Parks 2020 Vision

Progress Report 2009









Prepared by the Portland Parks Board



CONTENTS

A alcha auda da amanta	A Message from the Parks Board Chair	l				
Acknowledgements	A Message from the Parks Director	3				
	About the <i>Parks 2020 Vision</i>	5				
Jeff Tryens - Document author and Parks Board Member	How to Read this Report					
	Goal 1– Ensure the Legacy	11				
	Goal 2- Provide Recreation Services					
2020 Progress Report Team	and Opportunities for All	15				
Developed Develop Devel	Goal 3- Provide Nature in the City	19				
Portland Parks Board Robin Grimwade, PP&R	Goal 4– Develop the "Walking City of the West"					
Brett Horner, PP&R	Goal 5– Promote Community					
Jason Smith, PP&R	Court Fromoto Community					
Joan Hallquist, PP&R	Cools Objectives and Indicators Crid					
Sarah Schlosser-Moon, Writer	Goals, Objectives and Indicators Grid					
	Goal 1 – Ensure the Legacy	25				
	Goal 2– Provide Recreation Services					
	and Opportunities for All					
Portland Parks Board	Goal 3– Provide Nature in the City					
Rich Brown	Goal 4- Develop the "Walking City of the West"	30				
Thomas Bruner	Goal 5- Promote Community	31				
Mary Anne Cassin						
Mike Golub	Endnotes	32				
Bill Hawkins						
Nichole Maher Chet Orloff						
Shelli Romero						
Mary Ruble						
Bob Sallinger						
Keith Thomajan						
Tricia Tillman						
Jeff Tryens						
Barbara Walker, emeritus						
Past Board Members	Portland Parks					
Rev. T. Allen Bethel		venue, Suite 1302				
Mike Houck	Portlar	nd, Oregon 97204				
Scott Montgomery		(503) 823-PLAY				

Joey Pope



www.PortlandParks.org

A Message from the Parks Board Chair

In the fledgling days of the 20th century, John Charles Olmsted wrote, "Every inhabitant owes to his or her city certain duties. Among them is that of making the city more beautiful to live and work in. [And,] while there are many things which may contribute to the beauty of a great city, one of the greatest is a comprehensive system of parks and parkways." It will, therefore, come as no surprise to Portlanders to learn that this same Olmsted was the visionary who first sketched Portland's blueprint for becoming a world-class parks city. The Olmsted Plan —drafted in April 1903, after a meticulous survey of what was then a rough-hewn Portland—became the city's master plan for its parks and open spaces.

Some ten years ago, with similar forethought and vision, a dedicated team of Portlanders –Parks advocates, all—set out to update this vision for the 21st century. This group, dubbed the Citizen Vision Team, began with Olmsted's report, but they were also forced to acknowledge and face certain modern realities: rapid population growth, expanded city boundaries, and funding challenges that led to years of hard choices and deferred maintenance. When this team's work was ratified by City Council in 2001, as *Parks 2020 Vision*, it boldly called for a Parks system that would keep pace with our growing citizenry and would serve all our people equitably.

To oversee the 2020 framework and shepherd its vision to reality, the Portland Parks Board was established. As a Board, we seek to ensure that the goals and recommendations of the Vision are implemented. Now, as we near the mid-point in 2020 Vision, we present our first comprehensive report on our community's efforts to realize the vision for Portland's parks, open spaces, and recreation. This thorough and objective examination has revealed that there is much to celebrate. However, it also highlights the tremendous amount of work yet to be done in order to provide the type of Parks system envisioned by the Citizen Vision Team and expected by our community.

In this report, you'll see trends and issues many years in the making that defy quick or easy solutions. For example, we continue to be dogged by geographic inequities within our system, leaving too many of our neighbors living in communities dubbed "parks deficient." Likewise, we must become more adept and effective at reaching diverse and under-served populations; this will be increasingly critical as our community grows dramatically in the next decade, further deepening our rich diversity.

Additionally, we have also highlighted items within the 2020 Vision's original structure that need refinement. For example, some objectives were clearly



Keith Thomajan, Chair Portland Parks Board

A Message from the Board Chair

aspirational and will be difficult or impossible to achieve without the collaboration of other partners. Further, in the decade since inception, our understanding of certain goals has been modified by new research and more accurate tracking methods. Yet, despite these small evolutions, *Parks 2020 Vision* remains an exceptionally well-crafted plan for our community, and continues to be our guide-star.

In closing, the Parks Board will be calling on Portlanders to join us in assessing our progress toward the 2020 Vision and, further, work with us to address and mitigate the areas where we are falling behind. In this, we all must become advocates to ensure that we have the resources in place to deliver upon 2020's promise.

On behalf of the Parks Board, we look forward to joining with our community to realize the *2020 Vision* for a vibrant, sustainable, and world-class parks system. I am genuinely honored and proud to be a part of this work, and hope you too will see something of yourself, your family, and your community in it, now and in the decade to come.

Sincerely,

Keith Thomajan, Chair Portland Parks Board

A Message from the Parks Director

I would like to thank the Portland Parks Board for objectively assessing the state of the community's vision for our city's park and recreation system. This was a much-needed process that has laid the groundwork for the Bureau's work moving forward toward achieving the *Parks 2020 Vision*. The report tells us that, although significant progress has been made, there is still much work ahead.

Soon after the plan's adoption, Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) put in place the *Vision's* recommended governance and management measures. The Parks Board and the Parks Foundation were both established. We initiated a multi-year strategic planning effort and completed strategic documents for total asset management, natural area acquisition, and recreational trails. PP&R also acquired parkland at a rate that kept up with population growth. The City encountered tough economic times immediately following the adoption of the *Parks 2020 Vision*, and has had to spend less per capita than comparable cities. On the positive side, we have made progress with the passage of the Parks Levy in 2002. When it expired in 2008, City Council replaced \$5.4 million in funding for maintenance and operations. In 2008, the City Council also approved an expanded System Development Charges (SDC) to help with acquisition and development so we can keep up with growth.

The report findings point to the need for further progress in the areas of recreation programming, adding new sports fields, and providing a park within ½ mile of every resident. The early focus on other *Vision* objectives limited our ability to tackle the plan's objectives on all fronts. Furthermore, most factors contributing to slow progression in these areas were beyond PP&R's control: budget constraints, increased urbanization (resulting in fewer vacant properties), and competition for leisure time and dollars.

Now that we have made strides in management structuring, expanding our asset base, and funding, PP&R can shift focus to the areas of concern found in this progress report. In addition, the results of PP&R's 2008 recreation needs survey will help us identify which recreation programs and activities are needed and desired by the community, where gaps exist, and how service can be improved.

In 2001, the *Vision* called for 100 more sports fields. While we cannot claim more sports fields in our existing parks, we can celebrate a successful partnership with Portland Public Schools that transferred to PP&R afterschool programming and maintenance responsibility for 91 sports fields on their school grounds.



Zari Santner, Director Portland Parks & Recreation

A Message from the Parks Director

Four park master plans nearing completion are each calling for new sports fields (at Cully, Parklane, Beech, and Clatsop Butte Park sites). Many other parks are planned, as part of the SDC funding program – parks targeted to areas of the City where: there is growth; Portlanders are more than a 20-minute walk to a park; and parts of the city this progress report identified as needing improvements. Other funding mechanisms for future park development are being contemplated.

Finally, this report highlights areas of the *Vision* that need reassessing given changing demographics, economic conditions, cultural diversity, and community priorities. Thus, I echo the Board Chair's call for the refinement process to closely examine disparities within our park and recreation system and make adjustments where prudent. Realizing everything described in the *Parks 2020 Vision* is a significant challenge, but I believe that under the circumstances we have made good progress in the past seven years. We are on the right track with current efforts and, we will, over the next 12 years, deliver the exemplary park system the people of Portland imagined in 2000.

Sincerely,

Zari Santner

Director, Portland Parks & Recreation

Taxi Banther

About the Parks 2020 Vision

In 1999 a group of citizens gathered together to chart a course for park and recreation services for the City of Portland. This Citizen Vision Team faced a daunting challenge. Portland Parks and Recreation facilities were well used but under-funded and ill-equipped to provide for two decades of projected population growth. Even existing services were not well distributed with some areas of the city chronically underserved by Parks' programs and facilities. And coordination of service delivery within the Bureau was often lacking.

Over the next two years, the Vision Team, with assistance from Bureau staff, engaged hundreds of citizens from all walks of life in crafting a new vision for parks and recreation for Portland. The *Parks 2020 Vision* paints a picture of a parks and recreation system that contributes to the quality of life that Portlanders expect and celebrate. It describes a future in which park and recreation services keep up with population demand while servicing an ever increasing proportion of city residents.

To its credit the Bureau has integrated the goals, objectives and targets into its plans and processes despite the often highly ambitious targets expressed in the *Parks 2020 Vision*. Copies of the *2020 Vision* can be obtained at http://www.portlandonline.com/parks/index.cfm?c=40182.

THE 2020 VISION GOALS

The Citizen Vision Team developed five goals for parks and recreation services in Portland -

- 1. Ensure Portland's park and recreation legacy for future generations.
- 2. Provide a wide variety of park and recreation services and opportunities for all citizens.
- 3. Preserve, protect and restore Portland natural resources to provide nature in the city.
- 4. Create an interconnected regional and local system of trails, paths and walks to make Portland the "walking city of the West."
- 5. Develop parks, recreation facilities and programs that promote community in the city.

This report assesses progress made toward each of these five goals.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

In a year, *Parks Vision 2020* will be at its halfway point. As the keeper of the vision, the Parks Board felt it needed to step back and take an objective look at how *the 2020 Vision* is working. In what areas are we meeting the challenges set out in the *2020 Vision*? What challenges are not being met? What can we do to change course in areas where we are not making progress? What's changed since the *2020 Vision* was written and how do those changes affect the future of Portland's park and recreation services?

No guiding vision can remain static. Working with Parks Bureau staff, the Parks Board will update the *2020 Vision* over the next 18 months to reflect what's happened in the past decade and what we can anticipate for the next. This will be done in close consultation with the owners of the city's parks and recreation system – you, the citizens of Portland.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

After assessing all aspects of progress toward the *Parks 2020 Vision* the Board concludes that we have made good progress toward the vision but much remains to be done.

The Parks Board finds that significant progress toward achieving the *Parks* 2020 Vision has occurred for each of the five goal areas. Since 2001, the Bureau has amassed an impressive record of achievement -

- **Goal 1 -** The City is on track to locate full-service community centers in every area of the city and our endowment of park land has, so far, kept up with population growth.
- **Goal 2 -** Parks and recreation usage, overall, has increased by nearly 15% since 2001.
- **Goal 3 -** Over 500 acres of protected habitat has been added, nearly reaching the goal envisioned for the year 2020.
- **Goal 4 -** Significant additions have been made to a key part of Portland's trail network.
- **Goal 5 -** Community life has been bolstered by the addition of three civic plazas.

However, the Board's overall positive answer to the question "Is Portland making progress toward achieving the *Parks 2020 Vision?*" - must be a qualified by the identification of some important challenges -

- Challenge 1 We have not made progress toward the 2020 Vision goal of bringing parks within easy reach of all residents.
- Challenge 2 Despite a significant increase in use of Parks' recreation services, the proportion of Portlanders using those services has not increased, overall, and appears to be falling among young people.
- **Challenge 3 -** The Bureau has not made progress in improving residents' perception of the quality of recreation services.
- **Challenge 4 -** Major gaps exist regarding how different neighborhoods rate Bureau services.
- **Challenge 5 -** Trail construction, overall, is far behind the goal set out in the 2020 Vision.
- **Challenge 6 -** Goals for the amount of non-tax revenue the Bureau should be striving for should be revisited.

How to Read this Report

In developing this first *Parks 2020 Vision* progress report, the Parks Board faced a number of significant hurdles. While the *2020 Vision* is a compelling and ambitious statement, it lacks an organizational structure than lends itself to assessment. Topics cross over between different goals. Objectives are nested within other objectives. Many of the objectives lack any suggestions for measuring their progress.

While doing its very best to remain true to the original 2020 document, the Board moved six objectives to other goals, rewrote 2020 indicators to make them consistent throughout the document and identified "supplemental measures" for objectives that either lack data altogether or that would benefit from additional information. The Board also applied a numbering system for goals, objectives, indicators and supplemental measures to allow for easy referencing.

The final tally is five goals, fifteen objectives, nineteen indicators drawn from 2020 and twelve Board-identified supplemental measures.

Wherever possible the Board has assessed progress toward the 2020 targets that were identified in the 2020 Vision. A grading system was developed to answer the question "Is Portland making progress toward achieving the Parks 2020 Vision?"

Because assessing progress is not often easy, six different assessments are used:

- "Yes" means the objective or indicator is on track to meet the 2020 target;
- "Yes, but" means the objective or indicator has improved since the 2020 Vision was issued, but will not achieve the 2020 target given current trends;
- "No, but" means no progress against the 2020 target has occurred but other information shows progress;
- "No" means no measurable progress was detected;
- "Mixed" means the indicator information relating to an objective provides no clear direction; and
- "Unknown" means insufficient information exists to make an assessment.

At the end of each goal discussion, the report lists the key issues the Board believes require resolution as part of the 2020 update.

Goal 1- Ensure the Legacy

Goal 1- Ensure the Legacy

Is Portland making progress?

Yes, but

Goal 1 Summary - The people behind *Parks 2020 Vision* imagined a city where everyone has basic access to parks and to recreation opportunities. And they envisioned a city where nearly everyone believed the Bureau was doing a good job of insuring the parks legacy through expanded services, more park acquisitions, better funding for maintenance and less reliance on the general fund. The major unmet challenge the Bureau faces in this area is getting more basic services to underserved areas of the city. On the plus side, volunteerism continues to thrive in Parks and Recreation and the Bureau has made some progress in addressing its maintenance issues.

Objective 1.1– Develop parks, facilities and programs that meet current and future needs.

Is Portland making progress?

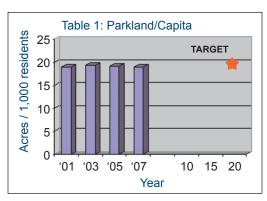
Yes, but

The Board assessed ten measures set out in the 2020 Vision for Objective. 1.1. Six relate to access to Parks' amenities. One relates to the quality of parks and three address Bureau finances. With two exceptions, things have improved since the 2020 Vision was issued.

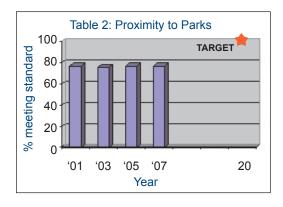
Regarding access, the most important success is the dramatic expansion of access to full service community centers. So far the Bureau is on track to meet its target of locating a full service community center within three miles of every resident (Indicator 1.1.a). With the opening of the East Portland Community Center pool, nearly seven residents in ten will live within three

miles. (see map: www.portlandonline.com/parks/index. cfm?c=40182). Another community center in Inner Southeast is on the drawing boards.

The Bureau has not added any new recreation fields despite an ambitious target of adding 100 new fields by 2020 (Indicator 1.1.b). However, the Bureau has partnered with Portland Public Schools to open nine previously underused school sports fields for permitted public use and improve 91 additional school sports fields, often allowing for more public use. The Board has identified the need for an analysis of the current need for new sports fields as part of the 2020 update.



Despite Portland's rapid growth, Table 1 shows that the Bureau has acquired enough parkland - 669 acres - to keep pace with the target of maintaining the 2001 level (Indicator 1.1.c). Three hundred forty two of those acres are in outer east.



However keeping up with population growth does not completely satisfy the 2020 Vision for park access. The drafters also wanted parks to be within easy reach of every citizen. Table 2 shows that the percent of residents within ½ mile of a park (Indicator 1.1.e) has held steady at about three residents in four since 2000. If the 2020 target of having every resident live within 1/2 mile of a park were achieved today, the city would need an additional 46 parks. If current approved plans are carried out, as many as 29 new parks will be created under the City's System Development Charge Acquisition Program leaving few residents outside the 1/2 mile perimeter.

In 2008, the percent of Portlanders rating the City's parks as good or better (Indicator 1.1.f) jumped by four percentage points to 86%. After seven years of basically no improvement, this increase is good news for the Bureau.

Satisfaction with Bureau services varies widely across neighborhoods, however. The City's 2007 Resident Survey shows that satisfaction ranges from over 90% in a few areas to less than 60% in others (www.portlandonline.com/auditor/auditservices/residentsurvey2007/). The Board has requested more information on this issue from Bureau staff.

Meeting the financial needs of the Parks Bureau is the other key portion of this objective. The 2020 Vision called for increased funding for maintenance and more money from independent sources. Drafters believed that maintenance funding as a proportion of total budget should double and that 10% of the Bureau's budget should come from gifts, grants and donations.

Indicator 1.1.g shows that the Bureau has already surpassed the 2020 goal of allocating two percent of replacement value in maintenance per year. This is good news for parks, but given the current condition of some park assets, the Board questions if two percent of replacement value is high enough.

While the Bureau has made some progress in independent fundraising, its percent of funding from gifts, grants and donations is still under one percent; far less than the hoped for 10% by 2020. (Indicator 1.1.h). However, a different measure that the Board examined (Supplemental Measure 1.1.h) shows that significantly more progress has occurred. When accounting for all budgets, 2.6% is covered by gifts, grants and donations.

Objective 1.2– Educate the public and local leaders about the value, benefits, conditions and needs of the Portland Parks system.

Is Portland making progress?

Unknown

The Board was unable to assess any measures of progress for this objective. The substantial support for the 2002 Parks Levy, passing with over 65% of the vote, could be considered a measure of how well educated the public and local leaders were about the importance of parks at that time.

Objective 1.3– Coordinate planning, management, development and funding of parks, natural resources, trails and recreation needs and concerns with city and regional planning efforts.

Is Portland making progress?

Unknown

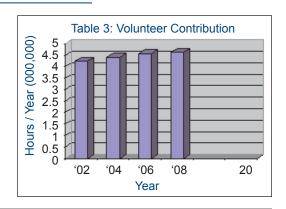
The Board was unable to assess any measures of progress for this objective. However, the Parks Bureau regularly cooperates with partners such as Metro, Portland Public Schools, and the City of Gresham, among others, on regional efforts. These efforts include joining forces on Metro's Connecting Green initiative, coordinating with Gresham on its Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan, and developing a joint-use-of-facilities agreement with Portland Schools. For the next two years, the Bureau will work closely with the City Bureau of Planning and Sustainability on developing the City's new comprehensive plan to ensure that park issues and needs are addressed and to assure that the *2020 Vision* is reflected in the plan.

Objective 1.4– Engage residents as stewards of Portland's parks and recreation system to help preserve the legacy for future generations.

Is Portland making progress?

Yes

The drafters of the 2020 Vision wanted volunteers to carry more of the load for caring for our parks; calling for a modest increase in the percent of hours volunteers worked compared to Parks' employees. The Board examined two measures when assessing progress toward achieving this objective – total volunteer hours contributed and volunteer hours as a percentage of staff hours. As Table 3 shows, volunteers pitched in over 37,000 more hours in 2008 than they did in 2003; logging nearly 463,000 hours (Supplemental Measure 1.4.a). Last year total volunteer hours



reached nearly one-third of the hours all Bureau staff devoted; surpassing the target set for 2020 identified in Indicator 1.4.a.

The Board recognizes that the Parks Bureau could not function properly without this significant contribution of volunteer assistance each year.

Objective 1.5- Offer affordable recreation and facilities.

Is Portland making progress?

Yes, but

The 2020 Vision calls for a sharp reduction in the percent of recreation costs that the Bureau should recover from fees. Over the 20 year period, the Bureau is supposed to cut cost recovery from 50% to 25% (Indicator 1.5.a). While some progress has occurred, this objective is now at odds with a City Council requirement to insure that approximately 40% of costs are recovered. Further complicating the picture is a new, much more comprehensive, way of counting recreation costs adopted by the Bureau. By that way of counting and using the Council mandated goal, the Bureau is recovering significantly less that it needs to for recreation services (Supplemental Measure 1.5.a (1)).

The percent of Portlanders who believe PP&R recreation costs are affordable has held steady at about two in three since 2001 (Supplemental Measure 1.5.a (2)). This finding is true despite a significant decrease in the percent of total costs that Portlanders pay out of pocket for Bureau-sponsored recreation over the same period.

The Board has requested an issue paper from the staff on this complicated issue.

Goal 1 issues for the update of the 2020 Vision

- 1. Reconcile the differing targets of providing park access to all residents while just maintaining the current ratio of acres of parkland per resident.
- 2. Modify the proximity to parks indicator to include all public parks, not just those owned and managed by the Parks Bureau.
- 3. Develop a strategy for addressing the disparity among neighborhoods regarding the overall quality of PP&R services.
- 4. Reconsider the target of 100 new recreation fields based on field usage information that was not available when the 2020 Vision was written.
- 5. Consider whether the current maintenance target for Indicator 1.1.g is high enough to keep up with maintenance demands.
- 6. Consider removing Objectives 1.2 and 1.3 as they are strategies, not objectives.
- 7. Reconcile the differing goals regarding the percent of recreation cost recovery that the Bureau should be working toward.

Goal 2– Provide Recreation Services and Opportunities for All

GOAL 2- PROVIDE RECREATION SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Is Portland making progress?

Mixed

Goal 2 Summary – The 2020 Vision anticipated an ever broadening circle of recreation users and a city that gave high ratings to the quality of recreation services. Today, Portland Parks and Recreation appears to provide an increasing number of services for the same proportion of the population that it did in 2001. The Bureau faces two major challenges in this area: 1) providing recreation services and opportunities to underserved neighborhoods and 2) involving more young people. Unlike Goal 1, Portlanders have not changed in their view of recreation quality, overall, since 2000.

Objective 2.1– Pursue all opportunities to provide parks and recreation services.

Is Portland making progress?

No, but

The Board assessed one measure set out in the 2020 Vision for Objective 2.1. The City's service efforts and accomplishments (SEA) survey (www. portlandonline.com/auditor/auditservices/residentsurvey2007/index.cfm?) asks residents how good a job the Bureau is doing at providing a variety of recreation programs (Indicator 2.1.a). That figure has

held steady at about two in three who say PP&R is doing a good or very good job each year since 2000. While this is a respectable amount, the trend over time shows almost no progress toward the ambitious target of 90% by 2020. (A closer look at the SEA survey reveals that those reporting that someone in their household had used PP&R recreation facilities in the prior year rated variety much higher than those who had no recent experience.)



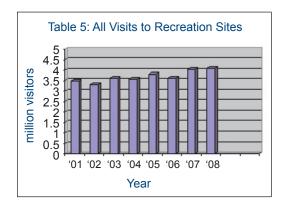
The Board believes that this single measure is far too narrow in scope to determine if the Bureau is doing a good job pursuing all opportunities. The Board's observation is that the leadership of the Bureau has been very creative in exploring new opportunities. PP&R has collaborated with private groups, such as Nike, Pepsi, the National Basketball Association, Freightliner/Daimler to bring additional resources and recreation opportunities to Portland. In addition, the Parks Foundation secured a 10-year agreement with Columbia Sportswear for the maintenance and improvement of Sellwood Park.

Objective 2.2– Offer meaningful recreation programs and services.

Is Portland making progress?

Mixed

For this objective the Board assessed progress for three indicators set out in the 2020 Vision and gained insight from three additional supplemental measures. The Board also examined data from the City's 2007 Portland Resident Survey (www.portlandonline.com/auditor/auditservices/residentsurvey2007/index. cfm?action=QuestionDetail&QuestionID=49) to determine how residents of different neighborhoods perceived Parks' recreation programs and services. All measured either recreation participation or residents' perception of overall recreation quality.



While the percent of households that report using PP&R recreation facilities has remained steady since 2001 (Indicator 2.2.a), Table 5 shows that the number of actual visits to recreation facilities has gone up dramatically from just under 3.5 million to over 4 million (Supplemental Measure 2.2.a (1)). This finding is reinforced by Supplemental Measure 2.2.a (2) which shows that the percent of the population that registers for a PP&R class has not increased since 2001. Like parkland acquisition addressed under Goal 1, PP&R is keeping up with population growth but not expanding its reach.

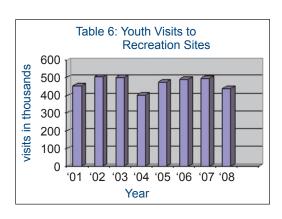
Given the dramatic increase in access to full service community centers noted under Goal 1, this lack of expanded reach is perplexing.

The other indicator in this section with a measurable target is public perception of the overall quality of Parks' recreation programs (Indicator 2.2.b). While the perception level has remained steady at a respectable 75%, the target is to increase the rating to 90% by 2020; meaning the Bureau has made no progress in achieving this ambitious target.

The gap between how different neighborhoods view recreation services is dramatic. According to the 2007 Portland Resident Survey (www.portlandonline.com/auditor/auditservices/residentsurvey2007/index.cfm?action=Question Detail&QuestionID=49) a 42 percentage point difference exists between the neighborhood with the highest rating –Eliot at 87% - and the neighborhood with the lowest rating – Wilkes/Glenfair at 45%. The Board has requested further analysis on this issue.

The 2020 Vision put particular emphasis on assuring that young people had opportunities to participate in recreation facilities. The target is to have 90% of residents rating the Bureau's efforts in this area as good or better by 2020, up from 62% in 2001. Unfortunately no new data is available regarding citizens' views on how good a job Parks is doing in serving youth.

We do know, however, that the percent of households reporting that a young person is participating in a recreation program has fallen considerably since 2001. According to the City's service efforts and accomplishments reports, households with a young person participating in a recreation program has gone from 53% in 2001 to 36% in 2007 (Supplemental Measure 2.2.c (1)). Despite this reduction, Table 6 shows that youth visits to City recreation sites have averaged around 450,000 per year (Supplemental Measure 2.2.c (2)). This mirrors the finding regarding overall participation. In this case, a smaller proportion of young people are using recreation facilities but those who do participate appear to do so more frequently.



Objective 2.3– Provide a full range of cultural arts facilities and programs.

Is Portland making progress?

Yes

While the *2020 Vision* provided no indicators for judging progress for this objective, the Board identified one supplemental measure – number of cultural art classes held (2.3.a). The number of classes, including multiple sessions, increased by a hefty 21% from 3,587 in 2002 to 4,335 in 2008.

Goal 2 issues for the update of the 2020 Vision

- Develop a better understanding of how the shift in recreation uses is affecting the goal of providing services and opportunities to all residents.
- 2. Refine strategies for involving young people in recreation activities.
- 3. Implement new strategies for closing the gap in perception of recreation quality among neighborhoods.

Goal 3– Provide Nature in the City

GOAL 3- PROVIDE NATURE IN THE CITY

Is Portland making progress?

Yes, but

Goal 3 Summary – The 2020 Vision set out a modest agenda for expanding "Nature in the City." It called for acquisition of more natural habitat and planting more trees, generally. From the limited data that is available, the Board determined that the Bureau had done a good job at expanding and protecting natural areas in the city. Information on how this work is perceived, how interconnectedness of habitats has changed and on expansion of tree canopy cover is needed to allow a more thorough assessment in future reports, however.

Objective 3.1– Acquire sufficient lands to protect existing resources (e.g. lands along the Willamette and Columbia Rivers), to complete natural resource areas (e.g. Forest Park and Powell Butte), and to protect locally significant natural areas (Rosemont Bluff).

Is Portland making progress?

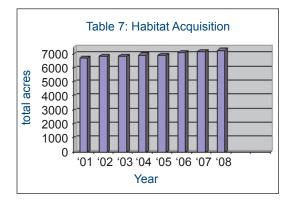
Yes, but

The 2020 Vision provides three indicators for judging progress in the area: acres of habitat land acquired; tree cover on streets and in parks and public perception of habitat preservation. Unfortunately only one of the indicators has current data resulting in a qualified "Yes" for the progress assessment.

This habitat acquisition indicator (3.1.a) is on track. Table 7 shows that the Bureau has acquired 540 of the 620 acres needed to meet the 2020 target. The Board recommends this target be adjusted upward to match the Bureau's 2006 natural area acquisition strategy (www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=130583) targets - 540 additional acres between 2006 and 2011, and 528 more acres by 2016.

Bureau staff has been unable to determine the origin of the baseline data for the tree cover indicator (3.1.b) which were stated in the *2020 Vision* as 60% of streets and 80% of parks had tree canopy

cover in 2000. The Bureau's *Urban Forest Action Plan* estimated significantly lower proportions of tree canopy cover - 17% over streets, 28% in developed



Goal 3- Provide Nature in the City

parks and 79% in natural areas. The *Portland Urban Forest Management Plan* sets goals of 35% canopy coverage for streets, 30% canopy coverage on average in developed parks and does not set a percentage for natural areas.

The third indicator (3.1.c) under this objective measures the percent of residents who believe the Bureau is doing a good job of preserving natural areas in the City. This survey was only conducted in 2001 when it revealed that 74% rated the Bureau's efforts as good or better. Because the Bureau's role as a provider of natural areas is increasing, the Board urges the Bureau to periodically collect citizen perception information for this important function.

Objective 3.2- Protect, expand and restore interconnected ecosystems and wildlife corridors.

Is Portland making progress?

Unknown

No indicators are provided by the *2020 Vision* for this objective. With staff assistance, the Board identified one measure that provides insight into how well this objective is being met – percent of newly acquired habitat land that is adjacent to existing habitat land (Supplemental Measure 3.2.a). This measure is far from perfect since it does not give credit for the establishment of new wildlife corridors or measure the "connectedness" of existing areas, for instance, but it does provide useful information on how well existing habitat areas are supported.

Since 2001 habitat acquisition has been strongly linked to existing habitat land with 93% of all acquisitions adjacent to existing lands.

Goal 3 issues for the update of the 2020 Vision

- 1. Adjust the 2020 Vision targets to align with the natural area acquisition strategy targets.
- 2. Align the 2020 Vision targets for tree canopy cover with those in the Portland Urban Forestry Management Plan.
- 3. Develop an indicator for connectivity of natural areas.
- 4. Consider adding a new objective relating to access to nature.

Goal 4– Develop the "Walking City of the West"

GOAL 4- DEVELOP THE "WALKING CITY OF THE WEST."

Is Portland making progress?

Yes, but

Goal 4 Summary – Portland faces stiff competition from San Francisco and Seattle to be the walking city of the West. It certainly is one of the best walking cities in the country, however, according to numerous national rankings where it regularly ranks in the top ten along with our West Coast neighbors. On the other hand, the City is far behind in achieving the goal set out in 2020 of adding 150 new miles of trails, but good progress has been made in finishing the iconic 40-Mile Loop.

Objective 4.1– Provide safe and convenient access between parks, natural areas and recreation facilities and connect them with residential areas, civic institutions and businesses.

Is Portland Making Progress?

Yes, but

The 2020 Vision provides two indicators for assessing progress on this objective – 1) number of miles of new trails constructed and 2) percent completion of the 40-Mile Loop Trail laid out by John Charles Olmsted in 1903. While neither is an exact measure of safety and convenience of getting between park facilities nor do they measure directly how well this "access" connects to other parts of Portland life, they are good surrogates for overall walkability of Portland.

Portland has added just 21 of the additional 150 miles of trails called for in the 2020 Vision. The trails program has been challenged by numerous issues including uncooperative land holders, lack of funding and dependence on others to develop trails. At the current rate, the 2020 target of adding 150 additional miles (Indicator 4.1.a) would not be achieved for 50 years.

The Bureau developed a recreational trails strategy (www.portlandonline. com/parks/ index. cfm?c= 42627) in 2006 which sets different targets than those in the 2020 Vision. The Board recommends that these differing goals be reconciled during the 2020 update.

Portland has made significant strides in completely the so-called 40-Mile Loop, which is actually 59.6 miles in length (Indicator 4.1.b). Since 2001, the

Bureau completed approximately 10 of the 25 miles needed to close the loop. Because 8.6 unfinished miles of the loop are in Gresham and Troutdale, the City only has 6.3 miles to go to complete its portion of the Loop. Perhaps the most significant addition since 2001 was the three mile Springwater-on-the-Willamette stretch (part of the Springwater Corridor portion of the Loop), opened in 2005. It is worth noting that other key organizations set the distance of a completed 40-Mile Loop at 140 miles which includes numerous sub-loops and spurs. For a map of the entire loop see: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:40_mile_loop_map.png)

Objective 4.2– Develop convenient appropriate access to major natural resource areas (e.g. The Willamette River, Forest Park, Oaks Bottom).

Is Portland making progress?

Unknown

No measures were identified that would allow the Board to assess progress toward achieving this objective. However the Bureau identified two measures used in the *State of the River 2006-07* report (www.portlandonline.com/river/index.cfm?c=43324) issued by the Portland Planning Bureau that could be useful in the future. The report estimates that just over 20% of Portlanders live within one mile of a river access point. And the report also lists annual changes in river access facilities such as addition of water trail signs and upgrading of docking facilities.

Goal 4 issues for the update of the 2020 Vision

- 1. Reconcile the 2020 Vision targets for trail construction with those in the 2006 recreational trails strategy.
- 2. Identify an indicator or indicators for assessing progress on Objective 4.2.

Goal 5- Promote Community

GOAL 5- PROMOTE COMMUNITY

Is Portland making progress?

Yes, but

Goal 5 Summary – By its very nature, the Parks Bureau is constantly promoting community. The most specific aspect of promoting community that the Board was able to assess is the Bureau's contribution to civic life through the creation of plazas. The contribution has been has been significant since 2001. The Bureau needs to develop measures for gauging its success in promoting other aspects of community. Despite the lack of any 2020 Vision indicators, the Board has taken the liberty of determining that conditional progress has been made based on supplemental information.

Objective 5.1– Build public plaza and "green connections" in the regional and town centers and along the main streets.

Is Portland making progress?

Yes

While the 2020 Vision provides no indicators for measuring progress on this objective, the Board identified one supplemental measure – number of public plazas built (Supplemental Measure 5.1.a). The Bureau and its partners have added two plazas to the city's landscape since 2001 - Patton Square Park and Jamison Square – with another – Director Park – scheduled to open in 2009.

Objective 5.2– Integrate the park, community centers and trails into our neighborhoods.

Is Portland making progress?

Unknown

While this is clearly an overarching objective for all the Bureau's capital projects, the Board was unable to identify any measures to aid in assessing progress in achieving this objective.

Objective 5.3– Partner with schools and others to provide maximum public benefit.

Is Portland making progress?

Unknown

This, too, is an overarching goal for all the Bureau's activities but no measures were identified to allow assessment of progress. The agreements with school districts regarding shared responsibility for recreation facilities noted under Objectives 1.1 and 1.3 provides anecdotal evidence that the Bureau has made progress in the area.

Goal 5 Issues for the 2010 update of the 2020 Vision

1. Identify indicators for assessing progress on Objectives 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3.

Goals, Objectives and Indicators	2020 Target	Making Progress?	Assessment	Comment
Goal 1– Ensure the Legacy				
Objective 1.1– Develop fully programmed both current and future park and recreatio		nal well maintaine	ed parks, facilities and progr	ams that meet
Indicator 1.1.a– Percent of residents living within three miles of a full service community center – pool, arts facilities, classrooms and recreation facilities.	Increase from 13% to 100%.	Yes. Just under seven in ten are served.	Continued progress on this target is largely dependent on funding. The next center, which is in the planning stage, is Inner Southeast on the old Washington-Monroe school site.	
Indicator 1.1.b— Number of new sports fields for active recreation. ²	Increase from 220 to 320.	No, but. No new fields have been added.	The Bureau has developed joint use agreements with Portland Schools that have opened nine additional permitted sports fields on school properties and upgraded 82 other fields to allow for more public use.	The Board may recommend that this target be modified.
Indicator 1.1.c– Number of acres of parkland per capita.	Maintain the 2001 level of 19.3	Yes. The figure has remained steady at 19.	Parks has acquired 669 acres of land since 2001.	Just maintaining this level at 19 would not allow Portland to achieve the goal of providing adequate proximity to all resident stated by Indicator 1.1.e.
Indicator 1.1.d– Proportion of residents who feel PP&R does a good job of "securing additional parks and open space to keep up with growth." ⁴	Increase from 54% in 2001 to 81% in 2020.	Unknown. The survey done in 2001 has not been replicated.	No new data available.	
Indicator 1.1.e—Percent of residents living within ½ mile of a basic developed neighborhood park and one mile of a community park. ⁵ (One-half mile from any park was used to measure progress. See comment column.)	Increase from 77% to 100%.	No. The percent has held steady since 2001.	Like other proximity measures, this has not improved as the Bureau has only been able to keep pace with population growth.	The Board recommends that this measure be simplified to read "within ½ mile of a park."
Supplemental Measure 1.1.e– Percent of residents rating their neighborhoods' closeness to a park as good or better.	None.	In 2008, 83% of residents rated closeness as good or better	While this is a slight increase over the 2001 rating of 80%, the rating is consistent with the lack of progress in expanding proximity to parks.	

Goals, Objectives and Indicators	2020 Target	Making Progress?	Assessment	Comment	
Indicator 1.1.f– Percent of residents rating the overall quality of parks as good or very good.	Increase from 84% to 90%.	Yes. The rating jumped to 86% in 2008.	After seven years of no progress, the rating jumped four percentage points between 2007 and 2008.		
Indictor 1.1.g– Percent of the operating budget that is allocated for building maintenance. ⁶	Increase from 1% to 2%.	Yes. The Bureau has surpassed the 2020 target.	Good news for parks users but the proportion may not be high enough.	The Board may recommend that this target be increased.	
Indicator 1.1.h Proportion of funding that comes from grants, gifts and donations for the (operating) budget.	Increase from 0.5% to 10%.	Yes, but. The Bureau raised less than 1% in its last budget.	While the increase had gone up slightly, the Bureau is not on track to achieve the target.	Supplemental indicator 1.1.b may provide a more accurate picture.	
Supplemental Measure 1.1.h– Proportion of total grants, gifts and donations for all budgets.	None.	When accounting for all budgets, the proportion was 2.6% in 2007.	The Bureau has made significant progress in diversifying funding when all budgets are considered.	The Board may recommend that this indicator be substituted for Indicator 1.1.h.	
Objective 1.2– Educate the public and local Parks system.	al leaders abou	t the value, bene	efits, conditions and needs o	f the Portland	
				No indicators are available for this objective.	
Objective 1.3– Coordinate planning, mana recreation needs and concerns with city a			ing of parks, natural resourc	es, trails and	
				No indicators are available for this objective.	
Objective 1.4– Engage residents as stewards of Portland parks and recreation system to help preserve the legacy for future generations.					
Indicator 1.4.a– Hours of volunteer time as a percent of paid staff hours	Increase from 26% to 30%.	Yes. The percent was 32% in 2007.	This indicator shows that the Bureau is making greater use of volunteers in carrying out its mission.		
Supplemental Measure 1.4.a– Annual volunteer hours	None.	Since 2003, volunteer hours have increased 8.5% from 423,727 to 459,645.	Total hours contributed by Parks volunteers grew at twice the rate of population growth since 2003.		

Goals, Objectives and Indicators	2020 Target	Making Progress?	Assessment	Comment	
Objective 1.5– Offer affordable programs	and facilities.				
Indicator 1.5.a— Percent of PP&R's Recreation Division budget that is derived from recreation fees.	Reduce from 50% to 25% by 2020.	Yes, but. In 2007, 44% of the budget came from rec. fees indicating some progress.	At the current rate, cost recovery would approach 25% by 2020. However, the target is at odds with the City Council's established "recovery rate" of 39% based on Supplemental Measure 1.5.a (1). See below.	The Board has requested the Bureau develop an issue paper on future recreation fees. The Bureau no longer uses this measure for budgeting. See 1.5.a (1) below.	
Supplemental Measure 1.5.a (1) – Percent of all costs recovered from recreation fees.	None.	37% in 2002 and 33% in 2008.	This new indicator of cost recovery, which covers all costs, shows a similar trend to Indicator 1.5.a – recreation participants are paying a smaller share of program costs. The Board has requested further information from the Bureau on this issue.	In 2002 the Bureau adopted a new measure for recreation cost recovery that includes all costs associated with recreation including administrative overhead and maintenance	
Supplemental Measure 1.5.a (2)— Percent of residents satisfied or very satisfied with the affordability of recreation programs.	None.	The percent has remained steady at 67% since 2001.	While the Bureau is recovering somewhat less of its recreation costs from users, the relatively small change is not perceived by the general public.		
Goal 2– Provide Recreation Services and Opportunities for All					
Objective 2.1– Pursue all opportunities to provide park and recreation services.					
Indicator 2.1.a— Percent of residents who rate the number and variety of recreation programs as good or very good.	Increase from 61 (for number) & 67% (for variety) to 100%.	No. The level has remained steady at around 67% for variety.		The current City survey only asks about variety, not number.	

Goals, Objectives and Indicators	2020 Target	Making Progress?	Assessment	Comment	
Objective 2.2– Offer meaningful recreation programs and services.					
Indicator 2.2.a– Proportion of residents who participate in recreation programs or use facilities. ⁷	No specific target set; just "increase."	No. Overall participation has remained at approximately 4 of 10 since 2001.	When examined by age group, youth participation has dropped significantly while participation by other age groups has gone up slightly. See Supplemental Measure 2.2.c (1) for more information regarding youth involvement.	The 2020 Vision stated this as an indicator but did not identify a data source. See endnote for more information.	
Supplemental Measure 2.2.a (1)– Number of visits to community centers, pools and recreation sites.8	None.	Visits have increased 16%, from 3.5 million to over 4 million since 2000.	The data implies that residents who do use parks facilities are using them more.		
Supplemental Measure 2.2.a (2)— Percent of residents who register for a PP&R class.	None.	The percent has remained at around eight percent since 2001.	Like other population participation measures, PP&R appears to be keeping up with population growth but not expanding its reach.		
Indicator 2.2.b— Percent of residents who rate the overall recreation quality of Parks' programs as good or very good.	Increase from 75% in 2000 to 90% in 2020.	No. The percent has fluctuated between 70 and 76% since 2000.	The Bureau's rating has not improved since 2001.		
Indicator 2.2.c– Percent of residents who believe PP&R is doing a good job of providing recreation opportunities for young people through community schools and community center programs. ⁹	Increase from 62% in 2001 to 90% in 2020.	Unknown. The survey done in 2001 has not been replicated.			
Supplemental Measure 2.2.c (1)— Percent of households with a member, 0 -18 participating in recreation programs or using facilities.	None.	The percent dropped from 53% in 2001 to 36% in 2008.	Youth involvement as a proportion of the youth population appears to have dropped steadily and dramatically since 2001.		
Supplemental Measure 2.2.c (2)— Number of youth visits to recreation sites.	None.	Youth visits per year fluctuated between 400,000 and 500,000 since 2001.	Causes of this high variability are not well understood.		

Goals, Objectives and Indicators	2020 Target	Making Progress?	Assessment	Comment		
Objective 2.3– Provide a full range of culture	Objective 2.3– Provide a full range of cultural arts facilities and programs. ¹⁰					
Supplemental Measure 2.3.a – Number of cultural art classes, including multiple sessions, offered.	None.	The number of classes increased 21% from 3,587 in 2002 to 4,335 in 2008.				
Goal 3– Provide Nature in the City						
Objective 3.1– Acquire sufficient lands to Rivers), to complete natural resource area areas (Rosemont Bluff). ¹¹						
Indicator 3.1.a– Acres of habitat land protected. ¹²	Increase from 1,440 to 2,060.	Yes. 500 acres have been added since 2000 bringing the total to 1,940.	The Board recommends this target be adjusted upward to match the 2006 natural area acquisition strategy targets - 540 more acres between 2006 and 2011, and 528 more acres by 2016.			
Indicator 3.1.b– Percent of tree cover: a) on streets and b) within parks. ¹³	Increase street cover from 60 to 80% and parks cover from 80 to 90%.	Unknown. The Bureau is unable to verify the baseline numbers.		The Board supports the Bureau's rethink of the target for this objective. See endnote for more information.		
Indicator 3.1.c– Percent of residents who think PP&R is doing a good job of preserving natural areas in the City. 14	Increase from 74% in 2001 to 90% in 2020.	Unknown. The survey done in 2001 has not been replicated.	No new data available.			
Objective 3.2– Protect, expand and restore interconnected ecosystems and wildlife corridors.						
Supplemental Measure 3.2.a— Number of acres of natural area additions that are adjacent to existing natural areas.	None.	93% of the 500 acres added since 2000 are adjacent to natural areas.	While the Bureau does not have definitive measures on how well interconnected the system is, its acquisitions clearly support this objective.			

Goals, Objectives and Indicators	2020 Target	Making Progress?	Assessment	Comment
Goal 4– Create the "Walking the City of th	e West"			
Objective 4.1– Provide safe and convenie them with residential areas, civic institution			al areas and recreation faciliti	es and connect
Indicator 4.1.a– Number of miles of paved and soft surfaced trails. ¹⁵	Double the number of miles from 150 in 2000 to 300 in 2020.	Yes, but. Approximately 21 miles have been added. This is far short of what would be needed to achieve the target.	While 21 miles is far short of the miles needed to be on track, the Bureau has 7.4 miles of trails in the planning or development stage.	The Board recommends that this target be reconciled with the regional trails strategy. See endnote for more information.
Indicator 4.1.b—Percent of the 40-Mile Loop trail system, including the Columbia Slough, Willamette Greenway, Springwater Corridor and Fanno Creek Greenway sections, that is complete.	Increase from 59% to 100% by 2020.	Yes. Using the Bureau's definition of the 40-Mile Loop, the percent has increased from 59% to 75%.	According to the Bureau, the Loop has grown to 59.6 miles over the years. Portland has completed 85% of the portion that is within the city limits. Others claim that the loop has grown to 140 miles. 16	Trails have been developed in referenced areas in the indicator except Fanno Creek.
Objective 4.2– Develop convenient appropriate access to major natural resource areas (e.g. The Willamette River, Forest Park, Oaks Bottom).				
				No indicators are available for this objective.

Goals, Objectives and Indicators	2020 Target	Making Progress?	Assessment	Comment
Goal 5– Promote Community				
Objective 5.1– Build public plazas and "gr	een connection	s" in the regional	and town centers and along	the main streets.
Supplemental Measure 5.1.a – Number of public plazas added.	None.	Yes. Two pubic plazas were added - Park, Patton Square Park and Jamison Square – and another, Director Park will open soon.		
Objective 5.2– Integrate the park, commun	nity centers and	I trails into our ne	eighborhoods.	
				No indicators are available for this objective.
Objective 5.3– Partner with schools and others to provide maximum public benefit.				
				No indicators are available for this objective.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Indicator 1.1.a– Matt Dishman Community Center was not counted as a full-service center in 2000. When counted as a full-service center, the 2000 baseline percent of residents served becomes 36% and the percent served in 2008 becomes 69%.
- ² Indicator 1.1.b– The original 220 field count has not been verified. As part of the *2020* update, the Board will ask Bureau staff to provide an accurate count of sport fields.
- ³ The *2020 Vision* identified the Year 2000 per 1000 acreage as 20. This was later adjusted to 19 on the basis of a corrected population estimate. Originally, Parks estimated that an additional 1,870 acres would be needed to maintain the 2001 ratio. That number has been revised downward to 1,507 acres.
- ⁴ Indicator 1.1.d– This data was gathered once in 2001. The Bureau has no plans to repeat it.
- ⁵ Indicator 1.1e– The methodology for this measure is consistent with the methodology used for the measure in the City's service efforts and accomplishments reports. "Park" is defined as a developed park or natural area. PIR, PP&R golf courses and Water Bureau Hydro Parks are also included.
- 6 Indicator 1.1.g– The 2000 baseline figure (1%) was an estimate. Reliable data only exists from 2005 onward.
- ⁷ Indicator 2.2.a– The Bureau is unable to provide an unduplicated head count of residents participating in recreation programs or using facilities since many programs and facilities do not charge fees, admission, or require registration. While a rough count of use is available from Supplemental Measure 2.2.a (1), the Bureau must rely on the City's service efforts and accomplishments survey to report household participation.
- ⁸ Supplemental Measure 2.2.a (1)– Includes self-reporting from centers and data in the CLASS registration system. The number includes visits to community centers, arts centers, SUN Schools (PP&R-operated ones), pools, golf and PIR.

- ⁹ Indicator 2.2.c– This data was gathered once in 2001. The Bureau has no plans to repeat it. The Board suggests the Bureau gather input from young people regarding their participation in recreation activities.
- ¹⁰ Objective 2.3– The "full range" of programs was never defined. The suggested definition going forward is: architecture, art & visual arts, crafts, culinary art, dance, decorative art, design, drawing, fashion, film, language, literature, music, opera, painting, photography, poetry, sculpture, theatre & performing arts, floral design, and video. Classes, programs, and events were identified in each of these fields. Over the years, offerings were weakest in fashion, video, and culinary arts. Cultural arts facilities were defined in the plan as Community Music Center, The Multnomah Arts Center, the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, the Children's Museum, and Pittock Mansion. All continue to operate in 2008.
- ¹¹ Objective 3.1– "Protected habitat" and natural area are considered the same. Acquisitions include purchased and donated property, and land managed by PP&R.
- ¹² Indicator 3.1.a– Forest Park (over 5,000 acres) was not included in the 2000 baseline estimate. Acquisitions adjacent to Forest Park since 2000 are included in the 1,940 acres reported.
- ¹³ Indicator 3.1.b– Because the *Parks 2020 Vision* estimates appear to have been off by a wide margin, the Board supports the Bureau's plan to create accurate baselines for tree cover by land use type before setting targets for canopy cover. Bureau staff will work with the *Urban Forestry Management Plan* in developing proposed targets.
- ¹⁴ Indicator 3.1.c– This data was gathered once in 2001. The Bureau has no plans to repeat it. The Board recommends the Bureau develop some means of gauging public perception of how well it's doing in achieving the Goal 3 objectives.
- ¹⁵ The 2006 recreational trails strategy recommends 220 miles of regional trails by 2025 and beyond (no date certain). Other types of trails, such as community connectors and local access (in-park) trails are not addressed. The Board may recommend additional indicators for these other trail types.
- ¹⁶ According to the 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, the "loop" is now considered 140 miles in length and has become an intricate series of loops and spur trails off the original "loop" which is, in fact, 59.6 miles long.