



Portland Open Space  
Vision and Implementation

Stakeholder Meeting 2  
April 1, 2015

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

LAND FOR PEOPLE

# Tonight's Agenda

- Quick refresh on project description
- Review and discuss on-line survey findings (30 minutes)
- Revisit and refine overarching vision statement for this plan (20 minutes)
- Discuss desired level of service for parks, trails and open space (60 minutes)
- Review tasks for next meeting (10 minutes)

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

Recommend future investments 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” or “Open Spaces”, we mean:
  - Parks
  - Natural areas
  - Active playing fields
  - Trails
  - Community gardens
  - Playgrounds
  - Cemeteries
  - Golf courses
- Other not-so-obvious spaces
  - Paper streets
  - Other city vacant land
  - Certain median spaces
- Generally not talking about private athletic facilities, indoor arenas

# On-Line Survey Findings: Support for Parks System and Continued Investments

- **Good news!** Survey respondents show high parks usage and satisfaction **and** support further investments.
  - More than 50% of respondents visit the City's parks and open spaces at least a few times per week, and 28% more visit about once per week.
  - About 25% use the trails a few times per week, and another 25% use them once per week.
  - Almost 50% of respondents rate the parks and open space system as high quality, and only 4% consider it low quality.
  - At the same time, **90% of respondents would support a general obligation bond** to fund land acquisition for sports fields, parks, open spaces, or trails.

# Order of Community Priorities

## Priorities

1. Trails & Un-programmed Activities; Desire for More Open Space and Natural Areas
2. Athletic Fields, Pools, and Skating Rinks
3. Events and Gathering Spaces
4. Community Gardens
5. Programming

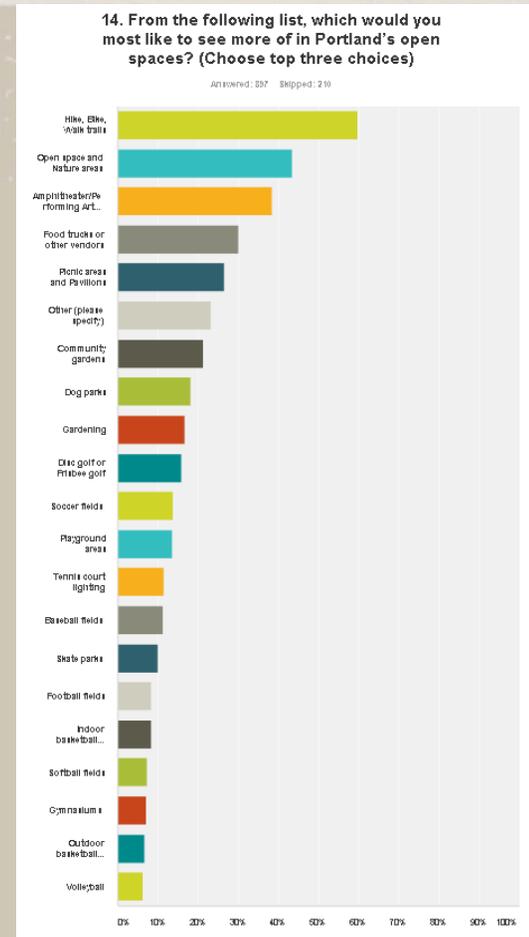
## Other Themes

1. Maintenance & Safety Concerns
2. Dogs in the Park

# Priority 1: Trails & Un-programmed Activities

- More respondents use parks and open spaces for *independent uses* than for programmed activities (Question 7).
  - 66% of users exercise while in the City's parks and open spaces.
  - 43% meet friends and relax.
  - 35% engage in winter activities.
- 40% of respondents use trails a few times per week or more (Question 3).

**Note:** Question 13 asked about activities in which respondents participate but did not provide options for hiking, biking, running, walking, skiing or snowshoeing, though these activities featured prominently in the "Other" write in category.

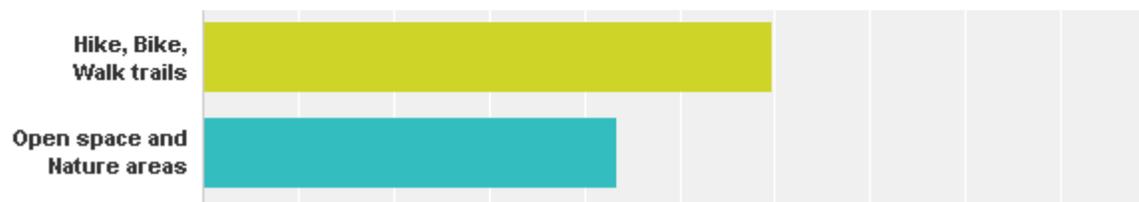


# Priority 1: Trails & Un-programmed Activities; Desire for More Open Space and Natural Areas

- More than any other priority, respondents would like expanded trails and open space or natural areas (Question 14).
  - 60% would like more hiking, biking, and walking trails.
  - 43% would like more open space and natural areas.

## 14. From the following list, which would you most like to see more of in Portland's open spaces? (Choose top three choices)

Answered: 897 Skipped: 210



## **Priority 1:** Trails & Un-programmed Activities; Desire for More Open Space and Natural Areas

Funding preferences indicate high levels of support for new spaces and improving existing spaces (Question 15).

Respondents would spend \$100 as follows.

Funding Priority	\$ Allocated
Acquire new land for parks, open spaces or trails	\$32
Maintain existing parks and open spaces to higher standards	\$23
Renovate existing parks and open space	\$22
Develop new recreation facilities (i.e. pools, ice rinks, rec centers)	\$16
Offer new or more programming	\$7
	\$100

## **Priority 2: Athletic Fields, Pools, and Skating Rinks\***

- More respondents indicated ***participation in field sports, swimming, and skating\**** than in other activities (Question 13). Among active respondents and their families:
  - 37% swim, and 33% are dissatisfied with facilities or services.
  - 37% participate in field sports (i.e., soccer, baseball, softball, football, Ultimate Frisbee, rugby, kickball, field hockey and disc golf), and about 30% are dissatisfied with facilities or services.
  - 33% skate,\* and 27% are dissatisfied with facilities or services.

A1

Comments suggest that field maintenance, availability of fields to accommodate Frisbee and pools, and limited hours and seasons of operation (swim lessons, games) are issues.

\* It is unclear if the survey is referring to ice skating or skateboarding. Question 14 only referenced skate parks.

**Slide 10**

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**A1**

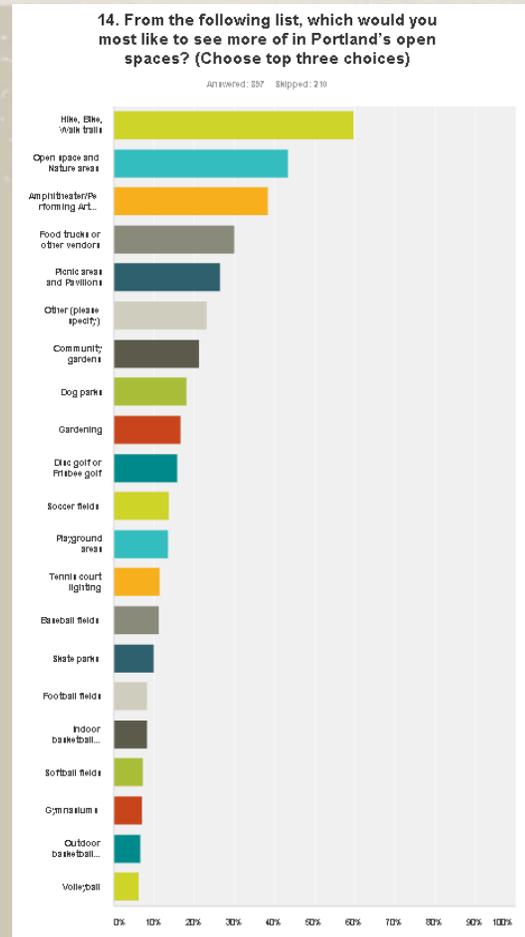
**Is this different than Ultimate frisbee?**

Administrator, 3/31/2015

## Priority 2: Athletic Fields, Pools, and Skating Rinks\*

- A high proportion of respondents would like to see *more sports fields* (Question 14).
  - Though individually, field sports did not rank high, collectively over 50% of respondents wanted more of these.
  - This is a clear indication demand for more multipurpose athletic fields.
- Respondents were not asked about preferences for pools or skating rinks.\*

\*It is unclear if the survey is referring to ice skating or skateboarding. Question 14 only referenced skate parks.



## ***Priority 3:*** Events and Gathering Spaces

- Respondents frequently use parks for events and picnics
- Performing arts events and venues, food trucks and other vendors, and picnic facilities ranked high on the list of what respondents would like more of (Question 14).
  - 28% percent of respondents participate in arts and crafts activities, and 31% attend events in the parks. 38% would like performing arts activities or amphitheaters in the parks.
  - 30% of respondents picnic in the park, and 27% would like more picnic areas and pavilions.
  - Respondents attend farmers markets in the parks, and 30% of would like to see more markets and food trucks.

## **Priority 4: Community Gardens**

- The survey reveals that gardening and community gardens are priorities. Although only 6% of respondents currently garden in the City's parks (Question 7),...
  - 24% of active respondents actively garden (Question 13).
  - 18% respondents have used or visited a community garden in the past year (Question 5).
  - 24% of active gardeners are dissatisfied with City services and facilities to support gardening (Question 13).
- 21% of respondents would like to see more community gardens in the City's open spaces (Question 14).\*

**Note:** 17% would like to see more gardening in the City's open spaces. The difference between "gardening" and "community gardens" in this context is not clear.

## ***Priority 5: Programming***

- Survey responses showed that organized programming, such as summer camps, therapeutic recreation and senior adult programs, ranked lowest in terms of participation (Question 13) and funding priorities (Question 15).
- However, respondents who participate in therapeutic recreation and senior programs were highly dissatisfied with City services (23% and 24%, respectively). Minimal investments in this area may go a long way toward necessary improvements.

## ***Other Themes:*** Maintenance & Safety Concerns

- Maintenance, cleanliness, and safety show up as concerns throughout the survey.
  - 26% of respondents indicated safety concerns and 21% maintenance issues as barriers to visiting parks and open spaces (Question 10).
  - 26% believe that Portland's parks and open spaces are poorly maintained, while 30% believe they are well maintained (Question 11).
  - Throughout the survey, respondents frequently expressed a desire for cleaner facilities, better maintained athletic fields, better lit parks, and improved trail maps and signage.

## *Other Themes:* Dogs in the Parks

- Dogs in the parks
  - 18% of respondents would like to see more dog parks (Question 14).
  - Regarding factors that discourage or would encourage park and trail use (Questions 8-10), a small subset of respondents discussed dog uses.
    - 71 comments indicated a desire for more off-leash areas
    - 30 comments indicated discomfort with off-leash dogs and dog droppings.
  - There was agreement about the need for dog bag stations and clean up as well as a proposal for fenced off-leash areas.

## Finalize Vision Statement

v1: Portland to have a system of fully functional open spaces used and enjoyed by residents and tourists that contributes to Portland being a 21<sup>st</sup> century world class city.

*V2: 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.*

## Create Level of Service Goals: Key decisions

1. What are we measuring and tracking?
2. How do we categorize (e.g. typology or amenity/feature)?
3. What unit of measurement:
  - Quantity?
    - acres/1,000 people?
    - miles/1,000 people? (for linear parks)
  - Proximity/services area?
  - Satisfaction?
  - Quality?

# Create Level of Service Goals: Comparison Communities, Burlington and Hartford



## Create Level of Service Goals: Park typology scenario showing a quantity measure

These numbers are based on actual park data for Portland. The “regional park” classification doesn’t seem relevant, but other categories are interesting to compare against the former NRPA recommendations.

Park Types	Classification	Total acreage	City Population	Existing	Recommended*
Mini Parks	1 acre or less	13	66,318	0.2	0.5 acres / 1,000 residents
Neighborhood Parks	1-10 acres	58	66,318	0.9	2.5 acres / 1,000 residents
Community Parks	10-100 acres	426	66,318	6.4	4.0 acres / 1,000 residents
Regional Parks	more than 100 acres	0	66,318	0.0	4.0 acres / 1,000 residents
Special Use parks	golf courses / cemetery	565	66,318	8.5	N/A

*Please note that when doing these calculations we did not include the following "type": playground / school playground / square / trail.*





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