

## Golden Gardens Park – Sports Complex



The City of Eugene has developed a thoughtful recommendation for the future of [Golden Gardens Park](#) in west Eugene. Balancing the community's needs, the natural resources, and the significant demand for outdoor spaces to recreate and play is challenging. The City staff and their consulting team have struck an exciting balance, showing a deep understanding of what this project means for the neighborhood.

It's time to join Travel Lane County, area sports event organizers, coaches, teams, and local businesses in providing project support and feedback to City staff and City Council. Together, we can help move this project forward. There are several ways to share your input and make a difference:

Attend the [November 13 public engagement meeting](#) at Prairie Mountain School.

Take the [short survey](#) on the Golden Gardens Park project page.

[Email](#) the Eugene City Manager, Mayor, and City Council.

Attend a [Eugene City Council](#) meeting and testify.

The following talking points will assist you in drafting your testimony or feedback. You are also encouraged to use the sample social media posts to spread the word, so we can build momentum and bring this important project to life for the home we all appreciate.

### Talking Points

1. Community recreation facilities for practice, play, and competition are an identified need in Eugene.

- a. Golden Gardens Park was recognized as early as 2006 as a location for a program that would serve a growing population's need for sports. A jointly funded service study by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Spaces, Willamalane, and Travel Lane County was completed in 2016 and affirmed the need for more outdoor recreation and sports facilities.
  - b. Four sports fields were identified for building in the 2018 City of Eugene Parks bond, but with no funding remaining from the bond, the future of the buildout is uncertain.
  - c. The current timeline for completing the park stretches far into the future, with some estimates putting completion as far out as 2035 - nearly 30 years after the need was first recognized.
2. The latest design for Golden Gardens presents an opportunity to support healthy habitat while also helping the community.
    - a. Concerns for the Western Pond Turtle have been addressed through thoughtful design, such as the setback of the walking path for breeding areas, the type of synthetic surfaces used for athletic fields, and the strategic location of basketball and pickleball courts, parking, and other resources around the periphery of the site.
  3. Golden Gardens will bring much-needed recreational access to the underserved Bethel neighborhood, providing welcome natural spaces and community activities.
    - a. Beyond the immediate benefits of the park, this significant development has the potential to bring together families and neighbors through support programs such as childcare and after-school activities. (See examples like Willamalane's afterschool program - <https://www.willamalane.org/activities/afterschool-care> - Capital Futbol Club's GRASSP and TOPSoccer - <https://www.cfcsalem.com/grassp> and <https://www.cfcsalem.com/topsoccer> - and Friday night Futsal with Rogue X and Southern Oregon Futsal.)
  4. Creating community assets like these often encourages additional private development. Building sports fields can draw in coffee shops, restaurants, and other businesses, as seen in the development around [Lithia Driveway Fields](#) in Medford or [AdventHealth Sports Park](#) in Overland Park.

### **Sample Social Media Posts**

1. Golden Gardens Park's comprehensive plan addresses key community needs: dedicated sports fields, preserved natural areas, and accessible gathering spaces. This balanced approach will enhance the quality of life for Bethel residents while serving Eugene's broader recreation goals. <https://engage.eugene-or.gov/goldengardens>
2. The need for sports fields in Eugene was identified almost 20 years ago, but the buildout of Golden Gardens Park is still uncertain. Your voice matters in advancing this essential project. <https://engage.eugene-or.gov/goldengardens>
3. The updated Golden Gardens Park design demonstrates how thoughtful planning can serve multiple community priorities. By integrating wildlife corridors and wetland preservation with needed sports facilities, this project shows our commitment to both environmental stewardship and recreation access. <https://engage.eugene-or.gov/goldengardens>

4. The latest Golden Gardens plan will bring sports, nature, and community activities to the Bethel neighborhood, creating spaces for practice, play, and connection. Let's support a vibrant future for all! <https://engage.eugene-or.gov/goldengardens>
5. Research shows that access to recreation facilities directly impacts community health and youth engagement. Golden Gardens Park's integrated design - combining sports fields, natural areas, and community spaces - provides a data-driven solution to meet Eugene's growing needs while supporting local families. <https://engage.eugene-or.gov/goldengardens>