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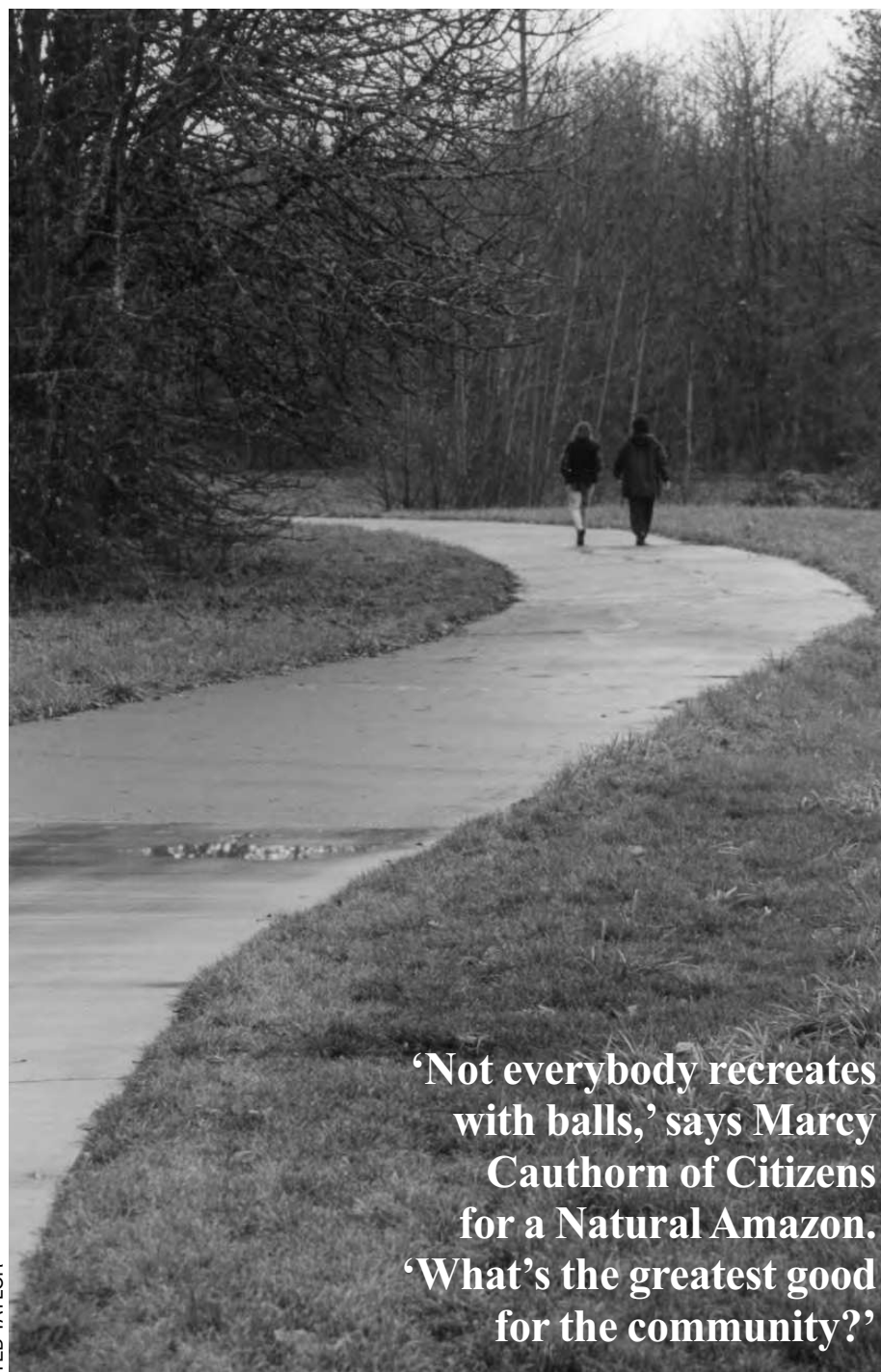


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**'Not everybody recreates
with balls,' says Marcy
Cauthorn of Citizens
for a Natural Amazon.
'What's the greatest good
for the community?'**

you get for the money you spend and how many people does it serve," O'Brien says. "It's simply not transparent."

O'Brien says she suspects "the reality is organized sports suck up a whole lot of money to serve very few people."

ANOTHER BOND MEASURE?

With so much fighting over limited parkland and park money, another bond measure could help solve conflicts.

Councilor Betty Taylor says the majority of the council appears to not want parks on the ballot next year to compete with a new \$35-million police station that they want to pass.

Another funding option would be higher parks system development charges. The city could spend SDCs on buying natural parks and building natural amenities and trails in existing parks, says Fred McVey, the city's SDC analyst.

Eugene generates about \$1 million a year in parks SDCs, McVey says. Higher

'Is balance 50-50?'

— *Andrea Riner, Eugene parks planning manager*

Such a bond measure could be used to buy up surplus 4J school property to take the pressure off the current park system, natural space advocates say. A second parks measure was envisioned for next year by the 1998 parks committee. With 94 percent of those surveyed rating parks as very important or important to Eugene's quality of life and the last parks measure passing three to one, such a measure might have wide support.

But it doesn't look like it will happen. A new city parks planning committee is chaired by City Councilor Nancy Nathanson, who opposed a new parks bond measure at an October committee meeting, according to minutes.

rates for developers could bring in much more money. Eugene's parks SDC is the second lowest among 16 other comparable cities in the state. Salem charges almost three times more per new home and Portland charges almost twice as much. But any increase in parks SDCs will likely face stiff opposition from the homebuilders lobby.

Even if another parks measure made it on the ballot, Pringle says he and many other natural parks advocates would want clear spending controls to make sure this time that it wasn't another "Trojan horse" for ball fields. "I don't think you can give this department a blank check," he says. "My level of trust has evaporated." **EW**

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