



## **PROS Plan Recreation Focus Group**

**Date:** March 20, 2025

**Location:** The Grove

**Attendees:** Len Spencer, Ronda Spencer, Julia Chapman, Bret Deforest, Tan Phillips, John Spitzley, Ron Owen, Cori Grimm, Jake Crawford, Mike Dotson, Bonnie Ball, DeAnna Oakley, Noah Horstman, JP Naumes, Sally Lau, David L. Anderson, Steve Isser, Risa Buck, Geroge Dohrmann, Andrew Gramley, Heather Inghram, Roger Noyes, Jane Ferguson, Rich Rosenthal

**Staff:** Rocky Houston, Rachel Dials, Amber Shroy, Lonny Flora, Kirsten Came, Brian Weaver, Nancy Mero

Summary: Director Houston facilitated a conversation on recreation programs and activities with the attendees. The results of this conversation and group exercises follow:

### **Recreation Focus Group Exercise Results**

Group Exercise #1 – What is going well

- Trails and opportunities are growing
- New online system is easy to use
- Use of the Grove and increasing use by partners
- Social interactions/growth/community vibe!!!
- Impressed with keeping up with the pickleball
- Way parks look is amazing and inviting
- Good communication with users and sharing space
- Partnership between DMP and water polo has improved
- Glad to see Recreation is being put back into the Parks
- Community brought concerts at Golf Course – brings community together
- Kudos for resuscitating Oak Knoll and bringing it back
- David's Chair and providing accessibility at Lithia
- Activity level has grown in the parks and music in the park
- Hiking in the park all year round



- Personnel back at Nature Center
- Senior Center open and available for other groups

### Group Exercise #1 – What needs improvement/what is missing

- More classes at the Grove/back to how it used to be
- Emphasis on more wheelchair access
- More security due to urban campers on fields
- No support of Ashland High School/SOU golf
- Golf teams need golf course to play
- Oak Knoll grass on fairways, tee boxes need more improvement, brush needs to be cut
- Creative solutions to overcome bureaucratic barriers
- Oak Knoll doesn't have enough trees
- There aren't enough sport fields and courts
- Accessibility to baseball fields
- More opportunity for sports programs to grow
- Massive overuse of fields
- Soccer fields need help – hard to run maintenance when there's not a lot of down time
- More pickleball courts (mentioned several times by different attendees) in a place not to disturb neighbors/reduce noise infractions
- More time for Group reservations
- Restroom closing times do not line up with Rec/Park times
- Relining of pool, new pool or more opportunities for multi-use
- Unaffiliated swimmers don't get pool use all year round
- Hunter tennis courts – need to be redone
- Little League fields – potholes, potential for injuries
- More signs for dogs and E bikes
- Dogs off leash, dog waste not being picked up, dogs on long leashes
- Hiking maps – wayfinding – better directions
- Reservoir has dogs and dogs off leash
- More dog friendly, give more opportunities for dog people
- Pump Track/Skills park – provide more kid centric opportunities
- Divide or barrier between Ashland High School and Parks
- YMCA and Sout divide – not open to working with Parks – fewer community



partnerships and collaborations - Improve safe bike access to get to parks

- Bear Creek Greenway – responsibility of maintenance?

Group Exercise #2 – Dot voting

Recreation

Art	3	Music	10
Fitness	5	History	2
Dance	2	Golf	31
Aquatics (added by users)	23		

Sports Fields

Baseball	18	Soccer	17
Flag Football	0	Softball	5
Lacrosse	0	Ultimate Frisbee	5

Sport Courts

Basketball	6	Pickleball	21
Futsal	6	Game Court	2
Bike Polo	10	Tennis	25

Play Areas

Open Area/Trail	18	Playground	2
Organized	4	Nature Play	10
Unstructured	2	Educational	6



### Group Exercise #3 – Future

- Built in sound system with microphone/meeting room for more people
- New community center/pool
- More events
- More programs
- Multi-use facility
- Better/more soccer fields so don't have to commute to Medford
- Be Ashland/be yourself
- More use of our parks and more security
- No competition between Medford and Ashland. Ashland is unique
- Balance on investing in youth and older community. Focus on youth and make a better commitment to the growth of youth programs
- Oak Knoll is even better with more members
- Oak Knoll has a better water source
- Wish list: Bike polo. Longterm a dedicated multi-sport court without nets. Short term add 2<sup>nd</sup> court to allow more game time and bring more tournaments
- Commission meeting - revenue aspect - need more revenue
- Tourists and bringing more business to parks and generate business revenue to city restaurants
- Coordinate with schools more
- New T-ball field and new homerun field