Distinctive Features

Description: The Central City/Northwest (CC/NW) sub-area (see map at the end of this section) includes the downtown core and the Lloyd Center district, as well as all of Northwest Portland. It is a diverse mix of single-family residential areas, high-density residential zones, industrial districts, downtown commercial blocks, and pockets of institutional uses, such as hospitals and universities.

Resources and Facilities: The CC/NW sub-area has the most park acreage (5,602 acres), ranking first in total park acreage; however 90% of that acreage is in Forest Park. Without Forest Park, CC/NW would rank last with Northeast.

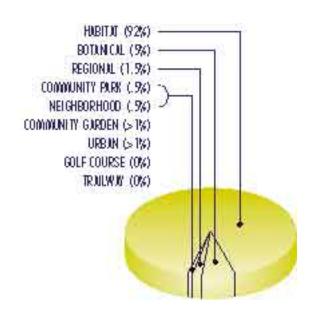
This sub-area has the smallest amount of neighborhood and community park acreage, with just 47 acres to satisfy the active recreation needs of the entire sub-area.

- CC/NW contains many of the city's historic and popular public spaces, such as Pioneer Courthouse Square, the North and South Park Blocks, Pittock Mansion, Washington Park and Governor Tom McCall and South Waterfront Parks.
- The 5,000-acre Forest Park is one of the best natural resource areas in the city, and the largest forested urban park in the country. It has 60 miles of trails including the Wildwood Trail.
- There are two community garden sites with 64 plots.
- The following botanical gardens, known locally and nationally, are located in CC/NW:
 - Hoyt Arboretum
 - The Japanese Garden
 - The International Rose Test Gardens
 - The Classical Chinese Garden

- The Portland Tennis Center, with indoor and outdoor courts, is located in the Lloyd District.
- Pittock Mansion and Acres, which preserves a valuable piece of Portland's past, is an important tourist attraction in Portland.
- The Children's Museum recently relocated to a larger facility in Washington Park near the Oregon Zoo.

Population - Current and Future: Central City/ Northwest is the smallest of the six sub-areas in population, with 47,900. It is predicted to grow to 60,700 by 2020. This expected increase of 27% is the largest percentage increase in the city.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUBAREA ACRES BY PARK TYPE



& RECREATION



Central City/Northwest Issues and Needs

PARK SHORTAGES

- The following sectors of the CC/NW sub-area are park deficient the River District, Forest Heights, Old Town/Chinatown, and the West End. In Forest Heights, a small amount of parkland adjacent to the school has been acquired but more is needed. The Classical Chinese Garden, the only park located in Old Town/Chinatown, is a wonderful asset but one that charges admission. The development plan for the River District calls for new parks to be built with tax increment funding; Jamison Park is already under construction. Another urban square, a neighborhood park and a community park on the river are planned as part of that development.
- O'Bryant Square suffers from vandalism and dated design. The shelter/structure at Lovejoy Fountain needs to be renovated. Other CC/NW parks are generally in good condition; most are fairly new or have been recently renovated.
- Work is underway to develop a master plan for Waterfront Park to guide its use, maintenance, and development. Over the last decade, the number of festivals and events has grown, requests for nonpark uses have increased, and park improvements have been made incrementally. A unified plan is needed.

RISKS TO NATURAL RESOURCES

- Impacts from fragmentation of habitat, urban stormwater, and invasive non-native plants are a problem in the NW Slope/ Forest Park area. Almost no public acquisition has occurred and there is limited management of natural resources in this area.
- All of Forest Park's numerous, small watersheds are disconnected from the Willamette. Of these, the Balch Creek watershed is the most significant.

- About 75% of the Balch Creek watershed is in private ownership.
- Many areas in Northwest are prone to landslides and loss of vegetation.

RISKS TO URBAN FOREST

- Canopy is lost when slides occur on unstable slopes.
- Tree planting opportunities are scarce downtown because of fully built properties and utility conflicts.

FACILITY DEFICIENCIES

- The only community center in the CC/NW area is Hillside, a small center located in the Northwest hills. Center access and parking are difficult, and facilities are limited to a gym and a small classroom. Location and site conditions make expansion difficult.
- The 20' x 60' pool at the Metropolitan Learning Center (MLC) is the only PP&R aquatics facility in the CC/NW sub-area. It is not ADA accessible and does not meet current PP&R standards.
- The MLC offers limited recreational programs through the Community School Program. Friendly House, a private non-profit, offers some recreational programming.
- There are fewer schools here and therefore fewer opportunities to use school grounds and facilities to provide additional recreation and open space.

PROBLEMS WITH ACCESS, TRAILS AND CONNECTIVITY

Access to the Willamette River is difficult, despite its proximity to many residents. Highways and industrial areas separate neighborhoods from the river. With the exception of the downtown area, there is limited access to the river in the area south of the Fremont Bridge.

Central City/Northwest Recommendations

ACQUIRE LAND AND DEVELOP PARKS

- Acquire land and develop new parks in park deficient areas, such as the River District, and the transitional industrial area near downtown.
- Acquire a neighborhood park site in the Skyline Boulevard Corridor to serve this rapidly growing sector.
- Consider park acquisition and development in non-traditional areas such as marginal industrial land, rooftops, land under freeways and as part of the proposed I-5 Freeway capping project.
- Develop pocket parks and urban plazas in new developments in Old Town/China Town, the West End and the Lloyd District. Include park and recreation facilities in areas of new development.
- Renovate existing parks in the downtown area, particularly O'Bryant Square. Coordinate parks planning projects with River Renaissance planning efforts.
- Look at adjacent sub-areas to accommodate the demand for adequate sports fields since there are few parcels of flat land in many parts of the sub-area.
- Develop an imaginative vision and plan for Waterfront Park to preserve the value of one of Portland's most visible and important assets and to create a vibrant urban waterfront park.
- Develop new parks along the Willamette River that take advantage of that resource, especially in the area of the Waterfront Park in the River District, the Centennial Mill area and North Macadam.
- Develop a master plan for Hoyt Arboretum that addresses management, capacity and facilities.

PROTECT AND IMPROVE NATURAL RESOURCES

- Continue to implement the recommendations of the Forest Park Natural Resource Management Plan.
- Develop additional access points into Forest Park to relieve pressure on existing entries located in residential areas. Develop a major entrance off of US 30.
- Work with Metro to acquire additional resource lands in and around Forest Park to retain a strong, forested connection to rural forest lands. Protect and restore natural areas on the Northwest Slope.
- Reestablish and strengthen the connections between Balch, Miller and other Forest Park creeks and the Willamette River. Explore the feasibility of day-lighting the mouth of Balch Creek and disconnecting it from the sewer system.

- Redevelop riverbanks to improve habitat for salmonids and provide appropriate public access to the rivers.
- Look for opportunities to acquire, develop and improve habitat as industrial sites change use, especially along the river.

PROTECT AND IMPROVE URBAN FOREST

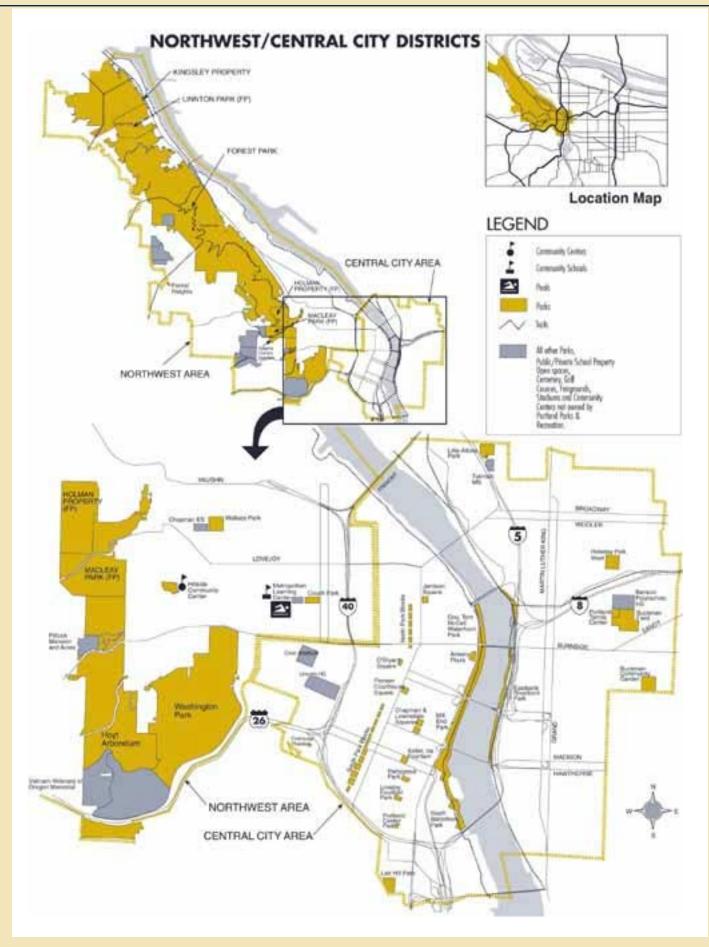
- Retain existing trees and vegetation on slide-prone slopes to help stabilize the slopes.
- Encourage tree plantings on private and public properties, especially in the Central City.

EXPAND AND DEVELOP RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

- Develop a full-service community center with aquatic facilities to meet the needs of an increasingly dense urban environment.
- Enhance classroom and multi-purpose space at Hillside Community Center.
- Investigate the potential for partnerships with the numerous institutions in the area (e.g., Portland State University, Lincoln High School, Friendly House and/or Good Samaritan Hospital) as a cost-effective way to take advantage of complementary services and to expand recreation programs.
- Develop a 'River Center' near the Eastbank Esplanade for river recreation and education.

DEVELOP PARK ACCESS, TRAILS AND CONNECTIONS

- Create a network of pedestrian corridors linking Waterfront Park and the Park Blocks and other areas of the downtown core.
- Enhance connections from the Eastbank Esplanade to the adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- Expand recreation opportunities and connections in the CC/NW area:
 - Willamette River and adjacent neighborhoods on both sides of the river
 - Forest Park and adjacent Northwest Slope neighborhoods
 - North Park Blocks and O'Bryant Square
 - North Park Blocks to the River District Parks and the Waterfront.
 - Pacific Greenway



CENTRAL CITY/NORTHWEST SUB-AREA – Park Sites to be Developed and Renovated									
Site Name	Develop New Park	Redevelop Exstg. Park	Extensive Renovation	Basic Renovation	Repairs	Notes			
Ankeny Plaza			•						
Buckman Field					•				
Chapman & Lownsdale Squares					•				
Couch Park					•				
Duniway Park				•					
Forest Heights	•								
Forest Park		•				а			
Gov. Tom McCall Waterfront Park			•						
Hillside Park					•				
Hoyt Arboretum				•					
International Rose Test Garden					•	b			
Jamison Square	•					С			
Keller, Ira Fountain					•				
Lair Hill Park				•					
Lillis-Albina Park				•					
Lovejoy Fountain Park				•					
North Park Blocks				•					
O'Bryant Square			•						
Pittock Mansion and Acres					•	d			
South Park Blocks				•					
Wallace Park					•				
Washington Park									

Unimproved sites to be developed as neighborhood, community or regional parks. Master plans are needed Develop New Park 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 previous 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: Develop new entrance off of US 30. Develop new trailhead at Upper Macleay. Rebuild kiosk, improve access and walkways.

- c. Construction underway.
- d. Rebuild entry road.



e are lucky to
have the trails, Balch Creek and
Forest Park right at our doorstep.
But we don't have nearly the amount
of neighborhood parks we need for
our dense urban neighborhood and
our one pool is sadly out of date."

Thomasina Gabriele, NW Portland resident & Vision Team member

CENTRAL CITY/NORTHWEST SUB-AREA – Habitat Parks & Natural Areas									
Site Name	R M Plan	Extensive Rehabilitation	Basic Rehabilitation	Repairs	Notes				
Adams Property (FP)		•			а				
Clark & Wilson (FP)		•			а				
Forest Park		•			а				
Holman Property (FP)		•			а				
Linnton Park (FP)		•			а				
Macleay Park (FP)		•			а				

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. Remove invasive non-natives and replant.