

September 19, 2016



## SUMMARY OF EAST MULTNOMAH COUNTY PARKS SUMMIT AND NEXT STEPS

This document summarizes work done over the spring and summer of 2016 to explore ways to strengthen parks, recreation facilities and programs in East Multnomah County and proposes next steps. An ad-hoc working group made up of elected officials and parks advocates worked with Intertwine Alliance staff to organize a parks summit at Edgefield the afternoon of May 12, 2016. Approximately 120 civic leaders, elected officials, and residents attended and explored the question:

“How can we provide the necessary parks, recreation facilities, and programs in East Multnomah County, while being fiscally responsible, locally focused, and culturally responsive; thereby meeting our shared vision for a healthy, safe, and economically prosperous community.”

### INTERTWINE ALLIANCE EAST MULTNOMAH SUMMIT SUMMARY

The summit included several components, including:

- Mayor Doug Daoust of Troutdale, Don Goldberg, Director of Business Development, Port of Portland and Shirley Craddick, Metro Councilor, opened the event
- Cary Simmons, Trust for Public Land, NW Parks for People Program provided the keynote, highlighting 10 reasons why Nature, Parks & Recreation are important to community wellbeing.
- Mike Wetter, Executive Director of The Intertwine Alliance, presented data regarding how East Multnomah stacks up against other US communities of similar size.
- Troutdale Councilor Larry Morgan, Gresham Sergeant Jeff Miller, and Lisa McDonald, Principal, Glenfair School gave their perspectives on whether the status quo is sufficient and what enhanced parks, trails and natural areas might offer for East Multnomah County.
- Ricardo Ruiz talked about Futsal at Vance Park and Lee Dayfield presented on the Nadaka Park / Garden Project. Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick talked about the Metro levy that will be on the ballot in November, and Rex Burkholder presented on the Outdoor School for All initiative.



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- Owen Wozniak, Trust for Public Land, provided an overview of approaches that communities can take to strengthen their parks, recreation facilities and programs.

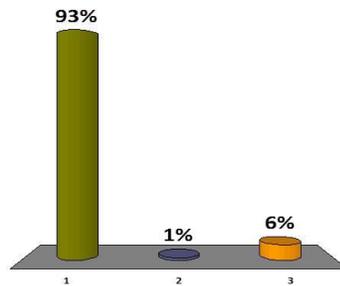
The summit agenda and copies of presentations are available at <http://theintertwine.org/east-multnomah-county-parks-initiative>.

## POLLING RESULTS

Participants were asked to weigh in on several questions during the course of the forum. Results are provided below.

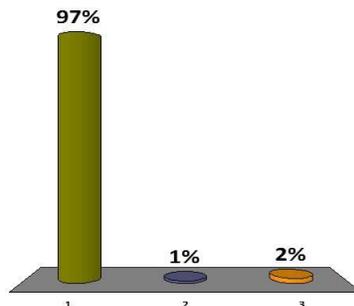
As to quantity and quality of **facilities**,  
East Multnomah County should have:

1. More
2. Less
3. Same



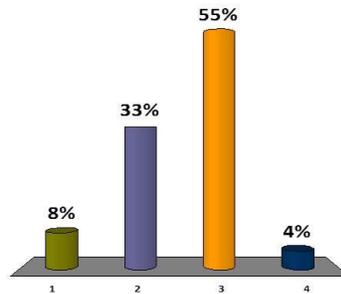
As to quantity and quality of **programming**,  
East Multnomah County should have:

1. Better
2. Lower
3. Same



## What is East Multnomah County's most important need?

1. Facilities
2. Programming
3. Both
4. Neither



## Which potential local solution are you interested in exploring?

1. East Multnomah County Parks District	61%
2. Joint East Mult-Clackamas County Parks District	0%
3. More public support to community-based orgs	9%
4. No new or stronger programs – keep things same	1%
5. Stronger City Parks Departments	17%
6. Other	12%

## NEXT STEPS

A large majority of attendees expressed support for continuing to explore the topic of how to strengthen parks, recreational facilities and programs in East Multnomah County. However, there is much evaluation and analysis still to be done to develop a clear proposal. Three questions need further exploration:

- From the array of options and approaches presented at the summit by Owen Wozniak of the Trust for Public Land, which are most appropriate for East

Multnomah County and which should be further explored and developed? This will require a deeper analysis than was possible at the summit. We will also need to flesh some of the options out. For example, there was interest at the summit in a parks district. There are many options for how such an entity could be structured. The specifics of how it would be governed and funded would need to be further explored and evaluated. Other options would require similar analysis and evaluation. It is likely that the best strategy for East Multnomah County will turn out to be a combination of several options. Which ones are of interest and most feasible for the residents of East Multnomah County? (Note that the Springwater Parks and Community District group has done quite a lot of work exploring the possibility of a parks district in East Multnomah County. Their website is at [http://www.springwaterpcd.org/.](http://www.springwaterpcd.org/))

- What roles are elected, business and civic leaders willing to play in establishing stronger park, recreation facilities and programming? What are the roles of nonprofit groups, advocates and others?
- What is a reasonable timeline for implementing such a strategy? What is the work plan for accomplishing the strategy?

It is proposed that a group of key stakeholders be assembled into a task force to address these three questions. The task force should include representatives of the cities, county, and Metro, as well as schools, public safety and other officials as well as representatives of key nonprofit and business groups. The task force would meet a total of five or six times over the course of six to nine months. In order to complete the scope of work in this timeframe, and make efficient use of committee members' time, the project would need professional staff support.

The ad-hoc group of elected leaders and parks advocates that have been working on this project to date are now seeking the resources necessary to take this next step. It is estimated that about \$50,000 in cash and/or in-kind support is required.

## **AD-HOC TASK FORCE (EAST MULTNOMAH COUNTY PARKS WORKING GROUP)**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Following is a list of members of the Ad-Hoc Task force that have been exploring how to strengthen parks and parks programming in East Multnomah County. It is expected that any further steps would include more people, including those that expressed interest at the May 12 summit. Current task force members include (in alphabetical order):

Shirley Craddick, Metro Councilor

Doug Daoust, Mayor of Troutdale

Marianne Daoust, Friends of Mt. Hood Community College

Lee Dayfield, Friends of Nadaka

Jim Labbe, parks advocate

Monica McAllister, Friends of Nadaka

Larry Morgan, Troutdale City Councilor

Cathy Sherick, parks advocate

Mike Wetter, The Intertwine Alliance

The project also received much support from Rebecca Stavenjord of Multnomah County

### **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

*The purpose of the East Multnomah County Parks Working Group is to research, explore and facilitate adequate, sustainable, and strategic investment in East Multnomah parks, trails, community centers, school grounds, and natural areas as well as the people who use them in order to support improved public health, economic prosperity, and environmental quality. This investment includes recreational and education programming, stewardship and maintenance, and needed capital improvements that equitably serve the entire community of East Multnomah County.*