



Portland Open Space  
Vision and Implementation

Stakeholder Meeting 3  
May 6, 2015

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

LAND FOR PEOPLE

# Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Review of objectives and process
- Vision statement vote by Steering Committee
- Review high-level park and open space system goals
- Level of service discussion
- Presentation on park and open space public funding potential
- Revisit community survey (for requested comparison and cross-tabs)
- Introduction to the park quality evaluation

## Deliverable: A system-wide Portland Open Space Vision and Implementation Plan.

Recommend future investment in parks/trails/open space:

- Overarching level of service goals for the park/trail system.
- Prioritized list of projects recommended for 5 year time horizon.
- A recommended process or structure to guide future decision-making on these topics.

This planning document will go to City Council for consideration.



# Definitions

- Scope of Parks and Open Spaces (a.k.a. “open spaces”) we mean:

- Parks
- Active playing fields
- Playgrounds
- Trails
- Natural areas
- Community gardens
- Plazas/squares
- Cemeteries
- Golf courses

- Other not-so-obvious (a.k.a. “obscure”) spaces

- Paper streets
- Other city vacant land
- Certain median spaces

- Generally not talking about private athletic facilities, indoor arenas

## Finalize Vision Statement

*A. Portland will build on our historic system of parks, trails, and open spaces to enhance our quality of life, protect our environment, and promote the economic well-being of our remarkable city by the sea.*

OR

*B. Portland commits to sustain and build on our historic system of parks, trails, and open spaces to enhance our quality of life, protect our environment, and promote the economic well-being of our remarkable city by the sea.*

# Goals for the Portland Park and Open Space System (*draft*):

- Provide an **inter-connected** system of parks, trails and open spaces
- Provide ready **access for all residents** to the wide range of recreation and open space opportunities (thinking broadly park and open space types and amenities)
- Provide **high quality** parks and open spaces
- Have **well-maintained** parks and open spaces
- Provide spaces for **multi-generational** use
- Make spaces available for **special events** (as site appropriate)
- Promote **citizen stewardship**
- Promote **biological diversity and wildlife habitat** (as site appropriate)
- Preserve **historic resources** in the parks and open space system
- **Preserve the intrinsic values** of the park and open space system

# Level of Service Goals

## Purpose:

To select *services* related to Park, Recreation, and Open Spaces of Portland that can be measured and tracked. ***The level of service goals should help the City evaluate the park system over time.***

## Process:

1. Identify potential services
2. Prioritize from among the options.
3. Set a *goal* for each service
4. Measure progress toward accomplishing that goal.

## Level of Service Goals: Potential Services

- Special events
- Trees
- Community gardens
- Park types
- Accessible parks
- Accessible public spaces
- Accessible park amenities
- Accessibility for disabled residents
- Accessible to nature
- Accessible to water
- Park interconnectivity
- Quality parks
- Citizen stewardship
- Maintenance of parks



## Level of Service Discussion:

- *Prioritize* from among the options
- *Develop* draft goals for top priorities

### Purpose:

To select *services* related to Park, Recreation, and Open Spaces of Portland that can be measured and tracked over time. ***The level of service goals should help the City government evaluate both the short-term and long-term successes of the park system.***

## Deliverable: A system-wide Portland Open Space Vision and Implementation Plan.

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# Conservation Finance Feasibility Study

- What funding mechanism is Portland currently using?
  - General Obligation Bonds
  - Municipal annual appropriations
- What else is legally permissible? What are other communities doing?
  - Local sales tax / property tax
  - Real estate transfer tax
  - Tax Increment Finance Districts
  - Impact Fees
- Capacities of different funding mechanisms
- Election Trends

## Examples of Capacity to Raise Funds for Open Space

- General Obligation Bonds

Bond Issue	Mill Levy Increase	Average Cost per Household* <small>(2015 avg home value of \$228,500)</small>
\$1,000,000	0.01	\$2.43
\$7,500,000	0.08	\$18.19
\$20,000,000	0.21	\$48.51

- “Open Space Tax” – on Property Tax

Mill Rate Increase (Tax Rate)	Annual Revenue	Average Annual Cost per Household* <small>(2015 avg home value of \$228,500)</small>
0.10	\$755,956	\$22.85
0.25	\$1,889,891	\$57.13
0.40	\$3,023,825	\$91.40

# Looking Ahead: Park Quality Evaluation

Rapid assessment tool developed by TPL specifically for Portland. Components:

- Park access – entrance, transportation, safe access, & signage
- Park features – condition, maintenance, usability, and appearance
- Supportive facilities – condition, maintenance, usability, and appearance
- Safety and appearance – serious concerns and inappropriate uses
- Aesthetics