



MEETING NOTICE

TUALATIN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 11, 2016 - 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
Tualatin Community Park
8515 SW Tualatin Road

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 13, 2016

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Chair
2. Staff
3. Public

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Tualatin River Greenway Trail Project LOC Award for Excellence
2. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Park Maintenance Update
(Tom Steiger, Park Maintenance Manager)
2. Pohl Center Annual Report
3. Quilt Barn Trail
4. Intertwine Alliance Information

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

G. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

H. ADJOURNMENT



DRAFT MINUTES

TUALATIN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 13, 2016

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
Tualatin Community Park
8515 SW Tualatin Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kay Dix, Krista Nanton, Dana Paulino, Valerie Pratt, Anthony Warren, Dennis Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Rich Mueller, Parks and Recreation Manager

PUBLIC PRESENT:

OTHER:

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dennis Wells called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 12 and August 23, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Kay Dix and seconded by Dana Paulino.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Chair

There were none.

2. Staff

Rich Mueller provided updates on the following: Pumpkin Regatta event, Summer Programs report, City Budget in Brief document, Youth Advisory Council updates, Metro population projections article, Crawfish Festival article, ArtSplash article, Pohl Center article, volunteer projects in parks and greenways, Pohl Center activities, Library program updates and trail count information.

3. Public

There were none.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Rich Mueller presented an outline to summarize the master plan process. This document includes the plan scope, purpose, components or chapters, goals, deliverables, success measures, benefits and outcomes, risks and reasons. The committee discussed the schedule and scope of the master plan project.

2. Tualatin River Greenway Trail Project Award Application

Committee members reviewed the submitted award application to nominate CenterCal for the Private Sector Partner Award through Oregon Recreation and Park Association. This award nomination was due to CenterCal's significant contribution and partnership to develop the new section of the Tualatin River Greenway Trail. The attachments such as maps, photos, news articles and other material were included.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Development Block Grant Application

Rich Mueller distributed the staff report and resolution for the City to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to design and renovate the kitchen at the Juanita Pohl Center. After discussion, the committee voted to continue support and recommend the CDBG application. This was approved on a motion from Valerie Pratt and second by Anthony Warren.

2. Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The executive summary of the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was distributed. It was completed in May 2016 and includes the plan vision, modes of travel, benefits of investments, goals and implementation.

3. National Recreation and Park Association Information

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) information was distributed by Rich Mueller. Members received printed material and fact sheets on the role and benefits of parks and recreation in local communities. Committee members discussed the national information, and average general standards, as it may apply to the upcoming master plan update. The NRPA 2016 Field Report, Americans' Support for Local Recreation and Park Services (results from a nationwide study) and Economic Impact of Local Parks documents were also reviewed and discussed.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS


Items include summer concert results, COVI projects, master plan park sites and Americas Best Communities project.

G. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

H. ADJOURNMENT

Dennis Wells adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm, on a motion from Anthony Warren, and second by Krista Nanton.

Tualatin River Greenway Trail receives statewide award

Created on Monday, 03 October 2016 15:16 | Written by [Mark Miller](#) | 

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League of Oregon Cities presents 'Award for Excellence' to Tualatin.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES - Tualatin City Manager Sherilyn Lombos (center) accepts the 2016 Award for Excellence from the League of Oregon Cities for the Tualatin River Greenway Trail project.

Downtown Tualatin has a bit of a new look these days, and the [League of Oregon Cities](#) has noticed.

From last summer until early this year, a new city trail — a segment in the regional [Tualatin River Greenway Trail](#) — was [built](#) between the Tualatin Public Library in the west and the old RV Park of Portland in the east.

Over the weekend, the League of Oregon Cities presented the city of Tualatin with its 2016 Award for Excellence, which a press release said “recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services,” for the trail project.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile trail provides a crossing for pedestrians and cyclists beneath Interstate 5, along the south bank of the Tualatin River. In addition, it features a number of scenic outlooks onto the river, as well as interpretive elements nodding to Tualatin's Ice Age heritage —

including erratic boulders believed to have been carried to the Tualatin area from as far away as western Montana in a series of glacial outburst floods more than 12,000 years ago.

A grand opening was held for the trail on April 9.

“We're very excited and extremely honored to be recognized by the League of Oregon Cities for the trail project,” said Rich Mueller, Tualatin's parks and recreation manager.

During construction, the trail included a temporary crossing of the former RV park, linking it to an older section of the Tualatin River Greenway Trail that extends east to Browns Ferry Park. However, an elevated boardwalk built as part of the trail currently dead-ends at the property line.

The final [missing link](#) in the trail across the old RV site will be privately built as part of the property's redevelopment and then turned over to be owned and maintained by the city of Tualatin as part of its trails system, city officials and a representative for the property's ownership group told The Times earlier this year. It is unclear when that construction will take place.

By **Mark Miller**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 1, 2016

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Tualatin Receives 2016 Award for Excellence

SALEM, Ore. – During its 91st Annual Conference this weekend at the Salem Convention Center, the League of Oregon Cities presented its 2016 Award for Excellence to the city of Tualatin for its Tualatin River Greenway Trail project. The Award for Excellence recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services.

The Tualatin River Greenway Trail project is a three-quarter mile shared use pathway that connects a missing link in Tualatin's active transportation network. The project is a public-private partnership that connects 67,000 nearby residents to jobs and retail. The trail provides safe and convenient multi-modal access across Interstate 5, a route for which no safe connection previously existed. The project was completed through numerous partnerships, including private land owners, local businesses, and state, regional and county funding programs.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the League of Oregon Cities is a voluntary association representing all 241 of Oregon's incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

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Why was the project needed?

The Tualatin River Greenway Trail project is a new three-quarter mile shared use trail that fills a gap in a larger 4.7 mile segment of Tualatin River Greenway. The Tualatin River Greenway is located on the north and south banks of the Tualatin River; runs through Tualatin, Durham, and Tigard; and connects five major parks and natural areas as well as residential and commercial facilities. This project is a public-private partnership that links 67,000 nearby residents to jobs and retail developments. The Tualatin River Greenway Trail provides safe and convenient multimodal access under I-5, a route for which no safe connection existed prior to the project.

What were its goals?

Filling a gap in the county-wide transportation system: The project connects with regional shared use paths including the existing Tualatin River Greenway in the cities of Tualatin, Durham and Tigard; the Fanno Creek Greenway; and will connect with the future Ice Age Tonquin Trail, which will extend the regional network an additional 22 miles.

Leveraging private and public investments: Funding partners included state, regional, county, private, and local sources. The total cost of the trail, including design, permitting, and construction, was \$3.8 million.

- ODOT *ConnectOregon* V Grant Program (\$1,585,800)
- Washington County, Major Streets Transportation Improvements Program, Opportunity Fund – MSTIP (\$750,000)
- CenterCal Properties (\$600,000 cash donation and in-kind contributions as well)
- Tualatin Park Development Fees (\$700,000)
- Metro Parks and Natural Areas Local Share Bond Measure and other sources (\$124,000)
- Washington County Visitors Association – WCVA (\$86,000)
- Oregon Public Health Institute HEAL Cities Program (\$3,200)

Improving safety: This trail provides a safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian alternative to crossing I-5 on the Nyberg Street overpass which requires navigating five freeway on- and off-ramps. The high number of potential conflict points, coupled with the high speed of cars entering or exiting I-5, creates a serious safety hazard where pedestrian and bicycle accidents have occurred.

Increasing access to healthy and active transportation options: Over 67,000 people live within three miles of this trail. This project links these residents to key public and private destinations on an attractive, convenient, and accessible riverside trail, thereby promoting walking and bicycling.

Providing multimodal access to key destinations: This project connects trail users to major employment centers, transit stops (WES Station and TriMet bus lines), Legacy Meridian Park Hospital and Medical Center, natural areas, and civic facilities such as the Tualatin Public Library, Tualatin's Brown's Ferry and Tualatin Community parks, Durham's City Park, a large natural area owned by Washington County (Clean Water Services), and Tigard's Cook Park.

What was unique or innovative about this project?

1. The trail is a public-private partnership including a \$600,000 cash and other in-kind donations; connections to residential, commercial, and public properties; and leveraged an array of public and private funding sources.
2. The trail is built to state and federal bikeway standards, is fully accessible, and there are five overlooks with seating and benches along the trail.
3. The trail is constructed of concrete with boardwalks made of recycled plastic lumber - which safety and maintenance vehicles can drive on; the width is mostly 12' or 14' wide, reduced to 10' in an environmentally sensitive area, and it is widened to 16' under I-5 where daytime lighting and security cameras are installed to create a safer undercrossing.
4. The trail connects to two apartment complexes and two shopping centers, nearby residential areas, and by sidewalk and bike lanes to a busy WES Station and TriMet bus transit stops; and has newly-installed regional wayfinding signage across the 4.7 mile segment of Tualatin River Greenway as it crosses through the cities of Tualatin, Durham, and Tigard.
5. Educational interpretive features introduce people to some of Tualatin's natural and cultural history. Interpretive elements enable people to experience a walk through geologic time while discovering, exploring, and learning about the last Ice Age Missoula Floods, Pleistocene megafauna, emergence of Paleo-indians, transportation improvements of early settlers, and how land use changes over time.
6. Nature conservation was improved on two acres of riverside riparian land where invasive plants were replaced with native plants to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, soil conservation, air quality, and natural beauty. Drought tolerant plants were used.
7. The trail includes a riverside overlook named after Yvonne Addington for her extraordinary contributions to the mission and purpose of parks and recreation in the City of Tualatin through her vision, leadership, and public administration capabilities as Tualatin's first City Administrator between 1969 and 1982; and since then through her passionate and effective volunteerism.
8. Tualatin received the Award for Excellence in Sustainability for Green Infrastructure or Transportation Project for this project from the American Planning Association's Sustainable Communities, Urban Design, and International Divisions in April, 2016. Award criteria included:
 - A. Originality and Innovation
 1. 'Walk through Geologic Time' interpretive elements
 2. Materials and design of the boardwalks with slip-resistant recycled plastic lumber over sensitive riverside vegetated corridor
 - B. Compatibility
 1. Connects people with nature enabling connectivity, exercise, recreation, wildlife viewing, and safer commute under I-5
 2. Utilizes federal and state bike facility design standards and is included in regional and local transportation plans
 - C. Effectiveness and Results
 1. Improves connectivity while being a safe, beautiful and efficient way to cross the I-5 barrier

2. Connects to adjoining properties
3. Fully complies with Americans with Disabilities Act
4. Fills a missing link in larger 4.7 mile segment of Tualatin River Greenway Trail

D. Engagement

1. Widespread statewide, regional, private, and local financial support
2. Collaboration and coordination with environmental regulations along sensitive riverside and wetland areas

E. Transferability

1. Native plant palette, approach to invasive plant removal on over 2 acres along the river
2. Recycled plastic lumber for boardwalks that can support weight of maintenance, police, and other vehicles
3. Locally sources erratic rocks, recycled plastic benches and glass paving

What members of the community or region were involved and how?

The trail is included in the Tualatin Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Transportation System Plan, both which received high levels of public involvement during their adoption. Funding through ODOT's *ConnectOregon V* Program required extensive public statewide and regional review processes; and funding through Washington County's MSTIP, Metro's Parks and Natural Areas, the Washington County Visitor's Association all required regional review. Local citizens were involved through the Tualatin Parks, Arts, and Library advisory committees, and downtown businesses were engaged through the Commercial Citizens Involvement Organization. ODOT Region 1 provided technical support and review on design and construction aspects of the project.

Participants in the grand opening ceremony included representatives from ODOT; Metro, Washington County and the City of Tualatin elected officials; private partners; the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde; the Washington County Visitor's Association; Oregon Public Health Institute HEAL Cities Program; the Tualatin Historical Society; project consultants; and contractors.

Did the project meet or exceed its goals?

The trail achieves City Council goals of expanding opportunities for vibrant parks and recreation facilities; promoting a liveable, family-oriented, safe, healthy and active-living community; and improving connectivity while enhancing transportation options for getting around Tualatin. The project was finished on-time and within budget. It has received an Award for Excellence in Sustainability from the American Planning Association and is under consideration for inclusion on an accessible trails web site by Access Recreation, a Portland Metro area group that evaluates trails for hikers with disabilities.

What were the benefits (e.g., improved services, savings of time/money, etc.)?

This project improves the quality of life and enhances city services by promoting active, healthy living through a safe walking and biking alternative to crossing I-5 and filling a missing gap in Tualatin's bike and pedestrian network. The trail improves access to nature, connections with residential and commercial areas, jobs, and public facilities. The trail improves connectivity with adjoining cities and has increased regional awareness and use by linking with the Tualatin River Greenway as it passes through Tualatin, Durham, and Tigard. Public-private partnerships saved taxpayer dollars and made the project cost-effective. It achieved high standards and incorporated innovative and transferable design and construction concepts while using durable materials and drought tolerant plants that will create ongoing operating cost efficiencies.



NRPA Americans' Engagement with Parks Survey

INTRODUCTION

The vast offerings of the local park and recreation agency improve the lives of people throughout our nation. For some people, there is not a better way to improve one's physical and mental health or reconnect to nature than a brisk walk through the park. For others, the local park and recreation agency's summer camp and afterschool care offerings allow them to hold a job to ensure a brighter future for them and their family. Whatever the motivations, Americans are heavily engaged with the local parks and recreation agency that transforms their town or city into a vibrant, connected community.

In early 2016, the National Recreation and Park Association released the results of a Penn State University study it commissioned that found Americans cherish their local public park and recreation services. The report titled *Americans' Broad-Based Support for Local Recreation and Park Services* found that Americans almost unanimously agree that their communities benefit from their local public parks, *even if they themselves are not regular park users*. Even more remarkable was that the results from this survey virtually matched those from a similar NRPA/Penn State study from 25 years earlier.

The overriding takeaway from the study is that the general public is an untapped advocate to spread the public park and recreation story. To build upon this momentum, NRPA Research has developed several new research initiatives to tap this passion to further spread the word that park and recreation agencies offer essential quality-of-life services to communities.

One of these initiatives is NRPA Park Pulse, a monthly poll of Americans on park and recreation related issues. Some of the poll questions are serious (e.g., impact of Zika on summertime activities, prohibiting tobacco products from public parks) while others are more fun (e.g., being inspired by the Olympics to be more physically active). But in all cases, Park Pulse represents a fresh opportunity to demonstrate the many ways park and recreation agencies better our communities to policymakers, key stakeholders, the media, and the general public.

The second research initiative is a broad, annual survey of Americans about how they interact with their local park and recreation agency and their willingness to financially support these valuable resources. With the data collected each summer and the results published in the fall, the *NRPA Americans' Engagement with Parks Survey* probes Americans' usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study will weigh the importance of public parks in Americans' lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments, while demonstrating how parks turn our local towns and cities into vibrant, dynamic communities and that parks and recreation is a solution to many of the challenges facing our communities.

The key findings of the inaugural edition of the *NRPA Americans' Engagement with Parks Survey* include:

- Americans on average **visit their local park and recreation facilities approximately 29 times a year**. Three in five survey respondents report having visited a local park and/or recreation facility within a month of participating in the survey, including two in five having done so within the previous seven days. Millennials and parents are more frequent park users.
- The reasons Americans visit their local park and recreation facilities are as diverse as they are: a **place to be with family and friends, to be more physically active, to be closer to nature, to access quality, affordable child care, and to learn a new skill or craft**.
- What keeps people from greater enjoyment of their local park and recreation facilities is a lack of time, concerns about safety at both the park and walking to/from the park, a lack of awareness of park locations/offerings and not finding programming that matches their interests.
- Nine in 10 Americans agree that **parks and recreation are important services delivered by their local government**.
- Three in four Americans agree that the **NRPA Three Pillars** of Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity represent what they see as the **priorities for their local park and recreation agency**.
- Seven in 10 Americans say they are **more likely to vote for local politicians who make park and recreation funding a priority**.
- Three-quarters of Americans **support increased local government spending for park and recreation agencies** — spanning nearly every demographic group and both sides of the political spectrum — with solid support for a nearly 30 percent local government funding increase for parks and recreation.

29 times a year

Number of times Americans visit their **local park and recreation facilities** on average

90% of Americans agree

that parks and recreation are **important local government services**

(comparable to police/fire, schools, transportation)

75% of Americans

support increased local government spending for park and recreation agencies

70% of Americans

say they are more likely to **vote for local politicians who make park and recreation funding a priority**

3 in 4 Americans agree

that **Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity** represent what they see as the **priorities for their local park and recreation agency**

KEY FINDINGS

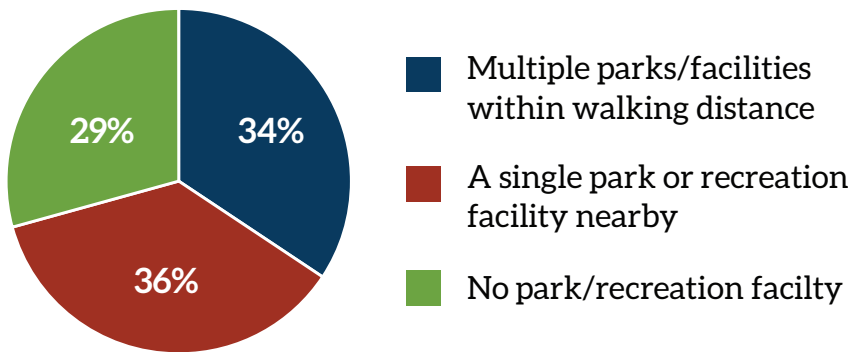
When Do Americans Visit Their Local Parks and Recreation Facilities?

NRPA’s vision is that “everyone will have easy access to park and recreation opportunities in sustainable communities.” Easy access includes having a park, open space, recreation center or some other recreation facility nearby that they can travel to and from safely. When there are high-quality amenities and programming that match the residents’ needs and desire, Americans flock to their park and recreation facilities.

Seven in 10 survey respondents indicate that there is a local park, open space or recreation center within walking distance from their home. Interestingly, in three of four Census regions – the Northeast, Midwest, and West – the percentage of Americans reporting having a local park they could walk to rises to 75 percent. Conversely, only three in five survey respondents living in the South indicate that there is a park within walkable distance of their homes.

7 in 10 Americans Can Walk to a Local Park, Open Space or Recreation Center

(Percentage Distribution of Respondents)



While there were no significant differences in park availability reported in terms of the survey respondents’ race or ethnicity, Millennials and Gen Xers are significantly more likely to report having a park and/or recreation facility that is within walkable distance than do Baby Boomers. The lower percentages reported by older Americans may reflect both a decline in mobility associated with age and lowered awareness of park and recreation opportunities located near them.

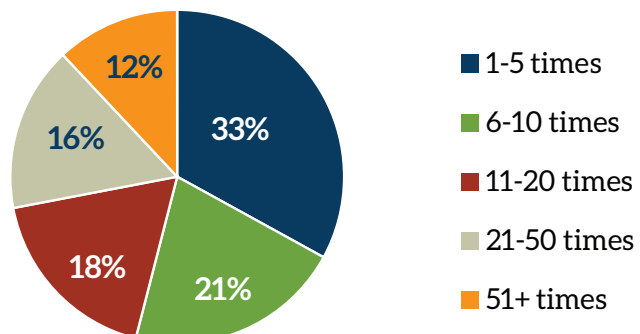
Parks and recreation is deeply engrained in the lifestyles of people throughout the United States. Some people visit their local parks once or twice a year, while others do so once or twice this week.

On average, Americans visit their local park and recreation facilities just under 29 times per year. A third of survey respondents who indicate they visited a local park and/or recreation facility within the past 12 months report having visited said facilities between one and five times. Twenty-one percent of survey respondents report between six and 10 annual visits, with another 18 percent indicating between 11 and 20 visits within the past 12 months. Sixteen percent visited their local park and recreation facilities between 21 and 50 times over the past year while 12 percent indicate having done so at least 51 times over the past 12 months.

Who are more likely to be power users of local park and recreation facilities? Reporting more frequent visits to local park and recreation facilities are Millennials, those that identify themselves as Hispanic and parents. On the other end of the spectrum, Baby Boomers make far less frequent visits to their local parks.

Frequency of Visits to Local Parks or Recreation Facility

(Percentage Distribution of Respondents Who Have Visited Park/Recreation Facility in Past Year)



Frequency of Annual Visits to Local Park and Recreation Facilities

(Average and Median Number of Visits Over the Past Year)

	All	Millennials	Gen Xers	Baby Boomers	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics	Whites	Non-Whites	Parents
Average number of visits	28.9	33.7	26.5	25.1	33.2	28.1	29.2	27.8	34.2
Median number of visits	10	12	10	8	10	10	10	10	11

Two in five respondents report having visited a local park and/or recreation center at least once during the week prior to completing this survey. Another 19 percent had visited a park and/or recreation center sometime during the prior month. For others, their interaction with their local parks is less frequent. Eight percent of respondents had their last visit to a local park or recreation center some time during two to six months before completing the survey. In all, 80 percent of Americans have visited a local park and/or recreation facility within the past year.

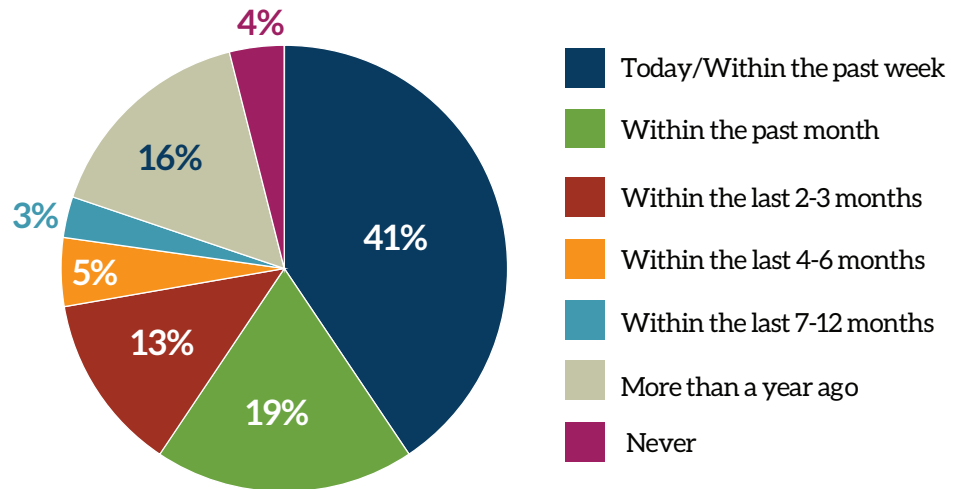
Those with the most recent park and/or recreation visits include (with the percentages reporting visits within a week of completing the survey):

- Millennials (52 percent)
- Gen Xers (48 percent)
- Those that reside in the Northeast (56 percent)
- Those that reside in the Midwest (60 percent)
- Parents (56 percent).

Park and recreation agencies program a wide variety of offerings and activities that entice residents to more frequently visit and use these resources. These activities can include, but are not limited to, sports leagues, summer camp, before/after school care and classes/courses.

Three in Five Americans Visited Their Local Park or Recreation Facility Within the Past Month

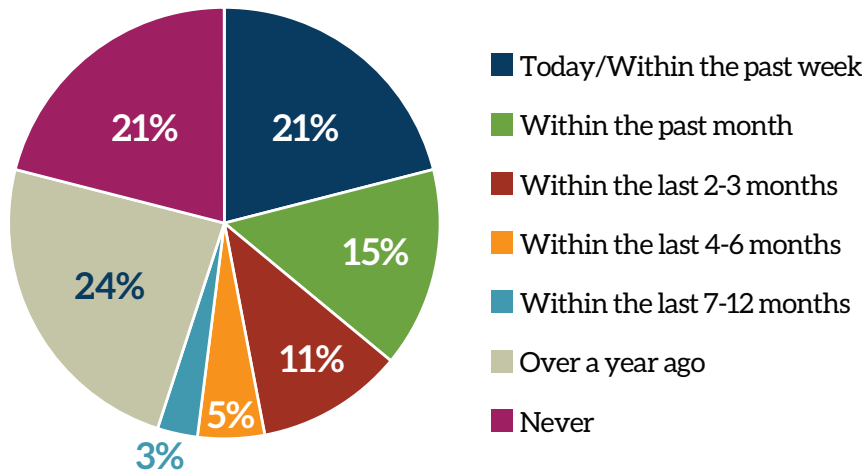
(Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Most Recent Visit)



Thirty-six percent of survey respondents have participated in one or more park and recreation activity or programming within a month of participating in this survey. Another 16 percent have done so some time between two and six months. The percentage of respondents who personally have (or have had a member of their household) participated in a park and recreation agency activity within the past six months rises for those who are parents, those who are employed, those that identify themselves as Hispanics and those that are Millennials.

Most Recent Time Respondent/Household Member Participated in a Park & Recreation Offering/Programming

(Percentage Distribution of Respondents)



How Americans Engage with Their Local Park and Recreation Resources

Whether to spend time with their favorite people, to improve their health or to reconnect with nature after a hectic week, the reasons people visit their local park and recreation facilities can be as diverse as they are. The vast number of factors that drive Americans to visit their local parks define agencies' broad mission to be the centerpiece to healthy, thriving and connected communities.

The number one reason people gather at their local park and recreation facilities is to be with family and friends (58 percent). While a majority of survey respondents from every major demographic group studied identifies hanging out with their family and friends as a reason they go to the park, this reason particularly resonates with Millennials (65 percent) and with parents (66 percent).

Fifty-two percent of people who visited park and/or recreation facilities over the past year did so to exercise or to increase their level of physical activity. The percentage of respondents linking exercise with their decision to visit a park does not change significantly across various demographic groups, including age, race/ethnicity or whether they are a parent.

Just under half of Americans visit their local parks based on a desire to be closer to nature. Baby Boomers (52 percent) and non-parents (51 percent) are more likely than other population segments to cite nature as a major reason they go to their local parks. Conversely, Millennials and parents are more likely than Baby Boomers and non-parents to cite a desire to experience excitement and adventure as reasons to go to their local park. Overall, a third of survey respondents cite a desire to experience excitement and adventure as a reason for why they visit their parks.

Other reasons people visit their local park and recreation facilities include:

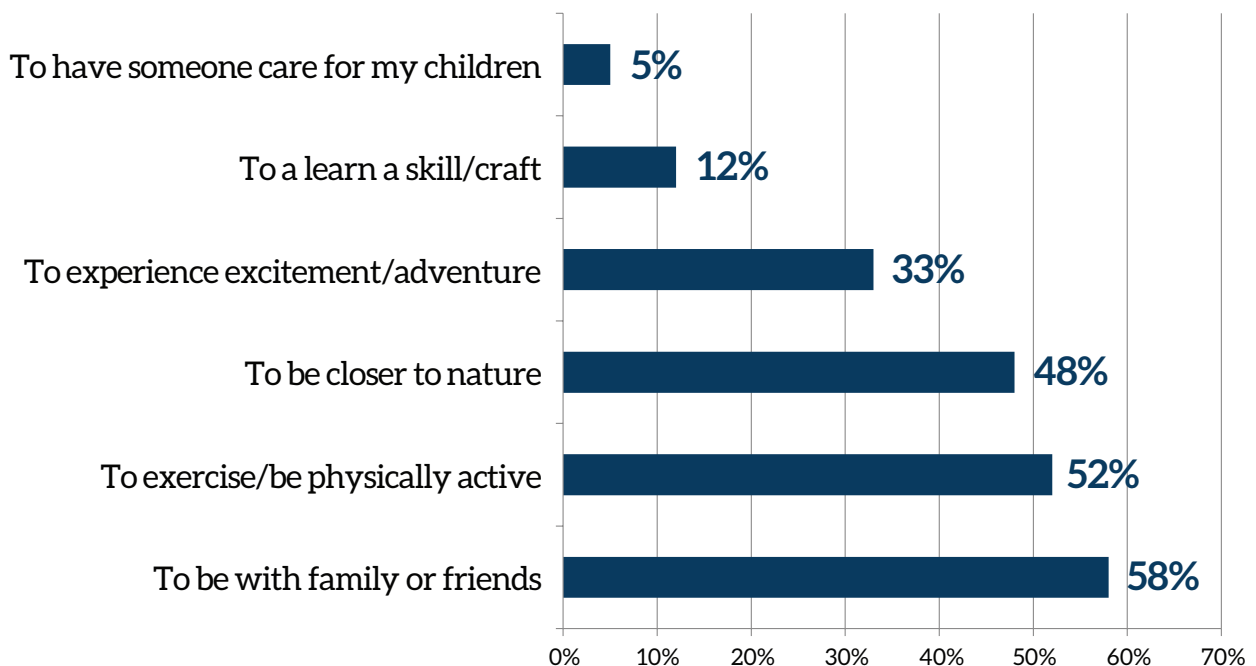
- To learn a skill or craft (12 percent)
- To have someone care for my children while at work (five percent)
- To attend an event or activity (one percent)

The fact that people visit their local park and recreation facilities for an array of reasons, and that these factors differ significantly by demographic segments, highlights the importance of park and recreation professionals doing all they can to fully understand the constituents they serve. For example, the interests, desires and needs of Millennials do not match those of Baby Boomers. Delivering a one-size-fits-all offering to their community guarantees low satisfaction and underutilization of the agencies' facilities and programming.

One resource that can assist agencies with understanding their constituents is the *NRPA Facility Market Reports*. These customized reports provide detailed demographic and market research data on the residents living near park and recreation facilities. In addition, surveys, community meetings and interactive engagement tools provide valuable feedback that helps identify the optimal mix of service offerings to deliver to the community.

Key Reasons for Visiting Park and Recreation Facilities

(Percent of Respondents Who Personally Have (or a Household Member Has) Visited Local Park/Recreation Facility in the Past Year)



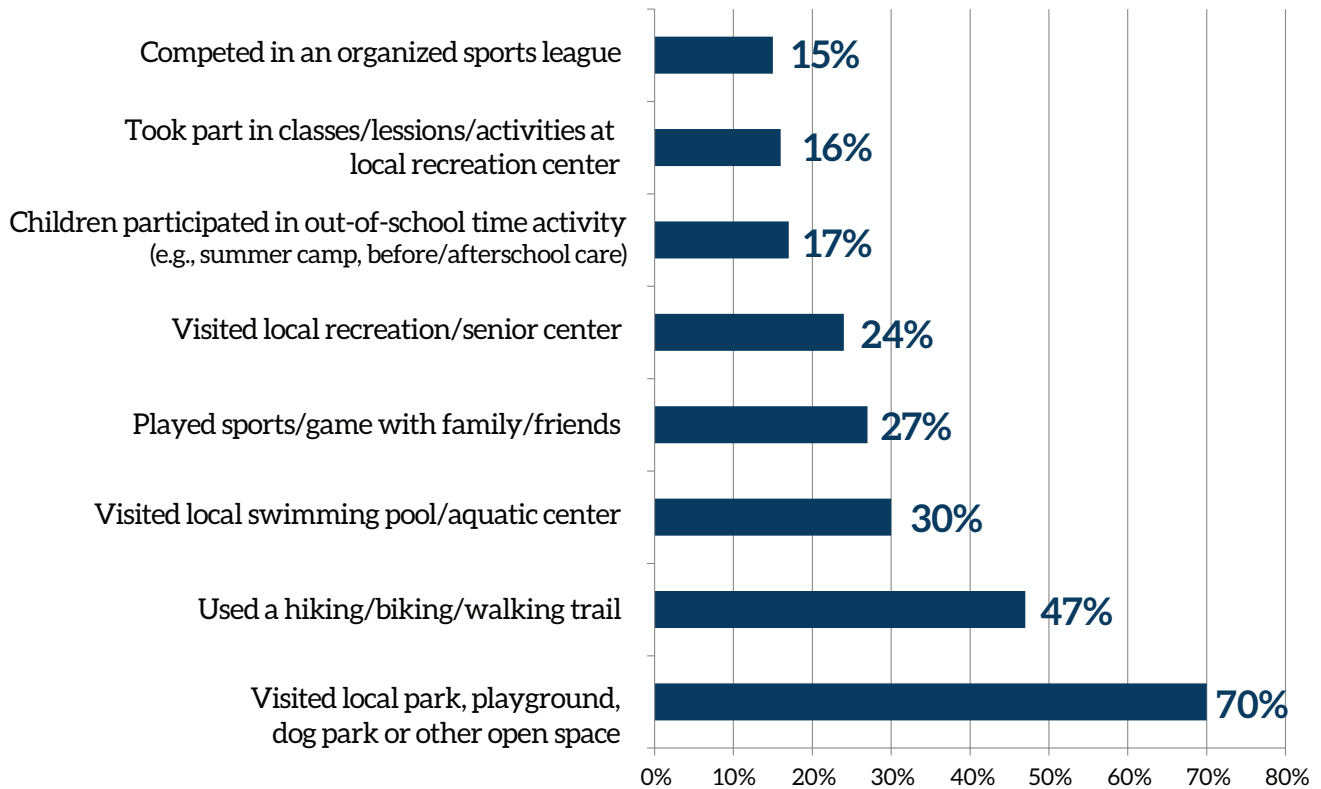
The reasons people visit their local park and recreation facilities track closely with what they identify as their favorite activities. Seven in 10 Americans who indicated visiting some sort of park or recreation facility over the past year did so at a local park, playground, dog park or some other local open space. Just under half of survey respondents walked, jogged, biked and/or hiked on a local trail (47 percent), while 30 percent visited a local swimming pool/aquatic center.

Other activities that Americans partake in at local park and recreation facilities include:

- Playing sports with family and friends (27 percent)
- Visiting the local recreation/senior center (24 percent)
- Having children participate in out-of-school time programs (e.g., summer camp, before/afterschool care) (17 percent)
- Taking part in classes/lessons at local recreation center (16 percent)
- Participating in local sports leagues (15 percent)

Americans' Favorite Park and Recreation Activities

(Percent of Respondents Who Personally Have (or a Household Member Has)
Visited Local Park/Recreation Facility in the Past Year)



Baby Boomers are more likely than Millennials to say their favorite experience is simply visiting a local park/playground/dog park/other open space (76 percent versus 67 percent). Millennials are significantly more likely than Baby Boomers, however, to play sports with family/friends at a park (40 percent), visit a swimming pool/aquatic center (36 percent), have children in an out-of-school time program (22 percent), compete in an organized sports league (22 percent) and take classes/lessons (20 percent).

Similarly, parents are significantly more likely than non-parents to visit a swimming pool/aquatic center (42 percent), play sports with friends/family (37 percent), visit their local recreation center (28 percent), have children in an out-of-school time program (38 percent), take a class/lesson (19 percent) and compete in an organized sports league (23 percent). Respondents who identify themselves as Hispanic are statistically more likely to visit their local swimming pool/aquatic center and have their children enrolled in out-of-school time activities.

Challenges to Greater Engagement with Parks and Recreation

As much as Americans use their local park and recreation facilities, three-quarters of survey respondents identify barriers that are keeping them or other members of their household from enjoying these community resources even more. These barriers represent challenges (and perhaps opportunities) for park and recreation professionals to identify solutions to further improve the accessibility of their offerings to the public.

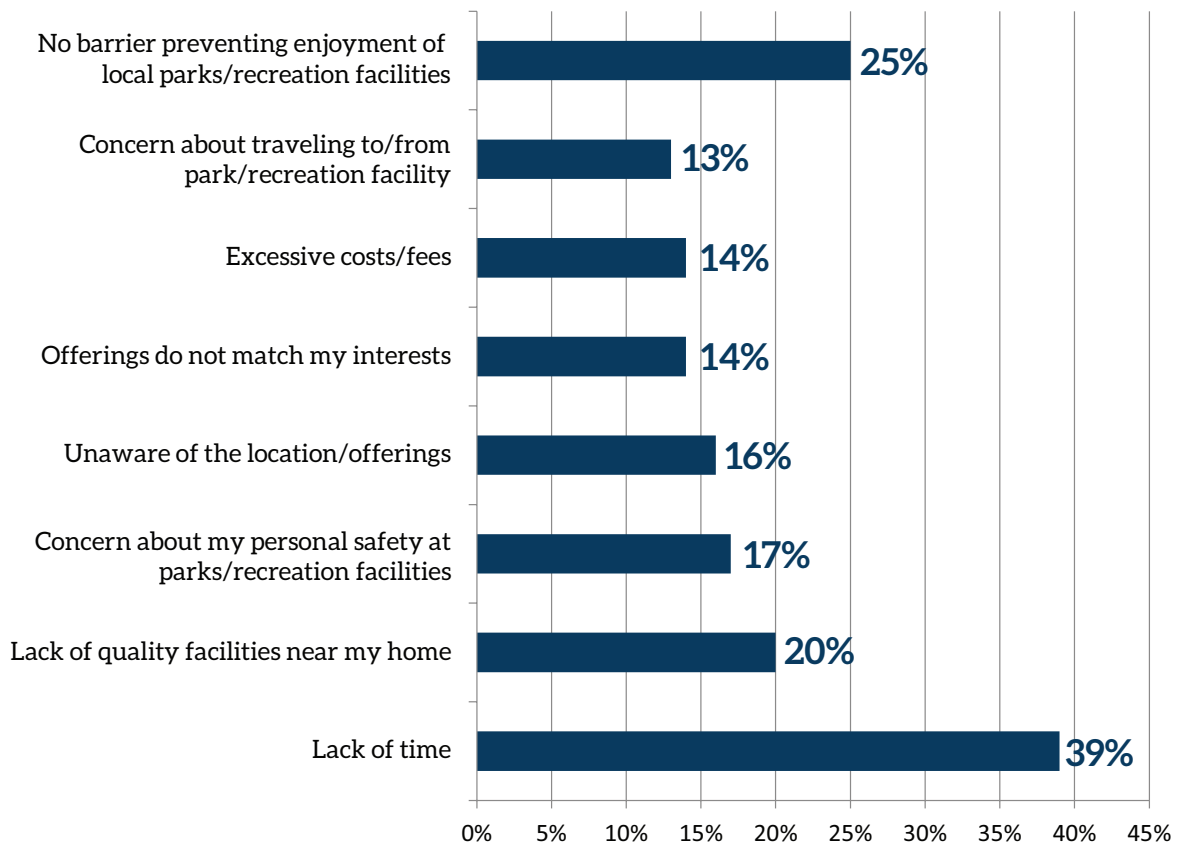
The biggest barrier keeping Americans from greater enjoyment of their local park and recreation facilities is a lack of time (39 percent). This issue is particularly acute for both Millennials and Gen Xers (both at 45 percent) and for those currently employed (47 percent).

The second biggest concern noted is a lack of quality facilities near one's home (20 percent), with higher percentages of Millennials (28 percent) and those that identify as non-white (26 percent) more likely to indicate this.

Other top barriers that prevent people from greater enjoyment of their local park and recreation facilities include:

- Concern about personal safety at the park or recreation facility (17 percent)
- Unaware of the park location or offerings (16 percent, including 23 percent of Millennials)
- Offerings of local parks/recreation facilities not matching area of interest (14 percent, although the percentages are higher for Millennials (18 percent) and those that identify themselves as Hispanic (19 percent))
- Excessive costs/fees (14 percent, with higher percentages for Millennials and those that identify themselves as either Hispanic or non-white).

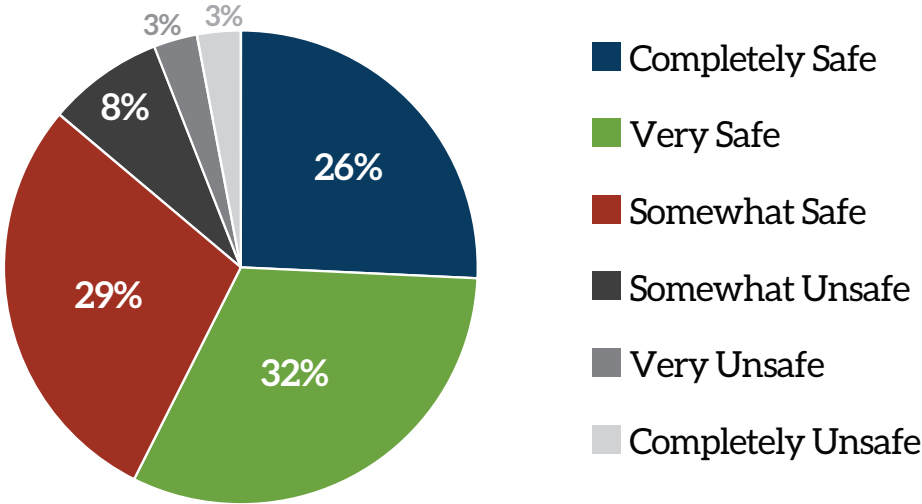
Barriers Preventing Greater Enjoyment of Local Park and Recreation Facilities (Percent of Respondents)



A major determinant for the number of visits a person makes to their local park and recreation facilities is whether they can safely travel to and from their nearest local park, playground, open space or recreation center. Nearly three in five Americans feel “completely” or “very” safe walking to and from their local park and recreation facility (58 percent) while another 29 percent characterize the walk as being “somewhat safe.” Nevertheless, 14 percent of Americans feel unsafe walking to and from their local park and recreation facilities.

Perceived Safety Walking to Local Park, Open Space or Recreation Center

(Percentage Distribution of Respondents)



An unsafe walk means people are less likely to take advantage of everything their local park and recreation agency has to offer. Only 38 percent of survey respondents who have not visited a park or recreation facility over the past year perceive the walk to and from such facilities as being safe. By comparison, 89 percent of survey respondents who have visited a park or recreation facility at least once in the past year report that they feel safe walking to and from their local parks. Further, survey respondents without a safe way to walk to parks visit these facilities 40 percent fewer times per year than do those that feel safe walking to and from their local parks.

To mitigate these issues, NRPA created its Safe Routes to Parks campaign, which combines environmental and policy strategies that promote safe and equitable access to parks. Safe Routes to Parks efforts vary across communities but generally include one or all of the following: (1) conducting assessments to identify gaps and barriers in park access; (2) building, improving and maintaining public infrastructure, such as sidewalks, crossings and trails to create safe walking, biking and transit routes to parks; and/or (3) enhancing programming, community engagement and amenities to increase perceived safety and attract local residents to the park.

Importance of Parks and Recreations to Our Communities

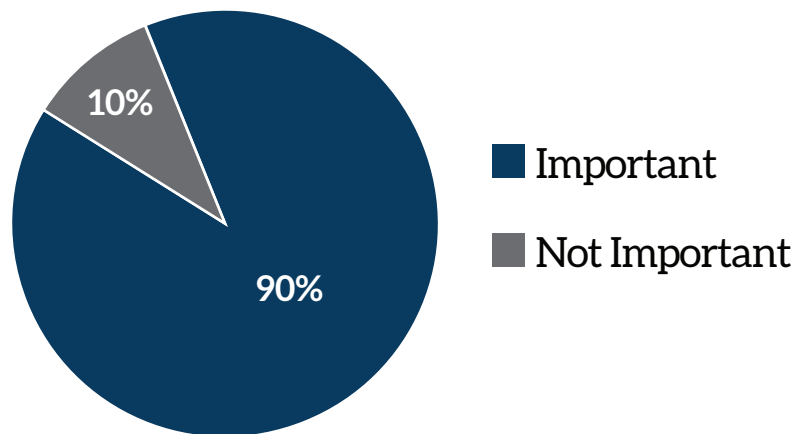
While Americans may disagree — at times passionately — about the proper role of government and public provision of services at the state and federal level, they view many of the services provided by their local government as vital for their day-to-day life. This includes services that promote public safety, the education of children, social welfare, utilities and transportation. Also on the list of important offerings delivered by their local governments are those delivered by their local park and recreation agency.

An overwhelming majority of Americans — nine in 10 to be specific — identify parks and recreation as an important service provided by their local government. Strong supporters of parks and recreation span across every segment of the population: Examples include:

- Generations: Millennials (93 percent), Gen Xers (94 percent) and Baby Boomers (85 percent)
- Race: Those that identify as white (89 percent) or non-white (93 percent)
- Ethnicity: Those that identify as Hispanic (92 percent) or non-Hispanic (89 percent)
- Household formation: Households with children (94 percent) and those without children (87 percent)
- Political views: Democrats (91 percent), Republicans (89 percent) and Tea Party members (92 percent)

Americans Agree That Parks and Recreation Are an Important Service Provided by Their Local Government

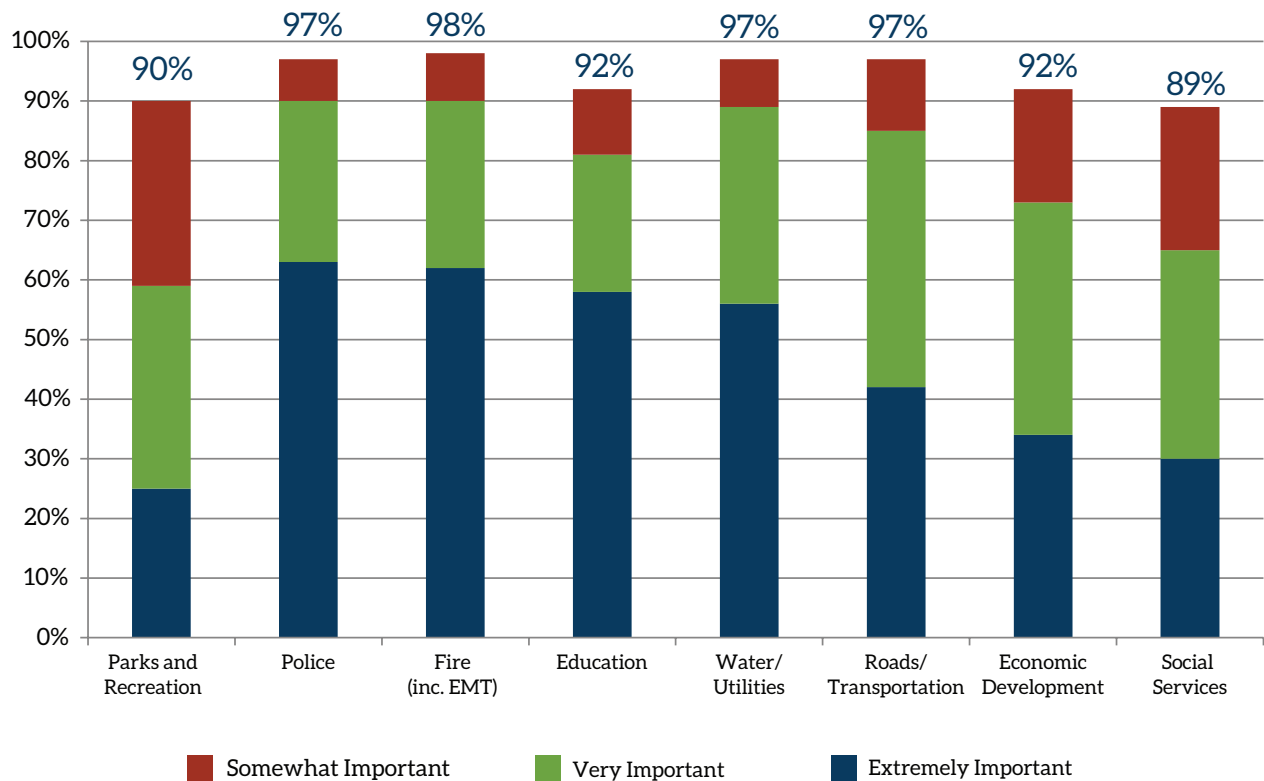
(Percentage Distribution of Respondents)



Americans place nearly the same level of importance on parks and recreation as they do on virtually every other major service delivered by their local government. Whereas 90 percent of survey respondents view parks and recreation as an important service provided by local government, other services compare favorably, including:

- Public safety: Fire/EMT (98 percent) and Police (97 percent)
- Water/Utilities (97 percent)
- Roads/Transportation (97 percent)
- Education (92 percent)
- Economic development (92 percent)
- Social services (89 percent)

Importance of Parks and Recreation Compared to Other Local Government Provided Services (Percent of Respondents)



The widespread support for parks and recreation results from the many ways that these valuable resources impact our communities. This may be the local corner park where friends and family meet on a sunny weekend afternoon or the walking or biking trail where we blow off steam after a hard day at work. These agencies are leaders in their communities in providing valuable services for children, including, before and afterschool care, summer camps and hosting sports leagues that teach the importance of physical activity, the thrill of victory and the value of teamwork.

The diverse offerings of local park and recreation agencies unite communities through their tireless efforts in the areas of Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity. The National Recreation and Park Association ties these concepts together into its Three Pillars, providing a clear vision of the mission of parks and recreation in our towns and cities.

Americans agree that the NRPA Three Pillars represent what they see as key goals for their local park and recreation agency, with nearly equal percentages seeing each pillar as a critical function of their local agency.

- Seventy-six percent of survey respondents rate as either “extremely” or “very” important that their local park and recreation agency focuses on health and wellness, including providing residents with improved access to healthy food and increased opportunities for physical activity.
- Seventy-four percent of Americans see as an “extremely” or “very” important role for their agency to devote resources to conservation, including the protection of open space and engaging their communities in conservation practices.
- Seventy-two percent of survey respondents support their park and recreation agency devoting efforts to improve social equity, including ensuring all people in their communities can access the benefits of local parks, regardless of race, age, income or any other characteristic.

Much like how parks and recreation enjoys strong support across virtually every demographic group in the United States, the support for the NRPA Three Pillars is firm with nearly every segment of the U.S. population. Nevertheless, there are segments that are more likely to see the Pillars as areas of focus for their local park and recreation agencies. Examples include:

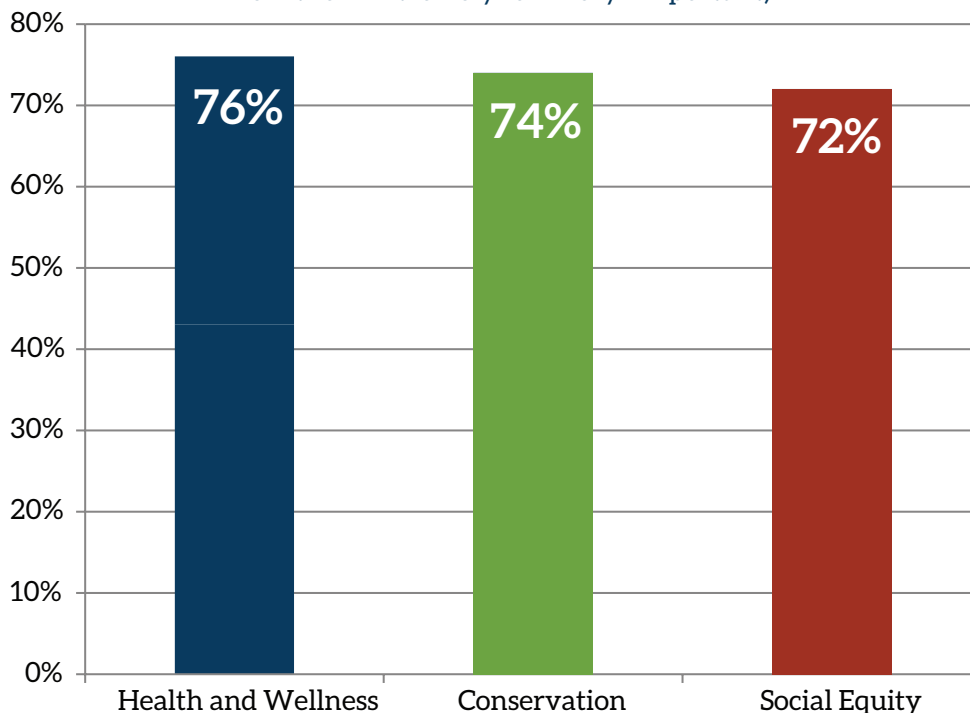
- Millennials: Health and Wellness (83 percent), Conservation (76 percent) and Social Equity (79 percent)
- Non-whites: Health and Wellness (87 percent), Conservation (74 percent) and Social Equity (77 percent)
- Hispanics: Health and Wellness (86 percent), Conservation (77 percent) and Social Equity (80 percent)
- Parents: Health and Wellness (84 percent), Conservation (80 percent) and Social Equity (81 percent)

Nor is the support for the NRPA Three Pillars a partisan issue. In fact, solid majorities of people who identify themselves as Democrats, Republicans or members of the Tea Party also agree that the Pillars represent what they see as the key priorities for their local park and recreation agencies.

- Democrats: Health and Wellness (83 percent), Conservation (81 percent) and Social Equity (81 percent)
- Republicans: Health and Wellness (73 percent), Conservation (71 percent) and Social Equity (65 percent)
- Tea Party members: Health and Wellness (76 percent), Conservation (72 percent) and Social Equity (73 percent)

Americans View the NRPA Three Pillars as Their Park and Recreation Agency's Priorities

(Percent of Respondents Indicating the Pillars Are Either "Extremely" or "Very" Important)



Taking a more detailed look at what the NRPA Three Pillars entail, Americans reaffirm their support for the broad, vital mission of park and recreation agencies. Specifically, they agree that their local agencies should consider the NRPA Three Pillars when designing, funding and delivery their offerings to the community.

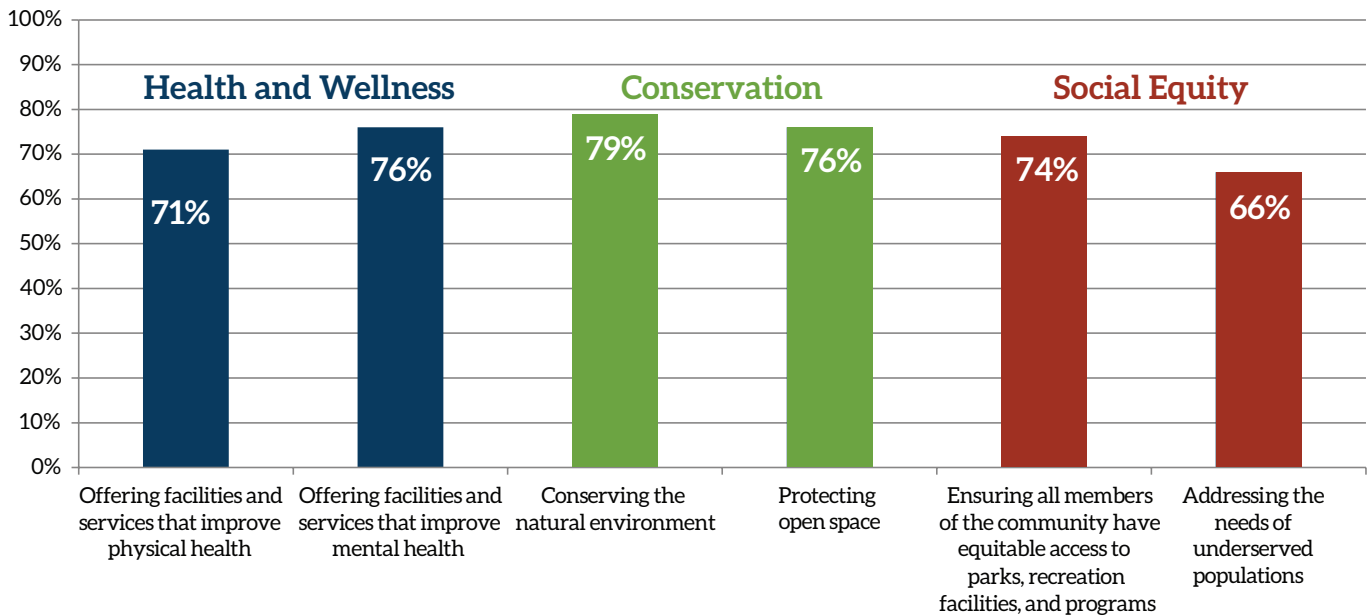
In terms of health and wellness, survey respondents indicate that it is “extremely” or “very” important that agencies offer facilities and services that improve both mental health (76 percent) and physical health (71 percent). Younger, non-white and/or Hispanic survey respondents are most likely to support one or both of these goals.

Similarly, survey respondents agree that the two conservation-oriented tactics – conserving the natural environment and protecting open space – should be important considerations for park and recreation agencies as they design, fund and deliver their services. Seventy-nine percent say it is “extremely” or “very” important that agencies work to conserve the natural environment, while 76 percent agree that agencies need to protect open space. Millennials and parents of children are most likely to support either conservation tactic.

In terms of social equity, 74 percent of survey respondents see it as “extremely” or “very” important that their park and recreation agency ensures that all members of their community have equitable access to parks, recreation facilities and programming. In addition, two-thirds of Americans agree that their local agency must address the needs of the underserved population in their community. The populations most likely to support the tactics linked to the social equity pillar are Millennials, non-whites and parents.

Important NRPA Pillar Tactics for Park and Recreation Agencies

(Percent of Respondents Indicating Tactic Is Either "Extremely" or "Very" Important)



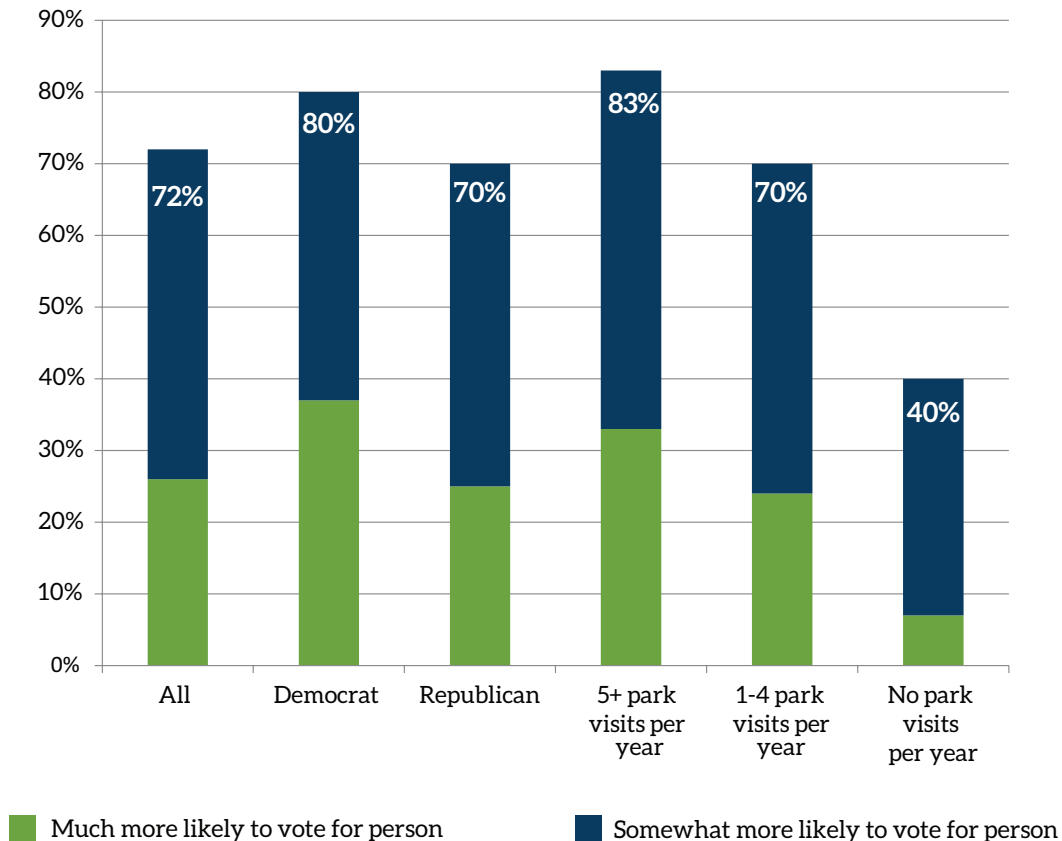
Political Support for Increased Park and Recreation Funding

Local governments face the challenge of meeting their constituents many needs and desires in an environment of tight budgets. Local political leaders have to make critical, tough decisions on how to allocate tax revenues to each of their jurisdiction's many initiatives. As a result, it is critical that local government policymakers understand the park and recreation mission and the level of importance their constituents place on the agency's offerings. Americans agree that park and recreation agencies deserve the financial resources that support, sustain and expand their offerings.

The survey findings presented in this report thus far demonstrate both widespread usage of park and recreation facilities and a broad agreement among Americans that park and recreation agencies are important partners in their community. As a result, it should be of little surprise that most Americans also indicate they are more likely to vote for local politicians that make park and recreation funding a priority.

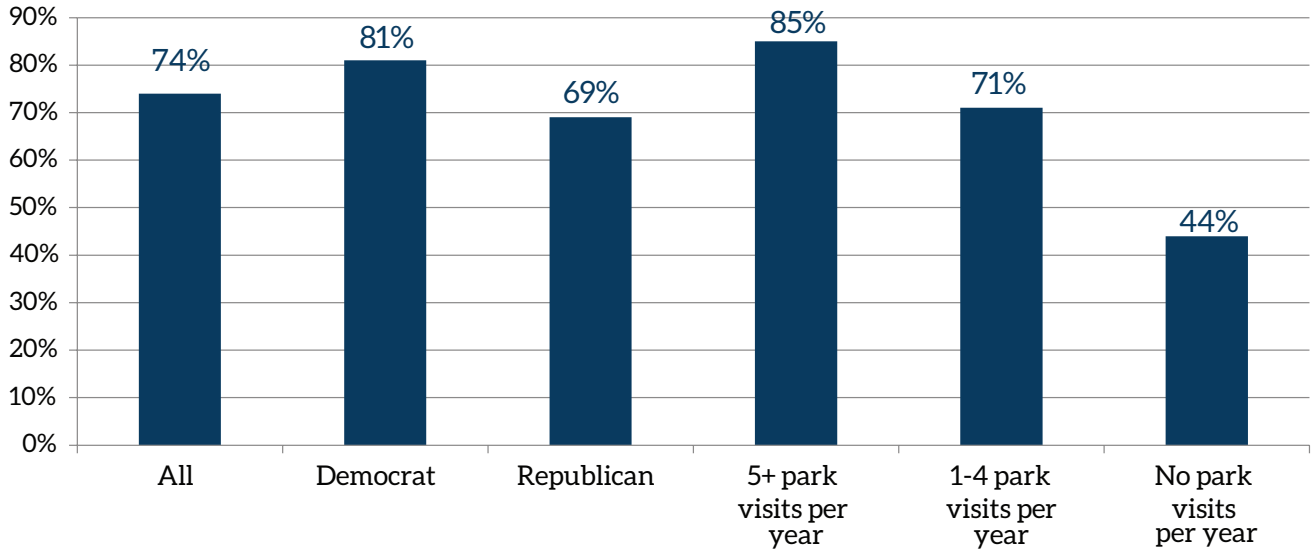
Seventy-two percent of survey respondents say that they are either "much more likely" or "somewhat more likely" to vote for a local politician (e.g., mayor, county executive, council members, etc.) that makes park and recreation funding a priority. More specifically, 26 percent of respondents indicate they are "much more likely" to vote for politicians who make park and recreation funding a priority, while another 46 percent say they are "somewhat more likely."

Americans More Likely to Vote for Local Politicians That Make Park and Recreation Funding a Priority (Percent of Respondents)



Americans Support Greater Government Funding for Local Park and Recreation

(Percent of Respondents That Support Increased Spending for Local Park and Recreation Services)



This support for local political leaders who make parks and recreation a funding priority includes Millennials (76 percent), Gen Xers (77 percent) and those that are parents (81 percent). Further, the support for park and recreation advocating politicians crosses the political aisle with 80 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of Republicans indicating the same. Even more notably, this support does not waver by the survey respondent's race, ethnicity or income level.

Park and recreation agencies deliver their services to the community in a remarkably efficient manner. According to data collected through NRPA's agency-performance benchmarking resource (PRORAGIS) and presented in the 2016 NRPA Field Report, the typical park and recreation agency has operating expenditures of less than \$7.00 per month for each resident that it serves. As a matter of perspective, that is less than a quarter per day for each resident served by the park and recreation agency.

Americans overwhelmingly support their local governments to increase how much they spend on public park and recreation services. Three-quarters of survey respondents say they want their local governments to increase park and recreation spending, split between 27 percent indicating that they would "definitely" support increased spending and another 47 percent stating that they would "probably" support higher spending.

The backing for higher park and recreation funding comes from nearly every segment of survey respondents but is particularly robust from Millennials (84 percent) and parents (83 percent). Higher park and recreation funding also enjoys bipartisan support, with 81 percent of Democrats and 69 percent of Republicans in agreement. Large majorities of respondents by differing race, ethnicities and income strata would support more robust park and recreation funding.

A deeper glance at the data also finds that it takes one simple visit to a local park or recreation facility to gain the support for increased funding. Forty-four percent of survey respondents who did not visit a park or recreation facility over the past year support higher agency funding. This percentage soars to 71 percent of Americans who visited a park between one and four times over the past year.

Americans would support substantially increased funding for their park and recreation agency. The typical survey respondent indicates they would support their local government to increase its park and recreation spending by roughly a third to \$9.00 per month per resident, nearly 30 percent above the current median level.

Americans Support a Significant Increase in Park and Recreation Spending by Local Governments

(Percentage Distribution of Respondents That Support Increased Funding for Local Park and Recreation Services)

	All	Democrat	Republican	5+ Park Visits per Year	1-4 Park Visits per Year	No Park Visits per Year
\$7.50 per resident, per month	23%	20%	24%	20%	29%	29%
\$8.00 per resident, per month	22%	22%	25%	19%	25%	32%
\$9.00 per resident, per month	15%	11%	14%	16%	18%	9%
\$10.00 per resident, per month	28%	33%	28%	33%	18%	21%
\$11.00 per resident, per month	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%
More than \$11.00 per resident, per month	9%	10%	6%	10%	6%	7%

CONCLUSION

Americans see the offerings of their local park and recreation agency as a vital contributor to their communities. Four in five people have visited a local park and/or recreation facility within the past year, with an average of 29 visits per year. It is their frequent, regular and all-inclusive engagement that breeds the strong, unwavering support for parks and recreation. Further, the backing for parks crosses nearly every segment of the public, coast-to-coast.

Local park and recreation agencies are leaders in their communities in terms of conservation, health and wellness, and social equity. The wealth of facility types and program offerings reflects the diversity of the populations that they serve and their needs and desires. Where some see their local park as a place to work out and blow off some steam, others turn to their local agency for critical services that improve lives (e.g., out-of-school time programs). In terms of the NRPA Three Pillars, parks and recreation offers solid, effective solutions to issues affecting our communities.

The way parks and recreation has integrated itself into the lives of most Americans highlights that the services it provides are not a luxury, but rather a crucial, essential service delivered by local governments. This study's findings make it clear that voters are more likely to support candidates who openly advocate increased agency funding for mayor, county executive, city/town/county council, and other local government offices. Further, these same voters back increased park and recreation funding to ensure improved and more accessible services in their community.

Park and recreation professionals can use the results from this inaugural edition of the Americans' Engagement with Park Survey to reaffirm what they likely already suspected: The public highly values the work that they and their colleagues deliver to their community every day. The public's strong support for parks and recreation further makes the case to local political leaders, stakeholders and the media for larger and more stable funding. Also, it is critical to share these findings with the general public as an opportunity to educate them on the broad impact agencies have in their community. The parks and recreation story is just too great to keep to ourselves.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The 2016 Americans' Engagement with Parks Survey is a new annual survey research series of the National Recreation and Park Association focused on the general public's interaction with parks and recreation. The goal of this research series is to better understand Americans' use of local park and recreation facilities and their willingness to fund these resources.

To explore these issues, the Research Department at the National Recreation and Park Association created a 38-question survey and engaged Wakefield Research to collect data from a random sample of 1,000 American adults that are an accurate representation of U.S. adults ages 18 and above. The data was collected with an online survey in which survey respondents had received an email invitation from Wakefield Research. The margin of error of the response is +/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

The survey instrument and final report were created by the NRPA Research Department, which is solely responsible for their content.



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2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

Juanita Pohl Center Advisory Committee

1. BACKGROUND

The Juanita Pohl Center Advisory Committee (JPCAC) was established in March 2013. The bylaws indicate that the JPCAC file an annual report with the Council including a summary of the committee's activities during the previous year.

Members of the JPCAC include Connie Dover, Marjene Freiley, Bob Grable, Stephanie Jones, Del Judy, Candice Kelly, Bob Leveton, Susan Noack and Marilyn Ogorzaly.

2. ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

- a. Listen to ideas and discuss suggestions with participants, general public and center staff.
- b. Provide input and advise center staff regarding matters of the operation for the center.

3. ACTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ROLES

a. Healthy Aging Programs

Supported efforts to increase utilization of the center through new healthy active aging programs, services and events that include:

- **Fitness & Wellness Programs**
The center offered 1,011 classes annually that included yoga, strength, balance, stretching and dance six days a week. Total annual participation was 10,753. Highlights included SilverSneakers® exercise classes, bilingual fitness, Veterans' yoga, and pickleball.
- **Nutrition Program**
Meals on Wheels People lunch program served 9,265 congregate meals at the center and delivered 8,993 meals to home bound clients.
- **Social Programs**
There were 620 programs offered that promoted socialization at the center with a total annual participation of 4,658. Highlights included Veterans' Recognition Breakfast (150), Oktoberfest (60), Brain Awareness Week (100), Bingo (884), Billiards (1,085) and Tuesday Night Social (641).
- **Visitations**
The center had 67,928 visits last fiscal year. This is a 12,008 visit increase from the previous year.



SilverSneakersClassic

This Monday, Wednesday and Friday class is a popular class at the center.

b. Partnerships

- Increased and maintained partnerships and collaboration to assure quality programs and reduce duplication with the following valued partners:

Meals on Wheels People

AARP

Alzheimer Association

Parkinson's Association

Portland Community College

New Horizons Big Band

Volunteers for the Emotional Wellbeing of Seniors



Meals on Wheels People volunteer driver to deliver home meals. The meal program has been a valued partner providing essential healthy nutritional meals for over 34 years at the center.

2015-16 Annual Report of the Juanita Pohl Center Advisory Committee

c. Rentals

- The center accommodated 250 private parties, meetings or events for residents and businesses.
- The total estimated rental attendance was 17,585.
- Pohl Center rental revenue increased by over \$22,000 during the past three years.
- The center continues to be popular gathering place for our diverse community members.



The center is normally booked on Saturdays and Sundays during the year for citizen and business activities and events.

d. Improved Circulation and Ambiance

Enhance the center's circulation and appearance with an improved layout and updated furniture that included:

- Furniture replacement providing a functional furniture concept and plan was developed and approved by the Juanita Pohl Center Advisory Committee.
- The main goal of this project is to provide safe, accessible and appealing furnishings for older adults with a consistent theme throughout the building.
- The informal lounge (phase 1) included new chairs, coffee tables, computer area, puzzle tables and game storage unit that was completed in June of 2016.
- The west activity area (phase 2) was completed in September of 2016 and included new game tables, chairs and a book case.



Newly Installed Furnishings

4. **ACTION PLAN FOR 2016-17**

a. Programs and Services

Continue to support and grow active aging programs, services and events in the community which include:

Active Aging Week
Brain Awareness Week
Bilingual Programs
Hiking/Walking Programs
Meals on Wheels People
Pickleball Drop-in/Tournaments & Classes
SilverSneakers® & Silver & Fit® Insurance Reimbursement Programs
Veterans' Recognition Breakfast

b. Furniture Replacement

Recommend support for the completion of the center's furniture replacement plan.



Playing Pickleball at Tualatin Community Park

Juanita Pohl Center Advisory Committee 2015-16 Annual Report



Committee Members

- Candice Kelly, Chair
- Connie Dover
- Marjene Freiley
- Bob Grable
- Stephanie Jones
- Del Judy
- Bob Leveton
- Susan Noack
- Marilyn Ogorzaly



Committee Role

- Listen for and discuss suggestions and ideas
- Input and advise staff on operation of the center



Increase Utilization

- Programs

- Fitness & Wellness

- Nutrition

- Social

- Center Visits

- 12,008 more visits 2015-16



Partnerships

- AARP
- Alzheimer Association
- Parkinson Association
- Portland Community College
- Meals on Wheels People
- New Horizons Big Band
- Volunteers for the Emotional Wellbeing of Seniors



Benefits

- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Intellectual engagement
- Increase quality of life
- Social interaction



Rentals

- Business Meetings
- Private Parties
- Special Events



- Building rented 250 times
- 17,585 guests attending
- \$43,342 in revenue

Enhance Center's Appearance

- Furniture Phase 1 – Informal Lounge (June 2016)
- Furniture Phase 2 – Active Game Area (September 2016)



Action Plan for 2016-17

- Support and grow active aging programs and events
- Recommend furniture replacement for phase 3



Questions/Comments?



Quilt Barn Trail

of Oregon's Washington County



Tour the new trail of quilt blocks through rural areas of the Tualatin Valley and see dozens of lovely old barns, historic granges, wineries and more. This self-guided tour celebrates both agricultural and quilting heritage, and each block illustrates the connection each family has to the art of quilting. Experience it today!

For more information about the quilt barn blocks, complete list of barns and map of the trail, visit us at quiltbarns.org.

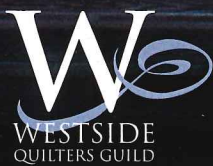
 [quiltbartrailsofwacounty](https://www.instagram.com/quiltbartrailsofwacounty) |  [quiltbartrail](https://www.facebook.com/quiltbartrail)

Quilt Barn Trail of Washington County is a project of the Westside Quilters Guild of Hillsboro, Oregon.

Sponsored by



Thanks to David & Beverley Simpson Hess of Simpson Century Farm



westsidequilters.org

tualatinvalley.org





THE INTER TWINE

WHO WE ARE

The Intertwine Alliance is a coalition of 150+ public, private and nonprofit organizations working to integrate nature more deeply into the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region.

WHAT WE DO

As a convener, facilitator, communicator and backbone organization, The Intertwine Alliance supports strategic conversations, initiatives and [collaborative projects](#) that help our [partners](#) increase their impact.

In order to avoid competing with our nonprofit partners, The Intertwine Alliance does not accept contributions from individuals. We also avoid competing with partners for grant funding. Instead, we depend on partner contributions to sustain our work. Partner dues make up about 2/3 of The Intertwine Alliance's operating budget.

FINDING OUR COMMON GROUND

A few years ago, we realized that all of our greatest achievements had one thing in common. Whether launching a natural area acquisition initiative, completing a new trail, or opening a major new park, behind every major success stood a coalition of

public, private and nonprofit organizations and leaders. So, we thought, rather than put this coalition together each time we want to do something big, why not put it together and keep it together and keep doing big things?

So that's what we've done.

We welcome you to learn more about The Intertwine Alliance's [focus areas](#) -- and, if your organization hasn't done so yet, to [join The Alliance!](#)

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

The Intertwine Alliance was created based on the following principles:

1. To connect – to create platforms for our partners to share and learn
 2. To be inclusive – to make sure all voices are heard
 3. To build the capacity of coalition partners – to leverage assets and remove duplication
 4. To keep a small footprint – to focus on building our partners' capacity, not our own
 5. To bring in more money – to find new sources of funding to support our partners' work
 6. To make the movement visible – to be the face and resource for our sectors' issues
 7. To collaborate – to build meaningful, sustainable and productive partnerships
-


VISION

Partners in The Intertwine Alliance share a collective vision for a thriving, multi-jurisdictional, interconnected system of neighborhood, community and regional parks, natural areas, trails, open spaces, educational programming, and recreation opportunities distributed equitably throughout the Portland-Vancouver region.

It is our intention that The Intertwine Alliance includes, represents, and serves the full cultural and demographic diversity of the region. The Alliance is a positive force in helping our community achieve racial equity, and we serve and support our partners in

becoming more culturally responsive. By becoming a partner in The Alliance, you join with others who are growing in their understanding and capacity to address equity in their organizations and in the community as a whole. Read Alliance's full [equity and inclusion strategy](#).

The region-wide system known as The Intertwine:

- Drives the region's economy and tourist trade
 - Preserves significant natural areas for wildlife habitat and public use
 - Enhances the region's air and water quality
 - Promotes citizens' health, fitness and personal well-being
 - Connects the region's communities with trails and greenways
 - Provides sense of place and community
 - Achieves equity, including racial equity
 - Supports an ecologically sustainable metropolitan area
 - Support residents in lifelong learning about and stewardship of nature
 - Reduces, mitigates and help us adapt to climate change
- 

INTERTWINE FOCUS AREAS

Share

It takes hearts, hands and minds to build The Intertwine's 3,000 square miles of parks, trails and natural areas, and to make them healthy and equitable for all of our communities. This is the work of The Intertwine Alliance—a unique coalition of 150+ public, private and nonprofit organizations in the Portland/Vancouver region.

Through the organizing framework of [Collective Impact](#), we identify priority work areas, set goals and guide progress.

The Intertwine Alliance's focus areas are:

[Active Transportation](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Conservation Education](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Ecosystem Services](#)

[Equity and Inclusion](#)

[Health & Nature](#)

[Public Engagement/Our Common Ground Campaign](#)

[Regional System of Parks, Trails and Natural Areas](#)

[Urban Forestry](#)

[Youth Engagement](#)

THE INTERTWINE BENEFITS OUR HEALTH

Share

Access to nature makes people healthier



The Portland-Vancouver region is the epicenter of a movement to reshape cities into places that promote healthier living and stronger communities. The relationship between health and nature has been documented since the early 1980s, and new research is popping up almost weekly demonstrating the connections.

Here's what we know for sure. Nature affects health in four main ways:

1. It encourages green exercise.
2. It reduces stress.
3. It creates a healthy environment.
4. It builds community connections.

GREEN EXERCISE can be as simple as walking, biking or playing sports in a park or on a trail – or as challenging as climbing Mt. St. Helens. Whatever activity you choose, it may be more beneficial than you think. Most green spaces are free, or at least very inexpensive compared to gym memberships. And research shows that the same exercise, when done in nature, gives more than benefits than when done inside, a gym or otherwise. Also, youth regularly exposed to green spaces are more likely to engage in physical activity in general.

Green exercise can reduce blood pressure and burn calories, while increasing strength and metabolism. It can have a positive impact on self-esteem. It can lower the risk of stroke, heart attack, diabetes and so many other health issues that plague our society.

"Potential health gains of a shift from private motorized transport to walking, cycling and rapid transit/public transport include reduced cardiovascular and respiratory disease from air pollution, less traffic injury and less noise-related stress."

– World Health Organization

More and more, it seems that STRESS in America is on the rise. Why is this a problem, besides the obvious ways it is unpleasant? Research shows that stress contributes to heart disease, asthma, obesity, diabetes, headaches, depression, anxiety, gastrointestinal problems, Alzheimer's disease, accelerated aging and premature death. But here's the good news: a recent Harvard survey reports that spending time outdoors was ranked highest among strategies for reducing stress. In fact, studies show a decrease in stress-related symptoms after just 5 minutes outside, or even from looking at a photograph of nature.

With depression currently ranking as the number one cause for disability, exposure to nature could mean a huge savings in terms of health care and work productivity. Spending time in urban woodlands and park has been shown to increase feelings of restoration, vitality, positive moods and creativity. In fact, individuals who have moved to greener areas have been shown to see an improvement in mental health within 5 years. People living in greener neighborhoods are at reduced risk for sleeplessness, and one study found a lower rate of chronic disease in individuals with access to a park.

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT contributes significantly to healthy individuals. Chronic respiratory disease is the fourth leading cause of death in the world, and research shows that air quality plays an important role in its development. Trees and other plants are effective in reducing carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and other people-harming gases from the air. Also, reducing storm water run-off by adding green infrastructure can eliminate or decrease chances of sewage overflow. By protecting our environment and keeping it clean, people are more freely able to enjoy rivers, forests and parks.

"The idea that physical space might contribute to healing does, it turns out, have a scientific basis. The first study to tackle this question, published in Science magazine in 1984, showed that when hospital rooms have windows looking out on the natural world, patients heal more rapidly."

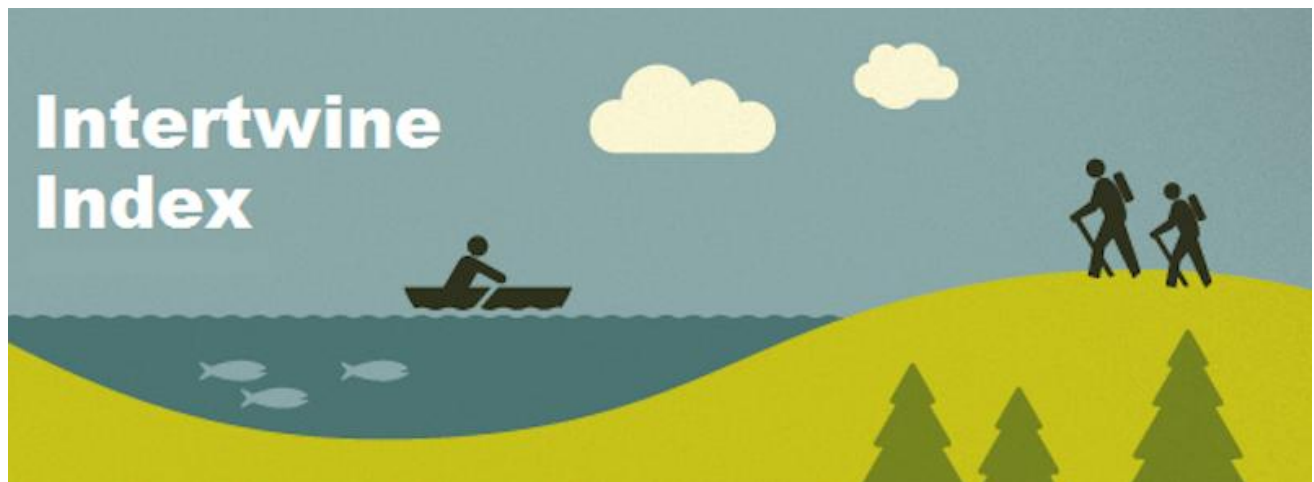
– Professor Roger Ulrich, Department of Architecture and Centre for Healthcare Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden

A green environment also helps build COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS. Research shows that people living in neighborhoods with nearby parks and trails are more likely to know their neighbors, experience a sense of belonging, and feel safer compared to those without green spaces nearby. This results in an increased sense of well-being and more civic participation. Evidence shows that if a park is within close proximity, people are

more likely to use it -- adding “eyes on the street,” a concept linked to safer communities. Residents with greener surroundings report lower levels of fear, fewer incivilities and less violent behavior.

A number of local studies confirm the strong relationship between the built environment and a healthy quality of life. Clark County, Washington, conducted a [Health Impact Assessment](#) in 2011 to analyze and evaluate the potential public health effects of implementing the [Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan](#). Metro, Multnomah County and the nonprofit Upstream Public Health have undertaken similar studies. Considering the significant costs to society associated with reduced physical activity, it's crucial that our region continue to implement its vision for incorporating nature into our cities.

“It is not surprising that Nature is a source of health and well-being. She has been our source of sustenance, shelter, livelihood and rest for all of human history. She is our ancestral home and the 'baseline' that all life (including our human species) has become accustomed to, despite the recent addition of asphalt, concrete and digital screens. We do better in our bodies, in our minds, and in our communities, when we have a regular relationship with the restorative and healing power of the natural world.”
– Kurt Beil, ND, MSOM, MPH, National College of Natural Medicine, Portland



- Percentage of Portland Metro region’s population obese or overweight: 62%
- Estimated deaths in Oregon due to obesity & obesity-related illnesses: 1,500 annually
- Estimated regional healthcare expenditure on obesity: \$1 billion annually
- Estimated amount of avoided weight gain due to exercise throughout The Intertwine: 17 million lbs a year
- Regional healthcare savings as a result of physical activity in The Intertwine: \$155 million annually
- Regional healthcare savings associated with trees reducing nitrogen dioxide from air: \$7 million annually

- Savings in direct medical costs for each \$1 invested in trails: \$3.60 (according to a study in Lincoln, Nebraska)
- Water caught by The Intertwine's 261,000 sq. miles of pervious surfaces: 168,514 billion gallons annually
- Percentage of days in 2013 that air quality was "good" or "moderate": 96%
- Each 40,000 sq. ft. of green roof removes 1,600 lbs. annually of particulate matter from the air, which yields \$3,024 annually in avoided healthcare costs.
- Clean Water Services planted 700,000 native trees at a cost of \$6 million, saving rate payers more than \$100 million.



**THE
INTERTWINE**

OUR COMMON GROUND

TRANSPORTATION, JOBS, HEALTH, WEALTH, EDUCATION & ENVIRONMENT. INTERTWINED.

Intertwine Alliance Partners

Sustaining Partner: Clean Water Services • KEEN Footwear • Koch Landscape Architecture • Metro • TriMet • Walker Macy • **Full partners:** 40 Mile Loop Land Trust • Audubon Society of Portland • Bike Gallery • City of Forest Grove • City of Lake Oswego • City of Oregon City • City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services • City of Tigard • City of West Linn Trust • Columbia Slough Watershed Council • Columbia Sportswear • Cycle Oregon • Depave • East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District • Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors • Forest Park Conservancy • Friends of Baltimore Woods • Friends of Clark County • Friends of Marquam Nature Park • Friends of Outdoor School • Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge • Friends of The Columbia Gorge • Friends of Trees • Friends of Tryon Creek • Hillsboro Parks and Recreation • Hoyt Arboretum Friends • Johnson Creek Watershed Council • Kaiser Permanente • Lango Hansen Landscape Architects • Leach Botanical Garden • Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership • Mayer/Reed • National Park Service • North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District • Northwest Trail Alliance • npGreenway • OBEC Consulting Engineers • ODS • Oregon Department of Forestry • Oregon Parks and Recreation Department • Oregon Zoo • Parks Foundation of Clark County • Portland Children's Museum • Portland General Electric • Portland Office of Healthy Working Rivers • Port of Portland • Portland Parks and Recreation • Portland Parks Foundation • Remmers Consulting • Rewild Portland • Sauvie Island Conservancy • SOLVE • South Park Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • SWTrails PDX • The Trust for Public Land • ThinkShout • Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District • Urban Greenspaces Institute • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation • Columbia Land Trust • Vancouver Watersheds Alliance • West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District • Westside Economic Alliance • Willamette Riverkeeper • **Contributing Partners:** Alta Planning & Design • Bicycle Transportation Alliance • City of Gresham • City of Wilsonville • Goundwork Portland • GreenWorks • KPFF Consulting Engineers • PBS Engineering and Environmental • Tualatin Riverkeepers • Vigil-Agrimis, Inc.

Thank You

American Forests, American Society of Landscape Architects, The Board of The Intertwine Alliance, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, City of Oregon City, City of Tigard, Clean Water Services District, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, East PDX News, Environmental Protection Agency, Frank, Friends of Trees, Greater Portland Pulse, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, KPFF Consulting Engineers, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Metro, Multnomah County, Portland Development Commission, Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland State University Institute for Sustainable Solutions, Ryan Berkley, SERA Architects, Walker Macy, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, and Urban Greenspaces Institute.

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Production Team

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Animal illustration by Ryan Berkley



Incorporated in 2011, The Intertwine Alliance is a coalition of 80 prominent organizations who share a common interest in improving health, creating jobs, reducing costs, expanding transportation networks, fostering learning, and keeping our air and water clean. The stories within this report – the first of its kind – show how the partners of The Intertwine Alliance achieve these results through cost-effective investments in natural systems.

The communities of The Intertwine draw national, even international recognition for our forward-

thinking practices. But the future will demand continued leadership. While the following pages chronicle current achievements, our intent is to spark a conversation about the future.

To initiate this discussion, we offer a set of goals that are feasible, yield tremendous benefit, and enjoy broad support. We'll be talking with you about these goals over the coming months, and enlisting your active support to achieve them. The strength of The Intertwine Alliance, all 80 public, private and nonprofit organizations, will be with you.





OUR COMMON GROUND



See Mount Hood? Cross the Columbia? Hike Scouters' Mountain or fish Battle Ground Lake? You're in The Intertwine, and it's making your life better. From health and happiness, to wealth and work. From teaching our children to transporting their parents. The Intertwine is enjoyed by diverse groups of people in wildly different ways. Yet we can all agree on the rich returns of our shared investments. Everyone benefits from salmon in our streams, safer public spaces, clear air to breathe and savings in the bank. We all feel better when nature intertwines with our communities.

**FREE, EASY, & RIGHT
OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR**

The Intertwine isn't just our region's network of parks, trails and natural areas. It's a redefinition of where we live. Instead of two states, six counties, and 32 cities, it's a shared landscape of 2 mountain ranges, five watersheds, innumerable species of plants, trees, and wildlife, and 37 annual inches of cool, clean rain. The Intertwine is an idea that can bring us together. The Intertwine is our Common Ground.

**THEINTERTWINE.ORG
PARKS, TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS**





THE INTERTWINE IS A STATE OF MIND A CENTURY IN THE MAKING

First envisioned by landscape architect John Charles Olmsted in 1903, generations of our leaders have mapped the economic benefits of our ecological resources.

The area we call The Intertwine is approximately 3,000 square miles — from the North Fork of Clark County’s Lewis River, south to the confluence of the Molalla and Pudding Rivers, east to the foothills of the Cascades and west to the foothills of the Coast Range.

THE INTERTWINE

— SPANS —			— BOASTS —	
2	6	32	1,250	
<small>STATES</small>	<small>COUNTIES</small>	<small>CITIES</small>	<small>MILES OF TRAILS</small>	
— serving —			394,969	
2.1 MILLION PEOPLE.			<small>ACRES</small>	OF PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS.

The value of The Intertwine’s ecosystem services has been conservatively placed at

\$3.3 BILLION.



“Marked economy may also be effected by laying out parkways and parks, so as to embrace streams that carry at times more water than can be taken care of by drain pipes.”

— John Charles Olmsted, 1903

INVESTING IN OUR RESOURCES

Start calculating the benefits derived from the resources of The Intertwine — our parks, trails and natural areas, our urban forests and free-flowing water — and you'll find that no critical infrastructure has a return on investment like nature.



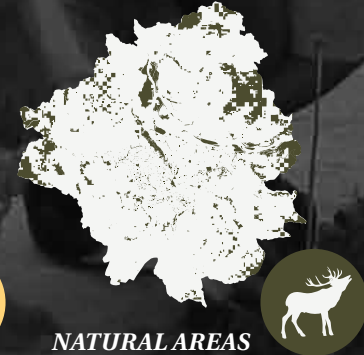
Waterways and lakes constitute only 3.1 percent of The Intertwine but play an outside role in providing habitat, recreation, transportation and other services.



1,000+ miles of planned and conceptual trails, added to 1,250 miles of existing urban and rural Intertwine trails, will ensure connectivity to The Intertwine for generations to come.



The 2.1 million people that call The Intertwine home have access to over 49,896 acres of parks, including 1,800 acres within the most highly developed urban areas.



345,073 acres of preserves and restored wilderness area provide habitat for thousands of important species — from pearlshell mussels to the American beaver.



54 percent of The Intertwine is tree cover and forested lands, while only 39 percent of our urban areas boast canopy. We can do better.



HEALTH: Just one 40,000 square foot green roof removes 1,600 pounds of airborne particulate matter a year, yielding \$3,024 annually in avoided health care costs.



WEALTH: The value of The Intertwine's ecosystem services has been conservatively placed at \$3.3 billion.



EDUCATION: 60 percent of our children live within a quarter-mile of green space — proven to aid cognition, self-discipline, and emotional well being.



WORK: Generating over 14,000 high-wage jobs, our 800 athletic and outdoor companies represent just one industry sector drawn to The Intertwine for our quality of life and the talent we attract.



TRANSPORTATION: Getting around on The Intertwine's 1,250 miles of bike, pedestrian and water trails keeps us on average 10 pounds trimmer.



ENVIRONMENT: The Intertwine supports more than 16 reptile species, 18 amphibians, 59 butterflies, 72 fish, 219 birds, 250 bees, thousands of invertebrates, and 76 mammals — including us!

146 quadrillion drops of water. Each has their own story.

LIKE RAINDROPS, OUR INDIVIDUAL INTERTWINE EXPERIENCE IS UNIQUE. BUT WE CAN ALL AGREE ON IMPROVED WATER, HEALTH, WORK, AND PLAY.

Nearly 2 trillion gallons of rain course through The Intertwine each year — enough to sink our entire state in a puddle of water. Water is the element that defines our home, from soggy lawns to the roar of Willamette Falls.

Our story starts with the raindrops that fall within The Intertwine. Each travels a unique path, one shaped by decisions that we make — around our tables, at the park, in meeting halls, and with our votes.

You already know it's wise to protect this elemental resource. But did you know that smart water policy can lower utility bills, raise property values, enrich our cities and employ our citizens?

From stormwater management to natural areas and trees, innovative infrastructure means putting our water to work — making our infrastructure absorbent, planting our streetscapes with green.

Every drop can make a splash. Come with us and we'll show you how.



WATER



COOLER BY NATURE

In 2001, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality announced that high water temperatures were threatening steelhead habitat along the Tualatin River.

Faced with installing costly, energy-intensive cooling units, Washington County-based public utility Clean Water Services opted for trees — investments now shading the river, stabilizing its banks, providing diverse wildlife habitat, and saving ratepayers more than \$100 million.

“We’ve become experts on the Tualatin River watershed, and are using Mother Nature to replace steel and concrete with better solutions,” said Bill Gaffi, CWS General Manager.

Fast-forward a decade from Oregon DEQ’s mandate, and Washington County residents continue to enjoy low water/sewer utility rates, thanks to natural areas now heavily seeded with native plants: up to 700,000 a year, lining 36 miles of restored stream corridor.

According to Bruce Roll, CWS director of watershed management, the tree project’s total cost — just \$6 million since 2004 — represents a fraction of the chillers’ projected \$150 million price tag, not including heavy annual energy costs and chemical byproducts like phosphorus.

At Beaverton’s Englewood Park — a restored CWS site wedged between business parks and single-family homes — a raindrop now flows into Fanno Creek under 8-year-old Oregon ash and red alder. The new canopy generates shade credits to offset thermal loads from Durham and Rock Creek water treatment facilities, and also supports wildlife like the American beaver, whose ponds trap pollutants and reduce stream temperature swings.

Exploring the creek’s curves under leafy saplings, this raindrop passes Englewood residents on footpath, marveling at their newest neighbors — beavers industriously damming one very cool creek.

Benefits:



HEALTH



WEALTH



ENVIRONMENT

NATIONALLY,
*water-related energy use
(to heat, treat and pump water supplies)
consumes more than*

13% *OF OUR ELECTRICAL
PRODUCTION AT A
COST OF AT LEAST*
\$4 BILLION.

Historic Land Practice

*Since 2004, Clean Water Services
has planted 700,000 native trees
and shrubs a year...*

*...cooling 36 miles
of riparian corridor.*

PHOTO: MIKE HOUCK

The Intertwine Alliance 2013

15

DAYLIGHT AND SPRINGWATER

The formidable rains that fall within The Intertwine flow inexorably toward the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. Channeled by our 13 watersheds and sub-basins — from the Lewis in Washington State to the Molalla in Oregon’s Clackamas County — every drop of water is drawn toward this confluence.

Wending through the heart of The Intertwine is Johnson Creek, with headwaters not far from the Cascade foothills. Passing 26 miles through five cities — Gresham, Portland, Milwaukie, Damascus, and Happy Valley — this watershed supports steelhead and cutthroat trout, coho and Chinook salmon, red-legged frogs and pileated woodpeckers.

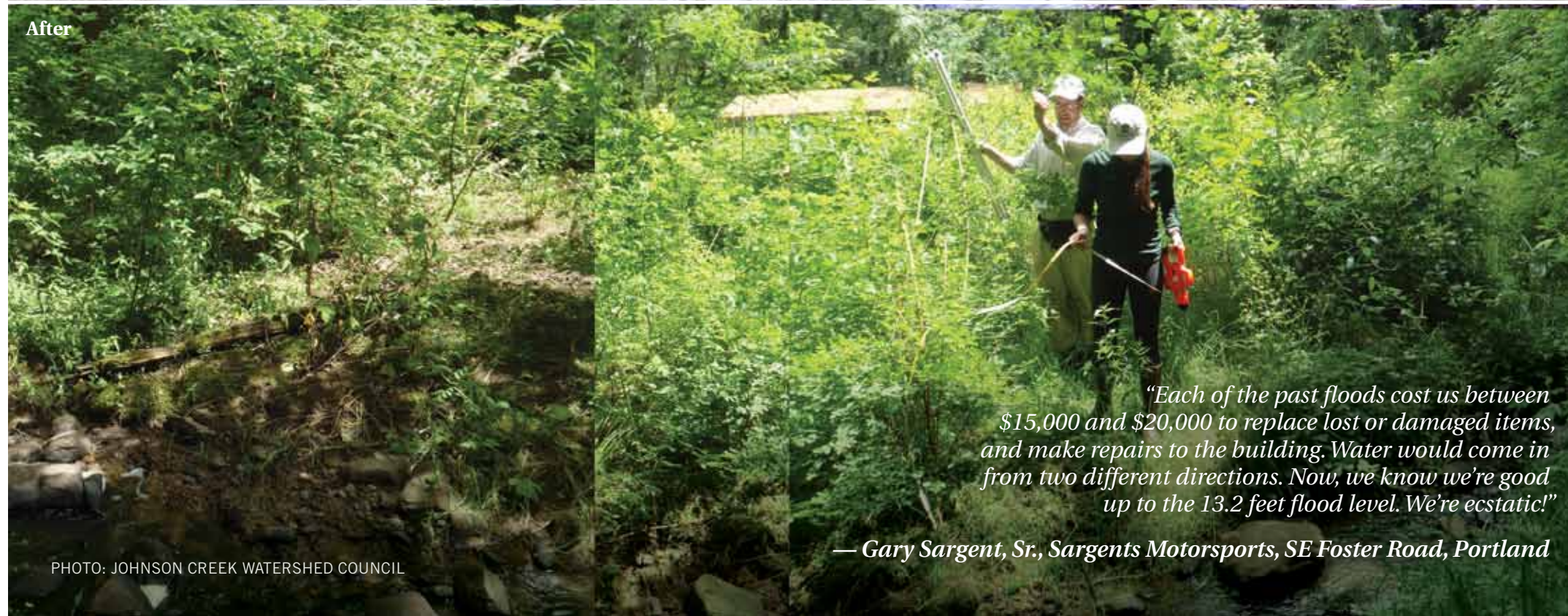
Johnson Creek hasn’t been this healthy in years. Once shunted down a Depression-era rock-lined channel, this partially urbanized waterway still regularly inundated 475 acres of neighborhood. Meanwhile, manmade degradation saw creek temperatures rise, water quality decline, and fish runs dwindle. In 1998, the entire stream was placed under watch by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Yet today, a raindrop falling not far from stream headwaters at Southeast 307th in Gresham lands near beds of pearlshell mussels. These long-lived freshwater mollusks indicate returning river health — the result of successful bond measures, neighborhood grants, and years of successful collaboration among citizens across six jurisdictions.

Today, a raindrop rolls down a calmer creek: reconnected to floodplain wetlands, free of invasive species, revisited by coho salmon and river otters. A restored Johnson Creek is simple stormwater management — a natural example of the The Intertwine at work.



Before



After

“Each of the past floods cost us between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to replace lost or damaged items, and make repairs to the building. Water would come in from two different directions. Now, we know we’re good up to the 13.2 feet flood level. We’re ecstatic!”

— Gary Sargent, Sr., Sargents Motorsports, SE Foster Road, Portland

PHOTO: JOHNSON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL



What is green infrastructure?

“At the scale of a city or county, green infrastructure refers to natural areas that provide habitat, flood protection, cleaner air and water. At the scale of a neighborhood or site, green infrastructure refers to stormwater management systems that mimic nature by soaking up and storing water.”

- EPA

Ecoroofs replace conventional roofing materials with a living, breathing vegetated roof system.

Green streets are vegetated curb extensions, planters, or rain gardens that clean streetside stormwater runoff.

Trees protect watershed health by absorbing rain, preventing erosion, and protecting water quality.

Invasive plant removal improves fish and wildlife habitat, tree cover, and water quality while mitigating fire risk and costs.

Natural area acquisition preserves watershed and floodplain function and prevents landslides and erosion that harm water quality and habitat.

Planting native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers filters pollutants, cools streams, and provides diverse fish and wildlife habitat.

Did you know...

Each year, The Intertwine's

237,900 IMPERVIOUS ACRES DISPLACE
240 BILLION GALLONS OF RAIN.

Watershed health degrades when total impervious surface exceeds

10%

We're not alone.

In March, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn announced the goal to manage

700 MILLION

gallons of Seattle stormwater runoff with natural drainage systems. He plans to achieve this goal by 2025.

Once complete, Tabor to the River Program will boast

500 GREEN STREETS & 3,500 STREET TREES

But even today, Southeast Portland residents can see the program's progress:

61

ACRES OF INVASIVE PLANTS REMOVED

32

PRIVATE STORMWATER FACILITIES, OF 100 PLANNED

6,000

NATIVE SHRUBS AND TREES PLANTED IN NATURAL AREAS

137

GREEN STREET FACILITIES COMPLETED

660

STREET TREES PLANTED TO DATE

8,000

FEET OF SEWER PIPE REPLACED OR REPAIRED, OF 81,000 FEET PLANNED

Tabor to River's Green Streets will save City of Portland ratepayers

\$58,000,000

PHOTO: KPFF CONSULTING ENGINEERS

THE NEW TRICKLE-DOWN ECONOMICS

First, the old math. Heavy rainfall plus 100-year-old combined stormwater/sewer pipes means nasty flooding in Southeast Portland. Solution? Repair and upsize the pipes. Price tag? \$144 million.

Now, the new math. Repair the pipes and install 500 Green Streets. Price tag? \$85 million, with benefits: replenished groundwater; good air quality; protected rivers and streams; calm traffic; improved pedestrian and bicycle safety; urban habitat creation; attractive neighborhoods.

This winning equation is the rationale for Portland's innovative Tabor to the River program. Launched in 2009 to manage stormwater within 1,400 flood-prone acres of the Brooklyn Creek Basin, program work will eventually span 2.3 miles — from the cone of Mount Tabor, west through dense city neighborhoods, to the banks of the Willamette River.

Thanks to early progress, a drop that falls here sees fewer sump pumps, more rain gardens, and a cleaner future.

Benefits:



WEALTH



TRANSPORTATION



ENVIRONMENT

Tabor to the River program, launched in 2009 to manage stormwater within 1,400 acres of the Brooklyn Creek Basin



Fast and Furious

In Portland - Rain City, USA - stormwater management policy counts on 13 miles of new pipes to control once-frequent wastewater spills into rivers and sloughs.

Completed in 2011, the \$1.44 billion Big Pipe is the largest public works project in Portland history. But if not safeguarded, the Big Pipe's capacity could be exceeded before its time.

Landing with a splat on North Portland asphalt, a raindrop chutes past construction and cars - impervious surfaces that testify to our growing population. Slipping through the sewer grate, our drop, slick with mercury and oil, plastics and grease, needs a good scrubbing at the treatment plant before cannoning into the Columbia.

Each year in The Intertwine, over 15 quadrillion raindrops take the fast lane, displaced by our impervious surfaces. In doing so, this water bypasses some innovative, cost-effective ways we're managing our hydropower.

Green Streets clean 90 percent of pollutants from captured stormwater.

SMART CEILING

A garden grows 10 stories up, a spot of green in the downtown Portland skyline. With its sedums and swaying grasses, the roof of the Hamilton West Apartments invites honeybees and chickadees to a high rise business district.

More than a penthouse picnic spot, this is a working garden, one that retains half the water that lands within its 7,800 square foot catchment area.

A raindrop falls softly here, between succulents and flowers, and sinks into the lightweight substrate of the most closely monitored ecoroof in Portland. Our drop is in good company; the Hamilton retains 768,000 gallons of stormwater a year.

The Hamilton's ecoroof, one of nearly 400 in Portland, reaps the rewards of long-term investment. Over the next 40 years, the Hamilton will reduce annual stormwater runoff by half, lower energy costs for residents, improve local air quality and provide habitat for birds and pollinators. Factor in a lifespan twice that of a conventional roof, and the Hamilton's owner can expect to save \$404,000.

Benefits:

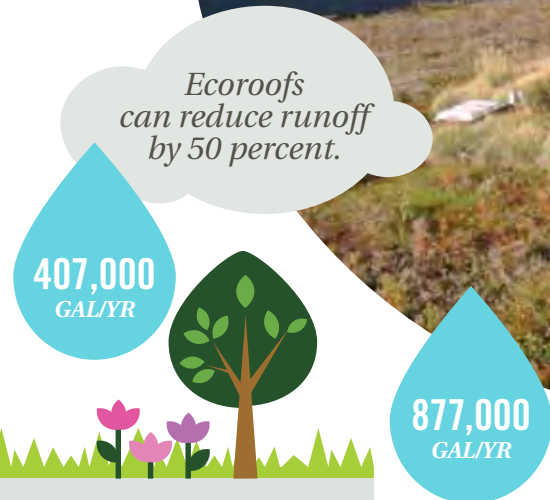
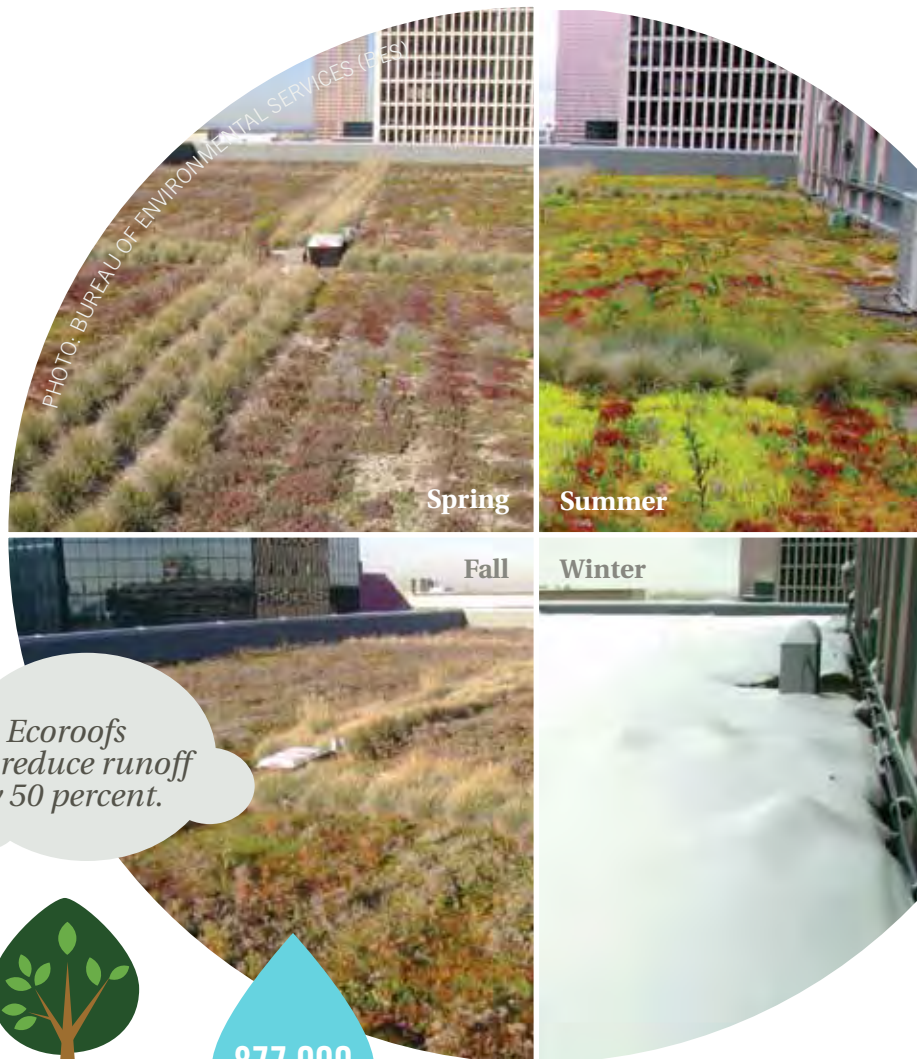


Covering 50% of New York City's flat rooftops with green roofs would result in a city-wide temperature decrease of 1.4°F.

"Banking on Green" ALSA study

Every square foot of Intertwine green roof removes 0.04 pounds of dust and particulate matter from the air.

BES



WHAT ARE *Ecosystem Services?*

Ecosystem services are the manifold benefits that people derive from nature.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Drinking water | Timber, wood fuel, natural gas and oils |
| Medicine | Plant-based clothing and other materials |
| Pollination | Carbon storage and climate regulation |
| Decomposition | Culture, knowledge, nature-borne creativity |
| Water purification | Erosion and flood control |
| Recreation | |

"Lacking a formal market, these natural assets are traditionally absent from society's balance sheet; their critical contributions are often overlooked in public, corporate, and individual decision-making."

— USDA Forest Service

NATURAL AREAS



WILDBLUFF: THE WAY WE LIVED

200 years ago, the idea of a “natural area” might have sounded odd to tribal members taking in the wooded expanse of The Intertwine from the heights of Canemah Bluff.

It was a popular view. Within view of thundering Willamette Falls, Canemah annually hosted between 30,000 and 60,000 members of various tribes, negotiating for fishing rights, visiting relatives and trading for goods from throughout the region. Canoe loads of camas bulbs would come to the Clow-wal-la village of Canemah from the Willamette Valley Kalapuya tribes — camas that still colors this bluff blue each spring.

Ceded to the U.S. government in 1854 by the Tumwata Band of the Clow-wal-la People, the bluff witnessed the rapid industrial-ization of Oregon City — from railroad lines and sternwheelers to the sawmills powered by the falls. In the process, Canemah lost much evidence of its past — along with vital habitat for native white oaks and Pacific madrones.

Now encircled by development, Canemah gives meaning to the phrase “natural area.” For two decades, Metro has bought chunks along the bluff, acquiring the missing link in January 2013 — a 22-acre parcel stitching together 330 acres of publicly-owned wilderness in the city. Today, Canemah Bluff is the last relatively undisturbed traditional ecological landscape along this now urban ridgeline.

“With its cultural history, its rich forest, the view of the river, Canemah truly is a unique site, and we want it restored and protected,” said Jim Desmond, director of the regional agency’s Sustainability Center.

And that green we see today, gazing out from the bluff and across The Intertwine? That’s our investment in the future, inspired by the past.

Benefits:



PHOTO: OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PHOTO: THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Natural areas comprise 19 percent of The Intertwine, yet no dedicated funding source exists to protect this investment through restoration and upkeep.



PHOTO: METRO



PHOTO: MIKE HOUCK

URBAN WILD

In 2012, the City of Tigard dedicated 48 urban acres at the confluence of Fanno and Summer Creeks to former Mayor Craig Dirksen, an active proponent of open space. Bordered by Fowler Middle School, plans for the new Dirksen Nature Park – the city’s largest natural area – include an environmental education center, children’s nature play area, community gardens and oak savannah habitat restoration.



A BETTER BRIDGE

To hike from Johnson Creek home to picnic on the ecoroof of Hamilton West, let's face it: we're going to have to cross a bridge.

The opposite of pervious, concrete bridges like the 87-year-old Sellwood jettison their untreated stormwater into the river below. So enter in a magical confluence for a dirty drop poised on the truss: an old marina, new bridge construction, creative landscape architects and collaborative public agencies.

In 2011, Multnomah County had a brainstorm while budgeting to replace the aging Sellwood bridge. Why not buy Staff Jennings Marina, a degraded boat ramp on the bridge's west side, and put it to double use — first as a staging area for construction, and later, into a natural area to manage the new bridge's stormwater?

Landscape architecture firm Walker Macy drew up the plans, calling for stormwater swales, trails, native plants, picnic spots and kayak tie-ups. Factoring in the costs of acquisition, demolition and landscape remediation, the County estimates the new natural area will represent just one percent the total bridge budget — yet save the project \$30-40 million for a ten-fold return on investment.

Factor in the future natural area's contiguity with Portland Parks and Recreation's plans for an adjacent westside park, and rain falling on the future Sellwood bridge in 2015 — when swale construction is set to begin — will benefit from an unprecedented collaboration between county transportation and city parks.

Now



1 yr



10 yrs



SOURCE: WALKER MACY

Restoring Natural Areas

SOURCE: GREEN SEATTLE PARTNERSHIP

If natural areas are not restored



Present

Forested natural areas are dominated by deciduous trees, mainly big-leaf maples and alders, nearing the end of their life. After decades of neglect, non-native invasive plants such as English ivy and wild clematis, cover the ground and grow up into the tree canopy.

In 20 Years

Invasive plants outcompete and grow over existing native vegetation, blocking the sunlight plants and trees need to thrive. English ivy now dominates the tree canopy, making the trees weak, top heavy and susceptible to windfall. Eventually, trees die or fall over.

In 50 Years

The trees are gone. Only a few native shrubs struggle to survive the stress of competition with invasive plants.

In 100 Years

The forest is destroyed. Native trees can no longer establish on their own. We are left with a dense "ivy desert." Very few plant species can live, and forest biodiversity is gone. Such conditions provide homes for rats and scarce habitat for more desirable urban wildlife.

If natural areas are restored



Present

Forested natural areas are dominated by deciduous trees, mainly big-leaf maples and alders, nearing the end of their life. After decades of neglect, non-native invasive plants such as English ivy are smothering native vegetation and weakening native trees.

In 20 Years

Through restoration efforts and long-term maintenance, the non-native plants are removed. Native groundcovers, shrubs and evergreen trees such as Douglas firs and Western red cedars and hemlocks are planted.

In 50 Years

As the evergreen trees grow, they shade out sun-loving invasive plants such as blackberry. Native understory plants thrive.

In 100 Years

With continued stewardship, the maturing forest requires less care and provides greater benefits to the city.

TREES



HOME RUN AT HOCKINSON

Splat! A raindrop hits a child's baseball bat as she takes a swing on the diamond at Hockinson Meadows in Vancouver.

This drop flies across stormwater-filtering turf grass framing tee-ball innings and soccer matches, past picnic shelters and parking area infiltration trenches, sinking at last into the wetlands that encircle this new 240-acre community park.

Between mud slicks and puddles, it's a bummer when kids have to take a raincheck on outdoor fun. But thanks to a city-maintained perimeter of natural area, our drop gets benched by a giant cottonwood — a working tree whose cost-efficient stormwater management allowed this popular park to grow.

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation deemed municipal stormwater systems and detention ponds impracticable for this popular sport park, nestled within the Lacamas Creek watershed. So instead, the parks agency invested in its wetlands.

It was a natural choice; restoring the disturbed ecosystem mitigated the expansion project's increased runoff costs from new parking and athletic fields.

So thanks to our cottonwood, local Little League can really go to bat — on eight new, well-drained, sand-based turf athletic fields.



The expansion of
Hockinson Meadows Community Park
created
80 JOBS.

A FOREST GROWS ON I-205

Freeways aren't usually this pretty. For 16 miles alongside Interstate 205, from the Columbia River in North Portland south to the city of Gladstone, a multi-use path winds between homes, light rail, and 5,000 young trees.

This forest — planted over four years by the Oregon Department of Transportation, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Metro, and 1,800 Friends of Trees volunteers — reflects the innovative new tree thinking taking root in The Intertwine.

"This is the first time ODOT has done a project like this, where trees have been considered a capital asset similar to pavement and lightposts," said Friends of Trees Executive Director Scott Fogarty.

Intended to improve neighborhood livability, encourage path use, manage stormwater, and increase environmental equity among communities, the award-winning I-205 project is already making life better for residents: scrubbing their air, filtering their stormwater, raising their property values.

And don't forget community. Said Antonio Askew, 19, pointing to freshly planted trees along the path: "like if I have kids, I can tell them, 'Hey, I helped with that.'"

Benefits:



"One percent of all transportation dollars should go to greening roadways across the state. That way, in the future, when carbon is commodified, Oregon will have a plethora of trees sequestering carbon."

*- Scott Fogarty,
 Executive Director, Friends of Trees*



Planting an Asset

Street trees add an average of \$7,000 to the value of their associated homes.

Properly placed trees can save 20-50% in energy used for heating.

Trees are proven traffic calmers and crime deterrents.

Our street and park trees offer a \$3.80 return on every dollar invested.

Portland's urban canopy saves the city about \$36 million in stormwater processing costs.



A little something about the trees...

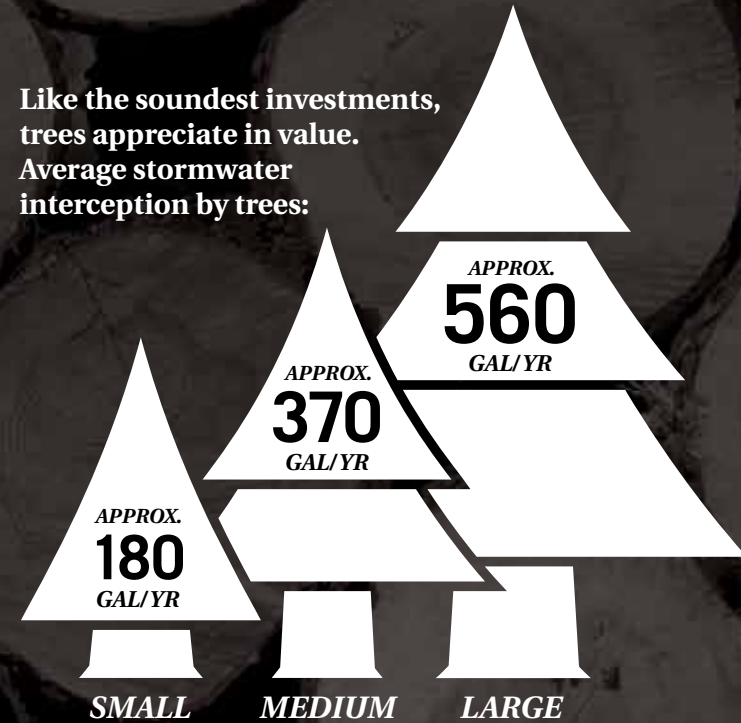
Each year, just
18,000 trees
planted by
Friends of Trees



Remove 3.24 million
pounds of air pollutants.

Intercept nearly
43 million gallons
of rainwater.

Like the soundest investments,
trees appreciate in value.
Average stormwater
interception by trees:



Study in a natural setting,
especially in the very young,
is proven to aid cognition,
reduce symptoms of attention
deficit disorder, and increase
self-discipline and emotional
well being.



CLASS UNDER COTTONWOODS

The Columbia River is the heart of The Intertwine: where we say goodbye to the drop we met in Englewood Park; where stormwater exits, free of grime, after channeled through the Big Pipe; where the aerated flows off Willamette Falls mix calmly at the confluence.

Upriver at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge — The Intertwine's eastern gateway — Gibbons Creek cuts a wide swath into the Columbia over 1,049 acres of wildlife-rich floodplain habitat. Attracting upwards of 100,000 visitors annually, the refuge is home to rich bird life: from martins and geese to herons and raptors.

When high water temperatures and lost vegetation began to threaten the health of Gibbons Creek, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership took action at the Refuge. Drawing on students and volunteers to plant over 13,500 native trees and shrubs to cool the creek, the Estuary Partnership also capitalized on community involvement to cultivate a new generation of stewards.

Launched in 2000, the Estuary Partnership's innovative education program schools students before heading outdoors to plant; each receiving up to four classroom lessons on topics such as bird identification, river food webs, and Native American plant use.

With new canopy above and curious students beside, our last drop takes time to enjoy life in The Intertwine, eddying slowly through Steigerwald to meet the Columbia.



Before

PHOTO: LOWER COLUMBIA ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP



After



PHOTO: FRIENDS OF TREES

AN INTERTWINE CHALLENGE

This year The Intertwine Alliance offers the following challenges to residents and leaders of our region.

Water. We're on the nation's leading edge of innovative stormwater management, yet we will continue to face choices about whether to invest in pipes or in natural systems. *We challenge* our municipalities and utilities to increase the percentage of stormwater managed through green infrastructure.

Natural Areas. With much of The Intertwine's most stunning and precious natural areas now held in public trust, this is the time to restore these lands and ensure their long-term care. *We challenge* our residents and elected

leaders to establish a permanent funding source to protect our natural area investments.

Trees. Thanks to the dedicated work of our partners, we understand the tremendous economic, social, and environmental value of our trees. Now we can capitalize on this knowledge by planting more of these incredible assets — as well as caring for the trees in our own backyards. *We challenge* every government within The Intertwine to develop a plan to increase canopy cover.

Over the next weeks and months, we'll be asking our region's elected and civic leaders to help lead this agenda. Choose your challenge and we're ready to help — because watershed wide, from Coast Range to Cascades, we're all in this together.



THE INTERTWINE IS OUR COMMON GROUND.



OUR COMMON GROUND