

**FLORENCE
PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
January 18, 2011**

This 2011 Florence Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Parks Plan) was developed over a period of 3 years, with the guidance of the Florence Parks Commission, Parks and Recreation Master Planning Ad-hoc Committee and input from local officials, local and state agency staff, and the general public. This Parks Plan completely updates and replaces the 1987 Planning Report (Parks).

This Parks Plan was acknowledged by the Florence City Council on January 18, 2011 through Resolution No. 4, Series 2011. This Parks Plan is a technical supplement to the Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan and provides the necessary background information and technical analyses to support the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments, city code changes and recommendations included in Chapter 7 “Recommendations”.

Following adoption by the City, this Parks Plan, and all adopted Comprehensive Plan amendments, will be submitted to Lane County for co-adoption of the portions that apply outside city limits, within the Florence urban growth boundary (UGB).

Following local adoption, this Parks Plan will be submitted to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development for acknowledgement of compliance with Statewide Planning Goal 8, Recreation Needs.

This Plan will be modified in the future by incorporating adopted amendments and listing the adopting resolutions in the Plan.

FLORENCE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Ordinance/ Resolution Number	Dates of Adoption/Approval		Ordinance/Resolution Title and Summary
	City of Florence	Lane County	
No. 2 Series 2011	2/7/2011	tbd	<i>An Ordinance Adopting Amendments to the Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan Text And Maps, Florence City Code Titles 10 And 11, and the Florence Zoning Map For Consistency with the Florence Parks And Recreation Master Plan, 2011.</i>
No. 4, Series 2011	1/18/2011	N/A	<i>A Resolution Approving the Florence Parks and Recreation Plan, 2011</i>

Acknowledgments

The production of this document was made possible by the efforts of the following people:

Florence City Council 2010-11

Phil Brubaker, Mayor
Alan Burns, Councilor
Dave Franzen, Councilor
Paul Holman, Councilor
Brian Jagoe, Councilor
Sue Roberts, Councilor
Nola Xavier, Councilor

Florence Planning Commission 2010

Jan Nieberlein, Chairperson
Chris Atkin, Commissioner
Robert Bare, Commissioner
Cheryl Hoile, Commissioner
Clarence, Lysdale, Commissioner
Curt Muilenburg, Commissioner
Mark Tilton, Vice Chairperson

Florence Parks and Recreation Master Planning Committee – 2010

Margy Parker, Chair
Sarah Alexander
Ron Caputo
Jay Goodwin
Erin Linton
Nan Osbon
Myrna Sullivan
Doug Barrett
Dakota Boyd
Gene Cockeram

Florence Parks and Recreation Commission – 2009

Myrna Sullivan, Chair
Doug Barrett
Tony Bour
Dakota Boyd
Gene Cockeram

Florence Parks Citizen Advisory Committee – 2006

Alan Campbell
Gene Cockeram
Barbara Foster
George Goldstein
Anne Machalek
Phyllis Mauldin
Nan Osbon
Charlotte Ryner

City Staff

Wendy Farley Campbell, Project Manager
Robert Willoughby, City Manager
Sandra Belson, Community Development Director
Carol Heinkel, Interim Community Development Director & Consultant
Mike Miller, Public Works Director
Dave Miller, Park Maintenance Supervisor
Joe Botelho, Park Maintenance Worker
Michelle Pezley, Assistant Planner
Kelli Weese, Planning and GIS Technician
Sarah Hayhurst, Administrative Assistant

Contributing Agency Staff

Dave Perry, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

Subject to the availability of sufficient financial resources as determined by the City Council, the City shall undertake the proposed actions provided in this plan.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction**
 - 1.1 Planning Area
 - 1.2 Plan Purpose and Objectives
 - 1.3 Plan Need and Background
 - 1.4 Process Overview
 - 1.5 Relationship to Other Plans
 - 1.6 Plan Organization

 - 2. Community Vision**
 - 2.1 Vision Statement
 - 2.2 Goals and Strategies

 - 3. Existing Conditions**
 - 3.1 History of Existing Parks, Open Space, Recreational Facilities, and Programs
 - 3.2 Park and Open Space Classifications
 - 3.3 Inventory of Existing Inventory of Parks and Open Space
 - 3.4 Inventory of Existing Inventory of Recreation Facilities
 - 3.5 Existing Funding Sources

 - 4. Community Needs**
 - 4.1 Key Findings
 - 4.2 Recreation Standards and Trends
 - 4.3 Community Trends
 - 4.4 Community Needs Analysis

 - 5. Policy Analysis**
 - 5.1 Parks and Recreation
 - 5.2 Funding and Financing

 - 6. Funding and Financing Options and Strategies**
 - 6.1 Funding Sources & Financing Strategies
 - 6.2 Land Acquisition/Dedication Strategies

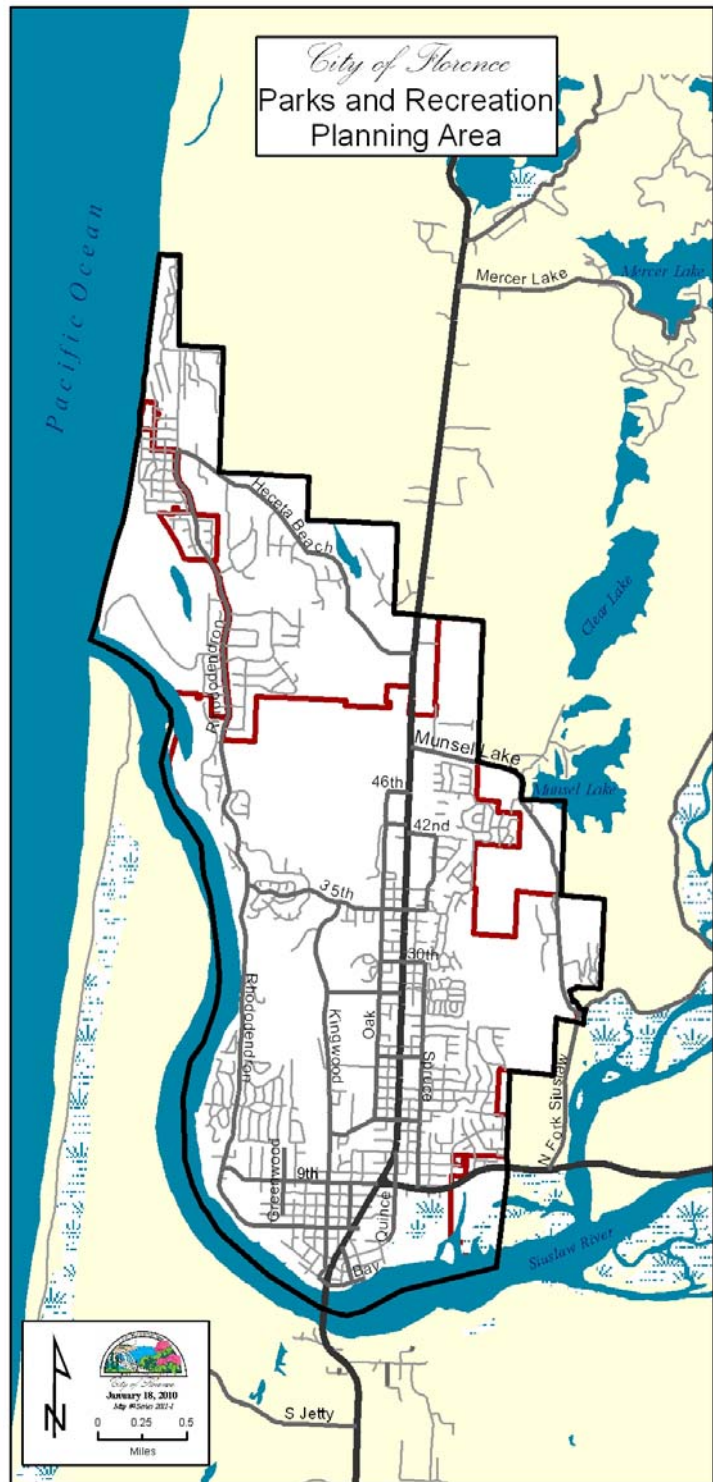
 - 7. Recommendations**
 - 7.1 Code and Comprehensive Plan Recommendations
 - 7.2 Park, Recreation, and Planning Recommendations
- Appendices**
- A. Statewide Planning Goal 8, Recreation Needs
 - B. Florence Community Needs Analysis, 2006
 - C. Park System Master Plan for the City of Florence, Oregon Part II: Technical Report and Action Plan, Tables 13, 14 and 18

CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION

1.1 – PLANNING AREA

The planning area for the City of Florence Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes all territory within the City of Florence Urban Growth Boundary (Figure 1.1). The service area for Florence’s parks and facilities is somewhat larger, since residents in the unincorporated county areas come to the City for recreation activities and services.

The City of Florence’s UGB is 5538 acres in area. Its boundaries are roughly defined by the Siuslaw River on the south and west, the Pacific Ocean on the northwest, Munsel Lake Road and Ocean Dunes Golf Course on the east, and Heceta Beach Road on the north. It does not include the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Hatch Tract property. All of the parks owned and operated by the City are within the current City limits, although the City does have the ability to acquire land outside the City for parks, either through donation or purchase.



1.2 – PLAN PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Plan is to create and implement a new vision for parks and recreation in the Florence urban growth boundary (UGB) to the year 2030 and to provide the technical and policy analyses to support Florence Comprehensive Plan policy and Capital Improvement Plan projects to implement that vision.

Plan objectives are to:

1. update and replace the 1985/1987 Florence Parks Master Plan
2. comply with Statewide Planning Goal 8, Recreational Needs
3. identify new trends in recreation and areas of growth in recreation participation, and respond to changing community park and recreation needs
4. establish local guidelines for park planning and development
5. recommend general locations for future parks, trails, and open space recreational uses
6. identify financing options and a strategy to implement priority recommendations
7. propose Comprehensive Plan policies and capital projects for improving existing facilities and developing new facilities

1.3 – PLAN NEED AND BACKGROUND

This new Florence Parks and Recreation Plan is needed to create and implement a vision for parks and recreation that is consistent with current local and state policy direction and meets the Florence community's needs, which have altered markedly, due to changing population profiles, expanding populations, economic shifts and resource needs. These elements are projected to continue to change, over the next 20 years.

The City adopted its first "Park System Master Plan," in 1985 and updated it in 1987. The 1987 Florence Parks System Planning Report was adopted as a recommended guide to Park Development under the 1988 Comprehensive Plan Update. The 1987 Planning Report needs to be completely updated and revised for three reasons: 1) the existing 1987 Park Plans were never fully implemented; 2) the existing Parks Plan and Planning Report are based on the 1982 and 1987 Comprehensive Plans, which are no longer the City-adopted and State-acknowledged Comprehensive Plans for the City; and 3) the existing Parks Planning documents no longer respond to community needs.

The 1987 Florence Parks System Planning Report was never fully implemented. It recommended adding 30-plus parks to the recreation land base; of these, only two new park lands have been acquired. Volunteer efforts, fund raising, and grant awards in the late 80's and early 90's helped the City achieve some short

range goals, but these efforts eventually came to a halt with the passage of property tax limitation Measures 47/50 in 1996. These ballot measures affected park and recreation budgets throughout the state. For this reason, Florence parks were sustained at minimal maintenance levels for almost a decade. More recently, in 2003, 2005 and 2006, the City received grant funding from the State for a skate park, tot play structure, and general enhancements (benches, waste receptacles) for Miller Park and trail construction along the 12th Street right-of-way. This recent improvement in funding for parks and recreation signals a positive change in the City's potential capacity for developing and improving parks facilities and services, at least in the near future.

The 1987 Planning Report is based on an outdated version of the City's Comprehensive Plan and is thus not consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan. In 2002, the 1988 Florence Comprehensive plan was completely revised and replaced with the Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan; and the Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan has been amended numerous times since 2002. A new Parks and Recreation Plan is needed that is consistent with the current land use policy of the City in the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the 1987 Planning Report is no longer reflective of community demographic conditions and trends and, therefore, cannot respond to existing and projected community needs. As stated above, the existing Parks Plan is now over 20 years old. In the last two decades, the Florence community has changed demographically through rapid population growth, a much older median age, and a shifting employment base. Florence's population growth rate is expected to continue increasing an average of 2.2% each year. New building construction and site development from 2004 to 2007 were the highest seen in recent history; and land values increased sharply every month during that time. It is recognized that economic trends have gone downward in the last two years, with the advent of a national and global recession; and that recreation trends and needs also tend to fluctuate. However, the demographic changes in Florence have been dramatic and are expected to continue. This circumstance, coupled with the reasons above, creates the need for a new community vision and strategy for parks and recreation.

1.4 – PROCESS OVERVIEW

A variety of methods were used to create this Parks Plan. The general approach taken involved the following steps:

- ◆ Conduct a needs analysis.
- ◆ Conduct public involvement process.
- ◆ Research local community demographics and park land history, condition, and amenities; and State, organizational, and other local park standards, and classifications.
- ◆ Conduct a policy analysis.
- ◆ Evaluate research results and prepare recommendations and financing strategies.

Needs Analysis

A critical component of the park and recreation master planning process is the needs analysis. The needs analysis both qualitatively and quantitatively evaluates the needs of the service area. The information is then used to quantify Florence's park and recreation facility needs.

This plan builds off of the *Florence Parks and Recreation Needs Analysis* completed in 2006 by Wendy Farley for a Community and Regional Planning Master's project at the University of Oregon, which is included as an Appendix to this Plan. Ms. Farley researched multiple sources, including City and state plans and a breadth of surveys, and she conducted an extensive community outreach process that included three surveys, user group and business interviews, five workshops, and consultation with boards and commissions. This needs analysis identified existing and potential park resources, and provided both broad and specific recommendations based on extensive public input.

In order to conduct the analysis, a nine member Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed, made up mostly of former Florence Leadership participants. More than 350 area residents participated in the process by attending community workshops, participating in interviews, responding to surveys, and following the process in the Siuslaw News and on Charter Communications Channel 10. Members of the CAC gave presentations to civic and service organizations. They also met with organized sports providers, Boys and Girls Club staff, volunteers, and participants as well as the City Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC). The CAC was self-directed but worked closely with City staff and members of the PRC and City Council. The research started in September 2004 and writing concluded in September 2006.

Public Involvement

Information and opinions about park and recreation habits, needs, and existing facilities were gathered from a myriad of sources. These elements included:

WORKSHOPS

Five workshops were held throughout the planning process: two community, and one each for youth, government agency, and community organization leadership. The two community workshops were held September 1, 2004, in the Highway 101 Siuslaw Fire and Rescue District Station, one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

Over 90 Florence area citizens and other interested individuals attended. The purpose of the workshops was to get community perspectives on existing park facilities and learn what recreational amenities they thought were needed.

The government agency workshop was held in November 2004 and over 15 representatives from special districts, state, county and local government agencies attended. The community organization leadership workshop, attended by approximately 12 representatives from groups such as the Florence Humane Society and the Rhododendron Society, was held in December 2004. Finally, the youth workshop, attended by 22 Boys and Girls Club members was held at the Siuslaw Elementary School in July 2005. The purpose of the workshops was to get perceptions of individual and community recreational needs followed by collaborative prioritization of them.

SURVEYS

Six different survey instruments were used during the process: 2009 Florence Park and Recreation Survey, 2004 General Park Use Survey, 2005 Community Center Program Survey, 2005 Senior Center Program Survey, 1997 Youth Needs Analysis, and the 1993 Community Needs Analysis.

The CAC created two surveys--the 2004 General Park Use Survey and the 2005 Community Center Survey. The General Park Use Survey was distributed to participants of each of four workshops (not youth), interviewees, and the local walking club. The General Park Use Survey asked questions about recreation habits and condition and safety of existing parks. The Community Center Survey, distributed during a community service organization presentation, asked questions about programmatic needs for a new community center.

The Parks Recreation Master Planning Committee (PRMPC), created the 2009 Florence Park and Recreation Survey. The survey was available on the City's website via the *Survey Monkey* website survey tool. The survey was also distributed by the committee to area locations such as the library, grocery

store, community service club meetings, churches and schools. The PRMPC saw the need to ask residents (youth and adult) what their priorities were for future recreation needs and what they saw as the issues with the parks nearest their residence.

The three remaining surveys were conducted previous or concurrent to this plan. The Booster Club, in preparation for grant solicitation, revised the Community Center Survey and distributed it to its senior center user group. Also, the City on two occasions solicited the community for input via the Demographic Analysis and Community Planning Needs Assessment, 1992, and The City of Florence Youth Needs Study, 1997.

INTERVIEWS

Four groups were interviewed for inclusion in this report. These interviews included the Boys and Girls Club, local adult softball league, Jr. Baseball program, and amateur radio flyers group. Local organized sports providers were interviewed in both 2005 and 2009 to learn how they use sport fields and other facilities in the area, and to learn their preferences and need for improved or additional facilities. Finally, four local businesses were questioned about needed recreation services and amenities.

Research

Recreation participation rates, park use patterns, demographic data and community input form the basis for projecting demand and establishing guidelines to meet that demand. Specifically research was conducted on local community demographics and park land history, condition, and amenities; and state, organizational, and other local park standards, and classifications. All of the City of Florence parks and recreation facilities as well as non-city park and recreation facilities, as detailed in Chapter 3, Existing Conditions were inventoried and assessed. With the use of a geographic information system, staff spatially analyzed park service areas, and determined how neighborhoods are being served by park and recreation facilities. Staff consulted multiple local, county, and state planning documents to determine their impacts on recreation within or adjacent to the service area and to determine what changes have been made in Florence's park and recreation system since its adoption. And finally Florence's projected 20-year population was compared with current service levels to determine what level of new park and open space development Florence will need to best serve its growing population.

In January 2008, the City Council, through their goal setting session, established a goal to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Intern staff then began plan research, writing and committee recruitment. In October 2008, a Parks and Recreation Master Planning Committee (PRMPC) was formed through responses to Siuslaw News public service announcements. The committee of twelve ranged

in age from 15 to 80+ and was made up of 7 men and 5 women. Five of the twelve members were also Park and Recreation Commissioners. The committee initially met monthly and later moved to twice monthly meetings.

The Committee reviewed the *Florence Parks and Recreation Needs Analysis* and decided that most of the elements of a master parks plan were in the Needs Analysis but that some information was outdated and lacked input from the 18-45 age group.

The Committee followed the Local Park Planning process outlined in Chapter 7 of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and used the state's task checklists, resources and forms. Specifically, the committee updated and expanded the community profile, conducted a park inspection and inventory, and created, distributed and tallied a new community survey that better solicited existing and future park system needs and issues. The committee also created a vision statement and devised new strategies and recommendations.

Policy Analysis

The policy analysis included a review of existing policy in relevant Statewide Planning Goals and the Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan), as well as Florence City Code requirements related to the provision of parks, recreation, and open space.

STATEWIDE PLANNING GOALS AND GUIDELINES

The principle State land use policy guiding the development of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space facilities and policies is found in Statewide Planning Goal 8, Recreational Needs.

◆ “Goal 8: Recreational Needs [OAR 660-015-0000(8)]

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 portions of Goal 8 that are relevant to Florence were addressed in the planning process and were incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan amendments recommended in Chapter 7. These include the requirements in the Goal for “Recreation Planning,” specific State “Definitions” that apply within urban growth boundaries, and “Planning and Implementation Guidelines.” A key requirement is to ensure the provision of parks, recreation, and open space to meet community needs. This type of recreational open space, such as sports fields, community gardens, golf courses, cemeteries, and pocket parks, are addressed in the recommendations in Chapter 7 of this Parks Plan.

FLORENCE REALIZATION 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (COMPREHENSIVE PLAN)

In order to review all the existing, adopted policies related to this Parks Plan, a key word search was used to identify all policies related to parks, recreation, and open space. The key word search revealed numerous relevant policies, recommendations, and background text throughout the Comprehensive Plan. The results of this search were compared to the recommended policies and facilities in this Parks Plan.

A fundamental change recommended is to move all text related to parks, recreation, and (recreational) open space, from Chapter 11, Utilities and Facilities and insert it, as amended, into Chapter 8, Recreational Needs. The amendments recognize that some of the community's needs for open space are met in Comprehensive Plan Chapter 5 as well.

Recommendations and Financing Strategies

The Recommendations in Chapter 7 and the Financing Strategies in Chapter 6 were developed following the completion of the analyses and public involvement described above. The results were reviewed, evaluated and addressed in proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, Florence City Code, and/or a recommendation project list for use in developing Capital Improvement Plans.

In order to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan is internally consistent and that the Comprehensive Plan is consistent with the Parks Plan, amendments to the Comprehensive Plan were proposed in Chapter 7 of this Parks Plan. In addition, the proposed policies were found to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and with Statewide Planning Goals. These findings are included in Chapter 5's Policy Analysis and incorporated into the Findings of Fact for the adopting ordinance.

In the same manner, relevant provisions in Florence City Code were reviewed and analyzed and, where needed, amendments were proposed.

The needs for parks facilities and land acquisition identified in the planning process were prioritized and, as applicable, are proposed for amendments to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Finally, financing strategies in Chapter 6 will help the City implement the recommendations over time.

1.5 – RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a 5 year plan that analyzes outdoor recreation trends in Oregon. As a planning and information tool, the SCORP provides data on recreation participation and trends, and relates to wider planning goals because it helps communities plan for popular recreation trends in their area. The state expects the information will be used by local communities to set priorities with other planning agencies to meet mutual goals.

The last two SCORPs are dated 2003-2007 and 2008-2012. The 2003-2007 document divided the state into 11 planning regions. Florence was included in Region 1 along with Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln and Coastal Lane counties. That plan analyzed recreation trends, issues, and needs within each region.

The 2008-2012 plan had a different approach. Unlike previous efforts where recreational issues were approached regionally the state instead chose to address four previously identified state-wide demographic and social issues facing outdoor recreation providers. The four issues came from the 2003-2007 SCORP and the 2005-2014 statewide trails planning efforts. The 2008 SCORP planning process included a series of studies designed to provide outdoor recreation managers and planners information to proactively address the issues. The studies include:

- ◆ A Rapidly Aging Oregon Population
- ◆ Fewer Oregon Youth Learning Outdoor Skills
- ◆ An Increasingly Diverse Oregon Population
- ◆ Oregon’s Physical Activity Crisis

The key findings of the 2003 and 2008 SCORP as they apply to the Florence planning area are presented in Chapter 3’s Community Needs Analysis.

Oregon Trails 2005-2014: A Statewide Action Plan

ORS (390.950 to 390.990) states as a general policy, “In order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding resident and tourist population and in order to promote public access to, travel within and enjoyment and appreciation of, the openair, outdoor areas of Oregon, trails should be established both near the urban areas in this state and within, adjacent to or connecting highly scenic areas more remotely located.” The 2003 SCORP Advisory Committee established development of a concurrent statewide motorized and non-motorized trails plan as a key objective based on information gathered during the SCORP issues workshops and the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey. This objective was established not only to provide an adequate supply of quality trail facilities and opportunities but also to receive and obligate the Land &

Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) under Section 206(d) of the Recreational Trails Program legislation and to receive and obligate Federal Recreation Trails funding.

The trails plan divided the state into six planning regions, Florence is in the Northwest Region. The plan includes 3 distinct sub-plans to address multiple user groups and trail types. These include non-motorized, motorized, and water. As applicable to the Florence planning area, the state establishes non-motorized trail uses as (but are not limited to) hikers, backpackers, mountain bike riders, runners, walkers, bicycle riders, inline skaters and individuals with functional impairments. Regularly maintained non-motorized trails should be purposefully planned and constructed for non-motorized recreation purposes, but in some cases can be used for commuter purposes. Non-motorized trails do not include city streets and sidewalks and bike lanes incorporated into the design of city streets and rural highways. The key findings of the 2005-2014 Trails Plan as they apply to the Florence planning area are presented in Chapter 3's Community Needs Analysis.

Oregon Coast Trail: Connection Strategy, 2010

The Oregon Coast Trail will celebrate its 50th birthday in 2021. The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department would like to have the trail completed by then. In preparation they are developing a strategy to identify connection gaps and find solutions for going around them. The Oregon Coast Trail enters the planning area at the beach along the northern UGB boundary. It then traverses south to the North Jetty where it leaves the beach and continues along the North Jetty Drive to Rhododendron Drive. The trail then continues south along Rhododendron Drive to Kingwood then to Highway 101 across the bridge and west again at the South Jetty Road back to the beach. Within the planning area the roadways--Rhododendron Dr., Kingwood, and Highway 101, are identified as having no pedestrian facilities and therefore connection gap problems. Improvement of these facilities has been identified as a short term solution.

Florence Parks System Planning Report 1987, City of Florence, Oregon

The Florence Parks System Planning Report, 1987 is the currently adopted parks plan for the urban growth boundary (UGB). This 2010 Florence Parks and Recreation Plan will, when adopted, replace this existing 1987 Parks Plan.

Florence started work on the 1987 report as early as 1983 with a 1985 adoption of the initial document "Park System Master Plan for the City of Florence, Oregon Part I: Summary and Part II: Technical Report and Action Plan". The 1987 report was an update of 1985's Part I. References in the plan cite a 20 year planning period with 1986 as the first population projection year and 2005 the last. The 1987 report had 3 tables making up the adopted planning program. Table "D" included improvements for the existing park units. Table "E" quantified the amount of land needed in 4 year increments to meet Comprehensive Plan goals

and objectives for each of the park type categories. And Table “F” indentified seven distinct projects: Neighborhood Parks, Munsel Creek Greenway, Linear Corridors, Prominent Landmarks, Siuslaw Estuary, Siuslaw River Frontage, Other Public Lands Resources. Specifically, Table “E” was to be accomplished through the projects in Table “F”. Certain public and private undevelopable lands were identified for inclusion in the above projects and totaled 187 acres. For 2005 the plan projected an overall increase of the park system by at least 29 parks or 73% (not including conservancy type). The emphasis was largely on land acquisition and service provision in accordance with national service standards on the number of parks or park acreage required per 1,000 population.

The recommendations that were accomplished for the existing parks were done so within the first 5 years. The outstanding improvements include developing water sources, adding landscaping and developing Elm Park. Research indicates only two parcels of land have been acquired for park purposes since the 1987 Plan’s adoption—Hurd Park and a 1.99 acre creek side parcel west of Florentine Estates within the Pacific Pines subdivision east of Munsel Creek Drive.

The 1987 Park Plan’s Table E-Recommended Park System and Table F-Action Plan were developed from significant research included in 1985’s Part II, Tables 13, 14 and 18. Due to state funding changes little could be done to implement the 1987 park system and action plan projects, Part II’s research took an incalculable amount of time to compile. This 2011 plan recommends a review of Part II: Technical Report and Action Plan Tables 13, 14, and 18 to assess the viability of the lands for future land acquisition or recreation expansion projects. These tables are included in this plan’s Appendices for reference.

Florence Transportation System Plan (TSP)

Florence’s Transportation System Plan (TSP) was adopted in 2002. The TSP includes several proposed trail and bike route amenities that meet the recreational needs identified in this Parks Plan. For example:

- ◆ Estuary Trail--located in Old Town from the Port of Siuslaw boardwalk through the old Middle School site to Gallagher Park.
- ◆ Munsel Creek Greenway northern extension—extends north from park trail through 80+ acres of residential land to Munsel Lake Boat ramp.
- ◆ 12th St.—off-road between Rhododendron Dr. to Kingwood and north to Singing Pines Park.
- ◆ Ivy St. ---off-road between 12th St. and 9th St. adjacent to drainage way.
- ◆ Munsel Lake Road, Rhododendron Drive, & Heceta Beach Drive---on-road continuous.

The TSP will undergo revisions later this year, 2011. It is recommended that the plan retain these above listed improvements and add other connector trails as identified in Chapter 7.

Florence Rhododendron Drive Integrated Transportation Plan

The Rhododendron Drive Integrated Transportation Plan was partially funded by a grant from the Transportation and Growth Management Program. The plan was developed by a private consultant, Parametrix, who worked with City staff, a public advisory committee, and the public. Completed in January 2008 the Plan includes 13 project elements in a phased approach to provide pedestrian and bicycle improvements along Rhododendron Drive from Highway 101 to the then City limits just north of Fawn Ridge. The final plan also recommended a connection to Harbor Vista Park be included in the planning once the City limits are extended north. The nine project segments include street widening, overlay, intersection and driveway improvements. In priority order the Rhododendron Drive project segments are as follows:

- A-US 101 to Hemlock Ave.
- B-Hemlock Ave. to Peace Harbor entrance.
- C-Peace Harbor entrance to 9th St.
- D-9th St. Intersection to 12th St. path.
- E-12th St. path to Wild Winds.
- F-Wild Winds to Marine Manor
- G-Marine Manor to 35th St.
- H-35th St. Mariners Village
- I-Marniers Village to Shelter Cove
- J- Shelter Cove to Fawn Ridge

Additionally, four site specific improvements were also identified: pedestrian crossing islands to be completed with segment “D”, south viewpoint adjacent to Peace Harbor entrance segment “C”, north viewpoint across from the Transfer Site segment “F”, and turn lanes at 35th St. to be completed with segment “H”.

Pedestrian and Bike improvements along Rhododendron Drive will provide both a safe and energy efficient transportation option to area residents and visitors traveling along the State’s Oregon Coast Trail.

Florence / U.S. 101 Pedestrian Safety Study

Completed in January 2006 by private consultants Alta and CH2MHill, the plan analyzed traffic conditions and crash data along Highway 101 from 10th St. to Heceta Beach Road. Four intersections were recommended for pedestrian

improvements, 12th 18th, 27th and 43rd. There were multiple designs for each intersection and each incorporated a combination of elements such as curb extensions, realigning intersections, staggering pedestrian refuge, illumination, continental crosswalks, and turn restrictions. 12th and 27th Street intersections if improved with pedestrian features have the opportunity to provide safe connections to Munsel Creek Bike path at Quince St. and Munsel Greenway Park entrance at 29th & at Spruce St.

1.6 – PLAN ORGANIZATION

This Parks Plan is organized into seven chapters with appendices. They are as follows:

Chapter 1– Introduction: Description of the planning area, plan purpose and objectives, plan need and background, process overview, relationship to existing plans and plan organization of this document.

Chapter 2 – Community Vision: Presents the Vision Statement, objectives and strategies for park and recreation provision.

Chapter 3– Existing Conditions: Explores the variety of park and recreation resources both publicly and privately owned and reviews the service areas, current level of service and recommended existing park improvements based on the Needs Analysis.

Chapter 4– Community Needs: Presents recreation and community trends and the results of a Needs Analysis and level of service review.

Chapter 5 – Policy Analysis: Evaluates plan recommendations with the relevant city and state policies for consistency.

Chapter 6 – Funding and Financing: Describes financing options, funding sources, and techniques for funding park and recreation improvements, expansions, and land acquisitions.

Chapter 7 – Recommendations: Presents short term recommendations for comprehensive plan and city code amendments. Also presents long-term recommendations that include park programs and facilities that can be accomplished in multiple 5 year capital improvement intervals as community needs evolve and projects are accomplished.

CHAPTER 2 – COMMUNITY VISION

2.1 – VISION STATEMENT

While it is important to develop a master plan that is achievable with limited resources, it is also wise to have a vision for the future that extends beyond what seems possible today. The City of Florence vision for Parks and Recreation is as follows:

Florence will have or has a well functioning and well-maintained park system that enhances quality of life by offering a diversity of recreational opportunities for people of all ages and needs. The specific Vision Statement accomplishments for the community and its residents are as follows:

- a. Existing parks are refurbished with grounds and facilities that are accessible and available for use by all Florence residents and visitors.
- b. Increased open space provides a new community dog park, a new disc golf course, and new trails inter-connected with existing trails, which are accessible to all community residents and visitors.
- c. New and improved opportunities for popular and upcoming league sports are established.
- d. New programs and partnerships that better meet the recreation needs of all segments of our community, particularly the adolescent sector, are established and functioning.
- e. New sources of park funding, such as system development charges, a park and recreation district, maintenance and user fees and volunteer matching resource programs are in place and functional.
- f. Parks and recreation facilities will have the resources for consistent and ongoing maintenance, including personnel needs.
- g. A new recreation building that incorporates indoor walking track, arts and crafts, classrooms, racquetball, community gathering space and adolescent activities is developed.
- h. City of Florence residents have park and recreation facilities in proximity to their residence consistent with the level of service standards.
- i. An estuary and water trail is developed in conjunction with the Port of Siuslaw and the Siuslaw Watershed Council plans.
- j. An interconnecting trail system, providing a full circular route around the Florence area and incorporating Rhododendron Drive, Munsel Lake, beaches, dunes, Old Town, Port and Siuslaw Estuary is in place.

2.2 – GOALS & STRATEGIES

GOAL 1: PROVIDE AN INTERCONNECTED TRAIL SYSTEM

Objective 1: Develop and adopt a comprehensive trail development plan that includes bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Strategies:

- a. Create a map of the properties identified in the 1985 Master Parks and Recreation Plan tables: “Action Plan to Implement the Master Plan: Important Properties”, “Inventory of Lands Important to Park System: Road Rights-of-Way” and review for applicability and inclusion.
- b. Include proposals and content from the following city documents: Rhododendron Drive Integrated Transportation Plan, Highway 101 Pedestrian Crossing Plan, 1997 Florence Bicycle Master Plan, Florence Transportation Systems Plan, and the 2020 Florence Comprehensive Plan.
- c. Review public access easements in previously platted subdivisions for “lost” recreation resources (e.g.: Siuslaw Village, 12th Street abutting properties east of Kingwood, Munsel Creek north of 35th Street) and include in any future trail plan.
- d. Identify opportunities to connect properties and developments with existing and proposed trail system to form a trail system that creates city-wide circular route beginning in Old Town and extending to Heceta Beach via Rhododendron Drive and Munsel Lake Road.

Objective 2: Develop the bike lanes and multi-use paths identified in the Florence Transportation System Plan to connect bicyclists and pedestrians to parks, commercial centers and nature areas.

Strategies:

- a. Extend Munsel Creek Path from the proposed Estuary Trail to Munsel Lake Boat Ramp
- b. Create development plans for pedestrian & bike facilities along Munsel Lake Road, and Heceta Beach Road.
- c. Coordinate with Port and adjacent property owners to develop the Siuslaw Estuary trail, trailheads (Port and Highway 126), and its Highway 126 crossing.
- d. Provide a circuitous route around the city from Old Town north along Rhododendron Drive, east along Heceta Beach Road, south along Spruce St. and Munsel Lake Road returning to Old Town via the Estuary Trail.

Objective 3: Develop and adopt bike and pedestrian facility design standards

Strategies:

- a. Review and adopt applicable national trail design standards and apply to future trail network planning. Possible examples include *Bike Friendly Cities*, *Complete Streets*, and *Safe Routes to Schools* programs
- b. The following features should be considered: mileage indicators, benches, identification & directional signage, multiple ingress & egress points, interpretive signage along nature trails, and exercise stations where appropriate.

Objective 4: Develop a system of trails and pathways to provide a safe network that links neighborhoods, parks, natural open space, schools, employment centers, recreation facilities and other key community destinations.

Strategies:

- a. Include looped pathways for young children and parents within existing playground areas such as 18th St. and Miller Park's playground area. This provides a recreation opportunity for parents while watching children in play areas and provides a micro-trail education experience for children within a controlled environment.
- b. Construct segments of the Siuslaw Estuary Water Trail system within the UGB and partner with other agencies for the completion of the other segments.
- c. Develop non-motorized boating access points along the Siuslaw River on Rhododendron Dr. and within the Old Town area.
- d. Use the bike plan research results to identify opportunities for connectivity.
- e. Ensure that newly platted subdivisions and Planned Unit Developments provide public pedestrian connectivity to public properties, and adjacent developed and undeveloped properties likely to be divided or developed in the future.
- f. Protect dedicated public rights-of-way and access easements for connections and access to the Siuslaw River, Munsel Creek, public lands and beaches.
- g. Ensure pedestrian connectivity between Rhododendron Drive and Highway 101 through Lane County's Three Mile prairie.

GOAL 2: INCREASE PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE

Objective 1: Increase level of maintenance throughout the parks system to increase the level of service.

Strategies:

- a. Provide consistent levels of maintenance throughout the parks system by implementing standard maintenance procedures and developing budget planning tools where possible.

- b. Develop a playground replacement schedule for all playground equipment.
- c. Develop a maintenance equipment replacement schedule to plan for major expenditures.
- d. Identify funding sources to increase staffing for parks maintenance.

Objective 2: Use available resources and partners to aid in park maintenance.

Strategies:

- a. Create opportunities to partner with community and user groups to increase the quality of maintenance in parks.
- b. Create a list of maintenance needs and solicit volunteers to accomplish them through an on-line recruitment tool.
- c. Create a youth park ranger volunteer program.
- d. Coordinate above efforts utilizing a staff or volunteer position.

Objective 3: As resources and opportunities exist, repair and renovate existing facilities to bring existing parks up to the level of community expectations.

Strategies:

- a. Every four years review and adjust as necessary the existing park and recreation improvements list included In Table 7.1 of Chapter 7
- b. Every five years update and adopt a Park and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan
- c. Develop an ADA Transition Plan for Parks and Recreation Facilities
- d. Ensure every city park is adopted to maximize resources for upkeep and establish a presence within the parks to deter vandalism.
- e. Annually publish opportunities for park improvements to community service and fraternal organizations.

Objective 4: Continue to plan for parkland acquisition

As development is added or expanded ensure the surrounding area will have park and recreation facilities consistent with the level of service for the surrounding area.

Strategies:

- a. Update Title 11 Subdivision Code to require developments dedicate and develop parkland consistent with the level of service.
- b. Update Title 10 Planned Unit Development code to require residential and mixed use developments dedicate and develop parkland consistent with the level of service.
- c. Add a neighborhood park to the south west section of the city south of 8th St. and west of Highway 101.

- d. Ensure neighborhood parks are added north of Munsel Lake Road both west and east of Highway 101.
- e. Ensure neighborhood parks are included in the Munsel Lake Road and Rhodoview Dunes areas as plans are reviewed for development or subdivision.

GOAL 3: STRATEGICALLY PROVIDE PROGRAMMING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Objective 1: Increase Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts

Strategies:

- a. Build partnerships within the community to take advantage of existing facilities, share new facilities, and provide additional programming and services to the community.
- b. Resolve the sports field usage issues between organized groups using Miller Park by evaluating the programming needs of each sports group.
- c. Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Siuslaw 97J for field and facility usage for youth and adult league sports such as basketball, soccer, and softball.
- d. Partner with Mapleton Pool to provide water safety, skills and leisure programming.
- e. Identify partnerships to provide regular transportation to the Mapleton Pool.

Objective 2: Strategically Meet the Community's Demand for New Programs and Services.

Strategies:

- a. Initiate collaborations to provide diverse, cost effective recreation programs and activities. This could be a form of recreation programming (sports, classroom education, craft classes) provided in multiple existing private and public buildings.
- b. Create additional opportunities for adult and youth “recreational” sports activities (e.g.: soccer, basketball, softball, tennis, baseball, and swimming programs) along with other recreational opportunities.
- c. Initiate collaborations to provide youth learn-to-swim programs to meet the interests and safety needs of the community.
- d. Facilitate youth access of all socio-economic demographics to swim education and leisure programs.

GOAL 4: RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Diversification and expansion of park and recreation facilities addresses a number of local, regional and national issues such as reducing incidence of obesity, providing low or no-cost recreation opportunities for families and individuals,

creating recreation destination developments to import additional cash into the community, attracting visitors to the region, and increasing Florence's quality of life.

Objective: Create new recreation facility opportunities consistent with community needs analysis.

Strategies:

Add new facilities like those found in other Oregon parks such as: leisure aquatic amenities, an off-leash dog park, nature trails, recreation center, Frisbee golf, and an outdoor performing and public art areas.

Nature Trails

- a. Develop Siuslaw Estuary Trail to include interpretive signage.
- b. Expand Munsel Creek Trail south to connect with Gallagher's Park.
- c. Improve surfacing and expand the trail system in Gallagher's Park.
- d. Add interpretive signage along Munsel Creek and Gallagher's Park trail systems.
- e. Partner with Bureau of Land Management and Lane County to develop Three Mile Prairie Park with interpretive signage of the wetland and intermittent lake system.
- f. Ensure native wetland and riparian habitat areas adjacent to Florentine and within the unincorporated 80 acre parcel east of Florentine are incorporated into the trail extension to Munsel Lake Boat ramp from the Munsel Greenway Park.

Off-Leash Dog Park

- a. Provide both off-leash and leashed areas for dogs
- b. Continue exploring available, suitable lands for an off-leash park. Identified opportunities include: Lane County property north of Greentrees, portion of undeveloped Elm Street, and privately and publically owned land north of Fred Meyer.
- c. Research development and construction funding.
- d. Seek a partnership with the Humane Society and other community service organizations for development and maintenance.
- e. Research programming, such as dog licensing, to fund dog park maintenance.

Increased Open Space

- a. Consider acquiring privately and publically owned properties adjacent to Miller Park for future expansion of active field areas for uses such as soccer.
- b. Identify lands suitable for new neighborhood parks in unincorporated areas to meet the future demand for city level park services in those areas.
- c. Identify vacant lands and unused rights-of-way suitable for use as community gardens and include irrigation access as part of determining suitability.

- d. Coordinate with Lane County and BLM for developing a coordinated development, marketing and access plan for Three Mile Prairie Park (>200acres).
- e. Ensure all public lands in and outside of the planning area are provided adequate public access through private lands within the planning area upon development or subdividing.
- f. Identify estuary and river areas to develop access, interpretative, and contemplative areas such as property within Old Town, lands west of the Siuslaw Bridge and south of Highway 126.
- g. Explore the recreation opportunities for Pacific Pines Greenway and develop a plan for maximizing the enjoyment of its natural setting.

Frisbee Golf

- a. Research funding sources to include finding community and business sponsorship of tees.
- b. Research potential locations, considering inclusion in Munsel Greenway Park.
- c. Form task force for its development
- d. Research design specifications and user programming.

Swimming/Therapy Pool

- a. Provide a public pool facility when a Park and Recreation District report supports its development.
- b. Consider facility partnerships and multiple uses such as the Boys and Girls Club and Recreation Center.
- c. Develop a phased approach to the project.
- d. Resubmit the Parks and Recreation District Formation to voters. Draw district boundaries where support is evidence such as adding Mapleton and removing Dunes City. Conduct a feasibility study and marketing plan for a community swimming/therapy pool.

Community Gardens

- a. Incorporate gardens into existing parks and public lands like Pepperoaks, Rolling Dunes, Gallagher's Park, school grounds, and undeveloped rights-of-way.
- b. Gardens shall include raised double beds, irrigation, ADA access, and systems to facilitate community operations
- c. Site conditions should be considered to include solar and water access.

Senior Center

- a. Consider adding a lawn sports area into facility layout.
- b. Consider incorporating this facility into any future additional recreation facility at Singing Pines Park.
- c. Consider moving jurisdiction of this facility into a Park and Recreation District when federal obligations are met and when Park and Recreation District Report warrants it.

- d. Once federal obligations are met expand programming to meet greater adult recreation programming as identified in needs analysis.
- e. Develop a donation program to accept items for recreation or instructional purposes (craft, art, photography and computer equipment)
- f. Add an outdoor group picnic area in conjunction with outdoor recreation.

Lawn Sports

- a. Develop a lawn sports area that includes bocce ball.
- b. Research potential locations, considering inclusion on the senior center facility site.
- c. Research design specifications and user programming.
- d. Research funding sources to include finding a community sponsor group.

Recreation Facility

- a. Provide a recreation facility when a Park and Recreation District report or other combination of funding sources supports its development.
- b. Consider facility partnerships and multiple uses such as a Swimming and Therapy Pool, Florence Art Commission, and Boys and Girls Club.
- c. Develop a phased approach to the project.
- d. Resubmit the Parks and Recreation District Formation to voters. Draw district boundaries where support is evidence such as adding Mapleton and removing Dunes City. Conduct a feasibility study and marketing plan for a recreation facility.

Outdoor Performing and Public Art Areas

- a. Review existing city park resources, public lands and undeveloped private lands to identify potentially suitable areas for development or conversion of an area for an outdoor performing arts area.
- b. As neighborhood parks are dedicated and developed consider inclusion of a multi-use open space area for use as unstructured active recreation and performing arts area.
- c. Initiate collaborations with adult and youth organizations to create and support public art throughout the Florence area.
- d. Ensure organization or business sponsorship for maintenance.

Goal 5: Increase Cost Recovery and Funding

Objective: Research and implement funding opportunities.

- a. Consider a maintenance utility fee (per household/per month) to build and operate City parks, recreation, and facilities. This maintenance utility fee is established for all households for the purpose of assisting in funding the operational and maintenance costs for facilities to enhance the level of service to the community. It is not considered a user fee for services.

- b. Develop and initiate Systems Development Charges for parkland acquisition and development.
- c. Develop and adopt parkland dedication policies for new or expanding residential and mixed-use developments.
- d. Support a feasibility study of a Parks and Recreation District for the Florence area to determine if a District is beneficial and feasible.
- e. Design a suitable public awareness campaign for park land dedication benefits to the owner and the public.
- f. Create a park land dedication benefit mechanism to accept land and monetary donations from private property owners.
- g. Review various park volunteer program options and implement pilot programs to enhance parkland level of service and develop new park and recreation facilities.
- h. Continue to apply for state and federal grant funding for replacing outdated and deteriorating facilities and developing new facilities.
- i. Research opportunities for partnership with other districts, agencies, and organization for maintenance of existing facilities and development of new facilities.
- j. Create a small grant match program to improve, expand or replace existing park resources and develop new ones.
- k. Partner with other agencies for funding new or replacing existing facilities.

GOAL 6: PARK STEWARDSHIP

Objective: Generate aura of community ownership to raise awareness, prevent vandalism, and assist with increasing costs of upkeep.

- a. Review various park volunteer program options such as adult and Jr. Ranger and adopt-a- park and trail.
- b. Implement one or more programs soliciting community groups, individuals, families, and youth for one-time or ongoing park enhancement projects.
- c. Create a volunteer program in cooperation with the City of Florence to meet a variety of park project and maintenance needs.
- d. Regularly review park recreation needs with Parks and Recreation Commission, parks staff, existing volunteer and user group.
- e. Develop and implement an appreciation program for existing and future volunteers.
- f. Develop and implement public awareness campaign of existing park volunteer participants and opportunities.
- g. Actively promote city parks through brochure distribution, the city web site, media outlets and public outreach.
- h. Through formation of a parks non-profit organization consider the following: implementing a scrip program with local and regional businesses and

researching the ability of a barter system using business donations redeemable for work within city parks.

- i. Establish documented value for improvements as a basis for supporting a city matching fund grant program.

GOAL 7: LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

Objective: Ensure adequate amount of park and recreation facilities for all areas of the city consistent with Level of Service Standards.

- a. Identify underserved geographical areas through the level of service analysis.
- b. Create maps of the properties identified in the following 1985 Master Parks and Recreation Plan tables: “Action Plan to Implement the Master Plan: Important Properties”, “Inventory of Lands Important to Park System: Road Rights-of-Way” and “Inventory of Land Important to Park System: Other Lands.”
- c. Create a Park Land Acquisition Plan
- d. Investigate opportunities presented by private and public properties near Miller Park to increase the community park acres from 18 to meet the adopted level of service for park land and recreation amenities. Look at long range opportunities to add either another sports complex or community park to meet future field needs.
- e. Support a benefit mechanism to receive land donations.
- f. Ensure new developments provide its residents with park lands consistent with Level of Services standards.
- g. Investigate and maximize opportunities presented by the old middle school site, Bureau of Land Management 40 acre parcel, Barnett property on the Old Town waterfront, Lane County dump, Three-mile Prairie area and land adjacent to Veteran Memorial Park for proposed and future recreation amenities.
- h. Mini-parks or pocket parks serving geographically constrained, small (20 residences or less) residential area could be permitted if owned, developed, and maintained by homeowners associations.
- i. Acquisition and development of new parks by the City of Florence shall be for locations of 3 or more acres.

CHAPTER 3 – EXISTING CONDITIONS

3.1 – HISTORY OF EXISTING PARKS, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS

Florence Parks consist of City-owned properties, listed in Table 3.1. Nearly all were acquired through land dedications and donations from individuals or family trusts more than 20 years ago (many, more than 50 years ago). Two of the parks were created exclusively from unused rights-of-way, Veterans and Old Town Parks. When the last park master plan was created in 1985, there were 11 parks. Four parks, O.W. Hurd, Veterans Memorial, 3 Mile Prairie Reserve (the City's 40 acre portion), and Pacific Pines, have been added since that planning effort. Another park, the Siuslaw Bridge Interpretive Site located south of Bay St. between the Coffee Roasters and The Waterfront Depot in Old Town, will hopefully soon be included in the inventory. The Scenic Byways Program has offered to develop the park through a grant award with historical interpretive signage and parking.

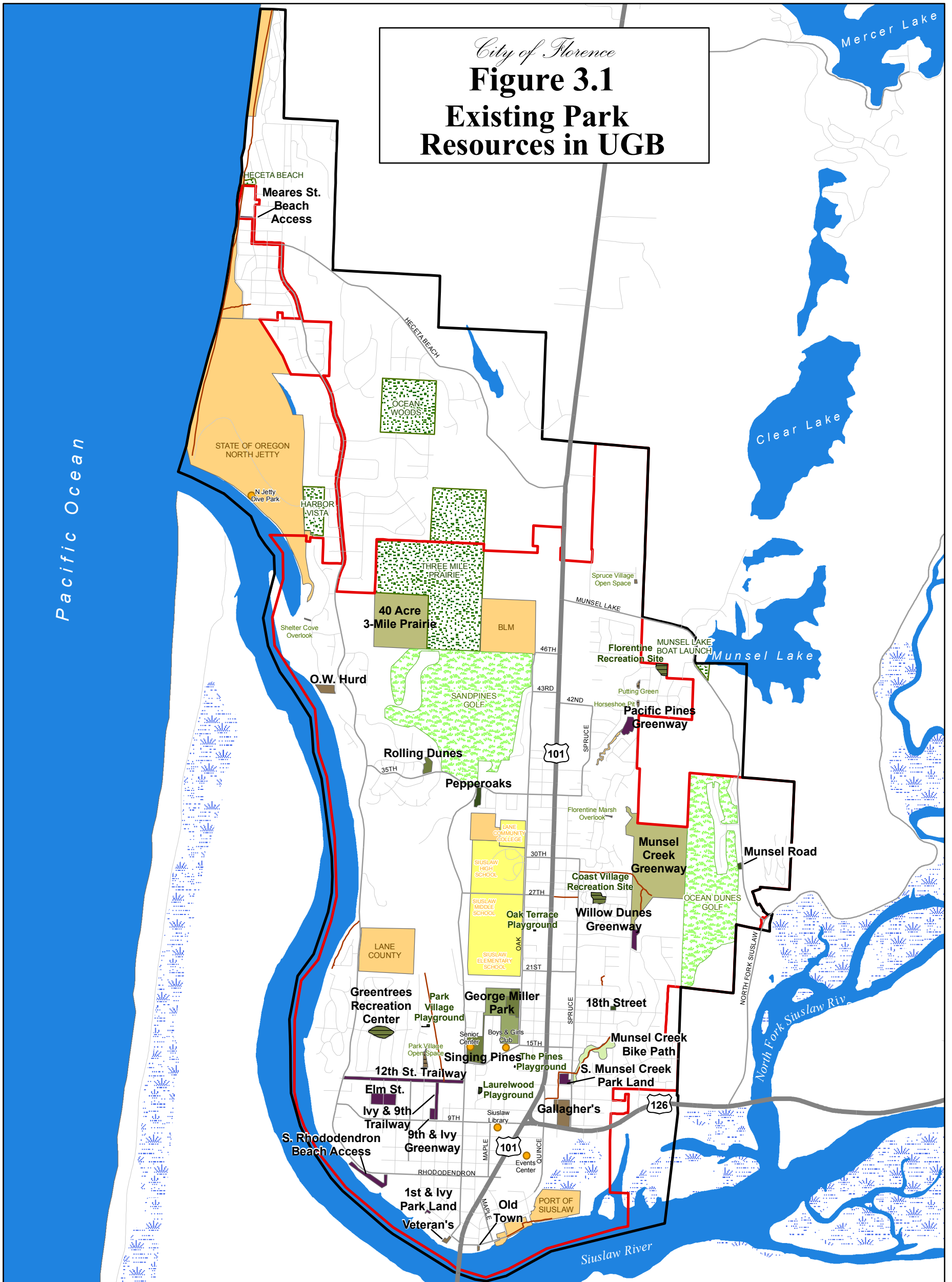
In 1985 when the Master Plan was created, it included in an exhibit titled "Table D" specific improvements for the existing park system. Most of the parks today are improved to their current level through work completed in the late 80's to achieve short-term projects identified in the 1985 plan's recommendations. Specifically, Pepperoaks and Singing Pines were developed with play structures, Miller Park with the ball fields and play structures, and trail and restroom development in Munsel Creek Greenway. Several additional projects listed on the table have been completed since 2002, like paved access to the basketball courts in 18th St. Pocket Park and Pepperoaks and signage for Munsel Creek Greenway.

Overall, most of the City mini-parks are modestly developed, lacking much in the way of curb appeal with little or no landscaping and 20+ year old play equipment. Miller Park received the most recent capital investments with a skate park completed in 2004 and funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. A tot lot, benches, and waste receptacles were added in 2005 and funded through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Local Improvement Grant program. Munsel Road Park in 2003 received a face-lift with the addition of a new play structure and internal sidewalk paving funded through the general fund and an Eagle Scout project. Hurd Park, developed with a "hobbit-like" trail leading from its gravel parking to an exquisite view of the Siuslaw River, was also constructed through a Boy Scout project. Elm Street Park remains undeveloped and much of its western portion was included on the 1997 Wetlands Inventory. Two areas were dedicated to the city through land donation and platting and remain undeveloped, Pacific Pines and Willow Dunes. One large 40-acre parcel adjacent to 3-Mile Prairie was traded to the city by the Bureau of Land Management.

Gallagher’s and Old Town Parks are well maintained by the Garden Club and Rhododendron Society and the Downtown Owners Association, respectively. Miller Park’s fields are maintained by the Jr. Baseball Association. Until 2005, Joe Kemp, retired from the Forest Service, voluntarily maintained the Munsel Creek Bike Path east of Spruce Street. There are no other active volunteer park adoptions.

Table 3.1—Park Classifications		
City Parkland	Acres & Miles	Classification
1 st & Ivy St.	.14	Mini-Park
9th & Ivy Greenway	.70	Open Space
12 th St. Trail	.56 m	Trail
18 th St. Pocket Park	.29	Mini-Park
29 th St. Trail	.29 m	Trail
3-Mile Prairie Reserve	39.92	Open Space
Elm Street (Undeveloped)	3.55	Neighborhood
Gallagher’s	3.5	Special Use
George Miller	19.72	Community
Hurd O.E.	1.82	Special Use
Ivy St. Trail	.17 m	Trail
Meares Street Beach Access	.39	Special Use
Munsel Creek Bike Path	3.3	Trail
Munsel Creek Greenway	61.73	Open Space
Munsel Road Park	.35	Mini-Park
Old Town Park	.14	Special Use
Pacific Pines (Undeveloped)	1.99	Open Space
Pepperoaks	1.3	Mini-Park
Rolling Dunes	1.6	Neighborhood
Singing Pines	6.44	Neighborhood
Siuslaw Interpretative Center	.12	Special Use
South Munsel Creek Park	1.42	Mini-Park
South Rhody Beach Access	1.42	Special Use
Veterans Memorial	.38	Special Use
Willow Dunes (Undeveloped)	1.49	Open Space

City of Florence
Figure 3.1
Existing Park Resources in UGB



City Parks

- Mini
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Connector Trail
- Open Space
- Special Use
- Undeveloped

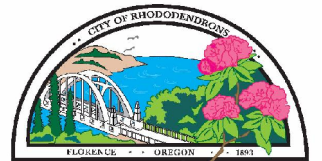
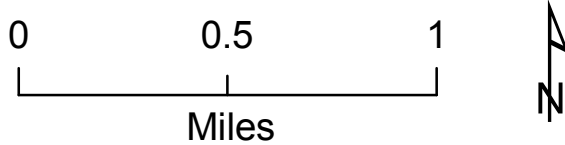
Private Parks

- Mini
- Neighborhood
- Special Use

Other Features

- Recreation Facility
- Existing Trails
- Golf Course
- County Park

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)
- Other Public Land
- Schools



City of Florence
 Community Development Department
 250 Hwy 101 N.
 Florence, OR 97439
 (541) 997-8237
January 18, 2010
 Data Source: City of Florence, Lane
 Council of Governments, Oregon Department
 of Transportation, Lane County OR Parks &
 Recreation, US Geological Survey
 Map #5 Series 2011-1

3.2 – PARK AND OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS

Mini-Parks (.25 mile radius)

Mini-parks provide recreation for a specific area. Due to their limited size and associated costs to maintain mini-parks should, in the future, only be created to address specific recreation needs such as parkland in older neighborhoods with no larger undeveloped lands available. Mini-parks includes both passive and limited active recreational facilities such as children’s playgrounds, picnic areas, benches, and basketball courts. Mini-parks add activity and character to neighborhoods. Park size ranges between 0.25 to 1.0-acre and serve an area approximately ¼ mile or less. Florence has five mini-parks.

18TH STREET POCKET PARK

18th Street Pocket Park is a .29 acre site located in the Holly Subdivision east of Spruce St. The park occupies the Vine St. right-of-way north of 18th St. and includes the lot west of Vine St. Currently the park contains a children’s play area, a half basketball court, a picnic table, small shelter, and water fountain. The needs analysis found its strengths to be the bus shelter to play in especially when it rains and the fact that it is the only park (public or private) east of Hwy 101 with playground equipment.

PEPPEROAKS PARK

Pepperoaks Park is a 1.31 acre site located south of 35th St. in the Pepperoaks subdivision at the west end of 34th Place. The City received the entire Pepperoaks Subdivision area as a land grant for park use. Subsequently, it was subdivided into residential lots. When the error was discovered the City had to acquire additional lands to replace those developed. As a result the remaining park area in that subdivision is inadequately dimensioned with steep slopes and therefore is used mainly as a buffer between Kingwood and 35th Streets. The parkland extends to 35th St. along Kingwood’s east side where it is bordered with steep fringe of dunal lands and densely vegetated slope. The 34th Place end of the park contains a children’s play area, a half basketball court, a picnic table, and water fountain. Of the total 1.31 acreage on this site only .3 is developed. The needs analysis identified Pepperoaks strengths as it being a much needed resource for this family residential area and the presence of the sand hill.

MUNSEL ROAD PARK

Munsel Road Park is a .35 acre site located on Lots 12 & 13 of Rhodo View Dunes subdivision along Munsel Lake Road across from 31st St. The site is surrounded by a cyclone fence and contains a new playground (2005), half basketball court, benches, and water fountain. The needs analysis identified the park strengths as the new play structures and presence as the only park serving the Munsel Lake Road area.

1ST & IVY STREET PARK

1st & Ivy Street Park is a .14 acre undeveloped site located on the south west corner of 1st and Ivy. The site was identified as a potential infill opportunity to meet local park recreation needs for this older residential section of Florence. This neighborhood is currently not located in the service area of any mini or neighborhood parks. Other than a couple of undeveloped rights-of-way this lot is the only publically-owned land in the neighborhood. The lot contains a sewer pump station building and has limited area for recreational development. A demographic analysis would be well served prior to adding recreational facilities to determine the most suitable recreation uses.

SOUTH MUNSEL CREEK PARK

South Munsel Creek Park is a 1.42 acre undeveloped site located west of Spruce St. south of the 13th Street right of way off of the Munsel Creek Bike Path. Munsel Creek runs through the site on its southern corner. Munsel Creek Bike Path runs along its northern and western lot lines separating it from Windsong to the north and the former Rite Aid building to the west. The residential neighborhood consists of older single family, duplex and state subsidized senior housing. The neighborhood is currently unserved by any mini or neighborhood parks and this site has strong potential to act as a wayside along the trail with recreation amenities that would serve as a neighborhood “hang-out”. Many senior and other area residents use Spruce St. for their exercise passing this very spot. Development of the area would also discourage its use by transients.

Neighborhood Park (0.5 mile radius)

Neighborhood parks offer accessible recreation and social opportunities to nearby residents of all ages. They contribute to neighborhood identity and create a sense of place. These parks range in size from 1 to 10 acres, although a site may be larger if significant natural resource land is incorporated into the park. The recreation opportunities are primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. Facilities found in neighborhood parks may include children’s playgrounds, picnic area, trails, tennis, or basketball courts, minimal parking, and open areas and fields for sports or leisure activities. These parks serve an area of approximately ½ mile. Florence has three neighborhood parks.

ROLLING DUNES

Rolling Dunes is a 1.59 acre site located on the NE corner of 35th and Siano Loop in the Siuslaw Village subdivision. The park was previously categorized as a special use park because of the specific recreation provided on site. The park was reclassified after noticing both the larger undeveloped



portion north of the tennis courts and the need for a neighborhood park in the area. The park contains two tennis courts, picnic pavilion with grill and restrooms, small parking lot and horseshoe pit. The .8 acre undeveloped wooded area will provide recreation expansion opportunities for Siuslaw Village residents. The needs analysis identified the park strengths as providing the only public tennis courts in the city and the only covered picnic area outside of Miller Park.

ELM PARK

Elm Park is a 3.55 acre site situated on 2 city blocks between 10th and 11th and Elm and Driftwood Streets. More than half of the eastern portion of the site is steep ranging in elevation between 26 and 86 feet and consists of high brushy ridges, wetlands, and one stream. The western side has gentler slopes. Currently there is no access nor any developed recreational amenities. This park when developed will serve both the 9th St. Planning area and the Florence community.

SINGING PINES

Singing Pines is a 6.44 acre site located at the NE intersection of Kingwood and Airport Road. The site is heavily vegetated with a playground on the south end, multiple narrow paths throughout and the Senior Center on the north end adjacent to the Airport Industrial Park. The land was deeded as part of larger parcel to the city on January 4, 1946. The land was to be used as an Airport and developed within 5 years. The park is connected to Miller Park on the NE side via an underdeveloped path. The needs analysis identified its strengths to be its connection to Miller Park and its provision as a large public open space area with native vegetation within the central part of the city.

Community Park (2.0 mile radius)

Community parks provide a variety of active and leisure recreational opportunities for all age groups. These parks are larger in size and serve a wider base of residents than neighborhood parks. They provide educational opportunities, serve recreational needs of families, preserve open spaces and unique landscapes, and provide spaces for community activities and events. Community Parks range in size from 10 to 50 acres and serve an area of approximately 2 miles. Florence has one community park but is currently underserved and need for another is in Florence' future.

GEORGE MILLER PARK

George Miller Park is a 19.72 acre, "L" shaped, flat park situated in the middle of town west of Oak St. and south of 21st St. It is situated adjacent to the school district and has lower income housing on all four sides. It is connected to Singing Pines Park with an underdeveloped trail. The park gets most of its use as a sports facility but also includes the amenities to serve as a neighborhood park. Recreation facilities include: 6 baseball/softball fields, skatepark, bike dirt jumps, picnic pavilion, tot lot, playground, parking lot, paved looped trail system, basketball courts with 6 backboards, benches, restrooms, concession building and

water fountains. The needs analysis revealed that Miller Park, while undersized to meet the standards, serves as a sports complex for the greater Florence urban service area and its amenities are used commensurate with a city-wide or regional park. This park should be expanded when adjacent property becomes available (Lane County PW). The needs analysis identified Miller Park's strengths as its open expansiveness, walking paths and the covered picnic area.



Special Use Parks

Special use parks provide specialized active or passive recreation opportunities. They can serve both the community and tourists and may include features such as gazebos, gardens, trails, interpretive signage, public art, scenic views and minimal parking. Florence has seven special use parks.

OLD TOWN PARK

Old Town Park is a .14 acre site located at the south end of Maple Street south of Bay Street. The land was donated to the city by two separate recorded instruments, both recorded in 1887. Old Town Park was the site of the old ferry landing before the bridge was built. The park serves as a scenic attraction and rest area for tourists and locals alike. The needs analysis found this park to be a peaceful and relaxing setting for community assembly, public concerts, seasonal events, and weddings. The site includes a gazebo, picnic tables, benches, landscaping, brick walkways, and river view platform. When the needs analysis was started in 2004 the fishing dock off the ramp was identified as a strength. Since then the dock was found to be dilapidated and therefore closed and removed. The Downtown Owners Association, led by Ron Hogueland, have long made improvements to the park are working to convert the former dock to a habitat restoration area for river birds and mammals.

GALLAGHER'S PARK

Gallagher's Park is a 3.5 acre site located on the NW corner of Spruce St. and Highway 126. The park is relatively flat with the western half stepping down to Munsel Creek. The southern half of the site is extensively landscaped as an exhibition garden showcasing varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas and totals approximately 2.81 acres. The site contains irrigation, picnic table, benches, and walking paths. The northern half is developed with the Public Works shops (formerly city jail). The city has outgrown the shop area and needs updated facilities. When a new location is found the area should redevelop as an

expansion of Gallagher Park. The land was donated to the City of Florence in 1911 by A.E. and Irene Gallagher. Records state the following regarding the donation, “it must be improved and a park must forever be known as Gallagher’s Park.” The needs analysis identified Gallagher’s Park’s strengths to be its garden focus, volunteer support from the Rhododendron Society and Florence Garden Club and its proximity adjacent to the creek.

VETERAN’S PARK

Veteran’s Park is a .38 acre site located in the Kingwood Street right-of-way south of Bay Street. The park was built in 2007 cooperatively between the city and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and serves as a veteran’s memorial. The site includes a flag presentation area, memorial wall, and parking. In addition to serving daily as a memorial and reflection area the site is also used



for Flag Day, Memorial Day, D-Day and Veteran’s Day observances. The needs analysis identified Veteran’s Parks strengths as the river frontage and its ability to support additional functions in Old Town to bring more people to the area.

E.O. HURD MEMORIAL PARK

E.O. Hurd Memorial Park is a 1.82 acre site located off Eden Lane. The site is developed with a hobbit like trail that terminates at a panoramic river view. The park contains gravel parking. The needs analysis identified Hurd’s strengths as the view, river frontage, and uniqueness.

SIUSLAW INTERPRETATIVE CENTER

Siuslaw Interpretative Center is a .12 acre site located south of Bay St. east of the Siuslaw Bridge. The site will function as an educational interpretive site for the Siuslaw Bridge and stormwater treatment exhibit.

SOUTH RHODY BEACH ACCESS

South Rhody Beach Access is a 1.42 acre undeveloped park that offers the safe opportunity for improved path access from Rhododendron Drive west of a creek outfall and the sewer treatment plant to the Siuslaw River. It would provide one of the only public beach access points within the city. It is adjacent to the Port of Siuslaw’s dredge spoils site and an agreement would need to be arranged for the inevitable pedestrian through access. The park area is large enough to serve as a day use area with picnic tables.

MEARES STREET BEACH ACCESS

Meares Street Beach Access is a .39 acre site developed with paved area used as a free public parking lot for beach access west of Driftwood Shores. Improvements could include pet waste disposal station, trash receptacle, beach shower or water spicket for sand removal.

Trails

Trails can serve both recreational and transportation needs. They can be predominately recreational traversing natural features such as Munsel Creek, dunal or wetlands areas. They can also provide a transportation corridor linking neighborhoods to parks, schools and shopping areas. Florence currently has two developed trails, Munsel Creek Bike Path and 29th St. Pathway. Other trails are proposed and documented in the Transportation Systems Plan and include: 12th St. Path between Rhododendron and Kingwood, Ivy St. Trail between 9th and 12th Sts., the Siuslaw Estuary Trail between the Port's boardwalk area and Gallagher Park, and Munsel Creek Greenway extension north to Munsel Lake through the 100+ acres of undeveloped UGB residential property. All but 12th St. & Ivy St. are privately owned. Trails



and paths located within park facilities are not included below and short exclusively transportation paths are not listed either. They should however be included in the Trail Plan to help identify and expand pedestrian opportunities.

MUNSEL CREEK BIKE PATH

Munsel Creek Bike Path is a .57 mile paved path that starts at Quince St. north of the Moose Lodge (south of 12th St.) and follows Munsel Creek for approximately one-half mile to its terminus at West Park Dr. The trail after appropriate signage is installed will continue on-street north to Munsel Greenway. Opportunity is available to extend the trail south to Gallagher's Park through city-owned property and dedicated rights-of-way. Additionally, just west of Spruce St. and south of the trail head is a 1.42 acre parcel that could be developed with seating to provide a focal point for the Munsel Creek bike path and a recreation amenity for this area of town largely occupied by older residents in subsidized housing. The needs analysis found the trail's strengths to be its central location, wind protection and native vegetation.

12TH STREET PATH

12th Street Path is .56 miles of underdeveloped trail that extends from Kingwood to Rhododendron Drive in the 12th Street right-of-way. It makes up a total of 2.44 acres. The existing trail way was cleared for installation of an underground utility. The public and animals use it in its unimproved condition. The trail traverses several hills, a drainage way and wetlands. It is very scenic and makes a pleasant off road connection to the senior center and Miller Park from several area subdivisions.

IVY STREET PATH

Ivy Street Path is .17 miles of undeveloped trail outlined on the Transportation Systems Plan as providing connection from the 12 St. Pathway to 9th St. via a drainage way corridor in the Ivy St. right-of-way. It makes up an area approximately 1.35 acres. Adjacent to the drainage way just north of 9th St. is a ½ block between Ivy and Hemlock north of 9th St. and east of Oyster Cove Condominiums that was traded with the Habitat for Humanity for a portion of the previous senior center site south of 15th St.

29TH STREET PATH

29th Street Path is .28 miles of paved trail connecting Spruce Street to Munsel Greenway Park. The needs analysis identified its strengths as it's presence as the only northern connection to Munsel Greenway Park through two gated access communities.

Open Space

Open Space/Greenways are developed around a natural resource such as creek, lakeshore, forest, or agricultural area. They are similar to neighborhood parks but do not typically contain developed recreation facilities (i.e. playgrounds, shelters, multi-purpose fields). Protection of ecological integrity or agricultural production is the primary purpose of the park designation; however, levels of passive recreation can be incorporated. Greenways can provide connectivity between communities, neighborhoods, other parks and natural resources. Florence contains five Open Space Areas.



MUNSEL CREEK GREENWAY

Munsel Creek Greenway is a 61.73 acre site located north of the water treatment plant with vehicular entrance at the intersection of 24th and Willow Streets. It consists of flat and rolling land at a sand dune – forest interface. Nestled between Ocean Dunes Golf Course and two gated communities (Florentine and Coast Village) it includes a portion of Munsel Creek, seasonal lakes, dunes, and is situated above a major aquifer. The site consists of 18 developed acres with restrooms and .68 miles of paved trail that outfall onto Spruce at 29th St. between Florentine and Coast Village. Ocean Dunes’ new subdivision approved in 2009 proposes to provide trail access to Munsel Creek Greenway from the east. The 80 + undeveloped

privately owned residential acres to the north will provide connectivity through extension of the trail system north to Munsel Lake Road and Munsel Lake boat launch. While most of the northern portion of the park is natural resource area there are locations within the southern portion that would be suitable for a small play structure to serve the Willow Dunes and Summerset neighborhoods. The needs analysis identified the greenways’ strengths as its trails and location as a large natural area in town. This greenway is envisioned as a site for a low impact Frisbee golf course, a recreational activity serving a diverse population and a tourist draw. The greenway should also include interpretive sites within the existing site and in the northern area as trail connectivity is extended northward along the wetlands separating Florentine and the eastern unannexed residential area.

3 MILE PRAIRIE RESERVE

3 Mile Prairie Reserve is a 39.92 undeveloped acre site located in the southwest corner of Lane County’s 3 Mile Prairie Park north of Sand Pines Golf Course. Neither the city’s “40” acre site or the county’s 120 acres have vehicular or pedestrian access. The city’s site is covered in wetlands, dense forest and dunal lands. Opportunities exist to establish access



from both the west and the east. A 30 acre undeveloped residential parcel lies to the west and any future development shall provide public access to this public natural resource. The BLM 40 acre parcel lying to the east is entirely open dune land. The city is undergoing negotiations to acquire this 40 acre parcel for recreation and water well expansion. Access could be developed on the BLM parcel to provide pedestrian access and vehicular parking to the greater 240 acre 3-Mile Prairie Reserve resource area. The natural open space recreational opportunities for this site in the future are phenomenal and could provide trails, natural viewing areas and other types of non-motorized recreation.

PACIFIC PINES

Pacific Pines is a 1.99 undeveloped acre site off of Munsel Creek Drive in the Pacific Pines subdivision. It was dedicated to the city in 1995 by a party of six-Ziemer, Nixon, English, Fegles, Lagler, and Sauter. There is a 10 foot wide dedicated public access from Munsel Creek Drive to an adjacent Lane County parcel. The Lane County parcel and the Pacific Pines parcels lie along the western edge of the Munsel Creek drainage way. Little is known about the topography or developability of the parcel for leisure activity such as benches, picnic tables, trails or creek viewing access.

WILLOW DUNES

Willow Dunes is a 1.49 acre undeveloped site east of Willow St. at the end of 24th St. It serves as a wooded entry for Munsel Creek as it leaves Willow Dunes and enters Munsel Creek Greenway. Little is known about the topography or developability of the parcel for leisure activity such as benches, picnic tables, trails or creek viewing access.

9TH & IVY GREENWAY

9th & Ivy Greenway is a .70 acre undeveloped site a ½ block between Ivy and Hemlock Streets north of 9th St. south of undeveloped 10th St. and east of Oyster Cove Condominiums. The property was donated to Habitat for Humanity by the property owner and then after unsuccessful housing design attempts traded to the City for the eastern portion of the former Senior Center on 15th St. The 9th St. site will be joined with the future Ivy St. Path from the north. The site has potential as a local recreation resource for the recently densified neighborhood with the condominiums to the west, townhouses to the east and duplexes to the south. A safe pedestrian crossing would need to be placed across 9th Street.

3.3 – Inventory of Existing Parks and Open Space

The City of Florence has a variety of parks and open space. These areas support both passive and active recreation and collectively serve a range of community needs. The City’s inventory of parks and opens space is summarized below.

City Park Land

The City of Florence provides 154.13 acres of park land at 19 sites. Of these, 12 parks or open space areas provide recreation amenities, such as playgrounds, trails, community gathering areas, playing or watching sports, and enjoying the outdoors. The remaining 7 properties are undeveloped and offer a opportunities to enhance City parks and recreation. Table 2 summarizes the City’s park inventory. The City of Florence provides approximately 55.68 acres of developed parks and open space.

	Park	Type	Dev. Acres or Linear Miles	Undev Acres or Linear Miles
1	1 st & Ivy St. Park	Mini	.14	.14
2	18 th St. Pocket Park	Mini	.29	--
3	Munsel Road Park	Mini	.35	--
4	Pepperoaks	Mini	.31	1
5	South Munsel Creek Park	Mini	1.42	1.42
	Mini-Park Total	5 sites	2.51	2.56
6	Elm St. Park	Neighborhood	--	3.55
7	Rolling Dunes	Neighborhood	1.17	.42
8	Singing Pines	Neighborhood	6.44	--
	Neighborhood Total	3 sites	7.61	3.97
9	George Miller Park	Community	19.72	--
	Community Park Total	1 site	19.72	--
10	Gallagher’s	Special Use	2.81	.69
11	Hurd Memorial	Special Use	1.82	--
12	Meares St. Beach Access	Special Use	--	.39
13	Old Town Park	Special Use	.14	--
14	Siuslaw Interpretive Site	Special Use	--	.12
15	S. Rhody Beach Access	Special Use	--	1.42
16	Veterans Memorial	Special Use	.38	--
	Special Use Park Total	7 sites	5.15	2.62

17	Munsel Creek Bike Path	Trail	.53	--
18	Ivy St. Path	Trail	--	.17
19	12 th St. Path	Trail	--	.56
20	29 th St. Trail	Trail	.29	--
	Linear / Mileage Total	4 sites	.82	.73
21	Munsel Creek Greenway	Open Space	18	43.73
22	Pacific Pines	Open Space	--	1.99
23	Willow Dunes	Open Space	--	1.49
24	9 th & Ivy Greenway	Open Space	--	.70
25	3-Mile Prairie Reserve	Open Space	--	39.92
	Open Space Total	5 sites	18	87.83
	TOTAL		51.43 / .82	97.71 / .73

Parks and Open Space Provided by Others

The City of Florence is the primary provider of baseball/softball fields, tennis courts, and playgrounds for Florence and Western Lane County. The City also provides other unique recreation opportunities, such as a skatepark. However, other providers play a significant role in the provision of ball fields, youth soccer fields, and outdoor basketball courts. The park system provided by the City of Florence is augmented by parks and open space provided by other jurisdictions. These other providers in the Florence planning area are summarized below.

Parks provided by other jurisdictions were taken into account in determining park needs for acquisition and development. If an existing County, Federal, or school property was located in an unserved area proposed for park development on Figure 7.1, opportunities for partnership were considered and the locations were generally considered allowing for park provision through a partnership with these other agency amenities. It is for these situations that conservative level of service standards for City parks were proposed in Chapter 4.

While other agencies provide substantial acreage in some areas of Florence, some areas of the city are still unserved. For example, the 100+ acres of residentially zoned area north of Munsel Lake Rd. and east of Hwy 101 has no land set aside or land acquisition mechanism in place for providing public neighborhood or mini-park facilities. While over 200 acres of public open space is situated west of Hwy 101 there is no public access within the city limits to speak of and the land does not satisfy the community needs for a dog park, new neighborhood parks in new residential subdivisions, or covered play structure facilities.

LANE COUNTY

Five county-owned park sites provide important recreation opportunities for Florence area residents and its visitors: 3-Mile Prairie, Munsel Lake Boat Launch, Heceta Beach Access, Ocean Woods, and Harbor Vista campground. With a combined total of 219.60 acres, these sites provide beach access, open space, picnic areas and a campground. Additionally, the county owns a 40 acre parcel formerly used for a landfill. It is currently being monitored for environmental impacts, but is expected to be returned to service for another use in the near future. The County has been approached on at least two occasions to consider a portion of the site for use as a dog park. And finally, the county owns a 1.14 acre parcel southwest and adjoining the city's undeveloped Pacific Pines parcel that should be considered when reviewing the suitability of Pacific Pines for passive recreation development.

FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages a 40-acre parcel west of Fred Meyer, that provides opportunities for dune-related recreation. Currently its only access is at the terminus of Oak Street south of Fred Meyer and through a cooperative agreement with Fred Meyer to allow parking for dune access. Additionally, the State of Oregon manages the beach from the North Jetty area to the northern planning area boundary north of Driftwood Shores. The area provides public beach access, parking, portable toilet, Coast Guard watch tower, walking trails, and the area's only dive dock. This area accounts for 276.23 acres.

SCHOOLS

Florence is served by Siuslaw 97J public school district. The District operates 3 schools--an elementary, middle, and high in the planning area. The schools are a major provider of sport fields, sport courts, and playgrounds. However, access is restricted to school use, Boys and Girls Club, and the Three River AAA Baseball team.

PORT OF SIUSLAW

The Port operates an RV park and marina in the Old Town area. They also provide a boardwalk adjacent to the marina that is heavily used by visitors to Florence. It provides a comfortable if not windy connection to the docks, fishing vessels and waterfront area. A grassy area between the boardwalk and the parking lot is used by open air merchants in the summer. To the east and north of their campground area the Port has land proposed for future recreation development that includes the Siuslaw Estuary Trail.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS:

Park and Recreation facilities that could be classified, based on size or amenities, as mini-parks or neighborhood parks are provided by both home owner associations

and apartment complexes. More common the home owner associations provide areas used for special use parks (gazebo), trails, or open space for just looking at or rarely with access for dog playing etc.... The home owners associations facilities serve their resident populations in numbers estimated below in Table 3.3. These residential neighborhoods include Florentine Estates, Coast Village, Greentrees, Park Village, Wildwinds, Shelter Cove, and Spruce Village Phase 2.

Table 3.3—Privately Owned Residential Park Inventory				
	Park	Type	Dev. Acres	Avg. persons (AP) served (Res. Lots/units × 2.02)
	Laurelwood Apartments	Mini	.33	60.6
	Oak Terrace Apartments	Mini	.27	96.96
	Park Village	Mini	.34	214.12
	The Pines Apartments	Mini	.16	50.5
	Mini-Park Total	4 sites	1.07	422.18
	Coast Village	Neighborhood	1.79	525.2
	Florentine Estates	Neighborhood	1.54	1791.74
	Greentrees	Neighborhood	2.82	1123.12
	Neighborhood Total	3 sites	6.15	3440.06
	Shelter Cove Overlook	Special Use	.09	n/a
	Spruce Village Phase 2— Cottontail Park	Special Use	.342	n/a
	Special Use Park Total	2 sites	.43	n/a
	Wildwinds (gravel)	Trail	1300 lf	n/a
	Park Village Trail (sand)	Trail	2645 fl	n/a
	Trails Total	2 site	3945	n/a
	Florentine Estates (horseshoes, dog area)	Open Space	.4	n/a
	Park Village Southern Open Space	Open Space	.76	n/a
	Open Space Total	2 site	1.16	n/a
	TOTAL		8.81/ 3945 lf	4167.26

3.4 – Inventory of Existing Recreation Facilities

The City of Florence and other entities in the planning area provide a variety of recreation facilities. Descriptions of the different providers’ facilities are discussed below. Some of the providers have access limited to its residents or members. For this reason the amenities will not be used to evaluate the level of service later in

Chapter 4. Rather, knowledge of their presence and location is relevant in determining where to locate future recreation facilities and understanding which populations need to be served so as not to duplicate efforts.

Facility Inventory

The City of Florence, as well as several other local providers, own and maintain a variety of recreation facilities. Table 3.4 summarizes recreation facilities provided by the City, schools, and others where their availability meets a public or resident need for recreation. Commercial recreation facilities such as health clubs and college campuses were not included, since they are generally unavailable for public use.

CITY

The City of Florence is the primary public provider of baseball/softball fields, tennis courts, and playgrounds for Florence and Western Lane County. The City also provides other unique recreation opportunities, such as a skatepark. Within Singing Pines Park the city developed a new senior center which is operated by the Senior Boosters Club, a non-profit. The building and site was constructed in part with a Community and Development Block Grant. The 5,333 sq. ft. facility has indoor meeting space, billiards room, a community room for dancing and senior meal free lunch program, and a wing for Alzheimers respite care. Use is currently limited to those 60 and older.

SCHOOLS

Siuslaw 97J plays a significant role in the provision of outdoor recreation amenities such as multi-use fields and outdoor basketball courts. In addition to the outdoor recreation amenities they also provide indoor gymnasiums for basketball, wrestling and volleyball. The middle school even has a rock climbing wall.

OTHER PROVIDERS

Other providers include the Siuslaw Public Library, Boys and Girls Club, and residential communities (Florentine Estates, Greentrees, Coast Village, Driftwood Shores condominiums, Marine Manor, Wildwinds, Spruce Village and Park Village). The library, in addition to their large circulation publications, provides a children's library and reading program, meeting rooms, and teen library and game room. The Boys and Girls Club utilize several locations to meet their programming needs. They operate their Teen Center and administration offices out of a property opposite the former Senior Center site north of 15th Street and west of Oak St. They also have an afterschool program that operates out of the elementary school. They meet most of their sports and summer programming needs at Miller Park. Florentine Estates, Greentrees, and Coast Village gated communities have some or all of the following recreation amenities: swimming pools, tennis courts, exercise rooms, open space, and meeting facilities. Driftwood

Shores serves as both a timeshare and condominium facility and in 2009 installed a new swimming pool. Park Village Home Owner Association (HOA) owns and maintains a playground and open space areas. Spruce Village Phase II (at the time of writing had only tentative plat approval) HOA maintains a small gazebo in a wetland setting. Over 1,000 households are supported by these home-owner association operated and owned recreation facilities. Wildwinds and Marine Manor have Siuslaw River access facilities.

The acreage of most of the above listed school, private and non-profit facilities and sites have not been inventoried. These assets provide additional park and recreation opportunities for City residents. However, the City of Florence has no control over these properties, their services, maintenance levels, openings, closings, or programming. Developing formal partnerships with other entities is important where these sites help meet identified recreation needs. During the approval process the Planning Commission decided to include private residential facilities in the Level of Service analysis discussed in Chapter 4. Those facilities which meet the minimum standards for certain park types that have service areas are included in the analysis. An attempt has been made to include most facilities and parklands in Tables 3.2 and 3.3. However, they are not conclusive.

Facility Type	City Parks	Schools	Other	Total
Baseball/Softball Fields	6	2	-	8
Tennis Courts	2		3	5
Basketball Court	5	4		9
Skate Park	1			1
Boat Ramp/River Access	1		2	3
Picnic Shelter	2		2	4
Horseshoe Court	1		1	2
Playground	6		1	7
Trails	4		1	5
Gymnasiums		3		3

Swimming Pools			7	7
Golf Course Holes			36	36
Teen Center			1	
Community Center (seniors)	1		3	4

3.5 – EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES

Current Operating Budget

The City of Florence’s Parks and Recreation Division is a part of the Public Works Department. Parks and Recreation is funded out of the general fund. The 2009 fiscal year budget allotted \$257,977 for park and recreation from the General Fund. This budget was distributed as follows: \$110,882 for two full-time staff, \$53,670 (\$7000 contract labor) for material and services, and \$53,670 for capital outlay.

At the time of writing there were no park SDCs, maintenance or user fees collected for Florence parks and recreation.

For general park maintenance and cleaning, this limited amount has sufficed. However, for major improvements or larger maintenance projects the budget has not been able to support financial contributions in grant proposals. The city has relied on staffing, volunteers, and city equipment use for matching funds.

CHAPTER 4 - COMMUNITY NEEDS

The community needs analysis process is an important part of the park and recreation planning process. It is the method by which quantifiable information is gathered to establish the need for parks and recreation facilities. Community feedback is combined with analysis to determine the level of service at which parks and facilities are provided. The needs analysis sets the foundation for the goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in Chapter 2 and the recommendations listed in Chapter 7.

4.1 – KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ There is limited knowledge about the city’s local park resources.
- ◆ Residents like the natural vegetation aspect of some of the parks (excluding the sand lots).
- ◆ More dog-friendly areas are needed both for off-leash and on-leash use.
- ◆ General maintenance (painting and sanding) or equipment replacement is needed in the pocket parks.
- ◆ Plant maintenance and installation is needed in pocket parks.
- ◆ Trail development was identified by all sources as the most needed recreation resource.
- ◆ Citizens would like to see the city add a public pool and recreation center.
- ◆ Citizens would like passive development of and access to Open Space areas for non-motorized recreational users.
- ◆ There is a history of conflicting use issues between the bicycle and skatepark users and between them and younger users.
- ◆ Conflicts exist between field users in Miller Park.
- ◆ The fields in Miller Park are not sized for adult softball league play.
- ◆ Facility improvements such as restrooms and storage are needed in Miller Park.
- ◆ Opportunities exist to partner between agencies for recreation program needs.
- ◆ Covered children’s play areas are a priority.
- ◆ There are untapped volunteer resources that could be used to improve the level of service of Florence’s parks.
- ◆ Multiple issues could be addressed by adding plant material and community gardens to city parks--improving landscaping and curb appeal of city parks, addressing public health and nutrition, and habitat restoration.
- ◆ Creating nature interpretation trails and signage to existing developed and undeveloped city open space would address the state’s identified issue of reconnecting youth with nature and providing more close to home no cost

recreation opportunities for Florence’s residents doing what they enjoy most in open space parks.

- ◆ Solutions are necessary to address the overwhelming responses from both sides that the city parks for used for dog exercising, contrary to current city code that disallows dogs in parks.
- ◆ People in general feel safe in the city parks but would like lighting and public safety improvements.
- ◆ Much of Florence’s adult population is served by private recreation facilities located in gated communities.
- ◆ The ocean beaches are the only off-leash dog areas available to local citizens.

4.2 – Recreational Standards and Trends

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a 5 year plan that analyzes outdoor recreation trends in Oregon. As a planning and information tool, the SCORP provides data on recreation participation and trends, and relates to wider planning goals because it helps communities plan for popular recreation trends in their area. The state expects the information will be used by local communities to set priorities with other agencies to meet mutual goals. The last two SCORPs are dated 2003-2007 and 2008-2012. Both were consulted for relevance in the needs analysis.

2003-2007 SCORP

The 2003-2007 document divided the state into 11 planning regions. Florence is included in Region 1 along with Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln and Coastal Lane counties. The top statewide regional Land and Water Conservation funding priorities were:

1. Additional camping facilities.
2. New river access facilities and rehabilitation of existing river access facilities.
3. Additional recreational trails (non-motorized).

The 2007 plan also identified the percentage of populations participating in specific outdoor recreation activities. From these findings data is summarized in two tables below. Table 4.1: Region 1’s “Top Six Activities”--lists the outdoor activities most selected by respondents as a “participated-in” activity. Table 4.2: “Region 1 Activity Levels Ranking First & Second Highest in State” lists three activities where Region 1 had the top-most participants in the state and three activities where Region 1 had the second-most participants in the state (more people in Region 1 participate in these activities than any other Region in the state).

Table 4.1: Region 1's Top Six Activities	
Rank	Activity
1	Walking for Pleasure
2	Running/walking for exercise
3	Hiking
4	Golf
5	Using Park and Playground equipment
6	Biking

Table 4.2: Region 1 Activity Levels Ranking First & Second Highest in State	
Rank	Activity
1	Walking for Pleasure
1	Running/walking for pleasure
1	Soccer
2	Softball
2	Football/Rugby
2	Sky Diving

2008-2012 SCORP-

The 2008-2012 plan had a different approach than the 2007 SCORP. Unlike previous efforts where recreational issues were approached regionally the state instead chose to address four previously identified state-wide demographic and social issues facing outdoor recreation providers. The four issues came from the 2003-2007 SCORP and the 2005-2014 statewide trails planning efforts. The 2008 SCORP planning process included a series of studies designed to provide outdoor recreation managers and planners information to proactively address the issues. The studies include:

- ◆ A Rapidly Aging Oregon Population—through surveys the state compiled information related to recreation, volunteerism, and origin on those aged 40 and up.
- ◆ Fewer Oregon Youth Learning Outdoor Skills—both parents and up to two youth from the same household were surveyed and 6 focus groups were held.
- ◆ An Increasingly Diverse Oregon Population
- ◆ Oregon's Physical Activity Crisis

The state had the following findings and recommendations relevant to Florence:

- ◆ A Rapidly Aging Oregon Population
 - Activities most participated in priority order are as follows: walking, picnicking, sightseeing, visiting historic sites and ocean beach activities.
 - 1/3 of those surveyed spend 5.3 hours p/week volunteering, 43% of those plan to increase their volunteer time over the next 10 years.
 - Providing more information about volunteer opportunities was the main way increase volunteer time or attract new volunteers.
 - Expect substantial increases in individuals with physical or mental disabilities using park and recreation facilities as they age.
 - Develop more trails and parks close to home and provide more info on local opportunities.
 - Accessibility priorities should be trails, picnic areas, sight-seeing, and historic sites.
 - Scenery was the most important characteristic affecting selection of where to move.
 - Ensuring clean and well-maintained parks and facilities is the most important management action, 2nd most is developing trails closer to home and more free of charge recreation opportunities.
 - From 1996-2006 Southern and Coastal Oregon, Florence and points south had the highest levels of relocation intensity. Projection from 2006-2016 is the same.
 - Expect 20% more moves into area in the 40-70 age range over the next 6 years.

- ◆ Fewer Oregon Youth Learning Outdoor Skills
 - Walking was most popular outdoor recreation activity for both parents and youth.
 - The more a parent engages in an activity the more a child does
 - 12-14 year olds had the highest number of participation days and most outdoor recreation activities.
 - Suburban youth were least likely to participate in outdoor recreation, less than both rural and urban.
 - Youth participation in outdoor chores and play are decreasing.
 - Most parents learned outdoor skills from their parents.
 - Outdoor sports and day camps were the most popular activities participated in.
 - Parents identified lack of information, and cost, especially among low income households as the primary reasons for not participating.
 - Most parents felt there were safe outdoor opportunities for their children.
 - Outdoor field games were the most favorite activities.
 - The activities youth would like to do more of were outdoor field games, biking and camping.

- Homework and other indoor activities were the most common constraints to spending more time outdoors.
- When asked to create an ideal activity program, tent camping was the most popular followed up with--sledding, tubing, swimming / diving and outdoor field games.
- Youth prefer groups of 3-5 or 6-10 to do their favorite program activities
- Develop partnerships with other recreation entities.
- Create a public awareness of importance outdoor recreation

◆ Oregon's Physical Activity Crisis

1. Support close-to-home non-motorized trail development. Trails provide an important opportunity for people to be physically active. Accessibility is one of the primary attributes of trails, including distance from home. Close-to-home trails provide opportunities for daily doses of physical activity, where remote trails provide other opportunities not available in local trails.

2. Identify at risk communities. Health risks, as proportions of county residents, vary across Oregon. We show that this pattern is associated with the distribution and use of recreation opportunities in the form of trail mile density and intensity of use (annual days of participation). Therefore, at risk communities might be those with higher proportions of adults in health risk categories, whose trends in health risk categories are flat or trending in the wrong direction, and/or are associated with inactive environments (low recreation opportunities in terms of availability, accessibility and diversity).

3. Promote the use of existing trail networks by providing information on existing trails. People may not be aware of places to recreate. Increasing their awareness may help them become more active. An example is the trails web site development by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department that is currently underway.

4. Market the health benefits of outdoor recreation, but note the importance of nutrition in a weight loss regimen. Physical activity promotes good health, regardless of weight class. While physical activity may help prevent weight gain, it may be necessary, but is not sufficient for weight loss. Therefore, a media campaign should focus on health, not weight. For example, a chart that shows the potential health gains from various types of activities by frequency and duration of participation may help keep people motivated. People need to be aware that even though they may not be lowering their weight, they are lowering their health risks of various chronic diseases. Furthermore, recreation may be prescribed by physicians as an important disease prevention program.

5. Target at-risk people and communities. Target at-risk people and communities by identifying their preferences for trail attributes, supply gaps in trail networks,

and their physical and perceived barriers to participating in physical activity/recreation. Getting sedentary people physically active will lead to health benefits for them and a reduction in the health care burden on society. Gaps in recreation supply are not simply the lack of facilities (although this is important), but also their location (accessibility) and diversity of opportunities (trails, settings, social events, etc.). Identifying gaps may need to be user driven—who is using resources and why; who is not using resources and why; and what resources would they use that are currently not available to them.

2008-2014 TRAILS PLAN

The 2003 SCORP Advisory Committee established development of a concurrent statewide motorized and non-motorized trails plan as a key objective based on information gathered during the SCORP issues workshops and the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey. This objective was established not only to provide an adequate supply of quality trail facilities and opportunities but also to receive and obligate Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) under Section 206(d) of the Recreational Trails Program legislation and to receive and obligate Federal Recreation Trails funding.

The trails plan divided the state into six planning regions, Florence is in the Northwest Region. The plan includes 3 distinct sub-plans to address multiple user groups and trail types--non-motorized, motorized, and water. As applicable to the Florence planning area, the state establishes non-motorized trail uses as (but are not limited to) hikers, backpackers, mountain bike riders, runners, walkers, bicycle riders, inline skaters and individuals with functional impairments. Regularly maintained non-motorized trails should be purposefully planned and constructed for non-motorized recreation purposes, but in some cases can be used for commuter purposes. Non-motorized trails do not include city streets and sidewalks and bike lanes incorporated into the design of city streets and rural highways. Due to the urban environment, near-by proximity of dunes riding areas and the nature and sensitive habitat of the Planning Area motorized trails are not recommended and therefore not reviewed. The key findings of the 2005-2014 Trails Plan as they apply to the Florence planning area are as follows:

NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL PLAN

Issue A: Need for Trail Connectivity--*Goal: Identify and encourage key trail linkages between and among local, regional and statewide trails to better use the state's existing non-motorized trail system.*

Issue B: Need for Trail Maintenance--*Goal: Preserve and maintain the public's substantial investment in the existing infrastructure of trails and related facilities.*

Concern 1: Need for More Trails in Close Proximity to Where People Live--
Goal: Promote daily physical activity by improving local access to trails.

Concern 2: Need for Additional Non-motorized Trails- *Goal: Support the development of new trails.*

Concern 3: Need to Consider Public Ways (Roads, Railroads, Utility Corridors) Proposed for Closure or Abandonment for Non-motorized Trail Use-- *Goal: Ensure trail use is evaluated when roads, railroads and utility corridors are considered for abandonment, change of use, or shared use.*

Concern 4: Need for Trail Accessibility Information-- *Goal: Better inform the public about accessible trail opportunities.*

Concern 5: Need for Regional Interagency Coordination/Cooperation in Trail Management--*Goal: Promote coordination and cooperation between public agencies, private organizations and nonmotorized trail users."*

WATER TRAIL PLAN

Issue A: Need to Address Conflicts Between Non-motorized Boaters and Waterfront Property Owners--*Goal: Promote a better understanding of issues and concerns related to recreational use of waterways between/among non-motorized boaters and waterfront property owners. Goal: Promote and encourage responsible water trail development and use.*

Issue B: Need for More Public Access to Waterways--*Goal: Facilitate the development of public access to waterways for nonmotorized boaters.*

Issue C: Need for Adequate and Consistent Information Resources Including: Signs, Maps, Level of Difficulty and Water Level Information and Available Paddling Opportunities-- *Goal: Provide user-friendly, easy-to-find information resources for non-motorized boaters to help them engage in appropriate water trail activities.*

Issue D: Need for Safety-Related Information, User Education and Outreach--
Goal: Encourage the safe and low-impact use of water trails.

Issue E: Need a Dedicated Funding Source for Water Trail Development--*Goal: Pursue a dedicated funding source for a State Water Trail Program.*

Issue F: Need for Information Describing the Social and Economic Benefits of Water Trails *Goal: Educate key stakeholders about the economic and community benefits of water trails.*

4.3 – COMMUNITY TRENDS

Growth Trends

The parks planning process involves identifying current community needs and predicting future trends. Since people use parks differently, understanding community demographic characteristics and trends can help to ensure that parks best fit the diverse needs of varied populations. Current and future population, economic and housing growth trends are all elements of understanding a city's demographics. Identifying growth trends allows a city to plan for park system elements that will best meet those current and future needs. Information used for this section comes from the 2000 Census which will be replaced with the 2010 census currently underway. Therefore the information is very dated. Where new information was available it was used in place of 2000 information.

Key growth trends from the Community Profile are summarized below:

POPULATION

Between 1990 and 2000, Florence's population increased by 40.4%, from 5,171 to 7,263 residents. Portland State University Population Research Center projected Florence's 2009 population was 9,580. They expect Florence's population to increase annually an average of 2.34% between 2000 and 2010. In June 2009 the Lane County Board of Commissioners in coordination with Lane County cities adopted coordinated population forecasts in 5 year increments from 2010 to 2035. By 2035, they project Florence's population to be 17,434. This master planning document proposes a planning cycle of 20 years, ending in 2030 with a population of 16,323.

Table 4.3: Population Projections & Estimates											
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2030
7340	7460	7600	7780	7830	8185	8270	8270	9410	9580	11,212	16323
Source: 2000-2008 = Portland State University Population Research Center 2010 & 2030 = Coordinated Population Forecasts for Lane County and its Urban Areas											

AGE

Florence has an average age of 55.8 compared to Lane County's 36.6. 45.3% of Florence residents are 60 years of age or older.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Florence is less diverse than Lane County with a 95.9% white population compared to the county's 90.6%. The largest minority groups in Florence are

Hispanic at 2.4% compared with Lane County's 4.6% and Asian at .7% compared to Lane County's 3.2.

Economic Trends

Florence's average household income in 2000 was \$30,505; which is lower than Lane County's average of \$36,942 and 25% lower than the state household income of \$40,916. City and County households below poverty are similar at 9 and 10%, yet exceed the state's 7.9% poverty level. Florence households with incomes of \$75,000 or more make up only 6.7% of the household population. The below graph published by Michael Meyers in 2006 on the Oregon Employment Department's Oregon Labor Market Information System compares Florence's average annual wage (rather than household) with the state, county, and coastal and valley cities. Florence annual wages are even lower than household comparisons at 30% lower than state wages, 20% lower than Lane County wages, and 12% lower than Coos Bay wages. This information emphasizes the need for providing low or no cost recreation for the Florence area residents.

Figure 4.1: State, Regional and Local Annual Wage Comparison

Source: Michael Meyers, 2006, OLMIS, OED

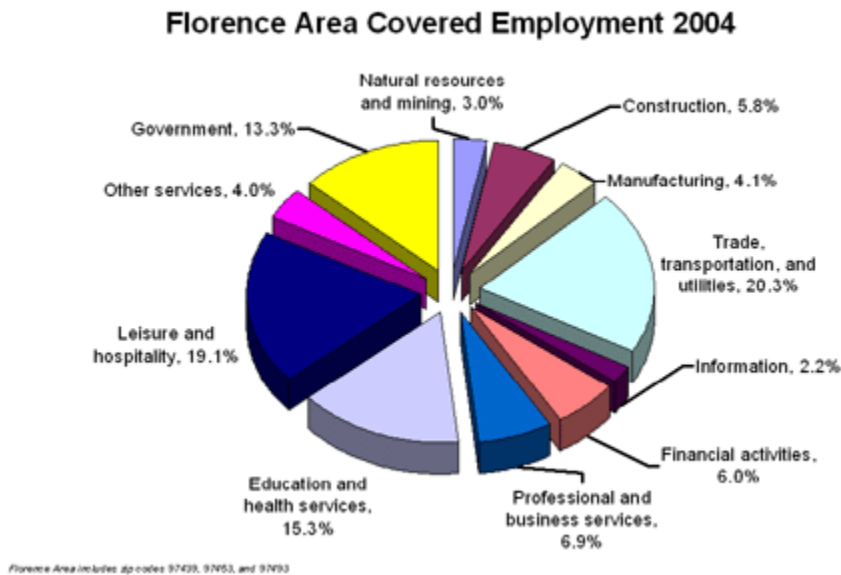


Florence's work force is largely made up of employment in the tourism and service sectors. Larger cities tend to have a more diverse economy that includes jobs in the industrial sector. Newport and Coos Bay shown in the above graph both retained their natural resource industries of fishing and timber which have nearly disappeared from Florence's employment sector. The industrial sectors tend to pay higher wages. The below graph published by Michael Meyers in 2006 on the Oregon Employment Department's Oregon Labor Market Information System illustrates the distribution of Florence's employment sector in

(of those sectors covered or tracked) in 2004. The opening of the Three Rivers Casino added to the government employment sector because tribes are included under “government.”

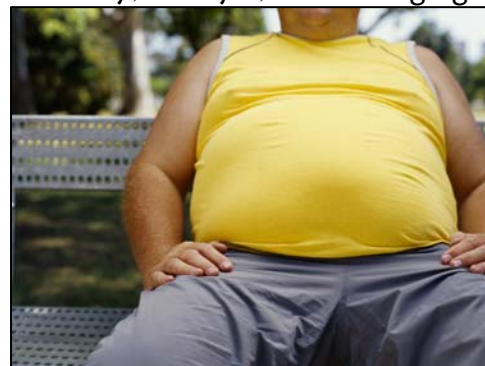
Figure 4.2: Florence Area Employment Distribution

Source: Michael Meyers, 2006, OLMIS, OED



Social Trends

There are many factors that make up the fabric of a community. Many of those items are influenced by national trends such as economy, lifestyle, and changing values. Three such trends were recognized as important in regards to recreation-- addressing obesity, volunteerism, and the movement towards a more sustainable lifestyle.



OBESITY & HEALTH

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) obesity (defined as Body Mass Index >30) continues to be a concern for men, women, and children of all ages. In 2006, a national study conducted by the CDC indicated that 33% of all men, and 35% of all women in the US were considered obese. Childhood obesity increased to 16% in 2006. Lower than the national averages 25% of Oregon’s adult population and 14.1% of children ages 10-17 are obese. Additionally, 77% of children ages 10-17 are receiving less than 20 minutes of exercise 3 days a week or more. (Source US Census Bureau, Current population survey 2005-2007)

Florence has comparable obesity statistics with the state indicating 22% of the adult population having a BMI categorized as obese. However, 18% are categorized as morbidly obese or extremely obese. This information is provided through Peace Health Analytical Service Team. This trend was identified by the state in their SCORP as well. The situation is dire and unfortunate for a city located in an area with so many natural recreation resource lands nearby. The state recommends marketing local recreation opportunities, building more close to home trails, and encouraging a healthy lifestyle as steps towards addressing the obesity issue.

VOLUNTEERISM

Florence is built on its volunteer spirit and efforts. This has been stated in multiple forums. This likely comes from its higher percentage of retirement aged persons. The Florence Events Center, Siuslaw Library and Peace Harbor Hospital were built in large part by cash donations. Both the library and events center have non-profit volunteer organizations that provide volunteer staff for day to day operations and events. The volunteerism spirit continues to many other efforts within the city such as Boys and Girls Club, Florence Food Share, Habitat for Humanity, Humane Society, Rotary, Kiwanis, Elks, Moose, Masonic, Veterans of Foreign Wars etc.... These organizations are mostly volunteer run and make large contributions of both time and money. Businesses also contribute by providing reduced cost or free services to community projects.

In the eighties and early nineties there was a magnificent volunteer effort in building Florence's park system. In one case the city had received a large award from the state for Miller Park improvements and the city turned it away because they had the money and donations they needed to construct the project. Those times were long ago and while volunteer efforts exist very well in a couple of the city parks it is just in those few and the remainder are sorely in need of in equipment and general face lifts. This community has proven over and over that volunteerism is a way of life for many here in this community. It is this spirit that needs to be tapped once again—like in the eighties and bring the parks up to standard safety conditions. The state's 2012 SCORP recommendations listed above mirror this opportunity. Strategies for utilizing a volunteer campaign are presented in the recommendations and set out in the community vision and goals.

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

Sustainability is a practice whereby a person or society applies principles promoting long term economic stability, environmental sustainability, and social equity. The needs of the present are met without compromising future generations from meeting their needs. A sustainable process is identified by

cyclic flows of materials, recycling and regenerating promoting long-term vitality of the natural resource environment. There is a current trend towards reducing renewable resource consumption and less reliance on non-renewable resources. The conventional linear process of moving materials from their sources through human consumption and ending at landscape and water pollution as a basis for its economy is not sustainable. It will eventually deplete natural resources and the lead to the destruction of the natural landscape.

Sustainable practices could include but are not limited to developing and implementing sustainable design and maintenance guidelines for parks and recreation/community facilities, a natural resource interpretive and signage program educating the public on natural resource protection, trail and bike access plan, and tree planting and community garden programs. Implementation of sustainable policies and practices could reduce the impact recreation activities have on the environment by reducing the amount of green house gases produced in our day to day lives through burning of fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department requires grant applications state those sustainable elements they are incorporating into their proposal. Those applications that successfully incorporate sustainable elements are more competitive for grant funding. Therefore the PRMPC reviewed available sustainability plans such as Sacramento's Park and Recreation Sustainability Plan. From that research the committee outlined several basic strategies applicable to Florence in the categories of "energy independence", "climate protection", "air quality", "material resources", "public health and nutrition", "urban design, land use and green building", "parks, open space, habitat and conservation", "water resources and flood protection", and "public involvement and personal responsibility" that could be implemented in the management and design of park and recreation services. They are as follows:

Energy Independence

- ◆ Promote sustainable city operations and energy efficiencies.
- ◆ Improve energy efficiencies in parks, facilities (community & senior centers) and daily administrative practices.
- ◆ Implement the collection and use of solar power (e.g. lighting, water, roofs) and other renewable energy sources at parks and facilities.
- ◆ Replace or renovate obsolete energy or resource-inefficient infrastructure.

Climate Protection

- ◆ Add additional trees to parks as an opportunity to offset the City's carbon footprint.

Air Quality

- ◆ Reduce carbon emissions from fleet vehicles and maintenance equipment via more efficient vehicles and equipment.
- ◆ Increase bike trail access to park facilities and throughout the City to provide transportation alternatives.

Material Resources

- ◆ Increase the reuse and recycling of materials (including “e-waste” e.g. computers and other electronic equipment) in all parks, facilities and operations.
- ◆ Maximize composting of green waste within the park system.
- ◆ Reduce consumption of material resources (e.g. reduced paper use and increased “green” purchasing).
- ◆ Minimize use of non-organics in landscape maintenance.

Public Health & Nutrition

- ◆ Increase supply of locally grown and organic foods via community gardens.
- ◆ Increase community gardens on parks and other City properties.
- ◆ Implement "edible landscape" demonstration gardens.
- ◆ Increase opportunities for public education on gardening and nutrition.

Urban Design, Land Use & Green Building

Incorporate LEED practices in new buildings.

- ◆ Improve sustainability guidelines for park design (improved water efficiency and recharge, renewable energy sources, recycled materials, native/low water use plants).

Parks, Open Space & Habitat Conservation

Develop management plans and staff expertise to manage and maintain undeveloped and natural areas in the parks system.

- ◆ Increase the ratio of parks and open space area to City population, particularly in underserved neighborhoods.
- ◆ Increase natural habitat protection and restoration efforts in the parks system.
- ◆ Establish a “Nature in the City” Program to increase “wildness” within the Parks system and expand human access to and intimacy with nature.

Water Resources & Flood Protection

- ◆ Reduce overall percentage of turf in the parks system.
- ◆ Reduce water use for irrigation.
- ◆ Increase the use of permeable pavements in parking lots.
- ◆ Develop a “demonstration landscape” project as a tool to educate the public on how to landscape using native and low-water use plants.

Public Involvement & Personal Responsibility

Expand nature and sustainability education/interpretation opportunities (via programs/classes, signage, volunteer opportunities, other media).

- ◆ Serve as a provider of educational information for all users of Parks facilities on "going greener" in all aspects of life, including the development and delivery of an organized public education/media campaign.
- ◆ Require all users of Parks facilities and community centers to comply with sustainable practices, including the recycling program.
- ◆ Develop incentives for public and staff participation in sustainable practices.

4.4 – Community Needs Analysis

Background

The City in 1985 proposed to add at least 35 additional parks to Florence’s park inventory over a 20 year planning period. The rationale used came from the 1982 Comprehensive Plan’s goals leaning toward land conservation and the National Park Association’s Standard rate of number of parks per 1,000 people. While the plan spoke to the importance of a city designed standard, the City used the national standard ratios provided by the National Park Association at that time.

The National Park Association in their 1993 update encouraged cities to create their own standards based on individual demographic composition and identified needs. The National Park Association provided guidelines for “population to park acreage” ratio—level of service. They also include suggested service areas for specific park types (the maximum area served by a park type).

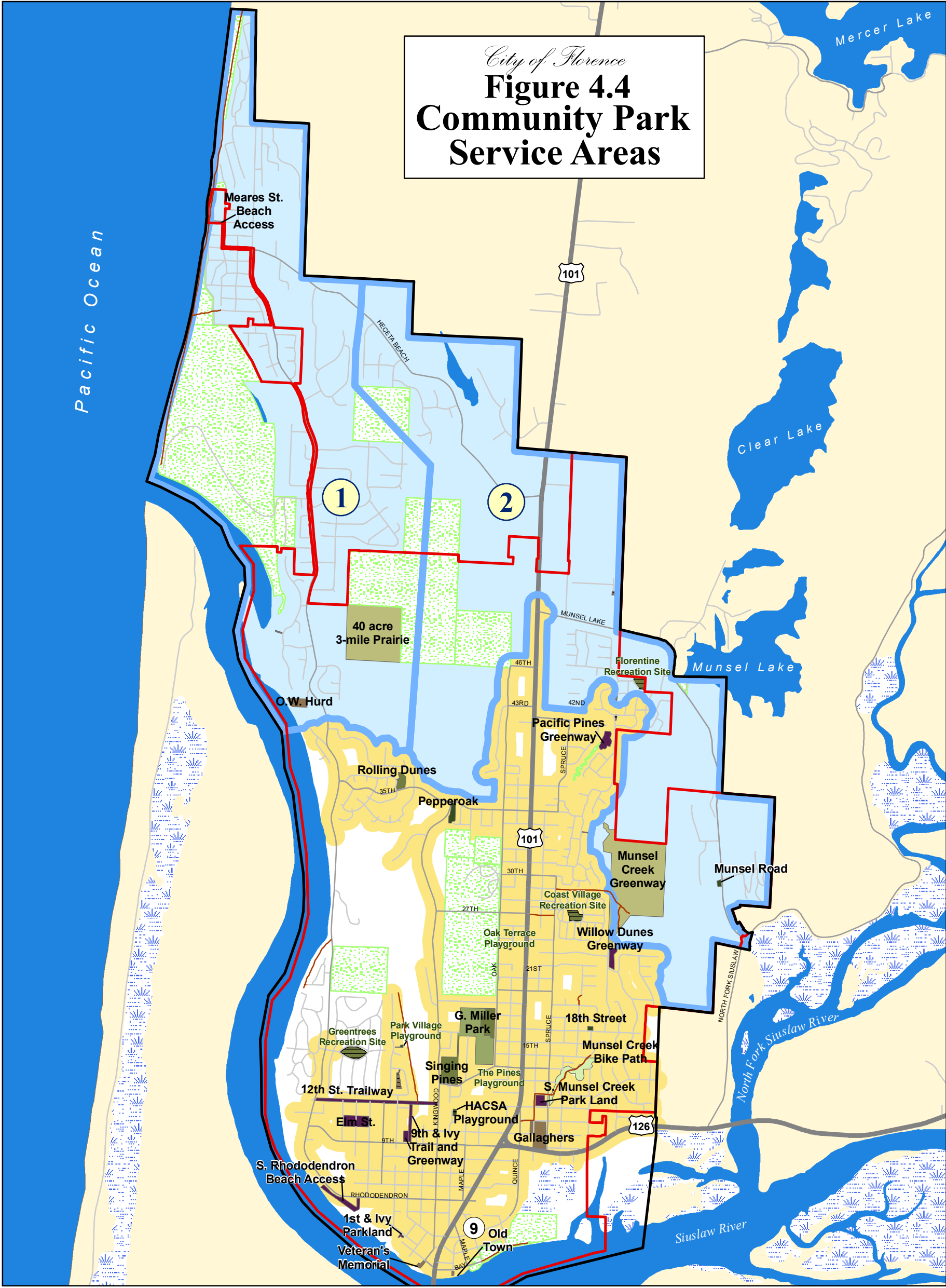
Considering the demographic discussed earlier in the chapter, the City probably does not fall into the typical ratio categories for some park needs such as playgrounds. Florence is atypical in its demographic make-up having a much higher than average resident age and fortunate in its geographical location being situated next to so many federal, state and county recreational resources. Those factors along with resident needs were considered before establishing City park standards and land acquisition goals.

Park Service Area

METHODOLOGY

To illustrate the level of service currently provided by the Florence park system, service area maps were created (Figures 4.4 & 4.5) that include each park and its service radius. The distance of these radii were determined by using national standards and community situations and needs.

City of Florence
Figure 4.4
Community Park Service Areas



Community Park Service Areas

- # Residential Areas Under-Served by Community Parks
- Existing Neighborhood Park Service Areas (2 Mile Radius)

Private Parks

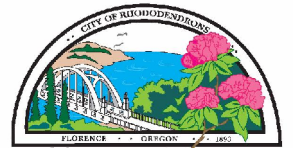
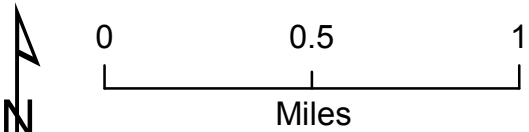
- Mini
- Neighborhood
- Special Use

City Parks

- Mini
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Connector Trail
- Open Space
- Special Use
- Undeveloped

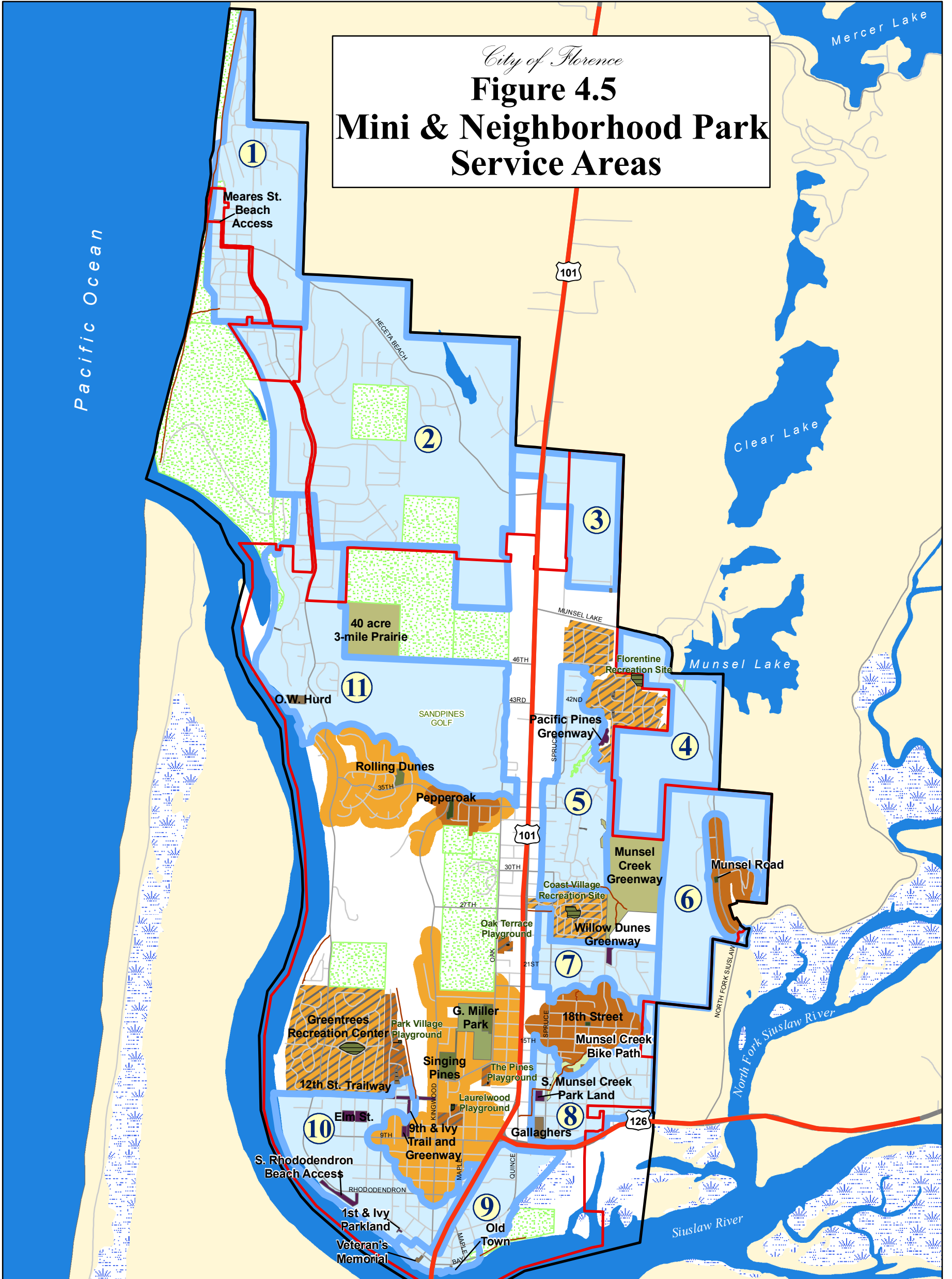
Other Features

- Existing Trails
- Public Land
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary



City of Florence
 Community Development Department
 250 Hwy 101 N.
 Florence, OR 97439
 (541) 997-8237
January 18, 2011
 Data Source: City of Florence, Lane Council of Governments, Oregon Department of Transportation, US Geological Survey
 Map #6 Series 2011-1

City of Florence
Figure 4.5
Mini & Neighborhood Park Service Areas



Mini & Neighborhood Park Service Areas		City Parks		Private Parks	
Residential Areas Under-Served by Mini & Neighborhood Parks		Mini		Mini	
City Mini Park Service Areas (1/4 m radius)	City Neighborhood Park Service Areas (1/2 m radius)	Neighborhood	Community	Neighborhood	Special Use
Private Mini Park Service Areas (1/4 m OR site area)	Private Neighborhood Park Service Areas (1/2 m OR site area)	Connector Trail	Open Space	Special Use	Other Features
		Undeveloped		Existing Trails	Public Land
				City Limits	Urban Growth Boundary

0 0.5 1
Miles

City of Florence
 Community Development Department
 250 Hwy 101 N.
 Florence, OR 97439
 (541) 997-8237
January 18, 2011
 Data Source: City of Florence, Lane Council of Governments, Oregon Department of Transportation, US Geological Survey
 Map #7 Series 2011-1

Radii for all parks were calculated in terms of access, meaning how people get to and from park and recreation facilities. These access areas use geographic information for roads and pathways to determine a use area for each park based upon the type of park and the type of transportation those residents would use to get to that park.

Mini & Neighborhood parks are intended to meet the day-to-day recreational needs of the surrounding neighborhood and thus residents get to Mini & Neighborhood parks primarily by walking and/or bicycling. The intent of having Mini and Neighborhood parks be within a close distance of residents was the basis of the use of the one-quarter-mile and one-half-mile radii. In an effort to present feasible walkability of mini and neighborhood parks, service areas for these parks also do not extend beyond busy streets or other crossings that would be dangerous for young pedestrians or bicyclists.

Community parks on the other hand, serve a broader community use and are thus more likely to be driven to. Because of that, the radius for Community Parks was set to two-miles to represent a more appropriate view of the use of Community Parks. This radii still follows the street network, but unlike Neighborhood and Mini parks, does not view busy streets or geographical constraints as barriers.

PRIVATE PARK LAND INCLUSION

The National Park Association criterion use only publicly owned park land as the basis for service area standards. However, Florence has determined that because of the large percentage of the population living in planned communities which offer private recreation amenities, these facilities were significant enough to warrant inclusion in the community needs analysis.

UNSERVED AREAS

Unserviced areas are also represented in Figures 4.4 & 4.5. Eleven areas were determined to not be served by Mini & Neighborhood parks and two areas were not served by a Community park. These unserved areas represent geographic areas whose park needs would be met by a centrally located park within that zone. This technique coupled with other factors like land availability and housing type can be used to determine the size and type of recreation needed for a particular area.

Level of Service

LOS METHODOLOGY

The Level of Service (LOS) analysis for the park system uses existing park acreage, current and projected population estimates for the city, and the community needs analysis. The LOS is expressed as the ratio of developed park

acres per 1,000 residents. This ratio provides guidance for determining the amount of parkland necessary for meeting current and future recreation needs.

An LOS standard is a measurable target for parkland development that provides the foundation for meeting future community parkland needs and leveraging funding. The LOS is used to project future land acquisition needs and appropriately reflect those needs through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), System Development Charges (SDCs), and land dedication policies. As it functions primarily as a target, adopting an LOS standard does not necessarily obligate a City to provide all necessary funding to implement the standard. It does provide the basis for leveraging funds through the CIP and SDC revenues.

The basic function of the LOS is to ensure quality of service delivery and equity. It is a needs driven, facility-based and land measurement formula - expressed as the ratio of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. For the purposes of LOS analysis, 14 of the 25 parks resources in Florence are considered to be “developed”. Several of those 14 parks are underdeveloped (Rolling Dunes, Munsel Creek Greenway). Elm Park, Pacific Pines, Willow Dunes, 3-Mile Prairie, 12th Street and Ivy Street Trails, 1st & Ivy Park, South Rhody Beach access, South Munsel Creek Parkland are all undeveloped. Only the developed facilities are used in determining the level of service provided by the city. The population used in the following tables is based on the Portland State University Population Research Center’s July 1, 2009 estimation of 9,580 residents within the City.

The “industry standard” for performing Level of Service Analyses is to incorporate only those resources for which the agency has responsibility or ownership. Other facilities that currently exist may not be there tomorrow or 5 years from now. The City of Florence has stepped outside the industry standard and incorporates some park and recreation facilities owned by residential home-owner associations and multi-family developments into the LOS analysis. Only those facilities that meet one of the park definitions with service areas are included in the LOS analysis, hence trails, special use, and open space are not used for the analysis but are included in Chapter 3’s land and facility inventories.

Table 4.4 illustrates the City’s current level of service for providing city-owned parkland within each park classification. The total acreage for these developed parks is 51.43 acres. The total LOS including all park classifications is 5.37 acres of parkland and .09 linear feet of trail per 1,000 residents. Eliminating the Open Space classification from the parkland calculation, the LOS is 3.47 acres per 1,000 city residents. Open space is not typically included by cities when illustrating its level of service.

Table 4.4: Florence Current Level of Service City-Owned Facilities		
Park Classification	Total City-Owned Developed Acreage	Current Ratio (acres/1,000) 2010=9,580 pop.
Mini Parks	.95 acres	.10
Neighborhood	7.61 acres	.79
Community	19.72 acres	2.06
Special Use	5.15 acres	.54
Linear/Connector Trails	.82 miles	.09 miles
Open Space	18 acres	1.9
Total	51.43 acres / .82 miles	5.37 acres / .09 miles

Table 4.5 indicates the LOS' for both Privately-Owned facilities and city-owned facilities within each of the mini-park and neighborhood park classifications. Mini-park and neighborhood parks are intended to serve ¼ to ½ mile radius respectively with consideration for geographic barriers. The formula used in the fifth column reduces the city population by the number of residents served by their own park facilities within their residential development (shown in Table 3.3). The total acreage for these developed parks is 15.78 acres. These numbers are used for comparison within their respective park categories and to provide a different perspective on local park level of service figures.

Table 4.5: Florence Current Level of Service of Comparable Park Types by Ownership				
	Privately Owned		City Owned	
Park Classification	Total Developed Acreage (DA) from Table 3.3	Current Ratio (acres/1,000) DA ÷(Table 3.3 pop. ÷ 1000)	Total Developed Acreage (DA) from Table 4.4	Current Ratio (acres p/1,000) DA ÷((9,580 pop.-Table 3.3 AP) ÷ 1000)
Mini Parks	1.07 acres	2.53	.95 acres	.10
Neighborhood	6.15 acres	1.78	7.61 acres	1.23
Total	7.22		8.56	

Table 4.6 indicates the acreage for both privately-owned facilities and city-owned facilities within each of the mini, neighborhood and community park classifications. The combined Current Ratio (column 4) is an effective current LOS which recognizes that any “excess” private resources are not available to the

general population. Since the objective is to provide an appropriate target LOS available to all residents, the LOS credited for residents served by private parks can be less than but cannot exceed that target LOS. The combined Current Ratio is calculated to reflect this restriction.

Table 4.6: Florence Current Level of Service Combined			
Park Classification	Total Private Owned Developed Acreage (DA1) from Table 3.3	Total City Owned Developed Acreage (DA2) from Table 3.2	Current Ratio (acres per 1,000) Sum of DA1 or Target LOS/9.58 & DA2/9.58
Mini Parks	1.07 acres	.95 acres	.11
Neighborhood	6.15 acres	7.61 acres	1.43
Community	0	19.72 acres	2.06
Total	7.22 acres	28.28 acres	3.60

Table 4.7 indicates a quantitative analysis of the City of Florence’s LOS with comparison tools such as a Willamalane study that included 45 cities within the state of Oregon. Again it uses the acreage for developed sites only. For the mini and neighborhood park categories both private (from Table 3.3) and public recreation resources are used to calculate the level of service. The remaining categories are community facilities rather than neighborhood facilities and recreation facilities in those categories would need to be available to the public to be included. There are presently no private facilities in the community, special use or open space categories that are open to the public. The service area maps of Figures 4.4 & 4.5 illustrate the residential areas served (and not served) by local neighborhood, mini and community parkland. The Net Need values are for additional developed public parkland and are calculated by multiplying the city population by the proposed target LOS minus the currently existing LOS. For the projected 2030 net need, the projected population times the target LOS is reduced by the current population times the existing LOS. The recreation amenities and development level of the additional parklands should be evaluated based on the resident population and needs.

Park Type	Comparison Tools (acres p/1000 pop)			Florence Data			Net Need	
	City Comparison (acres p/1000 pop)	Oregon Average Standards	Historic NRPA	# Existing Facilities	Existing LOS & of percentage population service	Proposed (acres p/1000 pop)	Current population (9,580--2010)	Projected Population (16,323 --2030)
Mini-Park	.05	-	.5	7	.11	.25	1.34 acres	3.03
Neighborhood	1.61	2.06	2	5	1.43	1.76	3.20 acres	15.06
Special	.65	3.19	-	4	.58	.75	2.04 acres	7.09
Community	3.32	2.66	8	1	2.06 (85%)	2.5	4.23 acres	21.09
Subtotal	5.63	7.91	10.5		4.29	5.26	10.37 acres	46.27
Connector Trails (miles)	.4m	.18m	.75m	2	.09m	.4m	3.01 miles	5.68
Open Space	4.72	14.42	-	1	1.9	6.44	43.73 acres	87.12
Total	15.98	23	10.5		6.28	12.1	57.55a cres	139.07

Except where indicated by an “m” or “#” amounts are expressed in acres.

A facility inventory was also conducted of all the private and public active and passive recreation facilities available in the city limits. The results of this inventory when combined with the survey results reveals some deficiencies and in some cases simply a lack of service. Some facilities are typically provided to larger population bases but should be considered when funding is available. Immediate needs are trails, park benches and tables, soccer and multi-use fields, another group picnic shelter, and river and open space access. Future needs, up to 2030, include more baseball and softball fields, playground structures, and a community center and swimming pool.

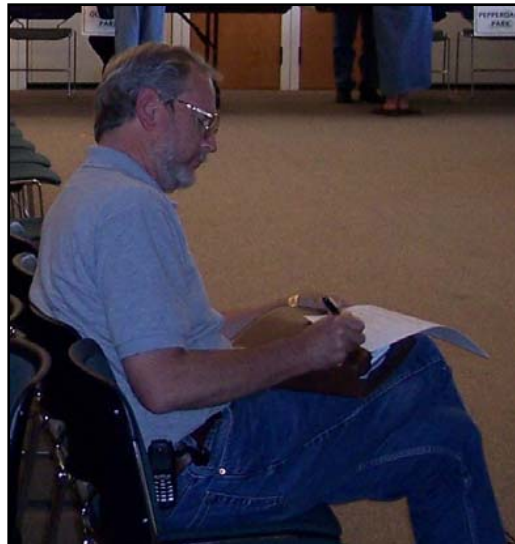
Surveys

Six different survey instruments were used for this analysis and are as follows: 2009 Florence Park and Recreation Survey, 2004 General Park Use Survey, 2005 Community Center Program Survey, 2005 Senior Center Program Survey, 1997 Youth Needs Analysis, and the 1993 Community Needs Analysis.

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) created two surveys--the 2004 General Park Use Survey and the 2005 Community Center Survey. The General Park Use Survey was distributed to participants of each of four workshops (not youth), interviewees, and the local walking club. The General Park Use Survey asked questions about recreation habits and condition and safety of existing parks. The Community Center Survey, distributed during a community service organization presentation, asked questions about programmatic needs for a new community center.

The Parks Recreation Master Planning Committee (PRMPC) created the 2009 Florence Park and Recreation Survey. The 13 question survey was available electronically via Survey Monkey and in paper format at various locations around the city such as the library, schools, and churches. The survey asked respondents' their demographics, new park & recreation needs, existing park needs, recreation activities in which they participate, and which Florence park they lived nearest. Over 570 adult and youth surveys were returned.

The three remaining surveys were conducted previous or concurrent to the 2006 Needs Analysis. The Booster Club, in preparation for grant solicitation, revised the Community Center Survey and distributed it to its senior center user group. Also, the City on two occasions solicited the community for input via the Demographic Analysis and Community Planning Needs Assessment, 1992, and The City of Florence Youth Needs Study, 1997. These last two surveys while older were completed after the last Park Master Plan or its updates.



More detail of the five, pre-2007 survey instruments can be found in the 2006 Needs Analysis. Key Findings from these five surveys are as follows:

GENERAL PARK USE SURVEY, 2004, 131 RESPONDENTS

- ◆ Miller, Old Town, Gallagher and the Munsel Creek Bike Path are the most used parks, in that order.
- ◆ 18th St. & Pepperoaks Parks received equal status as the least used parks.
- ◆ Munsel Creek Bike Path received the most votes as the least safe park.
- ◆ Walking, relaxing, exercise, and dog walking were the most popular park activities, in that order.
- ◆ 54% felt the parks had stayed the same in the last 12 months, rather than declining or improving.
- ◆ 55% supported a public pool while 27% were undecided.

COMMUNITY CENTER SURVEY, 2006, 38 RESPONDENTS

- ◆ Summer concert series program and BBQ area were the top two outdoor recreation selections.
- ◆ Indoor therapy pool was the top indoor health-related selection, followed immediately by an indoor walking track, blood pressure checks and exercise classes.
- ◆ Digital photography classes, woodworking facilities, and art classes were the three top indoor passive recreation selections.
- ◆ Travel Club and Billiards were the top two indoor social recreation selections. Board & card games, dances and potlucks all tied for third place.
- ◆ Science lectures and a swimming pool were write-in requests.
- ◆ 18 of 31 respondents stated an organization they belonged to would use the facility for meetings.

FLORENCE COMMUNITY SURVEY, 1992, # RESPONDENTS UNKNOWN

- ◆ Walking/bicycling paths (25%), picnic tables (24.3%), and fishing facilities (20.3%) were most frequently used by respondents.
- ◆ Most preferred new park and recreation facility was a swimming pool. Over 69% support its development and 21% had no opinion.
- ◆ Bicycle/walking paths were the only existing park and recreation facility a majority want expanded (62.3%).
- ◆ Lack of interesting activities, not enough time, and weather were cited by survey respondents as the top three reasons for not using city parks.

The consultants who administered the Florence Community Survey included eight Park and Recreation recommendations in their report. The recommendations focused on establishment of park standards, trail connectivity, funding sources, private development of recreation resources, and recreation facility development. The recommendations are summarized as follows:

1. Adopt new park standards.

2. Inventory and inclusion of private recreation facilities into the overall recreation system.
3. Facility based standards for ball field, shelter, improvements.
4. Develop additional paths linking functional areas of the city.
5. Consider a System Development Charge as a funding source.
6. Establish a year-round indoor and outdoor recreation program.
7. Proceed with a feasibility study of a swimming pool or combined swimming pool/community center.
8. Gather more information with respect to citizen opinion of an all-event center.

FLORENCE YOUTH SURVEY, 1997, 191 RESPONDENTS

- ◆ Playing or listening to music was the activity done most often (88.6%) in all categories of respondents.
- ◆ Hanging out with friends and doing outdoor activities (fishing, hunting, hiking, biking) were the 2nd (75%) and 3rd (63.7%) activities done most often by all categories.
- ◆ Watching TV was the 4th top activity in all categories (54.9%) except LCC/GED who listed it 6th (33.3%), with jobs and hobbies taking 4th (55.6%), and 5th (38.9%), respectively.
- ◆ A shopping mall (36.8%), a teen center (12.6%), and a swimming pool (12.1%) were the top three choices “that would make Florence a better place... (for teens).”
- ◆ A place to hang out and talk with friends, more dances, and more sports facilities (hoops & exercise equipment) were the top three services or activities most wanted.
- ◆ Lack of money and transportation were the top two recreation barriers.
- ◆ 78% of participants stated they would use a teen center if available.



SENIOR BOOSTER CLUB SURVEY, 2006, 185 RESPONDENTS

Summary results in response to, “What are your indoor and outdoor recreation needs.”

1. Card/board games—53%
2. Exercise Classes—51%
3. Cooking Nutrition & Crafts—43%
4. Therapy Pool—42%
5. Travel Club—39%
6. Medical clinics (hearing & blood pressure tests) & Bingo—38%
7. Art Classes/Work Area—36%
8. Dances & Shuffleboard—30%
9. Billiards and Horseshoes—23%
10. Potlucks & Croquet—22%
11. Computer Area—19%
12. Bocce Ball—17%

2009 FLORENCE PARK AND RECREATION SURVEY

The 2009 Florence Park and Recreation Survey was distributed over a one month period. The survey while made available to all sectors of the community took extra steps to ensure the younger population was included. The previous surveys had mainly reached those over the age of 50. The only youth input up until 2009 was from the 1997 Youth Needs survey and the 2006 Boys and Girls Club workshop. The survey’s distribution via Survey Monkey was used to try and reach that younger sector. The survey, in addition to being available on Survey Monkey and via paper distribution, was distributed to students in the three Siuslaw 97J schools.

Of the 578 completed surveys, 257 were from adults and 321 were from youth (132 elementary, 146 middle school, and 43 high school). Of the adult surveys returned 29% of the respondents were aged 18-44, 48% were aged 45-65, and 20% were over the age of 65. This survey accomplished its goal of reaching those under the age of 50. This information accompanying other findings provides a more balanced review of the communities recreation needs. The key findings from the 2009 survey are as follows:

- ◆ The top three recreation needs selected by adults in preference order are trails/walking/biking paths, off-leash dog play area, and open space (picnic areas, birding).
- ◆ All youth categories selected swimming pool as the top recreation need.
- ◆ The top three recreation needs selected by elementary aged youth in preference order are swimming pool, splash park and off-leash dog play area.

- ◆ The top three recreation needs selected by middle and high school aged youth in preference order are swimming pool, trails and sports facilities (soccer fields, disc golf, etc...).
- ◆ Miller Park, Old Town, and Munsel Creek Bike Path were identified to be the most used city parks by adults.
- ◆ Miller Park and Old Town were the two parks used most in all youth categories at 58% and 14% respectively.
- ◆ 32 (10%) of the 321 youth respondents indicated they used one of the 3 mini-parks the most.
- ◆ Only 8.7% of youth and 10.6% of adults indicated they did not use city parks.
- ◆ 29.5% of youth and 20.2% of adults indicated they lived outside of Florence.
- ◆ Walking/Jogging was on average the most pursued activity in the city parks at 36%, Dog Walking was 25.6%, and children's play area and relaxing were both 25.4%.
- ◆ 58% of total respondents most enjoy nature walks in open space areas followed by picnicking (31.8%), photography (21%) and bird or animal identification (19.2%)
- ◆ Restrooms 32%, Landscaping & barbeques/fire pits 18%, picnic tables 16%, Playground equipment 14.5% are the improvements most wanted in the park closest to respondents' residences.
- ◆ 10% stated that no improvements were needed to the park closest to their residence.
- ◆ Covered or enclosed children's play area were common written responses for fill in the blank comments under multiple questions.
- ◆ 240 respondents stated they would volunteer in their neighborhood park.
- ◆ 229 total respondents indicated they visited the city park they use the most once a week or more often.
- ◆ 12% of youth visit the park they use the most once a year.

Figure 4.3 Top 8 Recreation Needs Identified by Adult Respondents

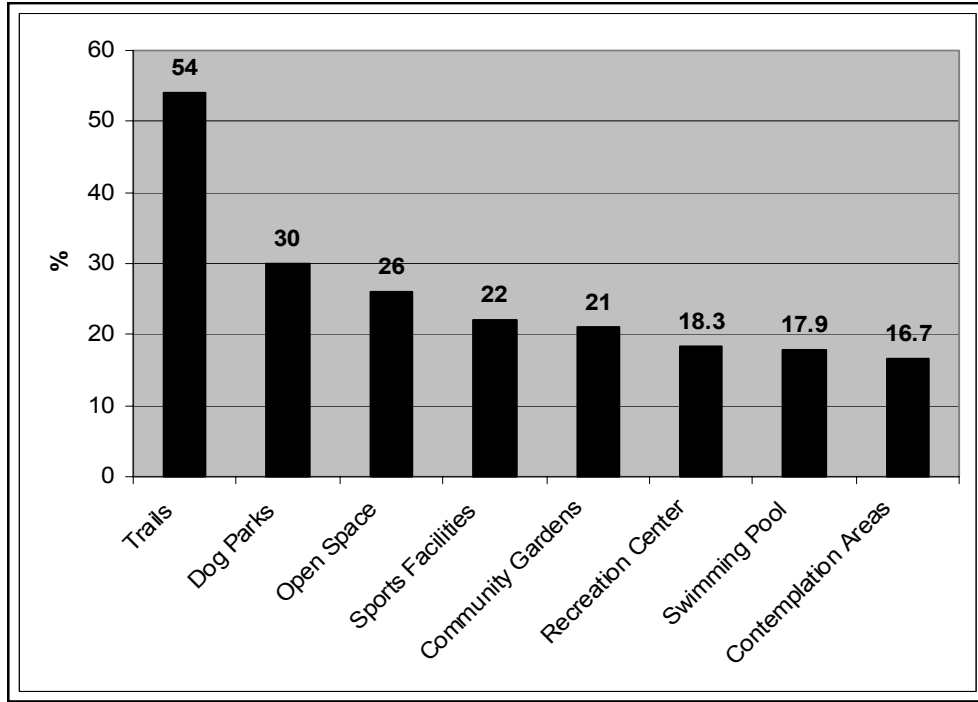
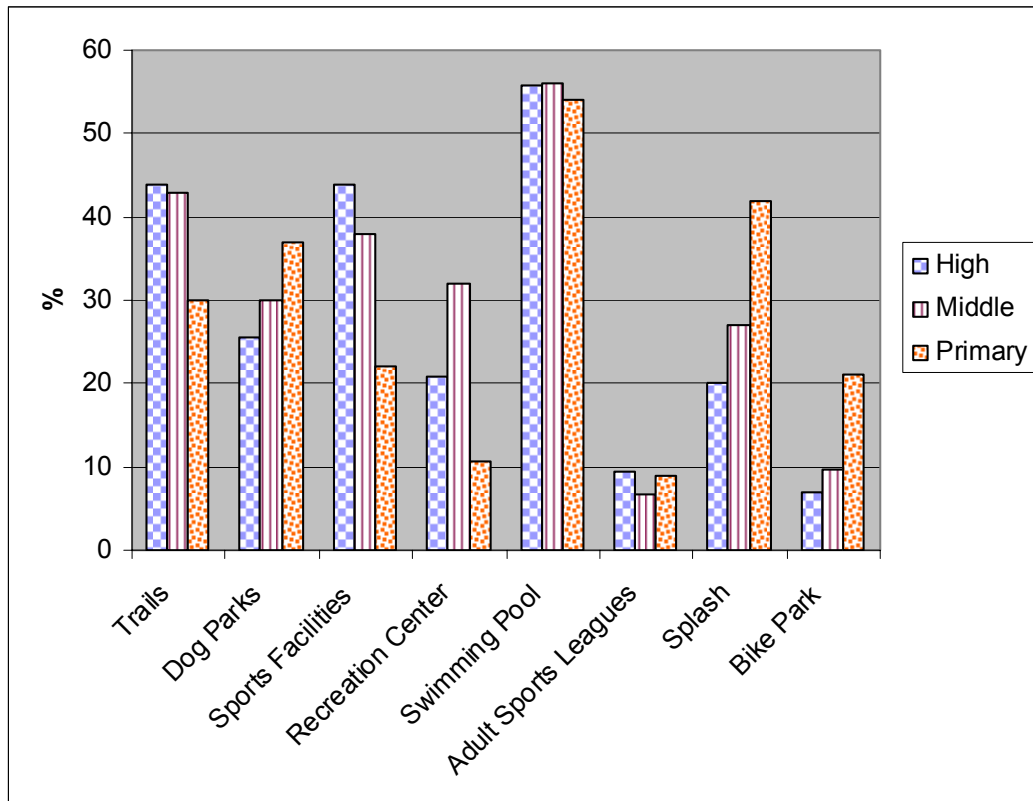


Figure 4.4: Top 8 Recreation Needs Identified by Youth Respondents



Public Workshops

Two public workshops, one afternoon and one evening, were held in September 2004 at the Siuslaw Fire and Rescue District Station, 2625 Highway 101. The two meeting times were provided to create the greatest opportunity for citizen attendance. The purpose of the workshops was to gain community perspectives on existing park facilities and learn what recreational amenities they thought were needed.

The workshop was a drop-in open house type of atmosphere where attendees could participate in any or all of three concurrent activities—complete a written survey, offer written comment at any of 11 tables with pictures of Florence’s parks, and participate at a facilitated roundtable discussion about recreation needs.

Over 90 area citizens attended the two work sessions. Summary results from the round table sessions and individual park tables follow.

PARK TABLES

Each of 11 tables was covered with butcher paper and included pictures of one of the parks and some or all of its amenities. People were invited to write comments on the butcher paper about what they liked, disliked, and recommended as improvements for that particular park. In some instances several similar, if not identical, comments were received about the same issue and for summary purposes are combined. Below, the number of comments in each category is listed first. Then the comments received during both the afternoon and evening meetings are merged and listed as follows:

18th St. Pocket Park

- ◆ Dislike—looks boring, know nothing about it.
- ◆ Improvements—glad to have it, clean and fix it up.

Gallagher’s

- ◆ Like—like the garden aspect, take their visitors to it to show off Florence, and wish to see the park expanded to the north.
- ◆ Dislike—Wishing the park allowed dogs on-leash.

George Miller Park

- ◆ Like—open expansiveness, walking paths, skatepark, covered picnic area.
- ◆ Dislike—skatepark too close to the parking lot.



- ◆ Improvements—allow dogs, BMX bikes out, add trees, lighting, paved paths, restrooms, benches around paths, flag, and horseshoe pit, improve grass areas.

Hurd Memorial Park

- ◆ Dislike—They did not know where it was and it needed signage.

Munsel Creek Bike Path

- ◆ Like---Central location, trees, plants, foliage, wind protection.
- ◆ Dislike---creek odor, transients, feeling unsafe.
- ◆ Improvements---waste receptacles, benches, cure vandalism, more parks like this one.

Munsel Greenway Park

- ◆ Like—trails, need more of them.
- ◆ Improvements—more signage, demarcate path and parking area, allow dogs, looks unsecure.

Munsel Road Park

- ◆ Like—best it has ever looked.
- ◆ Improvements—bathrooms, more parks like this one, consider unused right-of-ways.



Old Town Park

- ◆ Like—Bands, nice spot for tourists, relaxing & peaceful, natural native green area, crab dock, weddings.
- ◆ Dislike—Need restrooms or signage saying where restrooms are, need more plantings on Bay St.

PepperOaks

- ◆ Like—sandboarding, basketball court, swings, tetherball, trails.
- ◆ Dislike—stickery grass, chipped paint, profanity, unslippery slide, water in fountain tastes bad, no lighting.
- ◆ Improvements—provide restrooms, light, lawn, trash bin, new play equipment, do something about the bears, paint equipment.

Rolling Dunes

- ◆ Like—well maintained, well used.

- ◆ Improvements—plant flowers, maintenance of rhodies, unplug electricity above the bar-b-que.

Singing Pines

- ◆ Like—beautiful & quiet park.
- ◆ Improvements—teens smoke and loiter, hard to get into parking lot, trail is beautiful, park and trails need maintenance, use it for a BMX track, do not use it for a pool.

Veteran’s Park

- ◆ Like—parking, lighting, safety, ground maintenance, no charge.
- ◆ Dislike—poor signage, incomplete.
- ◆ Improvements—needs restrooms, trash bin, picnic tables, fountain.

ROUND TABLE

One table was setup at each of the two public workshop sessions with a facilitator and a flip chart. Participants were asked what their recreation needs were and recommendations for meeting them. All recreation requests and suggestions were recorded. The top five recreation amenities and the number of occurrences as selections are as follows:

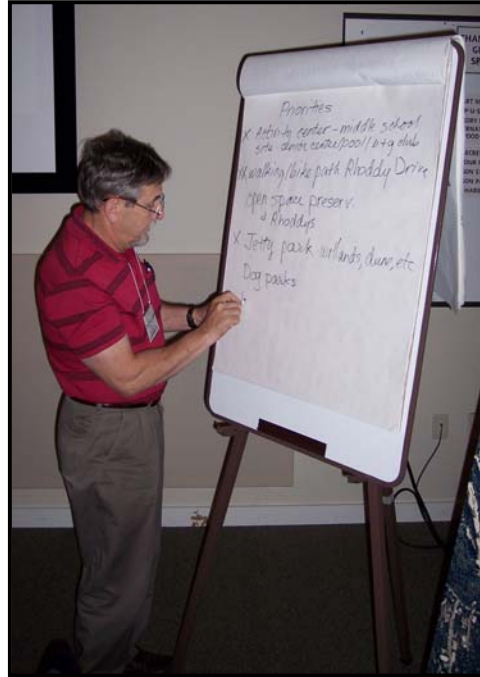


1. Open Space preservation & enhancement (benches, picnic tables, trails)
2. Dog park development
3. Trail development-6
4. Community/Activity/Senior Center
5. Pool

GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP

The government agency workshop was held November 2004. Seventeen invitations were sent to area agencies and 12 representatives attended from special districts, state, county and local government agencies. Again, participants were invited to complete a general community survey and then participate in a roundtable session to discuss and prioritize Florence’s recreation needs. The group identified and prioritized the following top four recreation needs:

1. Connectivity (trails, lanes, paths)
2. Pool (therapy, lap, general use, education)
3. Dog Parks
4. Ecology (educational parks, trails)



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION WORKSHOP

The community organization leadership workshop was held in December 2004. Twenty-five invitations were sent to area organizations that serve community residents and property (Humane Society, Rhododendron Society). A total of 12 organization representatives attended. Again, participants were invited to complete a general community survey and then participate in a roundtable session to discuss and prioritize Florence’s recreation needs.

The group was asked what Florence needs recreationally. The following is a prioritization of their responses:

1. BMX track provision
2. New and more restrooms (Old Town and Miller Park)
3. Recreational development of BLM land (behind Fred Meyer)
4. Pool
5. Dog Park

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

In July 2005 the children attending the Boys & Girls Club summer program at the Siuslaw Elementary School, were invited to participate in one of three grade level workgroups, 1st-3rd, 4th-5th & 6th-7th. The workshops were attended by 22 Boys and Girls Club members. The groups were separated and in succession asked “What do the City Parks Need?” Each child was given an opportunity to speak and all responses were listed. Each group then voted for their top choices out their group’s responses. The summary results are as follows:

1-3rd Grade

1. Wall Ball
2. Separate Age Groups
3. Kickball Fields
4. Twister Slide

4-5th Grade

1. Waterpark/Swimming Pool
2. Tire Swing
3. Rock Climbing Wall
4. Outdoor Reflecting Pool
5. Trampoline

6-8th Grade

1. Swimming Pool/Waterpark
2. Skatepark (another one for younger kids)
3. Bike Park and Football/Soccer Fields (tie)



Business Interviews

Five interviews were conducted with Florence businesses who volunteered to participate after solicitation by the Committee. These interviews were assimilated into a program titled “Walking with Wayne.” The host of the program, Wayne Sharp, visited businesses on site and in addition to asking them questions regarding their business and recreation interests, he also asked them “What does Florence need recreationally?”

As the respondents answered questions, they occasionally mentioned what they liked or disliked about recreation in Florence as well and these are included below. Due to the nature of the interviews, there is no prioritization of the responses. Trails and swimming pool were the two needs mentioned by more than one business.

NEEDS

- ◆ More connectivity—trails, bike lanes, paths, sidewalks
- ◆ Swimming pool
- ◆ Dog Friendly area
- ◆ Promote volunteer support
- ◆ Bicycle Law Awareness
- ◆ Bike Park
- ◆ Tot Lot
- ◆ Wind Shelters
- ◆ Recreation Signage on Highway 101 for the Dunes National Park
- ◆ Bike parking at Businesses

- ◆ Park maintenance

DISLIKES

- ◆ Inattention by motorists of bicyclists
- ◆ Removal of some bike lanes
- ◆ Vehicular parking in the bike lane
- ◆ Bicyclists riding against traffic and on sidewalks
- ◆ Trails are dark
- ◆ Inability to teach swimming and basic water safety

LIKES

- ◆ Munsel Creek Bike Path, short but sweet
- ◆ Physically active retirees
- ◆ Siuslaw River Basin Aquatic Trail Proposal
- ◆ North Jetty hosts state's only dive park
- ◆ Increase in sand boarding popularity
- ◆ Paved trail in Miller Park, promotes senior community's ability to walk

RECREATION GROUP INTERVIEWS

Local organized sports and recreation providers were interviewed to learn how they use sport fields and other facilities in the area, and to learn their preferences and need for improved or additional facilities. These interviews included the Boys and Girls Club, local adult softball league, youth baseball program, and the amateur radio flyers group. Their responses are summarized as follows:

NEEDS

- ◆ More softball and baseball fields or better coordination of their use
- ◆ Improvements that would allow field usage by adult softball leagues
- ◆ Softball complex
- ◆ New concession stand in Miller Park
- ◆ More and new restrooms in Miller Park
- ◆ Relocate existing dugouts & need new dugouts
- ◆ More storage space
- ◆ Partnership with Siuslaw 97J School District for field use
- ◆ Classroom space
- ◆ Gymnasium
- ◆ Adult instructors for youth passive recreation classes (photography, video production, fencing).
- ◆ Currently using School District's 27th St. property and Miller Park; need 20 acres of property for locating amateur radio flyers runway
- ◆ Ability to host a youth amateur radio flyer club

CHAPTER 5 – POLICY ANALYSIS

This policy analysis examines existing State law, compares it to proposed City policies and either finds them consistent or identifies gaps and conflicts.

5.1 – PARKS AND RECREATION

State policy related to parks and recreation is found in the following sources, included in the Appendix:

1. Statewide Planning Goal 8, Recreational Needs [OAR 660-015-0000(8)]
2. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Relevant portions of these sources are set out below in bold, with a finding of consistency or any identified gaps or conflicts discussed under each section in regular font.

Statewide Planning Goal 8: Recreational Needs **[OAR 660-015-0000(8)]**

“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.”

“RECREATION PLANNING

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 recreational needs and plans.”

The Florence Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Parks Plan), with the recommended amendments to the Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan), Florence City Code (Code), and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), is consistent with this section of Goal 8 for the following reasons:

- 1 The provisions in Goal 8 pertaining to destination resorts do apply because no destination resorts exist or are planned to be located within the Florence urban growth boundary (UGB).
- 2 The Parks Plan was developed by the City of Florence, the governmental agency having responsibility for recreation areas, facilities and opportunities within City limits; and the Plan will be coordinated with, and co-adopted by, Lane County, the governmental agency having responsibility for recreation areas, facilities and opportunities outside City limits within the UGB.
- 3 The Parks Plan was developed in coordination with private enterprise: a Parks Committee, which included local business owners as well as private citizens who were involved in developing the Plan over a period of several years.
- 4 The parks and recreational facilities proposed in the Plan are in proportional to the need for such facilities, as determined in the detailed Community Needs Analysis in the Plan.

- 5 Parks and recreational facilities are planned for the quantity, quality and locations that are consistent with the availability of the City's and County's resources to meet such requirements, as outlined in Chapter VI of this Plan and discussed below in the section, Funding and Financing.
- 6 The Parks Plan followed the methods and guidelines in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to identify local and regional recreational needs.

DEFINITIONS

“Open Space -- means any land that is retained in a substantially natural condition or is improved for recreational uses such as golf courses, hiking or nature trails or equestrian or bicycle paths or is specifically required to be protected by a conservation easement. Open spaces may include ponds, lands protected as important natural features, land preserved for farm or forest use and lands used as buffers. Open space does not include residential lots or yards, streets or parking areas.”

“Overnight Lodgings -- are permanent, separately rentable accommodations that are not available for residential use. Overnight lodgings include hotel or motel rooms, cabins, and time-share units. Tent sites, recreational vehicle parks, manufactured dwellings, dormitory rooms, and similar accommodations do not qualify as overnight lodgings for the purpose of this definition. Individually owned units may be considered overnight lodgings if:

- (1) With respect to lands not in Eastern Oregon, as defined in ORS 321.805, they are available for overnight rental use by the general public for at least 45 weeks per calendar year through a central reservation and check-in service, or
- (2) With respect to lands in Eastern Oregon, as defined in ORS 321.805, they are available for overnight rental use by the general public for at least 38 weeks per calendar year through a central reservation system operated by the destination resort or by a real estate property manager, as defined in ORS 696.010.”

“Recreation Areas, Facilities and Opportunities -- provide for human development and enrichment, and include but are not limited to: open space and scenic landscapes; recreational lands; history, archaeology and natural science resources; scenic roads and travelers; sports and cultural events; camping, picnicking and recreational lodging; tourist facilities and accommodations; trails; waterway use facilities; hunting; angling; winter sports; mineral resources; active and passive games and activities.”

“Recreation Needs -- refers to existing and future demand by citizens and visitors for recreation areas, facilities and opportunities.”

“Visitor-Oriented Accommodations -- are overnight lodging, restaurants, meeting facilities which are designed to and provide for the needs of visitors rather than year-round residents.”

The Parks Plan, with the recommended amendments to the Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan), is consistent with this section of Goal 8 because the portions of these definitions that are applicable within the Florence UGB will be incorporated into the Definitions in Chapter I of the Comprehensive Plan through the recommended amendments in this Plan.

Guidelines for Goal 8

Goal 8 contains recommendations for the conduct of the inventories and planning process and for implementation of the Plan. This Parks Plan is consistent with these Guidelines, although the Guidelines are recommended approaches rather than State requirements.

“A. PLANNING

1. An inventory of recreation needs in the planning area should be made based upon adequate research and analysis of public wants and desires.
2. An inventory of recreation opportunities should be made based upon adequate research and analysis of the resources in the planning area that are available to meet recreation needs.
3. Recreation land use to meet recreational needs and development standards, roles and responsibilities should be developed by all agencies in coordination with each other and with the private interests. Long range plans and action programs to meet recreational needs should be developed by each agency responsible for developing comprehensive plans.
4. The planning for lands and resources capable of accommodating multiple uses should include provision for appropriate recreation opportunities.
5. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan could be used as a guide when planning, acquiring and developing recreation resources, areas and facilities.
6. When developing recreation plans, energy consequences should be considered, and to the greatest extent possible non-motorized types of recreational activities should be preferred over motorized activities.
7. Planning and provision for recreation facilities and opportunities should give priority to areas, facilities and uses that
 - (a) Meet recreational needs requirements for high density population centers,
 - (b) Meet recreational needs of persons of limited mobility and finances,
 - (c) Meet recreational needs requirements while providing the maximum conservation of energy both in the transportation of persons to the facility or area and in the recreational use itself,
 - (d) Minimize environmental deterioration,
 - (e) Are available to the public at nominal cost, and
 - (f) Meet needs of visitors to the state.
8. Unique areas or resources capable of meeting one or more specific recreational needs requirements should be inventoried and protected or acquired.
9. All state and federal agencies developing recreation plans should allow for review of recreation plans by affected local agencies.
10. Comprehensive plans should be designed to give a high priority to enhancing recreation opportunities on the public waters and shorelands of the state especially on existing and potential state and federal wild and scenic waterways, and Oregon Recreation Trails.
11. Plans that provide for satisfying the recreation needs of persons in the planning area should consider as a major determinant, the carrying capacity of the air, land and water resources of the planning area. The land conservation and development actions provided for by such plans should not exceed the carrying capacity of such resources.”

The Parks Plan meets the guidelines for a long range plan and an action plan in the Guidelines because the Plan contains both short and long term

recommendations for policies, facilities, and programs to meet identified needs and the planning process generally followed the steps laid out in the Guidelines.

“B. IMPLEMENTATION

Plans should take into account various techniques in addition to fee acquisition such as easements, cluster developments, preferential assessments, development rights acquisition, subdivision park land dedication that benefits the subdivision, and similar techniques to meet recreation requirements through tax policies, land leases, and similar programs.”

The Parks Plan is consistent with the Goal 8 Guidelines for Implementation because the Plan takes into account various techniques in addition to fee acquisition to meet recreation requirements through tax policies, land leases, and similar programs. These techniques are described in Chapter VI. Funding and Financing Options and Strategies.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2003-2008 included a chapter titled “Chapter Seven: A Guide To Oregon Community Park And Recreation Planning” and specifically states, During the July 31, 2001 SCORP Advisory Committee Meeting, committee members clearly stated that evidence of sound park and recreation planning should be a critical factor to consider in evaluating requests for Land and Water Conservation Funding. They were also aware that small communities in the state are struggling with the question of how to conduct long-term recreation planning. They felt that it would not be fair to simply ask all recreation providers across the state to "do it." The committee's recommendation was to use the SCORP plan as a vehicle for providing local agency staff or planning teams with all the guidance necessary to develop a quality park and recreation plan for their jurisdiction.

To satisfy this request, OPRD staff developed the following chapter to assist local units of government in Oregon (cities, counties, special districts, ports and regional districts) in preparing a park and recreation plan for their jurisdiction. The guide is designed to be easily followed by local agency staff and/or a designated group, such as an appointed planning team, which has the responsibility for preparing a recreation plan.”

The Florence Parks and Recreation Master Planning Committee used the SCORP, Chapter 7 as the template for the research and analysis for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Some of the items had been accomplished and were reviewed by the committee for reference and applicability. The SCORP guidance includes a 10 step process that is as follows:

1. Organize the Planning Team
2. Agree on a Planning Process and Schedule
3. Develop Public Participation Strategies
4. Collect and Display Basic Info
5. Identify Needs and Issues
6. Focus on Highest Priority Needs and Issues
7. Develop a Vision
8. Formulate Goals and Objectives

9. Identify Strategies
10. Prioritize Strategies and Develop Action Plan

5.2 – FUNDING AND FINANCING

State policy related to funding and financing is found in the following sources, included in the Appendix:

Systems Development Charge (ORS 223.297 TO 223.324)

Laws for the Formation of a Parks District Review

- ◆ ORS Chapter 198 – “Special Districts Generally,”
- ◆ ORS Chapter 199 – “Local Government Boundary Commissions; City-County Consolidation,” and
- ◆ ORS Chapter 266 – “Park and Recreation Districts.”

CHAPTER 6 – FUNDING AND FINANCING OPTIONS AND STRATEGIES

This chapter introduces plans for existing and proposed parks and facilities, with consideration of public resources in challenged economic times. The City of Florence needs to be innovative in finding ways to adequately maintain existing facilities while taking opportunities to expand the recreation system for future Florence residents. This chapter lists potential financing and funding sources for maintenance, new and expanding recreation projects.

6.1 – FUNDING SOURCES & FINANCING STRATEGIES

There are many funding sources available to the City for park maintenance, development, acquisition and planning of existing and future parks, open space, and recreational areas.

Assessments and Charges

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

A Local Improvement District (LID) can be formed when a specific type of public improvement is required adjacent to a property undergoing development. A developer would use the district to assess his and other benefiting properties to fund the improvements. LID requires 60% of the property owners within the proposed district to agree to the formation of the district. Both maintenance and development within the LID service area could be funded.

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

System Development Charges (SDC) language was first adopted by the State in 1977 under ORS 223.208. The most recent statute, ORS 223.297 outlines current requirements for applying SDCs.

SDCs are charges assessed to developers for new building construction or for existing buildings undergoing an increase in use such as adding a bathroom, bedroom or office. The charges can be used for things such as capital expenditures, parkland acquisition, and planning and development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City has long had water, sewer, and street SDCs and in 2006 added a storm water SDC. It has never charged an SDC for parks.

MAINTENANCE FEE

Like the recent street light fee applied to city water accounts resident and business utility bills, a nominal parks maintenance fee could be assessed that would greatly increase the capital available for existing parks.

USER FEES

User fees are assessed to those using certain parks and facilities. While appropriate for some amenities like pools, user fees are often discouraged for more common facilities like neighborhood parks. Parks at the city level are seen as a public service and assessing a fee creates a loss of recreation access for lower income individuals and families. Additionally, once the City assesses a user fee then the city also assumes liability in the case of accident or injury.

Tax Increase

LOCAL OPTION LEVY

A local option levy is a funding technique requiring voter approval for a property taxes increase over a specific time period. It requires a majority of voter approval and a 50% voter turnout.

The funding option may be used for either capital improvements and land acquisition or operations and maintenance. It may be used for up to 10 years for capital improvements and land acquisition and up to five years for operations and maintenance.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

This funding option also requires a majority of voter approval. A bond is funded by increasing property taxes on real property for a specified period of time. General obligation bonds cannot be used for maintenance or operations.

Grants

OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Land & Water Conservation Fund

National Park Service money administered by the State to fund outdoor recreation development and land acquisitions. This funding source requires a 50% match.

National Park Service

Money administered by the State to fund outdoor recreation development and land acquisitions. This funding source requires a 50% match.

Local Government Grant

Lottery money distributed each year contingent upon legislative approval of the Department's budget. Cities require a 50% match.

Recreational Trail Grants

Money distributed each year for maintenance, restoration, development, and land acquisition for trails and trail heads.

TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) administered for trail rights-of-way acquisition, construction, and renovation. This funding requires 10-30% match.

BLOCK GRANTS

The Housing and Urban Development Department funds recreation park and facility projects through the Community Development Block Grants program.

MARINE BOARD GRANTS

The Oregon State Marine Board, through pleasure boat licensing money, provides construction grants for boat ramps, restrooms, parking and other recreation related projects.

PRIVATE GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Private organizations and foundations like Ford Family Foundation, Western Lane Foundation and some tribal entities provide money for recreation projects.

TREE PLANTING GRANTS

The U.S. Small Business Administration provides funding for purchasing and planting trees within an urban setting.

STATE BICYCLE FUNDS

The state distributes annual gas tax revenue to cities for developing and improving bicycle lanes.

CITY MATCH GRANTS

The City of Florence could annually offer one or more grants to the community for improvements to city owned recreation parks or facilities. A 50% match would be required. This type of program would be beneficial to community service organizations, adopt-a-park groups, and youth organizations, and would double the amount of capital available to the city's parks.

Joint Public/Private Partnership

An agreement is made between the city and a private entity to construct and/or operate a public recreation facility. The city provides the land for the project and the private entity may receive tax incentives and recreation facility access for their contributions as a way of obtaining the improvement at a lower cost to the city and the public.

Donations

Most projects in Florence are funded through a donation program of some sort. Donors such as individuals, businesses, and private organizations donate money, materials, or labor and then are usually acknowledged through inclusion on a memory wall or brick paver engraving. The library, hospital, Florence Events Center and skatepark are recent examples using this sort of funding mechanism.

Tree Donations

NATIONAL TREE TRUST

Provides trees that must be planted by volunteers on public lands through two programs: America's Treeways and Community Tree Planting.

SIUSLAW WATERSHED DISTRICT

Provides native trees for planting along riparian areas for habitat restoration projects.

Sale of Unusable Land

The City has parcels of undeveloped land and rights-of-way. Where the committee found parcels located in an area that could specifically address a level of service or connectivity issue they were included in the Future Recreation Resources Map, Figure 7.1. While the City's inventory of parkland does not include much that is not usable, if they did receive land parcels that could not be converted to active or passive public recreation uses, they could sell or trade them. Funds would then be used for park and recreation purposes.

6.2 – LAND ACQUISITION/DEDICATION STRATEGIES

There are many land acquisition strategies available to the City for park, open space, and recreational area development and acquisition.

Exchange of Property

The city and a private property owner can exchange land if the city has unneeded land and the owner has land suitable for recreation purposes.

Conservation Easement

An easement voluntarily placed on a privately owned parcel to protect natural resources such as scenic views and wildlife habitat. The loss of use of the land reduces the property taxes for the owner and can be claimed as a charitable gift.

Lifetime Estates

The city buys or receives a donation of land and in doing so enters into an agreement with the owner to retain his right to live on the land after the sale for his lifetime.

Living Trust

The City purchases land and allows its owner to continue to live on the site until deceased or unable to maintain the property.

Exactions

A developer as part of a land use action such as a subdivision dedicates the land to the public for recreation uses. This is similar to process of street dedication; the developer builds the streets and then dedicates them to the public.

Public Land Trusts

Land is given to land trusts by an individual to hold for eventual acquisition by the city. The city when acquiring the land from the trust agrees to purchase it.

Special Land Use Actions

In the land use approval process, public land is acquired through dedication by way of density bonuses or other negotiations with the developer.

Public/Public Partnerships

Public agencies develop an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) establishing the terms of development and/or maintenance of recreation facilities.

CHAPTER 7 – RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 – CODE AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-term recommendations are proposed in the following:

- ◆ Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendments
- ◆ Florence City Code and Florence Zoning Map Amendments
- ◆ Capital Improvement Plan Amendments

Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Amendments to the Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan are proposed in the Appendix of this Parks Plan (see Exhibit B). These amendments are draft and will be the subject of public hearings before the Florence Planning Commission and City Council. These amendments update existing Comprehensive Plan goals, policies, and background text and the Comprehensive Plan Map for consistency with this Parks Plan and current State law, and the amendments are necessary to make the Comprehensive Plan internally consistent.

Proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan are shown in legislative format in Exhibit B and are described below:

AMEND THE FLORENCE REALIZATION 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CHAPTER 8: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

Rename Chapter 8 of the Comprehensive Plan, “Parks, Recreation, and Open Space” and incorporate amendments for consistency with the *Florence Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2011*. Chapter 8 Comprehensive Plan amendments include the Vision, Goals, and Objectives in Chapter 2 of this Parks Plan, and the Community Needs identified in Chapter 4 of this Parks Plan. Those recommendations were translated into Comprehensive Plan Goals, Policies, Recommendations, and Background text.

AMEND OTHER FLORENCE REALIZATION 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CHAPTERS

Make the following amendments to other Chapters of the Comprehensive Plan, to allow the Comprehensive Plan to be consistent internally and with State law:

- ◆ Change the Table of Contents, to reflect changes in content of Comprehensive Plan text and Maps;
- ◆ Change the Appendix, to remove the 1987 Parks Master Plan.
- ◆ Change the Introduction, to add State Goal and Rule definitions;
- ◆ Change Chapter 2, Land Use, to make land use policies consistent with parks and open space policies in Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 8;
- ◆ Change Chapters 9, 10, 11, 14, and 17 to makes these Chapters consistent with Chapter 8 and/or State law; and
- ◆ Change Chapter 12, Transportation, to include policies and projects from the Florence Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2011.

AMEND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAPS

- ◆ Replace existing Parks Map (Map 11-D1) with the new Map 8-1.
- ◆ Amend the Comprehensive Plan Map to change the designations of specific properties to achieve consistency with the zoning classifications and/or with the current use of the property. In most cases, these changes result in a Plan designation of “Public” for publicly-owned lands.

Florence City Code and Zoning Map Amendments

Amendments to the Florence City Code and Zoning Map are proposed in the Appendix of this Parks Plan (see Exhibit C). These amendments are draft and will be the subject of public hearings before the Florence Planning Commission and City Council. These amendments update existing Code for consistency with this Parks Plan and the amendments are necessary to make the Code consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, as revised.

Exhibit C shows proposed amendments to the Code in legislative format and to the Zoning Map, as described below:

- ◆ Amend Title 10 Chapters 1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 23, 30, and 36 to implement the policies and projects from this Parks Plan
- ◆ Amend Title 11 Chapters 1, 4, and 5 to implement the policies and projects from this Parks Plan
- ◆ Amend the Zoning Map to change the zoning of specific properties primarily owned by the City from their current zoning to open space.

7.2 – PARK, RECREATION, AND PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are proposed recommendations to be considered in a Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements Plan and volunteer project list. The list contains more than can be completed within a 5 year timeframe. However, if matching funds were available from a special interest group or individual for a particular park or interest, city prioritizations could be made to support that contribution. Additionally, development may occur in a particular area that could drive certain improvements to completion. Therefore longer range improvements have been included to capture those opportunities.

Priorities are listed as “Low”, “Medium” and “High”. It should be noted that the list is not intended to be inclusive but rather rate the highest priority items against each other. The prioritizations were accomplished by Planning and Public Works staff and the Master Planning Committee. They are based on local, state and national circumstances and community interest during 2009-2010.

Table 7.1: PRIORITIES				
Existing Park & Trail Needs				
Site Facility	Project Description	Priority		
		Low	Medium	High
Old Town*	Signage for location of restrooms further down on Bay St. (low cost could be completed in 2011)			
	Lay paver stones to benches			
	Interpretive signage about surrounding area			
	Replace “fishing” dock here or elsewhere			
18 th St. Pocket	Improve its curb appeal with native vegetation areas Need to develop a landscape plan first			
	Find easy ways to clean it up, fresh paint, new amenities (painted in summer of 2010)			
	Replace play structure			
	Install internal pathways (can be done when new play equipment is installed)			
	Install landscaping or native vegetation with irrigation			
Munsel Creek Path	Research ways to discourage vandalism and transients			
	Add More benches			
	Waste receptacles (needs to be bear proof)			
	Extend path south to Gallaghers Park			
	Extend path north through Munsel Greenway Park to Munsel Lake Boat Ramp area (need to acquire right-of-way)			
	Overlay/repave path			
	Develop more access points			
	Improve natural light access & safety by thinning the overhead tree canopy			
	Add mileage markers			
	Add interpretive signage for native vegetation			
	Replace Spruce St bench and Bones’ bench			
Gallagher’s	Move public works facilities and expand this park north			
	Add species interpretive signage			
	Public appreciation made for each club for their contributions			
	Solicitation to expand Volunteer group’s philanthropy to other parks			
	Extend irrigation lines to the south side of the park for irrigation			

Existing Park & Trail Needs (cont')

Site Facility	Project Description	Priority		
		Low	Medium	High
Gallagher's (Cont')	Improve or pave the Hwy 126 entry and creek path			
	Clean-up Munsel Creek of trash			
	Plant native species along west side of Munsel Creek			
	Prune Trees			
	Connect this park with Munsel Creek Bikepath			
	Develop a park development plan for this park			
Pepperoaks *	Landscape improvements			
	Replace play equipment			
	Include tot structure in the equipment design			
	Form a neighborhood group to partner w/Kiwanis for park improvements			
	Install 35 th St. access if topographically possible			
	Install irrigation for lawn and planting enhancements			
Rolling Dunes	Plant maintenance			
	Upgrade horseshoe pit			
	Resurface tennis courts			
	Repair barbeque area			
	Construct sidewalks along 35 th St. and Siano Loop			
	Add playground or other recreation amenities behind tennis courts to support neighborhood park classification			
Munsel Lake Road*	Plant maintenance and add landscaping and seed lawn			
	Volunteer support			
	Add irrigation for lawn area			
Singing Pines	Park and trails maintenance (volunteer project)			
	Volunteer support			
	Parking lot improvements			
	Develop long term plan for site			
	Replace play structure			
	Improve trails			
	Install sidewalks along Kingwood and Airport Way			

Existing Park & Trail Needs (cont')

Site Facility	Project Description	Priority		
		Low	Medium	High
Singing Pines (cont')	Install Bocce courts with benches			
George Miller *	Install additional restrooms adjacent to the baseball field area including new concession stand and Jr Baseball storage			
	Replace or refurbish existing restrooms with stainless steel fixtures that are vandal proof			
	Pave path connecting to Singing Pines Park			
	Replace the Ft. Miller large play structure with a covered playground area			
	Replace 10 wood bleacher stands with aluminum			
	Install gate at the south end of the park			
	Pave the south parking lot			
	Install warning signage/surveillance equipment improvements			
	Expand existing Miller Park into adjacent properties to expand on current Community park usage.			
	Install donor recognition signage in the park			
Munsel Greenway*	Improve pathway from the end of the existing path (south end) to the parking area by Water Treatment Plant.			
	Improve parking area with signage and designated parking slots.			
	Explore officially allowing dogs on leash and install pet waste stations			
	Explore opportunities and partnerships for a frisbee golf course			
	Discourage vandalism			
	Install picnic table			
	Install ADA pad to picnic table area			
	Install ADA drinking and dog water fountain			
	Convert toilets to tank-less stainless steel (Sloan Valves)			
	In accordance w/ the deed establish an interpretive trail & wayside east of Florentine common area wetlands describing wetland functions & memorializing Jonathon & Charlotte Phelps, Siuslaw region homesteaders.			
Find and develop more access points				

Existing Park & Trail Needs (cont')

Site Facility	Project Description	Priority		
		Low	Medium	High
Veterans Memorial	Perform wetland assessment, identify opportunities to retain or expand wetlands, include wetland plant and system interpretive signage			
	Determine feasibility of boardwalk, pier and/or dock extension for beach and water access for non-motorized boats			
	Construct Boardwalk, Pier and/or dock			
	Acquire western property for expansion of this park			
	Incorporate Lotus property for connectivity			
O.W. Hurd Memorial Park	Improve trail and way finding at trail head			
	Solicit volunteer group or individual			
	Public promotion			
	Add picnic table			
	Add bench			
	Research stabilization and potential fencing			
	Complete deed dedication requirements			
29 th St. Path	Overlay path, bank stabilization, reconstruct			
	Redesign & construct 29 th and Spruce St. pedestrian barrier (connection to sidewalk)			
	Signage to Munsel Greenway Park			
Bay Street Restrooms	Design and make signage for light post indicating restroom			
12 th St. Path	Complete the project from Rhody to Munsel Creek Bike Path			
	Add trail amenities such as petwaste stations (at trail heads), benches, and signage			

Additional Parkland, Park Amenity & Trail Needs

Site Facility	Project Description	Priority		
		Low	Medium	High
Dog Park	Land acquisition (possible use of old County Landfill), fencing, parking, water fountain, site prep, ground covering			
Rhododendron Dr. Multi-Use path	Segments as funding and development partnership(s) are available			

Munsel Greenway Connection	Extend Munsel Greenway trail north to Munsel Lake Rd.			
Estuary Trail	Planning, land acquisition, development			
Three Mile Prairie	Acquire west & east access, signage, wayfinding, parking, restrooms – partner with County			
Munsel Creek Spruce St. Trail head area	Research potential of adjacent land west of Spruce St. for courtyard or other recreational use for neighboring underserved senior housing facilities (Area 8)			
Recreation and Swimming Facility	Planning, funding, site acquisition			
Pacific Pines	Park design, access, develop in accordance with design to meet the underserved park needs identified in Area 5 of figure 4.5.			
Community Park(s)	Develop new community park(s) in north Florence Area to meet the needs of the underserved residential areas identified in Figure 4.4, including land acquisition (possible use of 3-Mile Prairie), site design, and funding attainment.			
Neighborhood & Mini Parks In-Fill	Acquire land and develop to meet the recreational needs of areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, & 11 identified in Figure 4.5, Mini & Neighborhood Park Service Areas.			
S. Munsel Creek Park Land	Trail design, obtain access, and develop in accordance with design to meet the underserved park needs identified in Area 8 of Figure 4.5.			
Willow Dunes Greenway	Park design, obtain access, and develop in accordance with design to meet the underserved park needs identified in Area 7 of Figure 4.5.			
Trail System	Develop various trails both connector and in parkland as grant opportunities and other funding sources are secured (Oak Street corridor)			
Community gardens	Identify opportunities to develop community gardens within undeveloped rights-of-way and other public lands			
Elm Park	Park design, wetlands delineation, access, develop in accordance with design (develop as development occurs)			
Public Art	Identify opportunities to develop public art such as fountains, statues, murals, life size game boards within undeveloped rights-of-way and other public lands			
Waterfront & estuary access	Acquire lands as necessary to support the goals and objectives of the master plan.			
Equipment Replacement				
Site Facility	Project Description	Priority		
		Low	Medium	High
Equipment	Arial Truck with 50' boom – for tree trimming, flag pole maintenance, light pole maintenance, etc			
Park Equipment Storage	Replace/expand park storage building at Miller Park. Also include funding for parks portion of a new PW Operations Center			

Park Programs

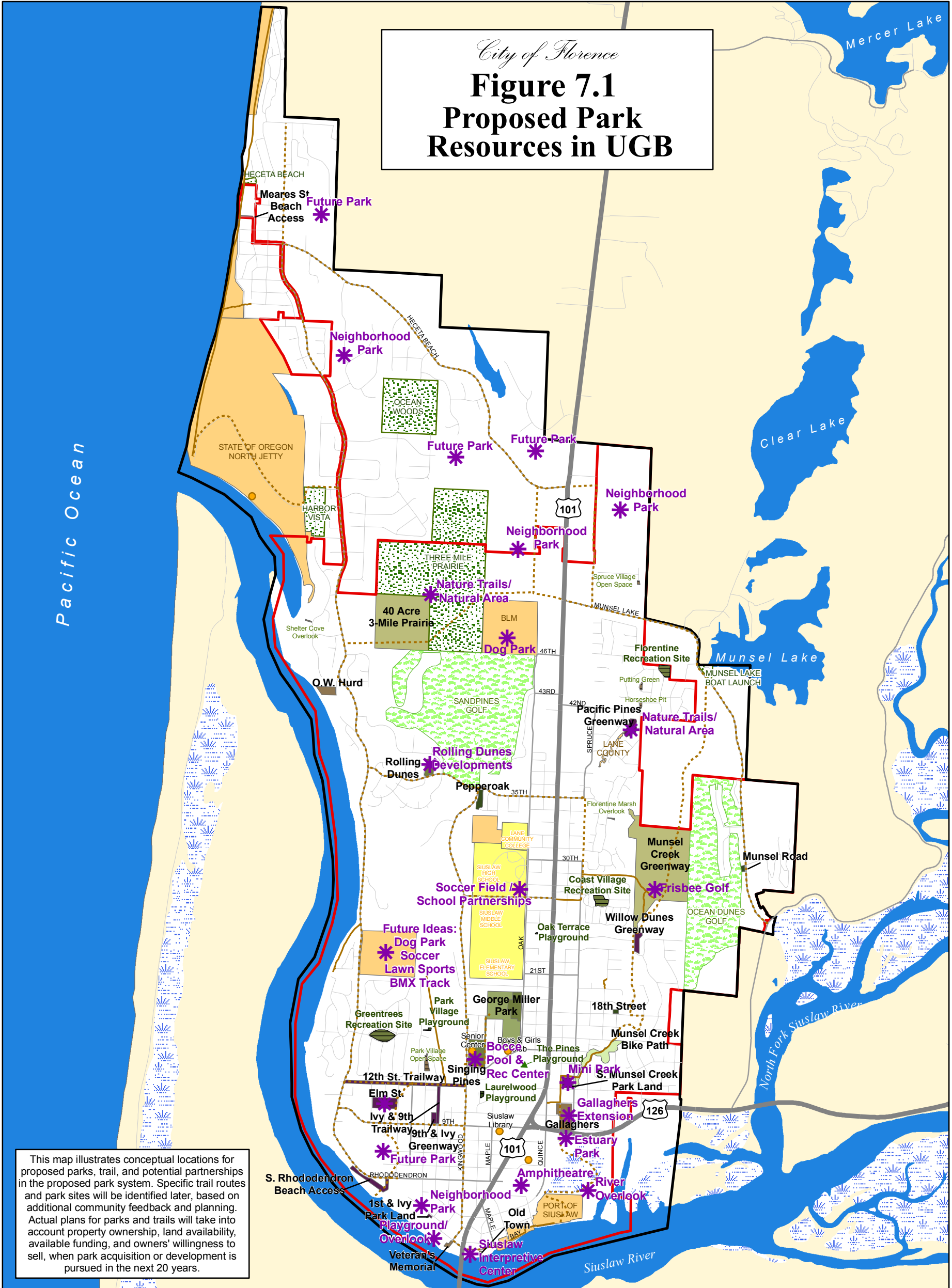
Site Facility	Project Description	Priority		
		Low	Medium	High
	Parks brochure			
	Paths & Trails brochure			
	Parks and Recreation city webpage			
	Healthy Habits campaign			
	Youth Back to Nature campaign			
	Develop Volunteer Program (adopt-a-park, script, ranger)			
	Recreation Program Development, Partner with school district and other organizations and agencies to maximize resources and develop interest for a recreation facility			
	Set up a Friends of the Florence Parks organization promote donations of land, cash, and equipment and facilities.			
	Encourage partnerships to provide access to existing recreation resources such as Mapleton Pool			

Planning

	Develop and approve a Comprehensive Trail Plan			
	Develop and adopt park maintenance fees			
	Develop and approve a Park and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan			
	Develop and adopt parks Systems Development Charge policy code including methodology			
	Develop and adopt parkland dedication policy			
	Update Transportation Systems Plan with trail linkages such as Ivy and Elm Street (south) areas (including trail construction standards)			
	Perform a Parks and Recreation District Feasibility Study			

*Land and Water Conservation Funded (LWCF) & require routine maintenance to be eligible for future LWCF funding. Spot inspections conducted by LWCF staff every 5 years.

City of Florence
Figure 7.1
Proposed Park Resources in UGB



This map illustrates conceptual locations for proposed parks, trail, and potential partnerships in the proposed park system. Specific trail routes and park sites will be identified later, based on additional community feedback and planning. Actual plans for parks and trails will take into account property ownership, land availability, available funding, and owners' willingness to sell, when park acquisition or development is pursued in the next 20 years.

Proposed Parks

✳ Proposed Parks

Private Parks

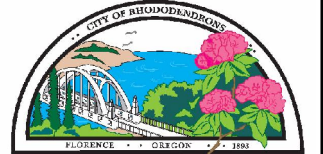
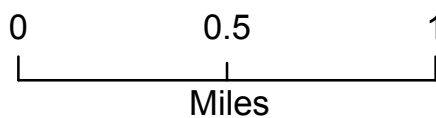
- Mini
- Neighborhood
- Special Use

City Parks

- Mini
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Connector Trail
- Open Space
- Special Use
- Undeveloped

Other Features

- Recreation Facility
- Existing Trails
- - - Proposed Trails
- ▨ Golf Course
- ▨ County Park
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)
- ▨ Other Public Land
- ▨ Schools



City of Florence
 Community Development Department
 250 Hwy 101 N.
 Florence, OR 97439
 (541) 997-8237
January 18, 2011
 Data Source: City of Florence, Lane Council of Governments, Oregon Department of Transportation, Lane County OR Parks and Recreation, US Geological Survey
 Map #8 Series 2011-1