opportunities for three of the five most popular forms of dispersed

recreation activity: sightseeing, swimming and wading in the ocean; and nature study.

Providing convenient access to the ocean beaches is a key element of their recreational use. The fact that many of the city streets dead-end at the ocean has resulted in the creation of numerous beach access points. The city has approximately 3.5 miles of ocean frontage. There are 43 improved beach access sites, for an average of one beach access point each 425 feet of beach frontage. In the residential area of Midtown and Tolovana Park there is generally a beach access point every 200 feet. The longest stretch of beach without a beach access is located between an alley located in the vicinity of Dawes Avenue and the beach access stairs to Haystack Rock, a distance about one-third of a mile. There are 4 unimproved street ends (Sixth Street, Chena Street, Nenana Avenue, and Nazina Avenue) which could provide additional beach access.

The following description and condition of the beach access points was conducted in January of 1994:

Beach Access Inventory

<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Condition</u>
1. Beach Ave.	Wood steps w/handrail; path to beach	Fair
2. West Way	Concrete steps w/metal railing. Wood landing and railing along paved area added (1993)	Very Good
3. Sitka	Railroad tie/gravel upper steps and wood stairs to short beach path	Good
4. Noatak	Upper wooded path; wood steps with several landings and built in benches; beach path (1991)	Excellent
5. Kenai	Wide right-of-way to concrete steps with handrail (1990)	Very Good
6. Braillier	Partial blacktop right-of-way vehicle access. Handrail added (1993)	Very Good
7. Midway	Wide gravel right-of-way to Concrete steps with handrails	Excellent
8. Orford	Natural trail with five foot rise	Fair

9.	Coos	Gravel right-of-way to short natural trail	Very Good
10.	Umpqua	Right-of-way extends to beach	Very Good
11.	Siuslaw	Right-of-way to man-made berm; natural trail over berm	Good
12.	Warren Way	Rocked access for vehicles	Very Good
13.	Tolovana Wayside	Wood steps w/railings, concrete landing (State maintained)	Very Good
14.	Delta	Wide right-of-way to beach partially graveled; concrete steps w/ handrails (1990)	Excellent
15.	Susitna	Wood steps w/concrete landing (1987)	Very Good
16.	Chisana	Right-of-way to beach, partially graveled; moderate to steep slope to beach	Fair to Poor
17.	Nelchena	Roadway paved to within 20 ft of berm; path over berm, concrete steps and handrails to beach (1990)	Good
18.	Matanuska	Paved right-of-way to within 20 ft. of grassy berm; 8 ft drop off on beach side w/erosion	Very Poor
19.	Nebesna	Roadway to berm; concrete steps with handrails (1990)	Very Good
20.	Tanana	Roadway to within 30 ft of beach; narrow, natural trail to sand	Good
21.	Gulcana	Wide right-of-way to beach (50 ft); short, moderate slope at beach; concrete outfall in middle of existing walkway; old bench	Fair to Poor

22.	Gogona	Older wooden steps with single railings, both sides; old platform bench	Good
23.	Center	Right-of-way shared with private driveway; upper stepped path (1993); older wood steps w/handrails and landings (1987)	Very Good
24.	Haystack Rock	Upper-wood steps w/ hand-rails and landing; gravel path; lower-wood/concrete steps with concrete landing (1990)	Excellent
25.	Dawes	15 ft public easement, sand path to beach	Excellent
26.	Ecola Ramp	Paved roadway to beach-vehicular access	Excellent
27.	Harrison	Paved road to old concrete steps	Good
28.	Van Buren	Old concrete steps with handrail on one side	Good
29.	Jackson	Natural trail but eroded	Very Poor
30.	Monroe	Sand path	Very Good
31.	Jefferson	Sand path	Very Good
32.	Adams	Wide opening thru dunes to beach	Very Good
33.	Washington	Open to beach	Very Good
34.	Laurel Alley(1)	15 foot right-of way to beach	Very Good
35.	Laurel Alley(2)	15 foot right-of-way to beach	Excellent

36.	First St	Moderately wide and level right-of-way to beach	Very Good
37.	Second St	Paved street to seawall; concrete steps with metal handrails, concrete landing	Very Good
38.	Whale Park	Wide, smooth, gravel path to beach (1991)	Excellent
39.	Spruce St Street-end	Sandy access for pedestrians and vehicles	Very Good
40.	N. Hemlock	Sand path via Les Shirley Park	Excellent
41.	N. Larch	Paved street to short beach path	Excellent
42.	Fifth St.	Raised wooden walkway	Very Good
43.	Seventh	Winding sand path through dunes and grass	Good

The 1988 SCORP found that the North Coast region (Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, and coastal Lane counties) is the most popular area of the state for dispersed recreation. The study estimated that about one quarter of the state's fishing, camping, food gathering and nature study, sightseeing and picnicking activities occur in the North Coast region. Among the state's eight regions, the North Coast region has the highest percentage participation in each of these activity categories. SCORP indicated that the following activities will experience the greatest increase in demand: sightseeing/picnicking, hiking/walking, and nature study/food gathering. These are all activities associated the ocean beaches and their environs. Given that over the next twenty years the Portland Metro area will experience a growth rate substantially greater than the state as a whole, Cannon Beach can anticipate an ever increasing number of visitors seeking recreation opportunities.

In the face of the anticipated growth in demand for dispersed recreation activities, the city recognizes the importance of maintaining the physical setting of the ocean beaches so that any deterioration in the quality of the recreational experience enjoyed

by both residents and visitors is minimized. The city has implemented a number of programs to maintain the quality of the recreation experience on the beach. During the 1980's, in conjunction with the Parks Division, motorized vehicular use of the beach was eliminated. Commercial uses on the beach are prohibited. The extent of spot lights on the beach are restricted. For the past ten years, the Haystack Rock Awareness Program has provided an educational and interpretive program focusing on the intertidal habitat surrounding Haystack Rock. The program is operated through the summer on low tide weekends and a few mid-week low tide mornings. The program's purpose is to protect Haystack Rock's fragile ecosystem through education of the visiting public.

The other physical feature of Cannon Beach which provides for dispersed recreation activity is Ecola Creek and its associated wetlands. The activities associated with the creek include wildlife viewing and nature study, fishing, and non-motorized boating. Several of the city's parks abut on Ecola Creek, Les Shirley Park and Ecola Creek Park, and some but not all of the above referenced activities occur within these parks. Given the fragile nature of the creek and its estuarine areas, managing the recreation activities to ensure that they do not result in the deterioration of the resource is an important city objective.

The areas surrounding Cannon Beach also provide for dispersed recreation activities for both residents and visitor. Ecola State Park, a 1,300 acre day use park just north of the city limits, provides a developed recreation area which has walking trail, picnic areas, and access to several ocean beaches. Forest lands owned by the State Department of Forestry and Cavenham Forest Industries have traditionally provided for recreational activities associated with forest land. These activities include: nature study and wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing, ORV use, and more recently "mountain bike" use. Several years ago Cavenham Forest Industries restricted access to its forest land by gating access roads. This has substantially curtailed the amount of forest land adjacent to Cannon Beach on which the above referenced recreation activities can occur.