

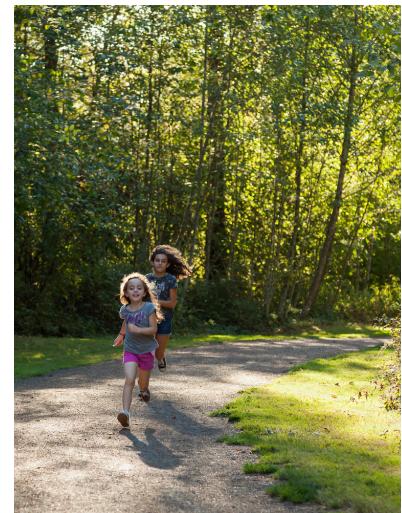
# Places to Play

## Where will parks and plazas be located?

In all alternatives, each of the nine neighborhoods in Cooper Mountain will be served by at least one neighborhood park. The average size of these neighborhood parks increases in Alternatives B and C to better serve the larger populations assumed. In addition to neighborhood parks, Alternative C will include one 10-acre community park, tentatively identified in the Cooper Lowlands area. Urban plazas located in or near commercial nodes are also assumed in each alternative. Table 2 summarizes the distribution of parks and open spaces assumed for each alternative. These assumptions were identified in close coordination with the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD).

Table 2: Parks and Plazas

	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	One park per neighborhood 16.5 acres total	One park per neighborhood 26 acres total	One park per neighborhood 33 acres total
COMMUNITY PARK	None assumed	None assumed	One 10-acre community park
NATURE PARK	Planned expansion of Cooper Mountain Nature Park	Planned expansion of Cooper Mountain Nature Park	Planned expansion of Cooper Mountain Nature Park
URBAN PLAZA	One quarter-acre plaza	Two half-acre plazas (one acre total)	Two one-acre plazas (two acres total)



## A Range of Parks for Cooper Mountain

In Cooper Mountain, a range of parks will be provided to ensure that all neighborhoods have equitable access to places to play, exercise, and connect with nature. To that end, the plan alternatives include the following types of parks and open spaces:

### Neighborhood Park

- Usually 2-8 acres in size
- Serves the local neighborhood area, with a park located within a half-mile walk of all residences (taking into consideration barriers to walkable access such as high-speed streets)
- Generally, includes play areas, small active recreation areas, green space, and opportunities for passive recreation
- The Cooper Mountain alternatives anticipate nine new neighborhood parks (one in each neighborhood)



### Community Park

- At least 10 acres in size
- Serves the greater community or regional area
- Designed to meet a wide variety of community recreational needs, including active and passive recreational opportunities
- In Cooper Mountain, Alternative C includes one community park in Cooper Lowlands



## Nature Park

- Varies in size
- Serves the greater community or regional area
- Balances access to and preservation of natural features, habitat areas, and wildlife corridors
- In Cooper Mountain, the existing Nature Park will be expanded south toward McKernan Creek in all three alternatives



## Urban Plaza

- Varies in size, but typically 1 acre or less
- Located in more urban settings with higher densities, ideally as part of or near nodes of commercial activity
- Designed as public gathering spaces that foster community interaction and civic pride
- In Cooper Mountain, at least one urban plaza located near the commercial node is assumed in each alternative



## Trailhead Park

- Small open spaces located at the entrance to a recreational trail
- May include amenities such as wayfinding, restrooms, play equipment, or open lawn areas
- In Cooper Mountain, trailhead parks may be located at the key entry points to the trail network in Cooper Mountain Nature Park



## What have we learned?

- Each of the alternatives was designed to have at least a small Neighborhood Park within each neighborhood. This leads to the intended outcome of most housing units being within a short walk of a park. The differences in the alternatives are the sizes of parks and total acreage for Neighborhood Parks. Looking ahead, the parks would also have different programming (play areas, fields, etc.) tailored to their location, context, and community input.
- Some of the parks will be able to serve as viewpoints, capturing one of Cooper Mountain's special assets for enjoyment by community members. Identifying opportunities for viewpoints and policies to guide implementation is an important role for the Community Plan.
- Parks can serve as a central (not always centrally located) design feature within neighborhoods, yet acquiring suitable park sites is a challenge during the development process. THPRD has noted that identifying park locations early in the planning process can help secure key locations and ensure parks are not an afterthought relegated to less desirable pieces of land.
- The Community Park associated with Alternative C was added based a need for a Community Park cited by THPRD. The 10-acre size and inclusion only in Alternative C reflects the challenges of finding larger and flatter acreages in the project area. The flatter land is needed to accommodate a sports field on a portion of the park. Committee and community members have noted the Cooper Lowlands and Horse Tale neighborhoods as potential locations for a Community Park. Development of larger Neighborhood Parks within Cooper Mountain can partially fulfill the need if a Community Park is not located within the project area. However, residents will have to travel to adjacent parts of Beaverton or Tigard to access the nearest Community Parks.
- Cooper Mountain Nature Park fulfills the role of a Nature Park for Cooper Mountain. As the plan moves forward, there is the opportunity to knit together a system of greenspaces, including Cooper Mountain Nature Park, the McKernan Creek Greenway, the undeveloped natural areas within and adjacent to the neighborhoods, new parks, and the trail system.



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LOCATED CENTRAL TO A NEIGHBORHOOD



Public pedestrian pathways connect toward other areas and destinations in the neighborhood

Various types of homes face the park from across neighborhood streets with convenient and safe crosswalks

Park is located centrally to a neighborhood within walking distance from many homes

## COMMUNITY PARK INTEGRATED WITHIN A NEIGHBORHOOD



## Implications for the Plan

Which alternative, or combination of ideas, best implement the project goals for park opportunities?

Key considerations, choices, and trade-offs include:

**Neighborhood Parks.** The Neighborhood Parks shown on the alternatives were prepared in collaboration with agency partners and designed to implement THPRD park planning standards. Each alternative results in a network of neighborhood

parks that provide walkable and equitable access by future residents throughout the planning area.

**Viewpoints.** There is an opportunity to identify specific areas where viewpoints can be provided. Examples include potential parks within the Hilltop, McKernan, Horse Tale and Grabhorn Meadows neighborhoods.

**Community Park.** Options for a Community Park (at least 10 acres in size) include:

- Plan to locate a Community Park in the Cooper Lowlands or Horse Tale neighborhood areas.
- Increase the size of Neighborhood Parks if a Community Park is not planned for the area.
- Identify potential Community Park locations outside the planning area that could serve future residents of Cooper Mountain.



### EQUITY LENS:

Equitable access to parks is a high priority for the city. In these alternatives, new parks are located to provide convenient access from all neighborhoods, particularly for people living in attached and multifamily housing. The details of park design can have equity implications: do people of all races feel welcome, and are their interests considered when developing a program for park activities? The city will work with THPRD to ensure that the land acquisition and design of Cooper Mountain's parks meets the city's equity goals.

### PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

**Accessibility.** ADA Accessibility for parks, trails, and other community amenities is a priority for the city. Steep slopes within the plan area will make this challenging in some locations. The city will work with THPRD and its other partners to create places that are accessible to people with mobility issues.

**Equity in park design.** The city will work with THPRD to ensure that Cooper

Mountain parks are designed for people of all races, ages, and abilities.

**Land acquisition for parks.** Further work and discussion is needed to determine how and when park sites will be acquired, particularly Neighborhood Parks. Park sites may have different characteristics depending on their intended use and can serve as a central feature for the neighborhood it serves.

