



NORTH

Distinctive Features

Description: The North sub-area (see map at end of this section) is comprised of three main parts — a large residential area, a large recreation and natural resource area, and the Rivergate Industrial area.

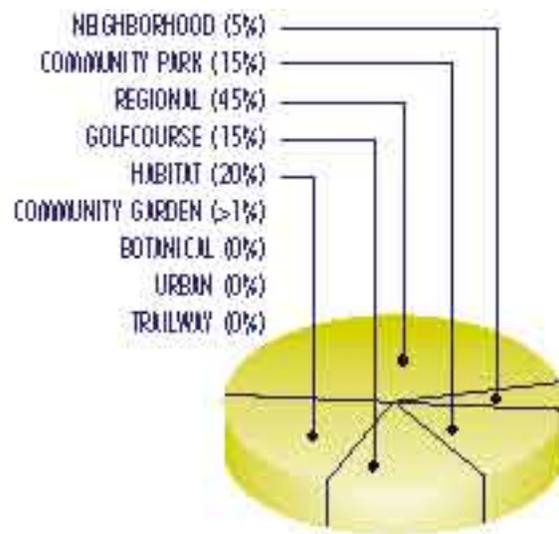
Resources and Facilities: The North sub-area has 1,232 acres of parkland, ranking second in total park acreage. Most of the neighborhood and community parks are developed and provide many recreation opportunities. Their size, location, and condition are generally good.

- The award winning Heron Lakes Golf Course (2 courses) is located within West Delta Park as is the Portland International Raceway which hosts numerous race car events.
- Kelley Point Park sits at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.
- Smith and Bybee Lakes – an 1800-acre site owned by Metro – is a significant natural resource in the area and the largest urban wetland in the country.
- The Columbia Slough winds its way through the area, providing wildlife habitat. Trails along the Slough, the Peninsula Crossing Trail and other portions of the 40-Mile Loop are within this sub-area.
- There are three community garden sites with 78 plots.
- The area is served by two large community centers – University Park and St. Johns Community Centers, and Overlook House – a small meeting house.
- There are two aquatic facilities – the indoor pool at Columbia and the outdoor pool at Pier Park.

- The St. John's Racquet Center provides three indoor courts.
- There are two Community Schools. The sub-area includes 21 school sites, which represent nearly half of the area's recreation sites.

Population – Current and Future: The North sub-area is fifth in terms of population, with 51,500 people and is projected to grow to 57,290 by 2020 - an increase of 10%.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUBAREA ACRES BY PARK TYPE





North Issues and Needs

PARK SHORTAGES

- The North sub-area has two small park-deficient areas:
 - The area bounded by N. Portland Blvd., N. Interstate and N. Prescott
 - The area bounded by N. Lombard Ave., N. Burlington Ave., the Willamette River and the Peninsula Crossing Trail

RISKS TO NATURAL RESOURCES

- Increased visitation to Kelley Point Park and Smith and Bybee Lakes will impact the health and integrity of the habitat areas.
- Contaminated sediments in the Columbia Slough affect water quality.

RISKS TO URBAN FOREST

- There are a significant number of mature and over-mature trees and many areas where trees have not been replaced in the urban forest.
- Lower income residents may not be able to afford to participate in tree planting and tree care on private property and in public rights-of-way.

FACILITY DEFICIENCIES

- The indoor pool at Columbia Park (built as an outdoor pool in 1927, converted to indoor in the '70s and renovated in the late '80s) is a stand-alone facility with no off-street parking – conditions that do not meet current PP&R standards.

- The mechanical equipment, pool deck, and bathhouse at the outdoor pool in Pier Park are substandard and in poor condition.
- The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC) has limited programmable space.
- University Park Community Center was built as a temporary facility in the '40s. It is in fair to poor condition.

PROBLEMS WITH ACCESS, TRAILS AND CONNECTIVITY

- Access to the Slough, its habitat areas and portions of the 40-Mile Loop Trail, is difficult because of heavy traffic and inadequate pedestrian crossings on Columbia Boulevard.
- Lack of access to facilities and the cost of programs often result in lower participation rates in PP&R programs by the many minority groups and some lower-income households in North.
- Links to the 40-Mile Loop from the residential areas (e. g., St. Johns) are limited.

North Recommendations

ACQUIRE LAND AND DEVELOP PARKS

- Acquire and develop urban and neighborhood parks in areas of high density along the Interstate MAX line.
- Renovate and improve existing parks (e. g., Patton and Overlook Parks) along the Interstate MAX line, provide a walkway along the Willamette Bluff, and provide additional open space and community buildings at Ockley Green and Kenton schools.
- Improve parks, acquire additional open space, complete the 40-Mile Loop trail and provide access

and a canoe launch as part of the Interstate Urban Renewal Area.

- Develop new parks along the Willamette River – especially the two relatively large parcels of undeveloped open space — the former heavy industrial sites at Willamette Cove and the McCormick Baxter site. Once site cleanups are completed and master plans are approved, these two sites will offer many possibilities for natural areas, river access, active and passive recreation.
- Develop new parks, local access and non-motorized watercraft access along the Columbia Slough and the Willamette River.

PROTECT AND IMPROVE NATURAL RESOURCES

- Control access to, manage the use of, and improve the quality of natural resource areas, especially at Kelley Point and Cathedral Parks and at Smith and Bybee Lakes.
- Acquire and manage valuable oak-madrone habitat along Mock’s Crest.
- Work with City bureaus and the Port of Portland to improve habitat quality in and along the Columbia Slough at Kelley Point and Kenton Parks.
- Work with Metro, the Port and other City bureaus to establish natural areas and access on the Columbia River.
- Implement the Willamette Cove Master Plan, after remediation is approved and completed.

PROTECT AND IMPROVE URBAN FOREST

- Replace the declining canopy in parks and public right-of-way. Encourage tree planting on private property.
- Develop funding strategies to assist low-income property owners in tree planting and tree care.

EXPAND AND DEVELOP RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

- Complete renovation of the University Park Community Center and add an aquatic complex. As an alternative, complete a modest renovation of University Park Community Center and build a new full-service community center with aquatic facilities at another site.

- Evaluate current conditions and future needs of all aquatic facilities in the North sub-area to determine construction and renovation needs. Address the future of Pier and Columbia Park pools as well as whether pools should be added at the St. John’s Community Center or at the University Park Community Center.
- Develop new sports fields. Potential sports field sites include: Northgate and Woodlawn Parks, as well as the McCormick Baxter site, when it is cleaned, available and has an approved master plan.
- Develop additional group picnic sites, possibly at Pier, Columbia and Kelley Point Park.
- Work with the IFCC Board, PP&R staff and PDC to evaluate this facility — either to expand its programmable space or to relocate to a larger and more modern facility.
- Add seniors-only and/or intergenerational programs at St. John’s and University Park Community Centers.
- Increase cooperation with schools and organizations who work with under-served groups (e.g., the Housing Authority/PP&R partnership for recreation programs in the Hope VI project and UPCC).
- Develop a maintenance facility in the North District closer to the park sites.

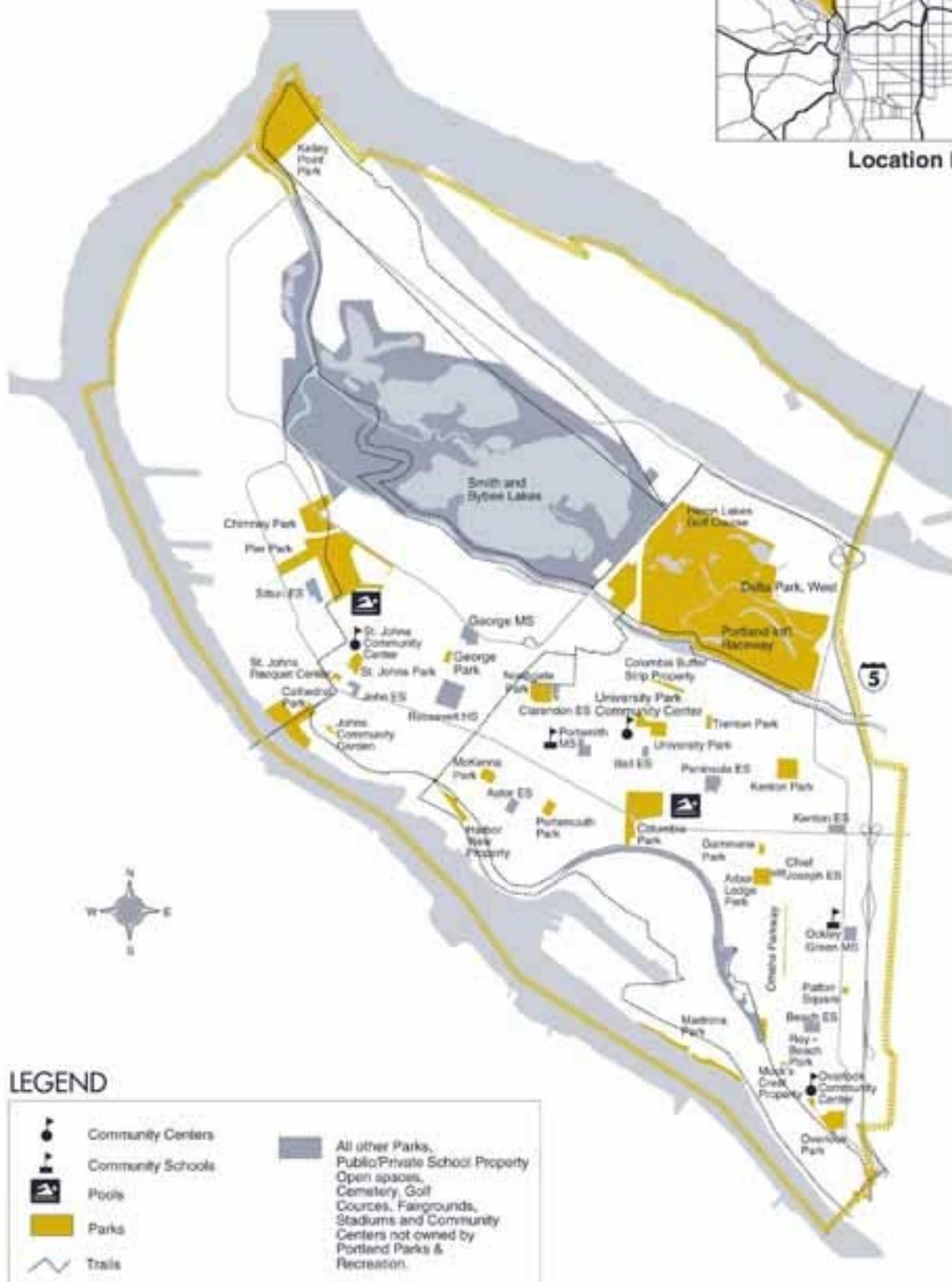
DEVELOP PARK ACCESS, TRAILS AND CONNECTIVITY

- Develop safe pedestrian connections between the area’s neighborhoods and the rivers, the Columbia Slough, Kelley Point Park, and Smith and Bybee Lakes.
- Create a community wide network of trails in addition to the Peninsula Crossing and Columbia Slough Trails.
- Implement the recommendations of the feasibility study for a North Portland Willamette Greenway trail, including routes through the McCormick and Baxter site and Swan Island.
- Increase paved trails by about 35 miles, and increase soft-surface trails by about 40 miles.
- Work cooperatively with the Golf enterprise program to develop trails at the Heron Lakes Golf Course.

NORTH DISTRICT



Location Map



P A R K S 2 0 2 0 V I S I O N

NORTH SUB-AREA – Park Sites to be Developed and Renovated						
Site Name	Develop New Park	Redevelop Exstg. Park	Extensive Renovation	Basic Renovation	Repairs	Notes
Arbor Lodge Park					●	
Cathedral Park					●	
Columbia Park				●		
Columbia Annex				●		
Delta Park, West (also see P.I.R. below)				●		a
Gammans Park			●			
George Park					●	
Kelley Point Park		●				b
Kenton Park					●	
McKenna Park					●	
Northgate Park				●		
Overlook Park				●		
Patton Square				●		
Pier Park				●		
Portland International Raceway				●		c
Portsmouth Park				●		
St. Johns Park					●	
Trenton Park				●		
University Park					●	

- Develop New Park** Unimproved sites to be developed as neighborhood, community or regional parks. Master plans are needed before development. At some sites, additional land may be needed before development can occur.
- Redevelop Exstg. Park** Sites that have a minimal level of improvements. Master plans are needed before development.
- Extensive Renovation** Developed parks that either are (a) already scheduled for renovation or (b) have several basic features that are in poor condition. These sites may have problems that collectively may trigger a larger renovation project.
- Basic Renovation** Developed parks with one or two basic features in poor condition. Correcting these problems will not modify other park features. Some of these may be bond projects that were not fully improved due to a lack of funds.
- Repairs** Developed park with improvements that need only minor repairs or changes to a few features.
- Notes:**
- a. Plans underway for clubhouse and trails at Heron Lakes Golf Course.
 - b. Needs Resource Management Plan for habitat portion of park
 - c. Need Capital Plan for improvements



In a recent survey that was done in our neighborhood, people overwhelmingly said that we should all have access to the unique environment we have along the river. People wanted greenway paths connecting parks so they could walk along and feel far, far from the city – to be in an environment they share with the ospreys, red-winged blackbirds, occasional eagles, ocean-going freighters and fishermen out trying their luck.”

Bev Wilson,
North Portland resident &
Vision Team member

NORTH SUB-AREA – Habitat Parks & Natural Areas					
Site Name	R M Plan	Extensive Rehabilitation	Basic Rehabilitation	Repairs	Notes
Columbia Slough Islands	●				
Harbor View Property	●				
Kelley Point Park	●				a
Madrona Park	●				
Mock's Crest Property	●				
Peninsula Crossing Trail	●				

- Resource Management Plan Ecosystem-based plans for parks or properties with significant natural resources
- Extensive Rehabilitation Parks or natural resource areas in poor condition that require extensive rehabilitation
- Basic Renovation Parks or natural resource areas that require basic rehabilitation
- Repairs Trails or facilities that need minor repairs or improvements
- Notes:
 - a. Prepare Resource Management Plan for habitat portion. Restore Columbia Riverbank. Remove invasive non-natives.