



SCORP Plan Components Now On-Line

Throughout the Oregon SCORP planning process, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has attempted to build interest in the plan through the SCORP Planning Website. By the end of September, a draft of the completed Oregon SCORP plan will be available on the planning website (<http://www.prd.state.or.us/scorp.php>) for public review and comment. You may also request a copy of the draft SCORP Plan on CD by contacting Tammy Baumann by phone at (503) 378-4168 Ext. 293 or by Email at tammy.baumann@state.or.us. Before the draft SCORP is completed, OPRD would like to provide an opportunity for recreation providers across the state to get a sneak preview of some of the plan's major components.

Planning components now available on the SCORP Planning Website include:

- top regional Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) issues for the 11 SCORP planning regions,
 - top statewide LWCF issues and accompanying set of goals, objectives and strategies,
 - A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning for Oregon Communities, and
 - the SCORP Demand and Needs Analysis Report.
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Top Regional LWCF Issues

From October through December 2001, OPRD staff completed a series of 11 regional "recreation issues" workshops across the state. During the workshops issues were divided into two categories: 1) LWCF issues directly related to LWCF funding, and 2) General Issues including all other non-LWCF fund related issues. At each public-sector recreation provider session, participants were involved in a voting process to identify the top 3 LWCF issues for the region. Top regional LWCF issues generated during the afternoon workshops will be given priority in the Open Project Selection (OPSP) criteria used to evaluate LWCF grant proposals. A final list can be found on the SCORP Planning Website at: http://www.prd.state.or.us/scorp_issues.php under the heading "List of Top Regional Land and Water Conservation Fund Issues."

Top Statewide Issues and Accompanying Goals, Objectives & Strategies

The initial set of Top Statewide LWCF Issues were identified by examining the number of times a particular funding related issue was determined as a top regional issue. Top Statewide LWCF issues are those most frequently voted as a top regional issue. Next, OPRD staff further refined and summarized all remaining LWCF and General Issue comments into a set of 23 issue categories. A brief summary was prepared for each of the issue categories, including a description of the issue category and the number of issue comments collected during the comment collection process in each issue category. During the April 2, 2002 SCORP Advisory Committee Meeting, a voting process was used to determine two additional Statewide LWCF Issues and three Statewide General Issues. Top statewide LWCF issues will be also be given priority in the OPSP criteria used to evaluate LWCF grant proposals. Finally, the SCORP Advisory Committee assisted OPRD in developing a set of goals, objectives and strategies for addressing each of the eight top statewide recreation issues. A final list is now available at: http://www.prd.state.or.us/scorp_issues.php under the heading "Final List of Top Statewide Issues & Accompanying Goals, Objectives & Strategies."

A Guide to Community Park & Recreation Planning For Oregon Communities

During the July 31, 2001 SCORP Advisory Committee Meeting, committee members clearly stated that evidence of sound park and recreation planning should be a critical factor to consider in evaluating requests for LWCF Funding. They were also aware that small communities in the state are struggling with the question of how to conduct long-term recreation planning. They felt that it would not be fair to simply ask all recreation providers across the state to "do it." The committee's recommendation was to use the SCORP plan as a vehicle for providing local agency staff or planning teams with all the guidance necessary to develop a quality park and recreation plan for their jurisdiction.

To satisfy this request, OPRD staff developed a SCORP Chapter entitled “A Guide To Community Park and Recreation Planning” to assist local units of government in Oregon (cities, counties, special districts, ports and regional districts) in preparing a park and recreation plan for their jurisdiction. The guide is a modified version of the original publication, “A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning for Illinois Communities,” developed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. It is designed to be easily followed by local agency staff and/or a designated group, such as an appointed planning team, which has the responsibility for preparing a recreation plan. Although reference is made throughout the guide to the development of a community plan, the planning process described can apply to any agency-wide park and recreation plan of a unit of government.

A final copy of the guide can be downloaded at: http://www.prd.state.or.us/scorp_guide.php Just click on the heading “Download the guide (850k) as an Acrobat document.”

Note: This guide is not intended to replace professional planning expertise that may be obtained by your community. The information and material in this guide can either supplement such assistance or provide enough guidance to enable a local agency to develop a basic park and recreation plan where such expertise is not available.

The Oregon SCORP Demand and Needs Assessment Report

Oregon State University’s Department of Forest Resources has recently completed a report entitled, “Oregon’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): Demand and Needs Analysis” for OPRD as part of the agency’s SCORP planning effort. The report includes results of a year-long survey designed to identify outdoor recreation participation in the state of Oregon. After completion of the survey, using a methodology developed for the 1994 Florida SCORP plan and data from the SCORP recreational inventory, OSU conducted a recreational needs assessment to identify the relative need for additional recreational facilities across the state.

A final copy of the report can be downloaded at http://www.prd.state.or.us/scorp_survey.php. Go to the Results heading and click on the Full Report.

Study results show that Oregonians are actively engaged in all types of outdoor recreation activities in the state. The most popular activities are a reflection of the population, which is aging, more concerned about fitness, and increasingly metropolitan. There are also activities that are generally engaged in near home, and on a regular basis. By far, the highest use activities are running/walking for exercise and walking for pleasure. The next most popular activities, birdwatching and nature/wildlife observation, are often done right from people’s homes. The implications for outdoor recreation planners and managers are that people demand most outdoor recreation opportunities in the communities where they live. Traditional non-metro outdoor recreation activities that have high demands include sight-seeing, RV camping, ocean beach use, fishing and hiking.

The needs assessment process shows that the top seven activities in the relative needs priority index (including golf, swimming in an outdoor pool, hiking on local community or backcountry trails) are in regions surrounding the Portland metro area, reflecting the high demands placed on outdoor recreation facilities from that growing region. For a complete listing of recreation need in the state see *Table 9 Relative Needs Priority Index* on page 79 of the Demand and Needs Analysis Report.

Finally, in comparing 2002 recreation participation estimates with those from the 1986-87 Pacific Northwest Outdoor Recreation Study (the last SCORP survey with a similar methodology) the most significant “participation growth activities” in the state of Oregon over the last 14 year period are Golf (+188%), Nature/Wildlife Observation (+170%), Non-Motorized Boating (+138%), Using Playground Equipment (+108%) and RV/Trailer Camping (+95%). The most significant “participation loss activities” in the state are Outdoor Tennis (-42%), Swimming in an Outdoor Pool (-33%) and Horseback Riding (-32%).