

EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

The City of Medford Parks and Recreation Department is the primary provider of park land and recreation facilities for City residents. This chapter provides a summary of existing City parks and recreation resources in the Medford planning area. Section 3.1 describes the park land classification system used to categorize and analyze specific park sites. Section 3.2 provides a detailed account of City-owned or City-leased parks and facilities. Section 3.3 includes a summary of sports facilities for the Medford planning area. A complete inventory of City parks, along with a one-page summary of facilities, site deficiencies, and planned improvements, is included in Appendix A.

Other public agencies and private organizations—including Jackson County, two school districts, and private clubs—also provide some park and recreation facilities in the Medford vicinity. Appendix B notes the recreation resources of these other providers.

3.1 PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS

The most effective park system to develop and manage is one made up of different types of parks, open space areas, and recreational venues, each designed to provide a specific type of recreation experience and opportunity. A park system that is classified and used properly is easier to maintain, encounters less conflicts between user groups, and minimizes negative impacts on adjoining neighbors. A good park classification system also helps assess what facilities are available for current use and what types of parks will be needed to serve the community in the future. In order to assess the park system in Medford and to address specific park land needs, parks have been divided into the following categories:

- **Neighborhood parks:** Neighborhood parks are a combination playground and park designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. Located within walking and bicycling distance of most users, they are generally moderate in size (about 1 - 5 acres) and serve people living within approximately one-half mile of the park. Neighborhood parks provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents, enhance neighborhood identity, and preserve neighborhood open space. Facilities typically found in neighborhood parks include playgrounds, picnic tables and benches, trails, open grass areas/informal play areas, and outdoor basketball courts. When neighborhood parks are designed in conjunction with school sites, these sites typically include multi-use sport fields.

Park Classifications:

1. *Neighborhood Parks*
2. *Community Parks*
3. *Special Use Areas*
4. *Linear Parks*
5. *Natural Open Space/Greenways*

Donahue-Frohnmyer Park and Lone Pine School Park are examples of neighborhood parks.



- **Community parks:** A community park is a larger park that provides active and structured recreation opportunities primarily for young people and adults. These parks serve a much larger area, roughly up to two-miles from the park. Community parks typically include facilities to support large group activities, such as a sports field complex. Also, they are large enough to allow for passive recreation opportunities as well as individual and family use. Community parks may provide pools, community gardens, or indoor facilities to meet a wider range of recreation interests. As a result, they require more support facilities such as parking and restrooms. Fichtner-Mainwaring Park and Hawthorne Park are examples of community parks.



- **Special use areas:** Special use areas are sites often occupied by a specialized facility. Parks in this category include waterfront parks, boat ramps, botanical gardens, memorials, community gardens, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, or sites occupied by buildings. The portion of Railroad Park used by the train clubs would be an example of a special use area.
- **Linear parks:** Linear parks are developed, landscaped areas that follow linear corridors such as street rights-of-way and other elongated features. This type of park usually contains paved path, landscaped areas, viewpoints, and seating areas. The Biddle Road Pathway is an example of a linear park.
- **Natural open space areas/greenways:** Natural open space is undeveloped land primarily left in its natural form and secondarily managed for recreational use. This type of park may include wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Natural open space areas can provide some opportunities for nature-based recreation, such as hiking, wildlife viewing, environmental education, and nature photography. Public access may be limited in these areas. Prescott Park and the Bear Creek Greenway are considered natural open space/greenways.
- **Undeveloped sites:** Undeveloped sites have been acquired by the City and designated as future park sites. Currently, these sites have not been developed, and in many cases, they have been designated for a specific park use. Table Rock Park is an example of an undeveloped site.

- **Beautification areas:** Beautification areas may include landscaped areas around buildings, greens, entryways, street islands, and maintained strips along street rights-of-way and pathways. The landscaping in these areas may vary widely, ranging from low maintenance trees and mulch to high maintenance flowerbeds and facilities, such as fountains, picnic tables, hanging baskets, sculpture/artwork, gardens, and signage.

- **Trails:** The City has the foundation to a trail system with the Bear Creek Greenway trail. When it is completed, it will connect the city to adjacent cities from Ashland to Central Point as well as parks within the city. Trail surfaces include a standard for a ten (10) foot wide asphalt trail as well as gravel roads and unpaved trail systems at parks such as Prescott Park and Holmes Park. Maintenance of the trails includes repairs from root damage, occasional flooding and erosion, removal of trees that have fallen, and general wear from use.



3.2 CITY PARK LAND

The park system in Medford consists of a variety of parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas. The City of Medford is the primary provider of these parks and facilities.

The Medford Parks and Recreation Department manages 2,509.42 acres of park land, including 2,434.53 acres owned by the City and 74.89 acres leased from two school districts. Combined, the acreage supports twenty-one neighborhood parks, six community parks, seven special use areas, two linear parks, six greenways, and four undeveloped sites. Figure 3.1 illustrates the location of these facilities.

The majority of these parks are owned by the City of Medford. However, special leasing agreements with the Medford School District and the Phoenix/Talent School District have been highly successful in providing parks and recreation opportunities at school sites. The City of Medford leases 71.89 acres at 11 schools from the Medford School District. Additionally, the City leases 3.0 acres from the Phoenix/Talent School District at one site. Together, these leased school parks contribute 74.89 acres to the City’s parkland inventory. (See Appendix B for details on park land provided by school districts.)

Park land in the Medford Planning Area is summarized by park classification in Table 3.1

Table 3.1
Summary of Park Land by Classification
 Medford Planning Area

Park Land Areas	City-Owned Acreage	City-Leased Acreage	Number of Sites
City of Medford Park Land			
Neighborhood Parks	73.77	57.09	21
Community Parks	210.39	17.80	6
Special Use Areas	212.84		6
Linear Parks	14.42		2
Natural Open Space/Greenways	1,923.11		6
TOTAL	2,434.53	74.89	47 *
TOTAL PARK LAND ACREAGE			2,509.42

* Some sites have multiple park types such as Railroad Park- a Special Use area and Neighborhood park.

Insert Figure 3.1: Existing Resources Map

Figure 3.1: Existing Resources Map (back)

Park sites owned and leased by the City of Medford are presented by park classification in Table 3.2. The first column may contain (in parentheses) the total acreage of the park. The second column would then identify the portion of the total which is of the particular park classification being listed in the table.

Table 3.2
Summary of City Parks by Classification
 Medford Planning Area

Park Area	Acres	Status
Neighborhood Parks		
Alba Park	1.52	Developed
Chrissy Park (165.58)	1.50	Undeveloped
Cherry Lane	1.56	Under construction
Delta Waters School Park	13.26	Partially Developed
Donahue-Frohnmayr Park	10.20	Partially Developed
Earhart Park	1.60	Partially Developed
Hoover School Park	3.85	Developed
Holmes Park (18.36)	4.49	Partially Developed
Howard School Park	8.55	Developed
Jackson School Park	9.44	Developed
Jefferson School Park	8.45	Developed
Kennedy School Park	12.96	Partially Developed
Lewis Street Park	8.56	Under construction
Lone Pine School Park	9.82	Partially Developed
Midway Park	3.00	Undeveloped
Orchard Hill School Park	3.00	Developed
Oregon Hills Park (16.00)	3.00	Undeveloped
Railroad Park (12.34)	2.34	Developed
Roosevelt School Park	2.78	Developed
Ruhl Park	1.15	Developed
Table Rock Park (7.49)	3.00	Undeveloped
Union Park	2.16	Developed
Veteran's Park	2.29	Developed
Washington School Park	4.56	Developed
Wilson School Park	7.82	Developed
TOTAL	130.86	
Community Parks		
Bear Creek Park (101.23)	50.69	Partially Developed
Fichtner-Mainwaring Park	30.95	Partially Developed
Hawthorne Park	13.00	Developed
Prescott Park (1,740)	15.00	Partially Developed
Sports Park (132.72)	100.00	Partially Developed
North Medford School Park	17.80	Developed
TOTAL	228.19	

Table 3.2 (continued)

Park Area	Acres	Status
Special Use Areas		
Carnegie Building	1.75	Partially Developed
Chrissy Park (165.85)	164.08	Undeveloped
Holmes Park (18.36)	13.87	Partially Developed
IIOF/Eastwood Historic Cemetery	19.00	Developed
Railroad Park (12.34)	10.00	Developed
Santo Community Center	3.90	Developed
Virginia Vogel Plaza	0.24	Developed
TOTAL	212.84	
Linear Parks		
Biddle Road Pathway	5.63	Developed
East McAndrews Pathway	8.79	Developed
TOTAL	14.42	
Natural Open Space Areas/Greenways		
Bear Creek Park (101.23)	50.31	Partially Developed
Bear Creek Greenway properties	83.09	Partially Developed
Larson Creek Greenway	8.20	Partially Developed
Lazy Creek Greenway	6.30	Partially Developed
Prescott Park (1,740)	1,725.00	Partially Developed
Table Rock Park (7.49)	4.49	Undeveloped
Medford Sports Park (132.72)	32.72	Undeveloped
Oregon Hills (16.00)	13.00	Undeveloped
TOTAL	1,923.11	
TOTAL PARK LAND	2,509.42	

3.3 SPORTS FACILITIES

The City of Medford provides many sports facilities throughout the Medford Planning Area. Facility categories include:

- Adult baseball fields
- Adult softball fields
- Youth baseball/softball fields
- Soccer fields (youth and adult)
- Football fields
- Gymnasiums (indoor courts)
- Swimming pools
- Trails



Facility Inventory

Sports facilities within the Medford Planning Area were counted using the following definitions:

- **Total inventory:** This total count includes all facilities in the Medford Planning Area that are available or potentially available for use as game or practice facilities.
- **Restricted inventory:** This count excludes sites that do not meet the standard or definition for the individual facility. The remaining facilities are available for play, although actual scheduling may be limited because of restrictions.
- **Unrestricted inventory:** This count excludes facilities with use restrictions that affect the scheduling of the field/facility (e.g., overlays, size limitations, scheduling issues, and ownership/ control of facility). The facilities in this count have no additional restrictions in terms of scheduling or playability.

The following facilities are excluded from the Restricted Inventory:

- **Abandoned facilities:** Abandoned fields are not counted, although they are noted in the total inventory in the event significant upgrades are made in the future to make them playable again.
- **Inadequate size:** Fields with short field dimension or obstacles in the field does not meet the definition for the facility. They are counted in the total inventory because they are useful as practice facilities; however, they are not counted as restricted facilities.

A number of factors further influence the playability of a field or the ability to schedule games and/or practices. Because of these



factors, few facilities in Medford have unrestricted use. The unrestricted inventory includes fields and gymnasiums that are not hampered with any of the following limitations:

- **Size limitations:** If a field is too small for one type of play but is still used for a league with a smaller dimensional requirement, it is noted as a field with limited use.
- **Overlays/multi-use fields:** In some cases, fields have been developed as overlays (multi-use fields). If fields overlap or are overlaid, they are counted as facilities with limited use. Both fields are playable if the playing seasons are at different times of the year. Otherwise, one field has to be given priority in scheduling over the other.
- **Scheduling restrictions:** Some facilities are only used in specific circumstances, such as tournaments, and are not otherwise used for regular season play. These limitations are noted.
- **School ownership/control:** Several sport fields and all gymnasiums are owned by the Medford School District or private schools, which control scheduling for those facilities. The facilities are considered restricted, although they may be available through current use agreements or could become available if a lease agreement or user agreement could be negotiated.

Table 3.3 summarizes number of sports facilities according to the different facility inventories. A complete inventory of each facility type by site is included in Appendix C.

Table 3.3
Summary of Sports Facilities
Medford Planning Area

Facility	Total Inventory	Restricted Inventory	Unrestricted Inventory
Adult Baseball Fields	6	5	1
Adult Softball Fields	12	6	6
Youth Baseball/Softball Fields	26	20	6
Soccer Fields	30	12	18
Football Fields	6	5	1
Gymnasiums	22	20	2
Pool Space	4,200 sf	4,200 sf	0 sf
Trails	30 miles	0	30 miles