



Strengthening and uniting our community through parks, recreation and open spaces.

FACILITY VISITATION SUMMARY

The board members and Matilda Dias toured local community centers in March 2008 to gain insight into what would be desirable components for a Canby facility. The following centers were toured: Firstenburg in Vancouver, Southwest Community Center in Portland, Eastside Community Center in Portland, Lincoln City Community Center, Conestoga Community Center in Beaverton, YMCA in Sherwood.

For **overall feel and architecture** the Southwest Community Center had nice proportions, good light, colors, scale, and a simple layout with good circulation that was on one level. We understand that more expensive materials like slate were incorporated, and less expensive materials would not interfere with the qualities that we liked in this facility.

The best **swimming pool** facilities were at the Southwest Community Center. There were two pools: a lap pool and a therapy/play pool with a slide & well. The access to the dressing rooms was good. A birthday party room overlooked the pool, which seems to be a trend. There was a built-in spa. The only thing missing was a spectator area for swim meets and parents watching swimming lessons. It would be nice to have fixed seating.

Most of the **gymnasiums** were pretty standard, with a 4 court layout that is divided with a fabric scrim that creates 2 ½ courts. Some had rock walls and built-in seating, which would be nice. They all seemed to be well-lit, and had storage rooms attached for sporting equipment. We toured during the morning, and kiddy gymnastics was taking place at that time. The gyms seemed to be very flexible.

The additional **rooms** included conference rooms, dance/exercise rooms with mirrors, childcare/preschool rooms, teen zones and senior lounges. The Eastside Community Center had the best multi-purpose room that had a kitchen, room dividers to make the space smaller or larger, and it was open to a central patio to expand the room capacity and brought in natural light.

The Firstenburg Center had the best **exterior landscaping** with low-maintenance natural native plantings, xeriscaping and bioswales. There were no fields attached to the center.

The best centers had a welcoming sitting/waiting area in the **entry**, with a nice service desk where citizens were greeted and could purchase supplies. We saw people reading the paper and

kids waiting for their parents in this area. Some had snack shops and cappuccino bars. This would be a nice service to offer, especially if the food could be healthy.

Most of the **weight/exercise** rooms were too small, and were spilling into other areas. It would be important to have a weight/exercise room with a minimum of 5,000 sq. ft., and it would be nice to have it open onto a courtyard or patio for sunlight and fresh air.

The Firstenburg Center and the YMCA had **indoor running/walking tracks**. They definitely added a sense of full-service to the facilities. This is high on our list, if possible.

The use of environmentally sound building **materials** was impressive, and L.E.E.D. qualifying construction would make perfect sense for a structure in Canby. Some examples of good use of materials: cement stamped and stained that prevented an institutional feel, lots of natural light and windows, bamboo floors, the block walls at Firstenburg Center looked, cement instead of tile and slate, dropped ceilings with wooden slats, suspended directional signs.

As far as **exterior facilities**, the Conestoga Center seemed to share fields with a high school. This shared use of fields and parking made a lot of sense and is worth exploring with the school district. Canby Kids will need to make field recommendations. Most of the centers did not have playing fields attached. The southwest Community Center had a ball field and a dog park. This would be a nice addition, but there should be a small dog/timid dog area incorporated into the design.