

## Goal 8

### RECREATION

The area around Cave Junction abounds in recreation opportunities ranging from the Oregon Caves National Monument to hunting and fishing opportunities and the general scenic and rural character of the area. Cave Junction provides services to visitors who come to take advantage of these opportunities. Also, as the largest settlement in the Illinois Valley, Cave Junction is a logical place for the location of community or district facilities such as a swimming pool, which the smaller communities could not individually afford. Although a small rural community may not have the same demands for developed parks as larger urban communities, provision must be made to meet existing and future needs.

### EXISTING PARKS AND RESOURCES

The following lists existing parks and other resources with the City or in the immediate area.

Neighborhood Parks. Jubilee Park is located on the east side of Junction Avenue in a central location. This park, which is over 6 acres in area, is adequate in size to meet the needs of a city of less than 1,000 people. The three schools, Evergreen Elementary, Lorna Byrne Middle and Illinois Valley High facilities which can be coordinated with city efforts to provide for existing and future recreation needs.

Community Parks. The City has recently acquired the Illinois Valley Park. This park is approximately 40 acres in size, located just outside the current city limits. The park is largely undeveloped at this point and has received very few visitors in comparison to other county parks.

District and Regional Parks. The Illinois River Valley State Park is located at the junction of the East and West Forks of the Illinois River. This Park is over 150 acres in size and is contiguous to the current city limits at one point of the southwest boundary. The park provides public access to the river for fishing and boating and other outdoor recreation activities.

National Parks. The Oregon Caves National Monument is a resource of national importance. According to the National Park Service, attendance records indicate the following annual number of visitors:

1970 - 107,455	1973 - 107,896
1971 - 114,226	1974 - 93,079
1972 - 122,817	1975 - 100,777

Virgually all of these visitors must pass through Cave Junction, as the Oregon Caves Highway (State Route 46) originates in the City. Route 46 has been designated a scenic highway.

Privately-Owned Campgrounds. The National Association of Conservation Districts listed the following private campgrounds in their "Private Outdoor Recreation Inventory", 1974, which were located in the Cave Junction area:

	<u>Facilities</u>
1. Cave Highway Trailer Park 977 Cave Highway	26 trailer sites
2. Woodland Echo 7901 Caves Highway	35 vehicle sites
3. Shady Acres 27566 Redwood Hwy.	4 tent, 16 trailer sites
4. Trails End 336 Burch Drive	15 tent, 20 trailer sites
5. Town and Country Redwood Hwy.	25 trailer sites

Other Recreation Facilities. The following is a listing of commercial businesses, clubs and civic groups and public facilities which meet local recreation needs and visitor's needs.

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Illinois Valley Golf Club  
Fun and Games Family Arcade  
Ivy Theatre (Movies)

CLUBS, CULTURAL AND CIVIC GROUPS

Illinois Valley Fine Artists, Inc.  
Epsilon PI  
Friends of the Illinois Valley Library  
Illinois Valley Garden Club  
Illinois Valley Grange  
Illinois Valley Lion's Club  
Kiwanis Club of Illinois Valley  
Oregon Caves Information Center  
Federated Womens Club

PUBLIC RECREATION AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

Illinois Valley Branch, County Library  
County Swimming Pool

## EXISTING/FUTURE PARK NEEDS

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS:

Standards. Neighborhood parks standards are not exact. One standard which has been suggested is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres per 1000 people. The statewide outdoor recreation plan uses travel time as a suggested standard: 15 minutes by foot, 10 minutes by bicycle, and 5 minutes by auto. Depending on the rates of speed assigned to these modes of transportation, a reasonable service radius would be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to a mile. Neighborhood parks are usually less than 15 acres in size.

Existing Needs. With a population of under 1,000, Cave Junction's need for park acreage is less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres. Jubilee Park provides more than adequate acreage. On the basis of travel time and distance, all of the current city limits except a small area west of Ollis Road is within a one-mile radius.

Future Needs. At projected populations 5,500 and 9,000 neighborhood park needs would be 14 acres and 22.5 acres, respectively. On the basis of travel time and distance basis, only the central portion of the planning area would be covered by Jubilee Park. However, the remaining area could be covered through the multi-use of existing facilities. Development of playlot and playfield facilities at Illinois Valley Park would provide accessible neighborhood parkland to potential development in the South and Southeastern portions of the planning area. Recreational programs at Illinois Valley High School and Evergreen Elementary School, which would have to be coordinated with the School District, would provide coverage for the Eastern and Western portions of the planning area; the North portion would also be covered. If the school yards are counted, the high acreage need is also met.

### COMMUNITY PARKS:

Standards. As with neighborhood parks, neither are standards for community parks exact. A standard of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres per 1,000 has been suggested. The statewide outdoor recreation plan suggests a service radius about double that for a neighborhood park, or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 miles. Community parks are generally 15 to 100 acres in size.

Existing and Future Needs. At populations of 1,000, 5,500 and 9,000 approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $14\frac{3}{4}$ , and  $22\frac{1}{2}$  acres, respectively, would be needed. The 40 acres at Illinois Valley Park are more than adequate for any possible projected need. Also, Illinois Valley Park is within 2 miles of all but the furthest Western and Northern portions of the planning area.

#### DISTRICT AND REGIONAL PARKS:

These functions are generally beyond the scope of small-city services, although this need is served adequately by Illinois River State Park, Oregon Caves National Monument, Lake Selmac, and other parks.

#### RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF VISITORS

Given the large number of Federal, State, and County Parks in the immediate area and Cave Junction's location at the intersection of U.S. 199 and State 46, the main function of the city is to provide overnight accommodations, meals, and commercial and other services to visitors. The Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce maintains an office in Cave Junction to provide information to visitors.

In addition to the trailer and camping facilities listed above, a motel and several restaurants provide overnight accommodations and meals. Adequate commercial land needs to be provided to allow for growth of tourist and traveler oriented businesses.

#### FACILITY NEEDS

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Branch conducted a telephone survey of county residents to determine local facility needs. Since this survey was done on a countywide basis, these should be interpreted according to local conditions.

Picnic Tables - Available at Jubilee Park, Illinois River State Park and other locations in the county. Additional picnic areas can be developed at Illinois Valley Park.

Swimming Pools - A swimming pool has just been built by the county across from the high school.

Swim Beach - Selmac Lake has swimming areas. This is in the county, but accessible to city residents.

Walking and Hiking Trails - These are not needed within the city and are available on a district and regional level.

Biking Trails - Bike lanes on city streets or special bike trails would be desirable; however, there is little traffic on city streets (except for Highway 199) and auto/bicycle conflicts are not substantial.

Bridle Trails - Are applicable to the county, not the city.

Tennis Courts - These are provided at Jubilee Park.

All Purpose Courts - Available at the elementary and middle schools and Jubilee Park.

A local survey returned by 150 residents rated library facilities as good with no need for improvement and parks and picnic areas as good with some need for improvement. However public meeting places and recreation facilities were rated poor to average with some to great need for improvement. This survey dates from 1977 and since that time, the swimming pool has been built and the Illinois Valley Park has been acquired by the City. This suggests that what is needed is not more park land, but development of more facilities at the existing sites.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

1. Cave Junction has adequate park land to meet existing neighborhood and community park needs.
2. Existing park acreage is adequate to meet future community park needs with the addition of Illinois Valley Park to the City.
3. Future neighborhood park needs can be met through the coordinated use of school district playground facilities. Given that the high school does not have play equipment for small children, a small play lot may be needed to serve the North-east portion of the City.
4. Regional and district park facilities are adequately provided by County, State, and Federal Agencies.
5. Cave Junction provides a range of services to out-of-state visitors, including over-night trailer, camping, and motel accommodations, food, fuel, restaurants, and a range of other commercial services.

#### POLICIES:

1. The City will cooperate with the School District to provide recreational opportunities after school hours and during school vacation.
2. Through zoning, the City will provide an adequate supply of land for privately-owned recreation-oriented and tourist-oriented businesses.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

The City should determine how improved public meeting places and recreation facilities can be provided, especially for teenagers, adults, and senior citizens. This might involve development of new facilities at existing parks or multi-use of existing City, County and School District facilities.