

Chapter 23.72. RECREATION

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23.72.010. Recreation.

Recreation holds a prominent position in the minds of the people of Deschutes County. Not only because tourist recreation contributed \$68 million to the County's economy in 1977, but also because to so many of the people who were born locally, and even more so for those who have moved here, it is the recreational opportunities that make the quality of life in the County so high. As the population continues to grow so will the demand for recreational facilities and services. Without prior protection of our recreational resources and planning to accommodate more people, local citizens could lose not only livability but tourist dollars as well.

Often in the past, duplication or conflicting developments by governmental agencies and private groups have resulted in fragmentation and inefficiency in the recreational system. With ever growing funding problems, it is becoming increasingly important that a well defined and coordinated recreation system be developed. This plan is not meant to be that detailed plan, but it is meant to serve as an analysis of local needs and to set into motion activities aimed at fulfilling those needs and protecting those resources which will be required.

Urban and urbanizing areas are particularly in need of parks. Often by planning ahead, better parks may be obtained for considerably less cost than that which would have been required otherwise. Also, it is often possible to combine parks with other public facilities, such as schools and fire stations, which permits even greater savings in land, personnel and maintenance.

To provide a common basis of understanding, the following park definitions were developed for use by the Recreation CAC:

Park Passive Areas = 1 - 3 acres

Neighborhood Parks = 1 - 5 acres

Community Parks = 5 - 25 acres

Regional Parks = 25 + acres

Both state parks (most state parks in the County need some form of rehabilitation) and Federal recreation areas are receiving much more use from both the local population and tourists. Particular concern has been expressed over (a) Wilderness Areas, where popular lakes and trails are beginning to show the effects of heavy use; (b) Campgrounds and Picnic Areas, where facilities are inadequate for present demands; (c) Fishing Areas, because access to more remote locations is being requested; (d) Skiing Facilities, where demand of such uses as restrooms and warming facilities is exceeding present capacities; and (e) Off-Road Vehicle Activity, because desires to expand present roads or play areas conflict with solitude-dependent recreation and wildlife.

Other often identified needs are bicycle-pedestrian- equestrian trails and planned recreation activities (including educational programs). Coordination between public and private facilities would result in more recreational opportunities for everyone, and, because tourism is so important locally, a better employment and income environment.

Recreational needs in rural areas are often different than urban areas. While the urbanizing areas require more athletic and pool facilities, the rural areas need more Natural Areas and Research Natural Areas (selected by well- defined scientific criteria) to maintain and improve our knowledge of the environment.

One type of recreation which deserves special recognition is the winter sports activities of the area. Known for its good skiing, Deschutes County attracts many thousands of visitors each winter. Facilities for these people are rapidly becoming inadequate and new areas and services can be anticipated in the future.

Presently, the County is not involved with providing recreation facilities. No change in that situation is anticipated; however, the County's help in obtaining land dedications for parks, in regulating off-road vehicles (such as have caused considerable damage when used inappropriately east of Horse Ridge), and in other ways, could assist existing recreation providers to meet the anticipated needs.

Because of the preceding findings the following goals have been established.
(Ord. 2002-005 §1, 2002; Ord. 2000-017 §1, 2000; Ord. 93-003, 1993; Ord. 92-051, 1992; PL-20, 1979)

23.72.020. Goals.

1. To satisfy the recreational needs of the residents of and visitors to Deschutes County.
2. To maximize utilization of economic and personnel resources through increasing intergovernmental and public-private cooperation in the provision of recreation facilities and services.
3. To provide, concomitant with growth, sufficient uniformly distributed land and facilities for park purposes throughout the County.

(Ord. 2002-005 §1, 2002; Ord. 2000-017 §1, 2000; Ord. 93-003, 1993; Ord. 92-051, 1992; PL-20, 1979)

23.72.030. Policies.

1. Coordination.
 - a. Developmental cooperation and coordination should be maximized. On significant projects, the originating agency should communicate in the spirit of cooperation with other agencies regarding planning, acquisition, development and operation of programs and facilities. The private sector should be included to the greatest extent possible and should, whenever possible, be responsible for the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of recreational facilities.
 - b. Rehabilitation, facility improvement or expansion and recreational program from the State and Federal agencies shall be encouraged. A County Recreation Committee with both private and public representation should be the coordinator of such activities. Input from groups with special needs should be encouraged so as to develop appropriate programs, with tolerable impact to resources and surrounding residents and wildlife. Park rehabilitation, replacement, minor betterment, repair and ordinary maintenance activities which do not significantly impact land uses will be allowed outright.
 - c. In order to obtain greater efficiency in providing services, local input to State and Federal agencies on land management policies should emphasize appropriate multi-use utilization.
 - d. The Oregon State Parks System Plan and Master Plans shall serve as the State Parks guide for improvements locally, and act as the basis for coordination and cooperation between State Parks and local recreation agencies.
 - e. The County will continue to coordinate the various recreational needs for the County and urban areas with the U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State Parks Divisions, Bend Metro Parks and Recreation District, the Central Oregon Parks and Recreation District and other recreation providers.
 - f. The County shall work with private and public agencies to develop a plan to provide needed warming, restroom and parking facilities for existing winter sports areas, as well as encouraging the designation of additional areas. The plan should seek to combine cross-county skiing and snow play areas, while separating these uses from snow mobiling areas. Private and public provisions for additional downhill skiing areas compatible with the environment should be sought and adequate transportation to ski areas, utilizing methods other than automobiles, should be developed.
 - g. The County shall assist State and Federal efforts to protect Oregon Natural Areas and the U.S.F.S. Research and Experimental Areas.

2. Facilities.

a.. The following guidelines for assessing the adequacy of available parks shall be established:

Park Passive Areas and Neighborhood Parks = 2.5 acres per 1000 population

Community Parks = 2.5 acres per 1000 population

Regional Parks = 5.0 acres per 1000 population

- b. The County shall require the dedication of land or fees for park purposes, consistent with the preceding standards, as a condition of subdivision approval. Developments with private recreation areas may be credited against any dedication requirements, if public park standards are met (including facilities under control of a legally established homeowners association).
- c. The most critical need for new parks occurs in urbanizing areas. Acquisition and development of urban recreational areas consistent with community growth shall be the responsibility of the local park districts and cities. However, the County shall cooperate with recreation providers in establishing zoning to protect existing parks from incompatible adjacent uses, setting aside or acquiring suitable public land for park purposes, and encouraging annexation into a park district of lands added to an urban growth boundary.
- d. Park districts and the cities, where no park district exists, shall seek to acquire centrally located park areas, especially in high-density neighborhoods. Joint use of the land for park use and such facilities as schools or fire stations shall be encouraged.
- e. Recognizing that streams, rivers, and irrigation canals are natural attractors for recreation, the County shall encourage the development of public multi-use trails along these features, in areas where conflicts with natural resources would not result. Trails should be designed to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians, as appropriate to the area.
- f. While some flexibility is required, once a park plan has been prepared and adopted by local regulatory agencies, it shall remain as the controlling document for guiding development of that park.
- g. Depending on the determination of each community, the County shall support local efforts for a public pool for each County-incorporated community.
- h. Unincorporated communities shall be encouraged to assess their recreational needs and to identify lands required to serve those needs. The County shall encourage civic organizations and public agencies attempting to meet those identified needs.
- i. The County shall provide the bicycle and pedestrian connections between schools, residential areas, parks and other recreation attractions, shopping centers, and other commercial and industrial centers.
- j. Because it is recognized that the over-use of the motor vehicle has detrimental effects on the County, the use of bicycling, and walking, and mass transit, carpooling, shall be encouraged as a means of accessing recreation areas.
The State Parks Department shall be encouraged to include trailer dumps and sanitary facilities in their development of the Juniper Waysides between Bend and Redmond.
 - 1. Recognizing the needs of recreational bicycling, the County shall maintain or improve the quality of rural routes.
- k. Public outdoor recreation facilities such as outdoor theaters are needed to accommodate gatherings and other uses in each of the County's major population centers.
 - l. To facilitate learning about and experiencing outdoor activities an outdoor education camp is needed, and a sportsman's park (rifle, archery, off-road vehicles, etc.) shall be designated near Bend.
- m. The Oregon High Desert Museum is an example of the type of outdoor education project that the County shall encourage.
- n. Other specific needs to be met by public and private recreation providers that have been identified are:
 - 1. Additional camping and/or picnic sites at Sparks, Elk, Lava and Cultus Lakes, as well as at Crane Prairie and Wickiup Reservoirs;

2. A group camping area at La Pine State Park;
 3. A hiker's camp at Tumalo State Park;
 4. More water sport opportunities;
 5. Additional wilderness areas (as demand warrants and consistent with the local economy and protection of fragile areas);
 6. Maintenance of existing and identification of additional off-road vehicle areas.
- o. All development in Deschutes County shall comply with all applicable state and federal rules, regulations and standards.

(Ord. 2002-005 §1, 2002; Ord. 2000-017 §1, 2000; Ord. 93-003, 1993; Ord. 92-051, 1992; Ord. 80-203, 1980; PL-20, 1979)