



PROS Plan Central Ashland Neighborhood Group

Date: April 20, 2025

Location: Southern Oregon University

Attendees: Stephen Ross, Barbara Ross, Kathy McNeal, Ann Cramer, Sue Owen, Ron Owen, Robert K. Taylor, Barb Settles, Kathy McNeil, Rebecca Kay, Jack Gibbs, Christine Beekman

Staff: Rocky Houston, Rachel Dials, Amber Shroy, Lonny Flora, Shannon Holt.

Summary: Director Houston facilitated a conversation on parks and facilities in the central portion of Ashland. The results of this conversation and group exercises follow:

Group Exercise #1 - What's going well/positives

- Clean bathrooms
- Trails are amazing!!
- Landscaping – example snowstorm
- Lithia Park
- A park every ½ to ¾ mile!
- Exercise programs at the Senior Ctr.
- Dog cleanup stations
- Opportunities for self-care and relaxing in parks
- Opportunities for kids at Nature Ctr., pool, splash pad
- Community gardens – growing food, community of people
- Pickleball
- Parks entering into contracts with outside groups for use – i.e. pool
- Ability to use parks day and night
- Sharing meals together at the Senior Ctr.
- Japanese Garden
- Swimming pool
- Tennis courts
- Golf Course
- Volunteer spirit
- The employees



Group Exercise #1 – What’s missing/needs improvement

- Affordability – Park Fee
 - Qualifying financially
 - New fees being added – look at bigger picture
- City-wide management roles – management analysis vs. front line workers
 - Ratio
 - 20% reduction in management
- Economic impact of parks – future study
- ADA assessments – all facilities and parks
- Funding Parks and Recreation
- Spots in Lithia Park that are dangerous
- Dead debris above upper Duck Pond, dead tree near creek, woody debris in the creek, concerns about flooding
- Water use at North Mtn. Park – ballfields – TID use
- Poor City planning on Community Center and Pioneer Hall – building assets
- Fundraising – Parks Foundation – opportunity outside/tourist to raise funds
- The money is there – where are we not using it wisely?
 - Workers and children are important



Group Exercise #2 Dot Voting

There were seven different panels.

PANEL: Sport Courts	VOTES
Basketball	0
Futsal	0
Bike Polo	0
Pickleball	11
Game Court	0
Tennis	1

PANEL: Sport Fields	VOTES
Baseball	2
Flag Football	1
Lacrosse	0
Soccer	2
Softball	2
Ultimate Frisbee	1

PANEL: Trails	VOTES
Paved	0
Gravel	0
Hogs Fuel	1
Natural	8
Boardwalk	2
Hardened	0



PANEL: Play	VOTES
Open Areas/Trails	3
Organized	4
Unstructured	0
Playground	2
Nature Play	3
Educational	3

PANEL: Park Experiences	VOTES
Solitude	3
Nature	6
Exercise	2
Events	7
Developed	1
Educational	3

PANEL: Park Amenities	VOTES
Shade Structure	3
Seating	6
Tables	2
Story Circle	0
Artwork	0
Ed./Interpretive Signs	4



PANEL: Facilities/Parks	Votes
Senior Center	17
Golf Course	2
Nature Center	8
Ice Rink	3
E Main Park/Com Garden	7
Daniel Meyer Pool	16