Sub Areas
Portland’s rivers, topography and major highways generally divide the city into six sub-areas — each one having different characteristics. Types of development and density of population differ greatly among the sub-areas, as do their natural resources, parkland and recreation facilities. Some have wonderful natural resources; others have a wide variety of recreation opportunities or excellent new community centers. No sub-area has a complete range of recreation facilities and opportunities or resource experiences.

While physical variations account for many of the differences in the sub-areas, the time that each neighborhood became part of the city also plays a part. Downtown and neighborhoods such as North Portland that were part of the city in the early 1900s often have large fully developed parks (e.g., Columbia, the Park Blocks and Sellwood). Areas such as Outer East and Southwest that were added later are frequently park-deficient.

The following section describes these six sub-areas — their physical differences, existing park and recreation facilities, and strengths and weaknesses. It includes recommendations to maximize the park and recreation opportunities, within the natural assets and limitations of each area. Recommendations address planning projects, park deficiencies, renovations and improvements for existing parks and facilities, new parks, and program improvements. These recommendations are the result of many community meetings, surveys, Vision Team retreats and staff meetings.
PARKS 2020 VISION

**SUB-AREA ACREAGE DISTRIBUTION**

- Forest Park: 5.4% (5,090 acres)
- All Other Parks: 5.3% (4,969 acres)
- Total Park Acres: 10.7% (10,059 acres)
- Total City Acres: 94,298

**SUB-AREA POPULATION DISTRIBUTION**

- 2000 Population: 533,500
- Projected 2020 Population: 597,070 (+12%)

- CC/NW: +27%
- NORTH: +11%
- NE: +5%
- OE: +20%
- SE: +2%
- SW: +13%