



# **INDEPENDENCE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN**

**GLOSSARY**



# GLOSSARY

## DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS FOUND IN THE DOCUMENT

### ACCESS (EGRESS/INGRESS)

The ability to enter a site (ingress) from a roadway or trail and exit a site (egress) onto a roadway or trail by vehicle, bike, walking, etc.

### ACQUISITION

Park and recreation acquisition means the purchase or lease of real property (or interests in real-properties) for park or recreation purposes.

### ACTIVE RECREATION

A structured individual or team activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment. Examples of active recreational activities include organized sports such as baseball, football, and soccer, golf, tennis, and skateboarding (in skate parks).

### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

For purposes of planning and land use, a federal law that generally requires that businesses and public facilities and conveyances be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

### BIKE LANE

A portion of the roadway designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential use of bicyclists.

### BIKE SKILLS PARK

Bike skills parks are facilities to hone or develop your bike handling skills. They provide a safe, fun environment to ride in and are suitable for all ages, skill levels and all types of non-motorized bikes. As well, a designed park allows riders to progress through a variety of features from beginner to advanced levels all within a dynamic self-taught environment.

### CONNECTOR TRAILS

Trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, and others to and from parks and open space areas around the community, and to outlying trails.

### CONSERVATION

The protection, improvement and wise use of natural resources to provide the greatest social and economic value for the present and future.

### CONSERVATION EASEMENT

A legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits a property's uses in order to protect its conservation values.

### CULTURAL RESOURCE

Any tangible or observable evidence of past human activity, regardless of significance, including tangible properties possessing intangible traditional cultural values.

### DOG PARK/OFF LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREA

A specifically designated recreational facility where dogs are allowed to be off-leash while still under voice control by their handlers .

### ECOSYSTEM

The interaction of organisms with each other and their physical environment.

### ENVIRONMENT

All living and non-living factors in a given area that affect the organisms that live there.

### FLOOD, 100-YEAR

The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year.

### FLOODPLAIN

A relatively flat area or low land adjoining a body of water that has been or may be inundated by water from the 100-year flood.

### GROUP SHELTER

A structure providing a roof for protection from sun or inclement weather, but remaining open on one or more sides. Typically group shelters are large enough in size to hosts groups of 25 or more people at any one time.

### HABITAT

The environment suitable for a particular animal or plant in which to live, grow or reproduce.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

A general term describing public and quasi-public utilities and facilities such as roads, bridges, sewers and sewer plants, water lines, storm drainage, power lines, parks and recreation facilities, public libraries, fire stations, sidewalks and streetlights. Can also be considered a permanent installation such as lighting, sidewalks, buildings, and water systems.

**INTERPRETATION**

A communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings in the resource. The term is used to describe communication activities designed to improve understanding at parks, zoos, museums, nature centers, historic sites, aquariums and other travel destinations.

**INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES**

Hikes, talks, tours or demonstrations that provide the participants with information and inspiration on a given natural or cultural resource. Participants learn and discover new ideas or concepts about the subject.

**INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS**

Exhibits that are planned, designed and fabricated to provide an educational and provocative message to the visitors. Can be based on natural or cultural resources within the park or the focus of the museum. Interpretive exhibits contain themes, interpretive goals, interpretive objectives, appropriate media, and are accessible to persons with disabilities. The purpose of the interpretive exhibit is to educate and inspire the visitor. It can be as simple as a trailside sign or as extensive as a visitor center/museum.

**KIOSK**

A building frequently found at the entrance or exit of a park facility to control access/ egress of park users, collect fees, provide information, first-aid and public safety, etc, usually located at a key access point. For example, educational brochures and maps are found at many park kiosks.

**LANDSCAPING**

Plantings including trees, shrubs, and ground covers suitably designed, selected, installed and maintained so as to enhance a site, the surroundings of a structure, or the sides or medians of a roadway. Landscaping may also refer to structural improvements like retaining walls, structures, walkways, drainage, and lighting.

**LEVEL OF SERVICE**

The standard for the minimum amount of space required to meet a community's recreation on demand.

**MAINTENANCE**

The regular tasks that keep parks, recreation on facilities, and trails clean and safe to use. For example, trash collection, safety inspections, replacement of broken parts on equipment.

**NATIVE PLANTS**

Species of plants that occur naturally in a particular area; plants that have not been introduced to the area by humans, either accidentally or intentionally.

**NATURAL AREAS**

Natural areas are lands managed in a natural state. Their size and shape is determined by the natural resources contained in these sites.

**NATURE PLAY AREA**

Typically, a play area designed to stimulate the creativity, physical ability, and imagination of children to connect with nature. It frequently includes tools and materials so children can construct things of their own design or experiment with earth, water, sand, wood, and other materials.

**NEIGHBORHOOD**

One section of a community, often centered around a school that tends to have cohesive forces holding it together as a unit.

**NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA)**

The nation's largest independent non-profit public service organization advocating quality recreation and parks for the American people. The Association provides services to recreation and park professionals and the general public, including the provision of recommended park and open space standards and maintenance standards

**OPEN SPACE**

Land that has been acquired to be maintained in its natural state for its intrinsic and/or open space value (buffer, habitat preservation, heritage tree stands, park and recreation, conservation of natural resources for historic or scenic purposes.)

**PARK**

Area or asset developed for neighborhood or community recreation use.

**PASSIVE RECREATION**

Recreational activities that do not require dedicated specialized facilities such as sports fields or courts. Examples of passive recreational activities include wildlife viewing, picnicking, bird-watching, fishing, and trail-related activities such as walking, hiking, bicycling, running, fishing, or horseback riding.

**PRESERVATION**

The protection and maintenance of native lands and habitats.

**PUBLIC ACCESS**

A trailhead, trail or road that allows the public to reach or use public parks, lands or assets. Often the access may cross private lands to reach public lands.

**PUMP TRACK**

A pump track is a small bicycle track, and is a looping trail system of dirt berms and “rollers” (smooth dirt mounds for pumping) designed for bicycling without the rider pedaling. The name comes from the pumping motion used by the cyclist’s upper and lower body as they ride around the track. The purpose of a pump track is to use this pumping motion to maintain speed around the track without pedaling.

**RECREATION**

A pastime, diversion, exercise, or other resource affording relaxation and enjoyment.

**RECREATION NEEDS**

Refers to existing and future demand by citizens and visitors for recreations areas, facilities and opportunities.

**RESTORATION**

The repair to a condition similar to that which existed at a defined period in history.

**RIPARIAN CORRIDOR**

The area within a boundary established along both sides of a waterway, including the riparian area and any associated wetlands. Goal 5 resource that includes the water areas, fish habitat, adjacent riparian areas, and wetlands within the riparian area boundary.

**RIPARIAN HABITAT**

Areas located within and dependent upon the unique habitat elements provided within a riparian corridor.

**STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION (SCORP)**

To remain qualified for stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), each state must prepare a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years. In Oregon, the plan functions not only to guide the LWCF program, but also provides guidance for other OPRD administered grant programs including the Local Grant, County Opportunity Grant, Recreational Trails, and All-Terrain Vehicle Programs. The plan provides guidance to federal, state, and local units of government, as well as the private sector, in delivering quality outdoor recreational opportunities to Oregonians and out-of-state visitors.

**SKATE DOT**

The Skate Dot is the smallest skateable space possible. Dots are always a single structure and capitalize on existing infrastructure—usually a sidewalk or paved open space. A trash receptacle should be available nearby. Skate Dots can support 3 to 5 concurrent users, one at a time.

**SKATEPARK**

A skatepark consists of 6,000 to 10,000 square feet and features a diverse arrangement of structures. Skateparks have delineated edges so that it’s clear where the skatepark begins. In addition to trash cans, water and seating, neighborhood skateparks benefit from nearby parking, though most users will skate to the park. Available restrooms—even if seasonal—are recommended. Neighborhood skateparks can support dozens of users with up to 6 skating simultaneously depending on the size and design.

**SPECIAL USE AREA**

Public recreation lands that are specialized or single purpose in nature. Examples are dog parks, skate parks, golf courses, display gardens, recreation centers, and a wide range of other activities and facilities.

**SPLASH PAD**

An aquatic feature that provides water play (splashing, spraying, dumping) with no standing water, eliminating the need for supervisory and lifeguard staffing. Splash pads are typically not programmed, free to access and operate seasonally.

**STEWARDSHIP**

The demonstration of care for something, i.e. the environment.

**STORMWATER**

Precipitation that accumulates in natural and/or constructed storage and conveyance systems during and immediately following a storm event.

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

Functions associated with planning, designing, constructing, maintaining, financing, and regulating the facilities (both constructed and natural) that collect, store, control, and/or convey stormwater.

### **SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

Refers to natural systems that capture, cleanse and reduce stormwater runoff using plants, soils and microbes. On the regional scale, green infrastructure consists of the interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas (such as forested areas, floodplains and wetlands) that improve water quality while providing recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, air quality and urban heat island benefits, and other community benefits. At the site scale, green infrastructure consists of site-specific management practices that are designed to maintain natural hydrologic functions by absorbing and infiltrating precipitation where it falls.

### **STREAM CORRIDOR**

Area adjacent to a perennial or intermittent creek or river that protects the water quality functions of the stream as well as fish and wildlife habitat.

### **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES (SDCS)**

SDCs are an important source of funding for the acquisition and development of new parks and open space areas. These charges are assessed at the time of increased usage of a capital improvement or when development permits or building permits are issued in connection to the capital improvement. Since SDCs are paid for by new development, the fees fund capacity enhancement projects in the areas where funds are collected. SDCs cannot be used for the preservation and maintenance of existing parks and facilities.

### **TRAILS**

Public access routes for commuting and trail-oriented recreational activities including sidewalks, bikeways, multi-use trails, and paths.

### **VIEW CORRIDOR**

A delineation of the most visible regions from a sequence of viewing locations.

### **WETLAND**

An area that is periodically saturated with water and has water-loving plants.

### **WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**

“Islands” of habitat that remain between developed areas and allow wildlife to travel through different regions.