

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 17, 2013**

Present
Councilor York, Chair
Councilor Beilstein

Absent
Councilor Sorte (excused)

Staff
Jim Patterson, City Manager
Ken Gibb, Community Development Director
Kent Weiss, Housing Division Manager
Bob Loewen, Housing Program Specialist
Karen Emery, Parks and Recreation Director
Steve DeGhetto, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner
Carrie Mullens, City Manager's Office

Visitors
Betty Griffiths – Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board (PNARB) Chair
Karon Badalamenti – GreenPlay LLC
Liz Frenkel
Shelly Murphy

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

	Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I.	Rental Housing Program Annual Report			Accept the Rental Housing Program report for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.
II.	Parks and Recreation Master Plan			Forward the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Planning Commission, amended to include Chair York's suggested language related to park planning and conservation of historic structures, as noted in her correspondence of September 15, 2013.
III.	Other Business	Yes		

Chair York called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. She noted that e-mail correspondence related to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was distributed to Committee members (Attachment 1).

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Rental Housing Program Annual Report

Mr. Weiss said the staff report provides a brief description of the current rental housing program process along with information related to development of a property maintenance code (PMC). A PMC would combine several code-related programs into a single, comprehensive code. The OSU/City Collaboration Project Steering Committee agreed with the recommendation from the Neighborhood Livability Work Group to explore development of a PMC. An advisory group is drafting a proposed PMC and anticipates forwarding information to Council in the near future.

Mr. Loewen highlighted the annual report:

- Program fees increased from \$11 to \$12 per unit.
- Tenant contact decreased for the second consecutive year.
- Landlord contact stayed consistent and was related to evictions, abandoned property, crime or suspected crime, and updated landlord/tenant laws.
- Weatherproofing and plumbing continued as the top two issues.

Mr. Loewen explained that the decrease in tenant calls is likely related to low vacancy rates. Tenants may be hesitant to complain if other housing opportunities are not available. Vacancy rates are higher this year and tenant calls have increased compared to this time last year. Providing education and outreach to incoming OSU freshman living off-campus may have also decreased the number of tenant calls received.

In response to Councilor Beilstein's inquiry, Mr. Loewen explained that he calculates the vacancy rate based on the number of vacant units identified by property managers projected onto the broader rental market. He also frequently reviews rental advertisements on *Craig's List*. He noted that the vacancy rate was approximately 1.8 percent last week. Mr. Loewen added that he recently participated in the OSU Graduate Student Fair. Typically, students question him about available rentals and/or complain about specific rental units. He noted that no one inquired about available rentals or made housing complaints.

Mr. Loewen confirmed for Councilor Beilstein that last year, one-quarter of his contacts were from neighbors and/or relatives of renters. Non-code contact listed in the staff report is related to the Rental Housing Code only. He refers non-rental code contacts to other resources (code enforcement, legal services, Fair Housing Council, etc.).

Mr. Weiss said the PMC advisory group consists of property managers, smaller landlords, tenants, OSU representatives, and members of the Collaboration Neighborhood Livability Work Group. They are reviewing the International Code Council International Property Maintenance Code that has been adopted by many communities. Discussions will include how to implement a PMC, design issues, and budgetary needs. Meetings are scheduled for public education and outreach. One issue the advisory group would like to address is the low vacancy/low complaint factor. The group hopes to finalize their recommendations by late November.

Mr. Weiss responded to Councilor Beilstein's inquiries:

- The Neighborhood Livability Work Group and Steering Committee recommended moving forward with a complaint-based PMC program versus an inspection-based program.
- The advisory group recommendation will include budgetary items needed to implement the program, such as additional staff to field more calls, and reorganizing code enforcement functions.
- The \$12/unit fee is appropriate for the current Rental Housing Program. A more comprehensive program could require fees in the mid-\$30 range.

Chair York commended the advisory group for listening and responding to concerns expressed by the community.

The Committee unanimously recommends Council accept the Rental Housing Program report for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

II. Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Ms. Griffiths said the current Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) primarily inventoried the City's assets and made recommendations for improvements and acquisitions. The updated PRMP includes a review of the City's history, vision, demographics, local and national population trends, and incorporates a community survey. The background information is important in relation to providing framework for analysis of current facilities and proposed recommendations. Key focus areas include the executive summary and recommendations related to specific areas, departmental funding, and more frequent reviews of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects list. PNARB reviewed the trails chapter prior to reviewing the entire plan in August. After receiving public testimony, PNARB recommended amendments. Most testimony was related to trails and was consistent with the community survey results. PNARB agreed with the overall focus of placing emphasis on protection of natural features over trail development and management. PNARB supported the PRMP process including consideration of public testimony and refinements as the plan moves forward.

Ms. Badalamenti provided highlights of the PRMP via a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment 2).

Chair York announced that she spoke with Ms. Emery regarding the PRMP and has recently been walking many of the City's parks and trails. She inquired how Council typically reviews these types of documents that include a lot of information and many proposed changes to related processes, such as System Development Charges (SDCs) and CIP requests.

Councilor Beilstein said the PRMP will eventually require a Comprehensive Plan amendment. The review by this Committee is preliminary to Council forwarding the PRMP to the Planning Commission (PC). PC recommendations will return to Council for final approval. The PRMP does not need to be finalized during this initial review.

Mr. Patterson agreed that the PRMP is comprehensive. His first consideration is how, over time, the City will afford to accomplish everything needed and desired. The observation of "doing the right thing in the wrong place" regarding the senior center should be discussed by Council now. This comprehensive study confirms what staff and the public have been thinking and talking about in relation to the location of the senior center. Direction from Council about exploring current opportunities that may exist within the community would be helpful. He is interested in learning what the community thinks about relocating the senior center and potential uses for the current facility.

Ms. Emery agreed that the next step would be to survey current users of the facility and those who do not use the facility due to barriers and restrictions. She added that the City's CIP process is an annual review and includes citizen-proposed projects. Those related to the Department are reviewed and prioritized by PNARB. Every year, PNARB re-prioritizes Department-related projects and programs. The SDCs are reviewed and updated every five and ten years. The consultant's recommendations related to SDCs could be included in the 2014-2015 SDC review. She noted that adopting the PRMP does not mean that all recommendations must be adopted. One recommendation could be to use the consultant's recommendations as a filter during SDC review.

Councilor Beilstein said the City has not reviewed the current PRMP for 12 or 13 years. The updated PRMP recommends a five or six year review. Based on the fact that this update has already taken two years, the next review would need to begin in two years.

Ms. Badalamenti said the previous plan was not comprehensive. In five years, the City may want to consider another public survey, confirm demographics, and update inventories. The next review will not be as extensive.

Councilor Beilstein said OSU provides many recreational facilities and activities for OSU students. The City should encourage OSU student participation; however, since they are well served by OSU, there should be less of a concern about serving this demographic.

Ms. Badalamenti responded that OSU students use the City's parks and trails extensively. Ms. Rochefort agreed and added that people play and recreate where they live.

Ms. Badalamenti said the senior center is located in a high-density youth-populated area. During the PRMP update, amenities that are typically related to this age group did not rank high (such as the skate park). Many comments were received from residents related to community gardens and other culture, heritage, and art programs; none of which are related to the OSU campus.

In response to Councilor Beilstein's inquiry about covered playgrounds, staff confirmed that there are no public covered playgrounds, although some private schools may have covered play areas. Parents have expressed a desire for a year-round play area.

Ms. Emery explained for Councilor Beilstein that Alan B. Berg Park and Orleans Natural Area have their own master plans. The intention is to follow the specific master plans in relation to use. Until Oregon Department of Transportation develops a frontage road, access to Berg Park will remain limited.

Ms. Emery clarified that the PRMP directs staff to develop site specific master plans for each park and natural area. Each specific master plan can be revised and updated as needed or as opportunities arise.

Councilor Beilstein opined that it is unrealistic to consider a sports complex for Berg Park. The area should be re-purposed and the plan updated. He added that this issue can be addressed in the future.

Ms. Emery confirmed that the updated PRMP includes a goal to update current site specific master plans and develop plans for areas lacking a master plan.

In response to Councilor Beilstein's comments and inquiry about plan development and identifying the needs of the broader community, Ms. Emery said the team working on the update, included Parks, Planning, and Recreation staff members along with citizens. She said she is proud that staff changed the methodology of developing a master plan during this update. Staff now has a comprehensive foundation that provides an immense amount of citizen input related to priorities. Staff was not surprised by many of the issues and priorities brought forward by citizens.

Councilor Beilstein referred to Councilor Sorte's previously stated opposition to relocating the senior center. He acknowledged that there is a large group of seniors who walk to and use the center in its current location. The senior center was more valuable when on-street parking was available. He would prefer a parking structure be constructed on the Chintimini Park grounds to respond to parking demands. He is not sure where a better location for the senior center might be. He opined that the proposed NW Kings/NW Walnut location is not favorable to access issues.

Chair York encouraged staff to consider future needs and opportunities when exploring or conducting facilities planning. She said the Chintimini neighborhood is changing and the senior center should probably move to a new location. She looks forward to receiving more information before a final decision is made.

Chair York reviewed her written comments (Attachment 1) and agreed that her suggestion to connect SE and SW Corvallis is not feasible due to the costs, as explained in the attachment by Public Works Director Steckel.

- Priorities – Add "mission and vision" to the first paragraph under *A. Priorities, Key Strategies, Goals, and Objectives* (PRMP page 243). Mission and vision should be considered along with needs assessment, inventory, and the other items noted in this the paragraph.
- Conservation – *B.7. Conservation* (PRMP page 244) speaks to natural features. More detail needs to be included about the value of cultural and historical resources/structures. Saving a structure is not only about expense and efforts; it includes the value of the structure to the community.
 - ▶ Suggested language: *Staff should carefully analyze the value of existing or acquired structures according to criteria to determine their historical, architectural, and/or cultural significance in order to determine whether preservation is desirable.*
- Park Planning – When parks are adjacent to one another, it is important to plan for and indicate how the parks work together for the user.
 - ▶ Suggested language: *Staff will regularly review the plans for adjacent parks in a comprehensive way, looking for opportunities for improved connectivity, signage, sightlines, and parking which will provide better usage of all amenities in the park area.*

Ms. Emery agreed that a new bullet under *F.1. Master Plan Recommendations* (PRMP page 258) could include Chair York's suggested language related to park planning.

Chair York said trails and paths are well used by citizens and OSU students. She commended staff for their efforts in this section of the PRMP and noted that better signage for trails and paths would be useful.

Mr. Patterson requested staff share portions of the PRMP with Corvallis School District 509J. The District is updating their facilities plan and it would be beneficial for them to have information about covered play areas. Ms. Badalamenti noted that public schools were included in the public play area inventories.

Mr. Patterson said, although he understands territorial issues about where a public facility is located, decisions are made for the public at-large. Any plan to move the senior center should include discussions about the fareless transit system, shuttles, collaboration with Benton County, and other transportation issues. He agreed with Chair York's assessment about considering the future when planning for facilities.

In response to Ms. Griffiths' announcement that the School District is considering relocating Lincoln School, Mr. Patterson said relocating the school is directly connected to Council's discussions about housing. It will be important for Council and staff to reference the PRMP information when the housing goal is discussed.

In response to Chair York's inquiry, Councilor Beilstein stated agreement to include her suggested language related to park planning as an additional bullet in *F.1. Master Plan Recommendations*. He questioned whether the conservation language was needed and where it would be added to the PRMP.

Councilors, staff, and visitors reviewed where to include Chair York's suggested conservation language. Staff will determine the most appropriate location.

Chair York said her reason to include the conservation language is to be explicit about the value of historical structures. Appreciating cultural resources due to artistic value and/or significant events is important. She clarified that she is not suggesting that any building over a certain number of years is sacred; only that the PRMP state the City will consider the value of historic structures.

Chair York referred to the list of cultural resources identified in parentheses in paragraph four of *B.7. Conservation Trends* (PRMP page 245) and said that level of specificity is not included for the built environment. Ms. Emery agreed that the National Recreation and Park Association adopted principals are land-based.

The Committee unanimously recommends Council forward the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Planning Commission, amended to include Chair York's suggested language related to park planning and conservation of historic structures, as noted in her correspondence of September 15, 2013 (Attachment 1).

Following the meeting, staff submitted August 15, 2013 PNARB minutes and written testimony (Attachment 3).

III. Other Business

The next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Tuesday, October 8 in the Madison Avenue Meeting Room.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny York, Chair

Mullens, Carrie

From: Steckel, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 9:04 AM
To: 'Penny York'; Bruce Sorte; Mike Beilstein; Patterson, Jim; Emery, Karen; Richard Hervey; Gibb, Ken; Mullens, Carrie; Louie, Kathy
Subject: RE: Parks and Rec Master Plan

Councilor York,

It is important to note that a connection such as you describe between SE and SW Corvallis would be a tens of millions of dollars project. Public Works Department staff did a rather quick 'back of the envelope' estimate for a street and came up with a project cost of \$36 million. Our conservative estimate for a multi-modal path is \$20 million.

The cost is so high because there are a number of complications in trying to build structures through a wetlands and over a river, especially a river that routinely floods spreading out over a wide area (meaning the bridge structure can't just be big enough to span the current river banks, it needs to exceed the likely flooded area). There will be many regulatory issues to content with, assuming the regulatory agencies even approve such a project. As we know from recent development projects and the City's own boardwalk through this same locale, the riparian area along a river is a sensitive place for both regulatory agencies and environmental groups.

To put it in perspective, even if the regulatory issues could be overcome, a project of this size (assuming a street is constructed) would basically consume all the available CIP transportation budget for 15 years, meaning no other street, sidewalk, bike path, etc. project could be undertaken in that timeframe. I'm sure there is an even bigger impact for Parks and Recreation projects, especially given their even more restrictive funding sources.

A loop from SE to SW Corvallis is planned with future development along the Kiger Island route. This is truly about the only way that a project this size can be constructed.

Please let me know if you have any questions, Mary

-----Original Message-----

From: Penny York [_____](#)
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2013 2:50 PM
To: Bruce Sorte; Mike Beilstein; Patterson, Jim; Emery, Karen; Richard Hervey; Steckel, Mary; Gibb, Ken; Mullens, Carrie; Louie, Kathy
Subject: Parks and Rec Master Plan

I spent a lot of time reviewing the draft MP! Attached are my comments, questions, and recommendations in advance of Tuesday's Human Services Committee meeting. I'll be particularly interested in discussing the highlighted issues (connecting SW and SE Corvallis by trail, conservation and historic preservation, and comprehensive park planning).

Copied on this email are:

Richard, because I've made comments on the connection between SE and SW Corvallis.

Ken, because of the CIP list.

Mary, because of my concerns that sidewalks, trails, and paths be seen as shared concerns between the departments - because users don't differentiate.

See some of you Tuesday,
Penny

--

Penny York, M.S., Ed.D.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Draft, Penny York comments

Issue	Reference	Question	Comment	Recommendation
CIP and Priorities				
Trailheads		What is the reason that some trailheads are Tier 3 in the CIP?		
Connecting SW to SE				1. Add a project to build a connecting bike and pedestrian trail between SE and SW Corvallis, possibly between Wake Robin and Mary's River Natural Area or at the Herbert Farm Natural Area, to tier 3 of the CIP for trails.
CIP list		I'm assuming that we're not expected to evaluate the CIP recommendations in detail.	In general, I support the ideas. Cost is huge, especially for some of the regional trails. Reluctantly, I lean toward supporting the recommendation to relocate the Senior Center and expand its purpose.	
Priorities, etc.	A1		Priorities should also relate to the mission and vision on page 4. It's hard find (needs assessment, inventory, LOS, etc) in the document.	Consider adding "mission and vision" to the item.
Affordable Services	B.1		I'm concerned about testimony we have received that some health and safety related programs are only available to those with golden age passes.	
Annexation	B. 3	Does P&R manage areas outside the UGB?		
Community Engagement	B.5	How can community members best comment on parks and recreation issues? Are web and email opportunities clearly available?		
Conservation	B.7		Comments above under historic preservation.	2. Add recommendation: "Staff should carefully analyze the value of existing or acquired structures according to criteria to determine their historical, architectural, and/or cultural significance in order to determine whether preservation is desirable."

Park Planning	Add to E or F			3. Add recommendation: "Staff will regularly review the plans for adjacent parks in a comprehensive way, looking for opportunities for improved connectivity, signage, sightlines, and parking which will provide better usage of all amenities in the park area."
Issue	Reference	Question	Comment	Recommendation
Trails and paths			Excellent, needed emphasis on trails, connectivity, and walkability!	
Dual nature: recreation and transportation	Pg 79, pg 227		Trails, paths, and sidewalks all contribution opportunities for recreation and transportation. The MP states that the primary purpose of recreation trails is recreation. The emphasis should be on the dual nature of these pathways, to ensure all uses, all users and all appropriate staff are considered in or involved in design.	Parks and Recreation and Public Works need to consider pedestrian and bicycle pathways as shared interests, rather than being the responsibility of one or the other.
Signage	Pg 83, P.e	Will trail markers be placed at all trail intersections (ex: Bald Hill smaller trails)?		
Therapeutic recreation	Pg 47		Access to trails, paths and sidewalks is important for therapeutic recreation (MP just references recreation programs and inclusion services).	
Trail development	Pg 79, L.f	How can we integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the land development review process?		Planning Commission should review and recommend.
Connecting SW and SE Corvallis	Pg 85, 149		SE Corvallis is isolated due to its location east of the Mary's River, and its isolation is increased due to the design of the overpass and related intersections.	#1 above: Add a project to build a connector trail route between SE and SW Corvallis, possibly between Wake Robin and Mary's River Natural Area or at the Herbert Farm Natural Area, to tier 3 of the CIP for trails.

	Pg 187		<p>There is a desire for residents to be able to travel in an approximate circle around Corvallis. We need to plan for the path/trail segment between SE and SW.</p> <p>“The farthest south part of Corvallis has a combination of areas that lack walkability either because of barriers formed by streets, rail lines, or waterways”. The MP recommendation is to add or enhance locations, but the barrier issues need to be addressed directly as well.</p>	<p>Ensure that Public Works and Parks and Recreation staff are working together to make this connection possible.</p>
Issue	Reference	Question	Comment	Recommendation
Historic preservation	Pg. 4		<p>Corvallis residents value preserving historical and cultural resources (built as well as natural). The City should be a leader in protecting these resources. Without clear intent, “repurposing” or an intent to avoid costs could result in the loss of parts of the fabric of our community heritage.</p> <p>The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department includes a reference to the importance of our “community heritage”.</p>	<p>#2 above: Staff should carefully analyze the value of existing or acquired structures according to criteria to determine their historical, architectural, and/or cultural significance in order to determine whether preservation is desirable.</p>
Comprehensive planning for adjacent parks	Pg 138, other	Is restoration an eligible SDC expenditure?	<p>Some parks (Starker Arts & Sunset; Crystal Lake/Kendall Farm/Willamette, etc.) are adjacent to one another. Though they may have had different reasons for being developed, planning for the future should be done with an</p>	<p>#3 above: Add recommendation: “Staff will regularly review the plans for adjacent parks in a comprehensive way, looking for opportunities for improved connectivity, signage, sightlines, and parking which will provide better usage</p>

understanding that park patrons will have a better experience if they are aware of and have access to all amenities.

of all amenities in the park area.”

Issue	Reference	Question	Comment	Recommendation
Safety				
Smoking	Pg 231			Consider if parks should be smoke and tobacco free.
Safe access to parks	Pg 188		Some children don't have walkable access to parks because they don't have access to safe sidewalks or paths (ex: streets north of Philomath Blvd. near Safeway Center).	Consider options for developing and funding "Safe Routes to Parks" with Public Works.
Misc.				
GRASP		Do we know and share the values and priorities?		
Permit only parks		Why do we have permit-only parks?		
Partner facilities	Appendix A:	Are there plans to make these accessible?	(Summary of Existing College Facilities)	LBCC Benton Center doesn't have a gym.
Cost recovery	B.1.	Are there any current fee or golden pass programs that provide a compelling community benefit and should be shifted to free?		

September 17, 2013
City of Corvallis
Human Services Committee

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Recommendations



The Agenda

- The process
- Key results
- LOS analysis
- Recommendations
- CIP
- Phasing & funding
- Questions?



The Process

- Rooted in values, vision & mission
- Needs assessment
- Demographics & trends
- Community-wide survey
- Public outreach & citizen participation
- Inventory & capacity
- Public & private providers
- Partnerships & collaborations
- SDC & funding analysis



VVM...

Values – What is important

Vision – Our future position; the condition(s) we hope to have influenced in the future

Mission – Who we serve; the services we are in the business of providing; what we do to work towards and achieve our vision; why we do what we do



Your Mission . . .

“Corvallis Parks and Recreation preserves and creates a community heritage by providing places and programs designed to enhance the quality of life.”

Your Vision . . .

“Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department will play a pivotal role in maintaining a high standard of livability in our community. We will enhance the quality of life for residents with our green network of attractive, well managed parks, trails, and natural areas and create a premier destination for visitors.”

Your Vision . . .

“Programs and services offered by the Department will be excellent in terms of value and quality. We will invite the citizens of Corvallis to make healthy, sustainable choices by offering a variety of recreational and wellness activities, facilities, volunteer opportunities, and educational programs.”

Your Vision . . .

“Corvallis citizens and visitors will experience outstanding customer service and will partner with Parks and Recreation professionals. The community will experience a sense of ownership of their parks. People of all ages, abilities and incomes will enjoy attractive and accessible facilities and an exceptionally diverse selection of innovative and fun recreational opportunities.”

Survey Strategies

- Mail back
 - Needed 400 minimum return
 - Received 679
 - 4,500 households
 - Colored envelopes & incentives
 - On-line invitation only option
 - 15.6% return
 - Margin of error only 3.8% !
 - Weighted by age and ethnicity
- Open link on-line – self selected
 - 65 additional responses

Top 5 Issues:

Survey Results

1. Maintaining what we have
2. Healthy active Lifestyles
3. Connectivity / alternative transportation (trails, etc.)
4. Implementing planned parks and trails projects
5. Positive activities for youth

Survey Results

Facilities to add, improve or expand:

1. Pedestrian / bike paths and trails (76% indicated a 4 or 5 on a point scale where 5 = “very important”)
2. Open space / conservation lands (64%)
3. Community gardens (53%)
4. Playgrounds – covered (44%)
5. Indoor swimming pool (38%)
6. Picnic areas / shelters (36%)
7. Mountain bike trails (35%)
8. Multi-generational community center (33%)

Rated least important – Cricket fields

Survey Results

Programs with a higher degree of importance with opportunities improve or add:

1. Local food growing, preparation & preservation
2. Summer programs for youth
3. Fitness & wellness programs
4. Volunteer program
5. Athletic leagues for youth
6. Cultural / arts programs
7. Family programs
8. Arts and crafts
9. Sustainability / environmental projects & programs

Public Meetings

- 7 public meetings and stakeholder focus groups January 31 - February 2, 2012
- 4 meetings were held May 3-4, 2012 (including a Spanish-speaking outreach meeting)
- In addition, staff conducted more outreach to the Spanish-speaking community at a Cinco de Mayo event

Public Meeting Results

- The Department is doing a lot right and citizen satisfaction is high
- Users express the desire to maintain the level of service currently enjoyed
- Connect the community through a comprehensive bike and pedestrian system
- Alternative & public transportation coordination
- OSU's growth will have a significant impact on the Corvallis parks and recreation system

Public Meeting Results

- Disadvantaged and growing populations need neighborhood services within walkable distances
- There is a high value placed on walkable services in the Corvallis community
- There may be neighborhoods in Corvallis that are underserved
- River access is important

Public Meeting Results

- School gym space is at or past capacity and the public needs an available drop-in gym to use
- Gym space, playgrounds, neighborhood parks, restrooms, open and synthetic turf are all areas for future expansion, and some have need for cardiovascular fitness equipment and class spaces

Level of Service (LOS) Analysis Methodology

- Uses individual components to determine cumulative values
- Relates cumulative values to geographic location
- Supplements traditional LOS standards to create a more useful and dynamic set of tools




Corvallis Inventory

- ❑ Indoor Facilities & Outdoor Assets
 - ❑ Mini Parks
 - ❑ Neighborhood
 - ❑ Community
 - ❑ Large Urban
 - ❑ Special Use
 - ❑ Linear
 - ❑ Natural Areas
 - ❑ Greenway
 - ❑ Gateway
- ❑ Trails



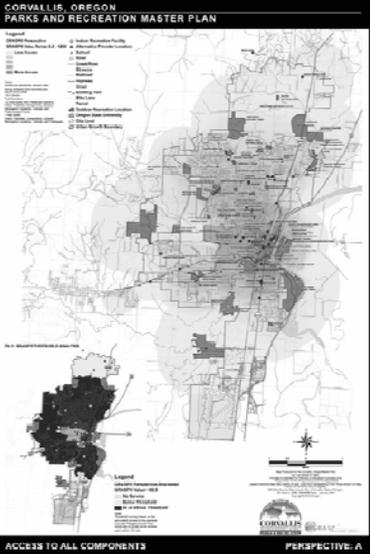
Level of Service Analysis

- ❑ Due to consistently high level of service in Corvallis, a GRASP Score equal to the average neighborhood park score of 82.9 was used as service threshold for analysis
- ❑ Threshold analysis based on the equivalent access to the average Corvallis "neighborhood" park score and to a trail via an access point within 1/2 mile



LOS Analysis: Community Access to All Components

- ❑ Examines access to facilities using a one-mile radius; easily reachable by driving or bicycling
- ❑ Adds a 1/2-mile catchment area premium, within which access to the component can be achieved by walking 15 minutes or less



Level of Service Analysis: Community Access to All Components

- ❑ 93% has some service
- ❑ Level of service meets or exceeds service threshold in 71% of the study area (UGB)
- ❑ Airports, nature preserves, industrial areas, and undeveloped areas typically fall below the threshold

FIG-1: GRASP® THRESHOLD ANALYSIS

Legend
GRASP® Perspective-Bracketed
GRASP® Value >= 82.5
No Service
Below Threshold
At or Above Threshold

Note:
Threshold scoring based on the calculated access to the average Corvallis "Neighborhood" Park score and to all other air service areas within 1/2 mile.

LOS Analysis: Walkable Access

- ❑ Examines access to facilities using a 1/2-mile radius for walkable proximity
- ❑ Accounts for impact of arterial roadways as barriers
- ❑ Demonstrates gaps in walkable access in the study area

CORVALLIS, OREGON
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

WALKABLE ACCESS TO ALL COMPONENTS PERSPECTIVE: B

Level of Service Analysis: Walkable Access

- ❑ Level of service meets or exceeds service threshold in 35% of the study area
- ❑ Service gaps – 55% under threshold, 22% no service
- ❑ Opportunity exists to fill this service gap by purchasing or developing property, improving connectivity, or collaborating with others

FIG-1: GRASP® THRESHOLD ANALYSIS

Legend
GRASP® Perspective-Bracketed
GRASP® Value >= 82.5
No Service
Below Threshold
At or Above Threshold

Note:
Threshold scoring based on the calculated access to the average Corvallis "Neighborhood" Park score and to all other air service areas within 1/2 mile.

LOS Analysis: Playground Access

- ❑ Analysis of walkable playground access
- ❑ New threshold score
- ❑ 61% appear to have no service
- ❑ Further demographic analysis of under served areas

CORVALLIS, OREGON
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

WALKABLE ACCESS TO PLAYGROUNDS PERSPECTIVE: C

Level of Service Analysis: Playground Access

- 48% of all children in the study area live within walking distance of a playground that meets or exceeds the playground threshold score
- Analyze sub-area with demographics to identify un-met needs

LOS Analysis: Walkable Access to Variety

- Walkable access to a mix of three categories of components
- Developed Park Components, Natural Areas, and Trail Access
 - Dark blue = 1 of each
 - Pink/purple = any 2 of 3
 - Green = 1 or more from 1 category

Level of Service Analysis: OSU Study Area

- Transitioning area
- Dense urban student residential population
- Parking issues
- Most 50+ residents live > 1-mile away

Park Acres Per 1000 People

Category	Park Acres Per 1000 People
OSU Study Area*	~1,000
OSU Campus	~1,500
UGB but not in OSU Study Area	~17,000
UGB	~12,000

- Perspective E OSU study area / Chintimini service area
- Deficient green space / park acreage in study area

Avg. LOS Per Acre Per Pop. Den.

Category	Avg. LOS Per Acre Per Pop. Den.
OSU Study Area*	~10
OSU Campus	~45
UGB but not in OSU Study Area	~35
UGB	~40

- Considering level of service and population density there is also a significant difference
- Relocate Chintimini's services

SDCs

- ❑ **Reconsider the exclusion of swimming pools and special use areas**
 - ❑ These are considered part of the overall parks and recreation system and are impacted by growth
- ❑ **Indoor recreation centers should be considered for SDC 's to meet increased community needs based on population growth**
 - ❑ A Level of Service Standard for indoor recreation facilities should be reviewed and clarified and incorporated into an updated SDC methodology, as appropriate

Administrative Strategies

- ❑ Affordable services
- ❑ ADA facility & program audits and transition plans
- ❑ Annexation
- ❑ Beautification areas & mini parks
- ❑ Community engagement & communication
- ❑ Concession & vending
- ❑ Conservation
- ❑ CPTED
- ❑ Land dedication
- ❑ Marketing
- ❑ Master Plan update
- ❑ Operations & maintenance
- ❑ SDCs
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Zoning

Programmatic Elements

- ❑ Arts & culture
- ❑ Benton County collaborations
- ❑ Outdoor recreation & education





Trail Elements

Total miles of new trails by trail type

- ❑ **Regional – Tier 1 - 6.6 miles, Tier 2 - 5.8 miles, Tier 3 - 5.8 miles**
- ❑ **Connector – Tier 1- 3.7 miles, Tier 2 - 9.7 miles, Tier 3 - 17.5 miles**
- ❑ **Park Trail – Tier 1 - 0.4 miles, Tier 2 - n/a, Tier 3 - n/a**

Trail Classification	Priority Ranking			Sum by Type
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	
Regional	\$ 11,480,900	\$ 13,106,500	\$ 10,791,500	\$ 35,378,900
Connector	\$ 5,000,700	\$ 19,387,500	\$ 25,626,300	\$ 50,014,500
Park Trail	\$ 906,200	\$ 35,000	\$ 235,000	\$ 1,176,200
Sum by Tier	\$ 17,387,800	\$ 32,529,000	\$ 36,652,800	\$ 86,569,600




Opportunities Perspective

- ❑ Graphically show approximate locations and distribution across the study area
- ❑ Not intended to be inclusive of all recommendations, opportunities or findings analysis
- ❑ Highest priorities appear to be at Osborn Aquatics Center, Tunison Community Room & Walnut Community Room

CORVALLIS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Opportunity Perspective

Opportunity exists to enhance the Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department based on the following criteria:

- Impaired areas with no walkable playground
- Impaired areas with low scoring playground amenities
- Areas with no existing service
- Areas with low existing level of service

Improvements, Upgrades or Additions

- 1 Cultural & Historic Preservation
- 2 Future Near-Programmed Road
- 3 Future Programmed Upgrade
- 4 Access to Existing Services
- 5 Future Recreation
- 6 Future Recreation

Locations to be Determined

- 7 Major Event Space / Field House
- 8 Adventure Park
- 9 Public Golf Course
- 10 Pathways to Parkways
- 11 Learning Landscapes
- 12 Arts Site

Opportunities Perspective

Preservation, restoration and refurbishment of cultural and historic sites. Priorities include:

- ❑ Bald Hill Natural Area
- ❑ Dr. Martin Luther King Park
- ❑ Owen’s Natural Area Farm House & Barn
- ❑ Washington Park – Gaylor House
- ❑ Corl House & Barn at Woodland Meadow Park
- ❑ Herbert Farm & Natural Area
- ❑ Orleans Natural Area

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- 12 Arts Site

Opportunities Perspective

Walkable access to playgrounds

- ❑ The orange children symbol represents areas in the City that currently have playgrounds in need of upgrades
- ❑ The red children symbol represents areas in the City that currently have a population of children without current walkable access to a playground

CORVALLIS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Opportunity Perspective

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- 10 Pathways to Parkways
- 11 Learning Landscapes
- 12 Arts Site

Indoor and Outdoor Assets CIP

Phased investment projects into three categories:

- ❑ Critical improvements and revenue enhancements to be accomplished immediately or over the next 1-2 years - \$23.5M
- ❑ 3-5 years - \$61.2M
- ❑ 5 years and beyond - \$55.2M

**Questions &
Comments**



Thank you!

Karon Badalamenti, CPRE
Principal & Project Manager
KaronB@GreenPlayllc.com



DRAFT

CITY OF CORVALLIS MINUTES OF THE PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AND RECREATION BOARD AUGUST 15, 2013

Attendance

Betty Griffiths, Chair
Lynda Wolfenbarger, Vice-Chair
Tatiana Dierwechter
Joshua Baur
Jon Soule
Phil Hays
Marc Vomocil
Ed MacMullan
Joel Hirsch, City Council Liaison
Kevin Bogatin, 509-J District Liaison

Staff

Karen Emery, Director
Steve DeGhetto, Assistant Director
James Mellein, Aquatic Center Supervisor
Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner
Jude Geist, Operations Supervisor
Mark Lindgren, Recorder

Visitors

Karon Badalamenti
Tony Howell
Patricia Benner

Absent/Excused

Deb Rose

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
II. Introductions	X		
III. Approval of Minutes- July 18, 2013	X		
IV. Visitors' Propositions	X		
V. Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan			Motion passed that the board supported the master plan process, including approval of the staff taking into consideration testimony and refinements reflecting board and public comments tonight, as the Plan goes forward to the HSC on September 17, 2013.
VI. Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board Goals	X		
VII. Staff Reports	X		
VIII. Council Liaison Report	X		
IX. Board Member Reports	X		
X. Visitors' Propositions	X		
XI. Adjournment	X		The next Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., September 19, 2013 at the Downtown Fire Station, 400 NW Harrison Blvd.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Betty Griffiths called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- July 18, 2013.

Josh Baur highlighted Patricia Benner's submitted corrections to part of her testimony and asked it be amended as she requested: "She noted the path planned as part of the Creekside Center development was within a highly protected wetland area, and that building a full-sized multiuse path there will open up the canopy and negatively impact the site. She advocated creating better policies and criteria to be included in the Plan that give more specific direction in such cases to protect significant natural features. Under page 18, (h), she highlighted the aspect of controlling public access in the language, but noted that the draft gives no guidance. She offered to assist in crafting language to help address her concerns". Phil Hays moved and Marc Vomocil seconded to approve the July 18, 2013 minutes as so corrected; motion passed.

IV. VISITORS' PROPOSITIONS.

Tony Howell highlighted the written testimony he'd distributed to the board, saying he appreciated some of the changes to the current draft of the Plan. He said a critical aspect of the Trails Plan is how it protects natural features. He said a big part of the intent of the original language of the Parks Plan and other Plans is to allow flexibility to protect natural features; however, as trails were implemented and designed, that hasn't proven to be true as implemented during the land use process. He highlighted an example of how plans were interpreted in a quasijudicial setting, which didn't give enough leeway for flexible response to natural features design. Part of the problem is that there aren't sufficient resources to look at every trail route and determine the value of wetland, and it is not practical to do so during the land use process.

He emphasized the importance of incorporating language about siting trails where they don't damage natural features, and using types of trails that don't damage the natural features. He highlighted his testimony, page 3, on recommended language changes. He said it was critical to add language to the Regional and Connector Trails section, saying that their typical structure, such as their 12' width, was too impactful to most sensitive areas; in wetlands, for example, trails should be soft or be a boardwalk. Regarding Local and Park Trails, all trails should be set back 50' from top of bank of a stream. The current Plan language needs to be more specific, and doesn't specify wetlands as part of "Water-related Features"; he suggested adding "...50' from top of bank within a non-wetland stream corridor" as a clarification, and design in a way that doesn't require tree removal.

He said earthen Park trails of less than 3' in width can be within that 50' setback, and that boardwalks of less than 5' can, in some cases, be routed through significant wetlands, as long as it is not a forested wetland. He cautioned that in a forested wetland, even a 5'-wide boardwalk requires cutting down some trees, and even an earthen trail in a forested wetland should be limited to summer use.

He said that language needs to be added to the Table 5 on page 72 of the draft Plan, and suggested adding a constraints column. He noted that based on his experience in how maps were interpreted during the quasijudicial process, there should be language changes to how routes are described on maps. The map language currently says that "proposed trail routes are intended to illustrate optimal

alignments, which will be contingent on future design studies and negotiations with property owners”; however, it doesn’t mention natural feature constraints, and he contended that the word “optimal” should be replaced by “conceptual” or “preliminary alignment”. He suggested changing “The location of the mapped route through a natural feature does not indicate an intent for the final location to be within the natural feature”. He said that just because the route goes through a green area on the map doesn’t mean it must remain there if there is a conflict with preserving the natural feature.

He highlighted the language in the Plan from the National Parks and Recreation Association’s (NRPA) conservation recommendations, including stewardship, and the importance of Parks and Recreation Departments both being stewards and modeling stewardship and suggested including them in PNARB board goals. He summarized that remaining significant natural features were important enough and rare enough in the community that that they should take precedence over other trail routing considerations. Griffiths said the language Howell cited regarding conservation trends in Section 35-37 was also in Chapter 7, Recommendations and Actions.

Patricia Benner said she wanted to add to Tony Howell’s testimony, and emphasizing that highly protected natural areas were simply remnants of remnants, saying that we cannot take any more from them, and proposing baseline language that natural features must take top priority over all other Park and Recreation objectives as they are balanced. She highlighted NRPA concept of stewardship, which incorporates the aspect of education. She cautioned that construction of trails and other infrastructure through natural areas such as wetlands can destroy their functioning. She expressed concern about siting a Corridor Trail through a wetland or stream corridor, saying it would impact them. She cited the example of the Creekside Center site, in which a boardwalk was proposed as a Connector path to avoid disrupting the wetland’s hydrology, and advocated adding language about matching compatibility of the site to the path users.

Griffiths highlighted emailed testimony from absent board member Deb Rose, which inquired whether there was more than one dog park; noting that the number of acres of park land (1,727 acres) listed in Section E didn’t add up; and that it would be helpful to add a definition for “Exercising with Equipment”. Griffiths highlighted and distributed emailed testimony from Liz Frankel, summarizing that she was concerned about the validity of the population growth figures; didn’t understand the concepts of “cost recovery” and “cost avoidance”; had questions about the expansion of System Development Charges (SDC’s); and expressed concerns about trails bisecting wetlands, and subordinate easements.

V. DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN.

Karon Badalamenti, consultant with GreenPlay, emphasized that the draft Master Plan’s schedule was very tight, noting that the plan goes to the City Council’s Human Services Committee on September 19. She said an executive summary would be added. She said that while one of the reasons of hiring a consultant was to get outside viewpoints, the board didn’t have to agree with her. The analysis includes a needs assessment; demographics and trends; and a look at funding options, such as SDC’s.

The planning process tried to establish what was important for the Corvallis community in order to drive the vision for the organization and the direction of the Master Plan. She highlighted department values, vision and its mission. It includes how the department preserves and creates community heritage by providing a place and programs designed to enhance quality of life. The vision also includes how the system can contribute to increasing the standard of living and livability for residents, and attractiveness to visitors. It describes the high priority of the green infrastructure, the variety of programs impacting

community health and wellness, and accessibility, including walkable access and having a connected system, with diverse offerings and opportunity throughout the system.

She said the survey of residents required at least 400 responses for a statistically valid result, and 679 were received, resulting in a very small margin of error. The results were weighted by age and ethnicity, since seniors tend to oversample and ethnic groups tend to undersample. The top five responses included maintaining what we have; health and active lifestyles; connectivity and its role in alternative transportation; implementing what has already been planned; and positive activities for youth.

The responses regarding facilities to add, improve or expand included pedestrian and bike trails; open space and conservation lands; community gardens; playgrounds (covered playgrounds may be part of the issue); indoor swimming; picnic areas, shelters; mountain bike trails, multigenerational community center; and lastly, cricket. Top programs cited by respondents included local food growing, preparation and preservation; programs for youth; continuing to expand and use volunteer programs; create athletic opportunities and leagues for youth; cultural arts; culture and arts programs; family programs; arts and crafts; and sustainability and the environment.

The Plan's process included seven public meetings, including some outreach in Spanish; she felt the results were representative of the community. She summarized that the public meeting responses found the department was doing a lot right; overall satisfaction was fairly high; the public wanted to maintain high levels of current service; and to connect the community through a comprehensive bike and pedestrian system (though the department's focus is more on recreational trails). She noted that most OSU students lived off campus and used City recreational services, and that the student population was growing. A high value was placed on services within walkable distance, and she highlighted desire for river access. School gym space is at or past capacity, so that is not a solution for Parks and Recreation, and the public needs an available drop-in gym. She suggested consideration of expanding the number of restrooms in parks.

She said the old "Level Of Service" (LOS) methodology was only about counting things as part of expanding capacity; instead, this study looked at the quality and conditions of amenities and used individual components to determine cumulative values. Improving conditions of *existing* assets could be a better way to improve level of services scores. Evaluation of trails was part of calculating the overall scoring. Due to the consistently high level of service in Corvallis, a Geo-Referenced Amenities Standards Program (GRASP) score equal to the average neighborhood park score of 82.9 was used as a service threshold for analysis. (This was a higher threshold than often found in many communities but reflects Corvallis community standards). The analysis used a one-mile radius, and added a ½-mile catchment area premium, in which access to a component can be achieved by walking 15 minutes or less.

She summarized that 93% of the community had some service, which was a very high number. The resulting map illustrates gaps in walkable access to services, saying those gaps were opportunity areas. She stated that the map would help prioritize where to site development projects, investments in the CIP, collaborations, etc.

In the analysis of playgrounds (one of the major issues for respondents), it was found that 61% of areas appeared to have no service; she cautioned that more analysis was needed to determine priority playground development. She said that a map showing where three major park components were present- Developed Park Components; Natural Areas, and Trail Access- would help highlight development and opportunities.

Badalamenti stated that the “OSU Study Area” was in transition, with a high density of students. She cautioned there were serious parking issues with the Chintimini Senior Center and that most older residents now live over one mile away; it is a beloved building that is now in the wrong place. She suggested consideration of removing the building on the site, which would create more usable open land in an area that has less park acreage than most.

She explained that a “Trailshed” meant that there was access to a trail within a half-mile. There are nineteen unique, unconnected trailsheds, and connecting them would create a more connected system and would provide access to a number of indoor and outdoor facilities and amenities.

She said the capacity analysis highlighted the need for four more community gardens, fifteen more playgrounds, 102 more acres, and a couple more ball fields in the system. She highlighted a “key issue matrix” that shows where issues bubble up.

She said in regards to System Development Charges, the City had a couple opportunities to lessen constrictions and broaden their potential collection in order to help the system. Also, a couple SDC tools are not being used- non-residential or commercial fees are not being used; to do so would require a change through the City Council. She noted that swimming pools were a big part of the system and are impacted by growth, as are special use areas; the City of Corvallis chose to restrict how it collects and uses fees. An indoor recreation center should also be considered; a capacity analysis is needed to make that happen.

She highlighted administrative strategies for consideration, including ADA, crime prevention through environmental design, etc. There are recommendations for emphasis on fitness and wellness, arts and culture, collaborations with the County, and outdoor recreation and education.

The trail elements section was broken down by trail types, and the different trail tiers reflect priorities. There are 6.1 miles of Regional trails in Tier 1; 3.7 miles of Connector Trails; and 0.4 miles of Park Trails.

She said “Opportunity Perspectives” graphically showed approximate locations and distribution across the study area. She highlighted Osborn Aquatic Center, Tunison, and Walnut Community Rooms. The Cultural and Historic Sites Opportunities section looks at priorities. The section also looks at preservation, restoration and refurbishment of playgrounds.

Regarding the CIP, the plan suggested adding phased investment projects into three categories of critical improvements and revenue enhancements immediately or over the next one-two years, totaling \$23.5 million in Priority 1 items; along with more aspirational investments over the next three to five years, and beyond five years.

Marc Vomocil asked how the plan incorporated facilities and programs provided by other besides Corvallis Parks and Rec, such as OSU. Badalamenti replied that there was a section on Alternative Providers, noting that OSU’s facilities were not for the general public, only faculty, staff and students. She said County parks within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) *were* included. Vomocil asked how school and fairgrounds facilities were included; Badalamenti replied that the fairgrounds were not included, though schools were, though they were discounted, since they were not always available, with high school facilities typically less available than elementary school facilities. Vomocil said the public *can* sometimes use high school facilities like the running tracks; Badalamenti replied they were included, though discounted. She added that OSU stated that only card-carrying faculty, staff and students were supposed to use its facilities.

Betty Griffiths said that though the presentation tonight was excellent, the Plan was onerous, containing duplications, errors, and omissions. She stated that it was so different from the current plan, that it was difficult to make a comparison, and so she simply focused on the Chapter 7 recommendations. She noted that there was no recommendation on the ADA component or whether the City was meeting it. Badalamenti replied that the City was required to work on a transition plan on programs and services last year, and was currently engaged in performing audits. Emery added the Facility ADA Plan was completed, and the Program Plan audit must be done. Badalamenti summarized the recommendation was to comply with the ADA.

Griffiths said annexation for parks needed more work, and said she could provide missing language. She highlighted Land Dedication Policy on page 218; Rochefort explained that staff discussed with the City attorney about making the language more enforceable. The department relies on SDC's or offsets, rather than a land dedication. Emery added the City Attorney ruled today that the department was not allowed to tap into one of the recommendations regarding SDC's, so that section will be deleted from the Plan.

Griffiths said it wasn't clear whether it was a five-year plan or a ten-year plan; Badalamenti replied that Master Plans typically are updated every five to six years or so, since conditions change. This plan is a ten-year vision, with longer recommendations beyond the five-year mark. The first \$23.5 million in the CIP alone could take at least ten years to accomplish, but could be phased over time. Griffiths commented that to get SDC reimbursement, something must be within the Plan.

Badalamenti noted the CIP was very aspirational. Emery explained that the SDC methodology could be changed to an annual update, noting that Public Works gives an update to the Council annually, as do the other types of SDC's. Rochefort said the department could designate it a ten-year plan, and update the CIP list, saying that SDC items must be shown in a plan. Emery said that another recommendation could be updating the CIP list.

Griffiths highlighted the proposal on page 220 to create a true Parks Zone in the Land Development Code. Griffiths asked whether the long list of Funding Opportunities were ideas or recommendations; Badalamenti replied that they were ideas- some in the Trails section are specific to trails. Griffiths said a short-term recommendation on a senior center was needed in order to try to protect and preserve more on-street parking specifically for day-to-day use of the center, since the City is now considering designing and implementing new parking districts near the university. Liaison Hirsch added that about five parking districts were being considered. Griffiths will submit specific language.

Griffiths highlighted page 225 regarding Owens Farm, cautioning against using the word "rebuild"; Rochefort will check that.

Bogatin asked about the "pet friendly" section on page 226, asking if there was a standard; Badalamenti replied that there was no standard, and that a better yardstick was looking at how a community feels about its own capacity; the NRBA standard was never adopted and all systems have their own values. She said Corvallis definitely needs more off-leash areas and designated areas within parks. Griffiths questioned that, saying that Corvallis had more dog areas than any other comparable city in Oregon; Badalamenti suggested designating areas within parks in order to promote walkable use within the system to avoid people having to drive to walk their dog; this is a national trend and there is demand. Griffiths highlighted a pattern of conflicts between users in dog off-leash areas; Badalamenti replied that dog off-leash areas are typically fenced to avoid such conflicts. Griffiths said there needed to be clarification, since adding off-leash areas in neighborhoods could increase existing problems with dogs.

Griffiths asked if Patricia Benner's testimony had been considered; Badalamenti replied that she'd seen them. Griffiths summarized that Benner and Tony Howell highlighted protection of natural areas and how to strike a balance; Badalamenti said the trail consultant had a recommendation in Chapter 7. Rochefort added that there was discussion by the technical team to potentially use larger trail connections to get to natural areas, but did not view natural features as constraints, but to treat them differently, with a narrower profile for trails, such as using a boardwalk. After the last board meeting, there was discussion about strengthening protection by siting trails to and through natural features by considering and reflecting a natural feature's degree of protection in the inventory.

Emery asked for feedback on Howell's page 3 recommendations regarding Regional and Connector Trails; Hays replied that Howell and Benner's point is that the priority should be protecting a natural feature, not trails or other management activities. Rochefort said the stakeholder team tried to capture that; she suggested using language "secondary trails *can* be used", not *may* be used; Griffiths said she heard consensus on this change. Rochefort said we are not saying we will stay out of them, but would not recommend *large* Regional and Connector trail connections through them. Vomocil added that incidental crossings of natural areas should be allowed, since they had little impact.

Griffiths highlighted Howell's language on page 4 of his testimony, fourth paragraph, regarding page 78, but advocated replacing with word *conceptual* with "*general*" or "*general preliminary alignment*", saying use of *conceptual* had caused problems. She said usage of the word *optimal*, the replacement for *conceptual*, should also be replaced.

Griffiths said Howell's testimony regarding page 81, on differentiating Recreational and Transportation paths, was hard to understand. Rochefort added that there would be conversations at the Director level to try to resolve this, but Parks trails are for recreational purposes, though that does not preclude people using them for general transportation. She said that Development staff said this plan was newer and so would take precedent, and she expected some fine-tuning. She explained that those larger trails, also shown in the Transportation Plan, are seen as important for recreational uses, but they *are* multiuse in character. Griffiths asked whether these trail revisions would show up in the Transportation Plan. Hays related that the County Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board had also encountered the tension in trying to accommodate two separate plans for transportation- one essentially for people trying to commute rapidly on bikes and the other for people walking with strollers. Rochefort related that Public Works was unable to refine its Transportation Plan at the same time as this Plan. She added that it was possible that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) or others could advocate differently in a public hearing.

Hays commented that surveys found that many people wanted more trails and open space; however, there was little about natural areas in the Plan. Natural areas change with time and there must be a more active management to prevent loss of characteristics in these areas. There is an excellent plan for Herbert Natural Area that addresses it well. Badalamenti said the CIP includes money set aside for development of management plans, and that natural areas were included as part of the section on "Priority Areas that have Cultural and Historic Significance". Griffiths commented that there were no specific recommendations in Chapter 7 for natural areas.

Hays said the City was now a partner with the County's Habitat Conservation Plan, which has specific requirements to protect natural areas and threatened and endangered species; Badalamenti said the Plan referenced this. Rochefort added that the separate Operations Plan includes it as well; Assistant Director Steve DeGhetto said this plan references development of the management plan but not specific cultural

practices for natural areas. Emery explained that the Operations Plan includes standards for how to operate parks, and specific management plans are written for each natural area property.

Bogatin asked if there was special consideration for trails or parks in areas of potential flooding; Rochefort replied that regulations for development in flood plains must be followed. Bogatin noted that trails or parks that are periodically flooded were in fact less usable; Badalamenti replied that areas that can't be used as a park were discounted in scoring.

Griffiths asked that the outdated phrase "passive recreation" be replaced by "*structured or programmed* recreation" throughout the plan. Griffiths said she will submit her recommendations.

Badalamenti encouraged board members to attend the HSC hearing to express support for its plan. Emery suggested Badalamenti make the presentation and then have board member make comments.

Emery said the boards' comments could be incorporated, and that she heard support for Howell's recommendations on trails.

Soule moved the board supported the master plan process, including approval of the staff taking into consideration testimony and refinements reflecting board and public comments tonight, as the Plan goes forward to the HSC on September 17, 2013; Hays seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Emery noted that the public would have several more opportunities to give input.

VI. PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AND RECREATION BOARD GOALS.

Ed MacMullan related that he, Lynda Wolfenbarger, Tatiana Dierwechter, and Josh Baur met as the Outreach, Education, and Advocacy Subcommittee last week, with Betty Griffiths sitting in, and had a brainstorming session; he asked members to review the meeting notes.

VII. STAFF REPORT.

DeGhetto highlighted summer camp at Rock Creek. The Youth Volunteer Corps has been very popular this summer, even with the new fees for it. Preparation for fall softball is underway. He will bring nutritional guidelines for Parks and Rec programs to the September meeting.

Sharon Bogdanovich highlighted several Senior Center events, including a barbeque, a luau, and an ice cream social, with business donating materials to help keep prices low. The expanded rentals of five designated outdoor spaces around Chintimini Park are popular; temporary fencing is used during the events, such as family reunions and wedding receptions. In its first year, 561 Gold Pass annual memberships were sold. National Senior Center Month is in September, and will feature several free class sessions to encourage new participants.

Planner Rochefort said the Rotary-sponsored picnic shelter at Willamette Park was almost complete, saying that Director Emery is planning the grand opening for September 12. The park at Coronado is complete and now the property ownership must be transferred to the department. Restoration of the "Dinosaur Bones" play structure is mostly complete. The Avery Park Rose Garden is adding a pavilion in the central plaza, and will be hosting a wedding next week. Bidding will go out tomorrow for the Tunisia Park improvements.

Operations Supervisor Jude Geist related that Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry Advisory Commission (CBUF) recently recommended that City Council Liaison Joel Hirsch take to the Council

two proposals for tree preservation. These include “Tree for a Fee”, an alternative to the current practice of developers installing right-of-way street trees at their cost during development, which would allow developers the option to instead pay the City to have Parks plant and establish those trees. This would allow the City to plant trees properly and with proper watering, and at the right time of year, giving the trees a better chance of survival.

Direction is also sought from the Council for another tree proposal, which would institute appraised value for removing existing street trees, so that if development removes a mature right-of-way tree, the developer would have to pay its appraised value or provide improvements to help offset the cost. He noted that monetary incentive of not having to pay the cost of removing a mature tree could protect more mature trees, which are assets for the City; other cities are successfully using the approach. If a mature tree is replaced with a new 2”-caliper tree, they would still have to pay the difference in value, though they can get further credits for enhancing the planting area so that the new tree has a better chance of thriving (such as a bigger root zone). Geist said staff have been discussing the proposals with Community Development for several months. The appraisal takes into account a number of factors, including the location of the tree, its health, its species, whether the tree is in the right place, whether it is a desirable tree species, etc. Geist said staff are requesting the Council give a go-ahead on further investigating the proposals.

VIII. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT. None.

IX. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS.

Griffiths highlighted that two board vacancies were being filled by Ralph Alig, a forest economist, and Michael Mayes, with a background in non-profits and social services.

X. VISITORS’ PROPOSITIONS. None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

July 18, 2013

Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board
City of Corvallis
501 Madison St.
Corvallis, OR 97333

o Talk about
spread
consideration
for unique natural
features that are
rare or highly susceptible
to
decline

Re: Comments regarding the Internal Draft for Corvallis Recreational Trails Plan

Dear Members of the Board:

o we need to

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts regarding the current draft of the Recreational Trails Plan. The following comments are among my thoughts when reading this draft plan:

map
those
areas

I. Riverfront Park path should not be a part of a "Commuter" Category.

I was on the Riverfront Task Force at its inception, the Riverfront Commission and the Riverfront Design Review Committee, all of which were a part of the Riverfront Park redevelopment project.

The functions and activities of the Riverfront path do not fit the basic concept of a "commuter" *Regional Trail* category as described in this Draft Plan (noted as a *Regional Trail* on p. 10, in the Inventory Table; p 19 under "Regional Trail Routes")

The Riverfront path was not intended to be a "commuter corridor", but a path for use specific to the Riverfront amenities.

Proposal:

I therefore propose that this path be placed within the "Parks Trail" classification category (see ***Trail System Classifications & Design Features Table***):

"Interior loops or point to point routes within parks or natural area properties and include paved walking paths, rustic hiking trails, equestrian trails. (p. 7).

The Regional Trail for the Riverfront area will be First Street and its sidewalk, as a joint use of streets, etc to make connections is accepted by this plan. The Riverfront Trail by nature is an "interior" and "point to point route."

The Riverfront path surface is color-coded to indicate where the path enters and leaves higher use nodes at each block. It gives pedestrians a much higher priority over bicycles and other faster-wheeled transportation. Bicycles, though allowed on the Riverfront Path, are given the parallel option of First Street.

One of the reasons why First Street was designed as a two-way street was so that bicycles had another option for the Riverfront corridor. However, on First Street bicycles still have to follow the same rules as cars, and the stop signs at each corner are intended to make the Riverfront area pedestrian-friendly and safer.

II. Natural Features Protection

The existing Trails Master Plan has not been effective in guiding the location of trail development to be respectful of Significant Natural Features. These Natural Features have been designated as locally significant and are highly protected by the *Corvallis Land Development Code*. This draft has only the very basic verbage for protecting natural features and guiding their protection.

Sometimes I learn the most from an actual local "case study." In this case, the case study is the proximate wetland along Dunawi Creek. I have attached a photograph of this ash forest wetland (Locally Significant and Highly Protected). Existing master plan guidance is being interpreted to allow a connector trail to travel through the middle of this wetland.

This site could be an example of an alternate strategy, which would be to weave a path into the north edge of the woodland sensitive area. Some wetlands might better tolerate a path, such as the Jackson Frazier wetland path. These wetlands are already exposed to the sun.

But, a path through the Dunawi Creek proximate wetland would open the canopy and allow additional sunlight into wetland floor, affecting the *micro-climate* of the forest, including soil, air temperature and moisture, as well as encouraging invasive species

When a path is placed by the City into such a sensitive area, it teaches the community that it is OK to be insensitive to these special areas..

Language in draft *Recreational Trails Plan* regarding Natural Features:

1. This following policy language only directs trails to be designed to manage pedestrians so they do not leave the trail and explore (i.e. it is about controlled access to sensitive lands and local natural features).

"h. Preserve sensitive natural areas by planning and designing trails with controlled access such that the natural area can be experienced without degrading the environment or natural features." (page 18)

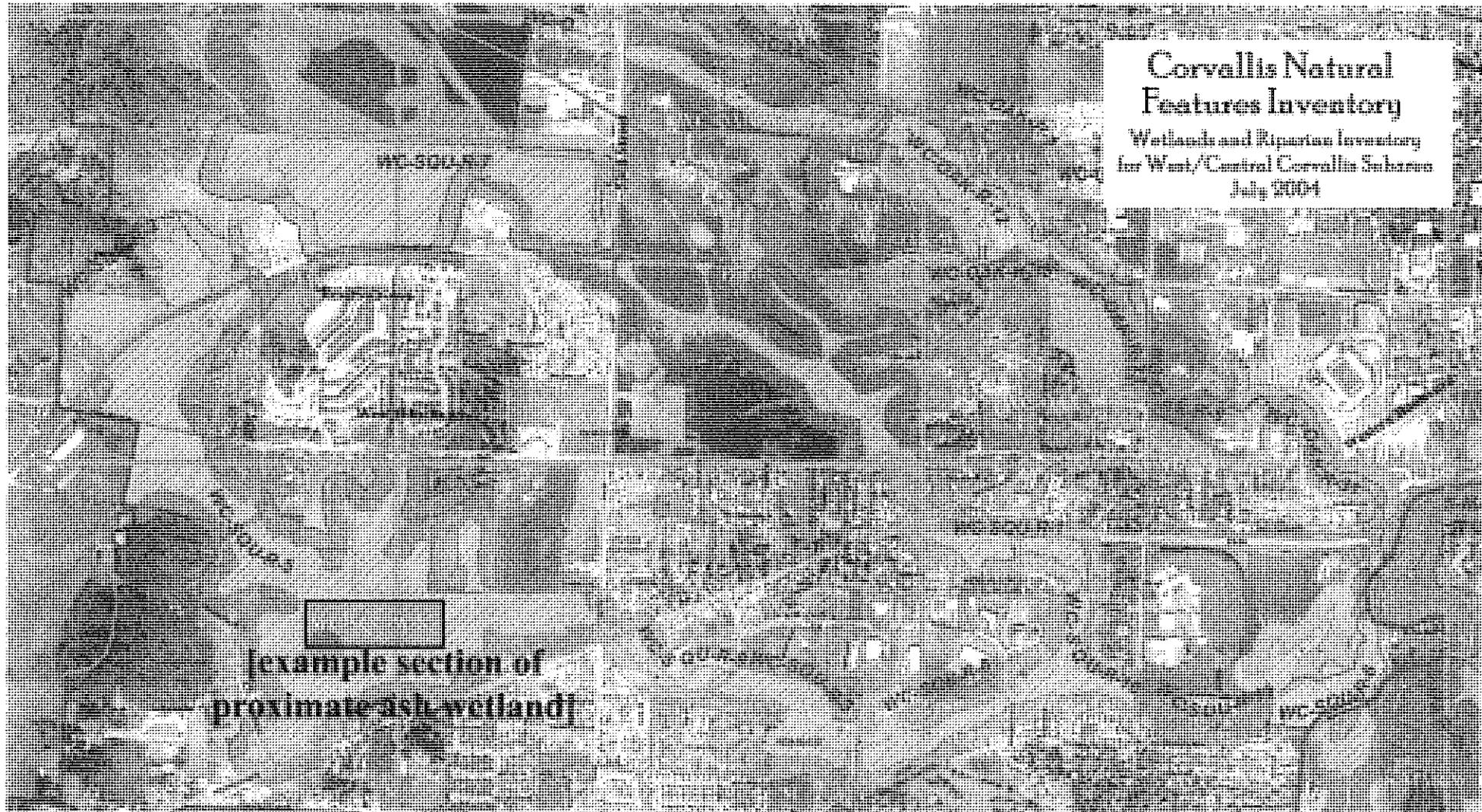
There needs to be policies that specifically directs placement of trails related to a natural feature, as well as criteria.



A remnant of a proximate ash wetland. This wetland along Dunawi Creek is designated as a locally significant wetland that is highly protected by the *Corvallis Land Development Code*. A path through this area would open the canopy and allow additional sunlight into wetland floor, affecting the micro-climate of the forest, including soil, air temperature and moisture, as well as encouraging invasive species. This type of wetland was once much more common -- Jackson "Creek" by CV High School was once a 700 ft wide ash swale -- a linear wetland.

Patricia Benner testimony re. Internal Draft for Corvallis Recreational Trails Plan, 7-18-2013

**Corvallis Natural
Features Inventory**
Wetlands and Riparian Inventory
for West/Central Corvallis Subarea
July 2004



[example section of
proximate ash wetland]

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | Field verified wetlands | | Riparian assessment areas |
| | Locally Significant Wetland | | Natural vegetation within riparian assessment area |
| | non-Locally significant wetland | | Rivers |
| | Mosaic Wetlands | | Streams |
| | Prior Converted Cropland | | Riparian field data points |
| | Farmed Wetland | | Wetland field data points |
| | Potential Wetland | | Watershed Basin Boundary |
| | Pond | | |

Legend

- Subarea/UGB boundary
- Parcel boundaries
- City Limits
- Map sheet index

Mapscale: 1 inch = 600 feet
Projection: State Plane Oregon Zone
North, FIPS zone 3601
North American Datum 1983

Riparian assessment area widths determined by size of drainage area (see Riparian Technical Report).

Sources:
Field inventory conducted by Pacific Habitat Services.
All base data provided by the City of Corvallis.
Data compilation and map production by Ecotrust, 2003.

Wetland site number referenced in leaf green.
Riparian reach codes referenced in deep blue.
DSL numbers are referenced in deep red.

Oregon Freshwater Wetland Assessment Methodology

(Revised Edition, April 1996)

Wetland Assessment Summary Sheet



Pacific Habitat Services, Inc.

Project Name:	Corvallis Natural Resource Inventory	Wetland:	WC-SQU-W-8
Project Location:	Benton County	Wetland Type(s):	PFO, PSS, PEM, PEMf
Date(s) of field work:	10/1/2002	Approx. Area (acres):	169.32
Onsite Assessment?:	NO	Investigator(s):	PF / CR
Wetland Location:	Extends from City reservoir lands (n.of Reservoir Rd.) to 53rd Street		

Function and Condition Assessment Answers

Wildlife Habitat		Fish Habitat		Water Quality		Hydrologic Control		Sensitivity to Impact	
Q	A	Q	A	Q	A	Q	A	Q	A
Q-1	A	Q-1	A	Q-1	B	Q-1	A	Q-1	B
Q-2	A	Q-2	A	Q-2	A	Q-2	A	Q-2	B
Q-3	A	Q-3	A	Q-3	A	Q-3	A	Q-3	C
Q-4	C	Q-4	A	Q-4	A	Q-4	C	Q-4	B
Q-5	A	Q-5	B	Q-5	B	Q-5	A	Q-5	A
Q-6	A	Q-6	A	Q-6	C	Q-6	A	Q-6	A
Q-7	A					Q-7	C		
Q-8	B								
Q-9A									
Q-9B	A								

Results:

Wildlife Habitat	Wetland provides diverse wildlife habitat
Fish Habitat	Wetland's fish habitat function is intact
Water Quality	Wetland's water-quality function is intact
Hydrologic Control	Wetland's hydrologic control function is intact
Sensitivity to Impact	Wetland is potentially sensitive to future impacts

Function and Condition Assessment Answers

Enhancement Potential		Education		Recreation		Aesthetic Quality	
Q	A	Q	A	Q	A	Q	A
Q-1		Q-1	C	Q-1	A	Q-1	A
Q-2		Q-2	A	Q-2	C	Q-2	C
Q-3		Q-3	A	Q-3	C	Q-3	A
Q-4		Q-4	B	Q-4	A	Q-4	A
Q-5B		Q-5	A	Q-5	B	Q-5	A
Q-6		Q-6	A	Q-6	B	Q-6	A

Results:

Enhancement Potential	Due to diverse wildlife habitat, this wetland cannot be enhanced
Education	Wetland site is not appropriate for educational use
Recreation	Wetland provides recreational opportunities
Aesthetic Quality	Wetland is considered to be pleasing

Oregon Freshwater Wetland Assessment Methodology

Functions and Conditions Summary Sheet



Project:	Corvallis Natural Resource Inventory	Wetland:	WC-SQU-W-8
Location:	Benton County	Approx. Area (acres):	169.32
Date:	10/1/2002	Wetland Types(s):	PFO, PSS, PEM, PEMH
Result:	Wetland provides diverse wildlife habitat		
Rationale:	More than one Cowardin class	No adjacent Water Quality limited streams	
	Dominated by woody vegetation	Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture	
	Less than 0.5 acres of open water	Wetland buffer is greater than 40%	
Result:	Wetland's fish habitat function is intact		
Rationale:	50% or more of stream is shaded	No adjacent Water Quality Limited streams	
	Stream is in a natural channel	Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture	
	>25% of stream has instream structures	Salmon and/or trout present in stream	
Result:	Wetland's water-quality function is intact		
Rationale:	Primary water source is precipitation	Wetland is more than 5 acres in size	
	Wetland floods/ponds in growing season	Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture	
	High wetland vegetation cover	No adjacent Water Quality Limited streams	
Result:	Wetland's hydrologic control function is intact		
Rationale:	Wetland is within 100 year floodplain	Dominated by woody vegetation	
	Wetland floods/ponds in growing season	Development downslope of wetland	
	Water has unrestricted flow out of wetland	Open space upslope of wetland	
Result:	Wetland is potentially sensitive to future impacts		
Rationale:	Stream not modified	Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture	
	Water not taken out	Adjacent zoning is primarily development	
	No adjacent Water Quality Limited streams	Dominated by woody vegetation	
Result:	Due to diverse wildlife habitat, this wetland cannot be enhanced		
Rationale:	Though the wetland generally provides diverse habitat, portions of this large wetland unit may have enhancement potential.		
Result:	Wetland site is not appropriate for educational use		
Rationale:	No access allowed to wetland	Maintained public access within 250 feet	
	No visible hazards to public	Wetland is limited mobility accessible	
	Other habitats can be observed not accessed		
Result:	Wetland provides recreational opportunities		
Rationale:	Maintained public access within 250 feet	Wetland provides diverse wildlife habitat	
	No boat launching can be developed	No fishing is allowed	
	No trails or viewing areas exist	No hunting is allowed	
Result:	Wetland is considered to be pleasing		
Rationale:	More than two Cowardin classes are visible	Wetland surrounded by natural areas	
	Less than 25% of wetland can be seen	Natural odors present at wetland	
	No visual detractors are present	Some traffic and natural noises are present	

August 15, 2013

Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board
City of Corvallis
501 Madison St.
Corvallis, OR 97333

Re: Comments re: Draft *Corvallis Parks and Recreation Master Plan*

Dear Members of the Board:

I. Minutes of July 18, 2013.

Can you please make this correction to the July 18, 2013 minutes regarding Patricia Benner's (my) testimony, as follows in the second paragraph. Deletions are notes with strikeout, and additions are noted in bold:

She noted **the path planned as a part of the** Creekside Center development was ~~on~~ **within** a highly protected wetland area, and that building a full sized multiuse path there will open up the canopy and negatively impact the site. ~~She proposed creating different designations for wetlands.~~ She advocated creating better policies and criteria **to be included in the *Plan*** that give **more specific** direction in such cases **to protect significant natural features**. Under page 18, (h), she highlighted the aspect of controlling public access in the language, but noted that the draft gives no guidance. She offered to assist in crafting language to help address her concerns.

II. Comments regarding the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan

I would like to support Mr. Howell's suggested language edits in his August 15, 2013 written testimony.

I would like to complement his testimony regarding the protection and preservation of the natural features that the City has selected to protect through the Natural Features Process in 2004.

The draft plan summarizes (pp.35-37) that the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Conservation Task Force gives strong and clear guidance for the conservation of natural resources. Conservation includes a range of strategies from protection to preservation, depending on the ecosystem and situation. The Task Force suggests taking a leadership role in protecting land and water resources, and to be stewards of these resources.

Corvallis has designated that certain natural features to be locally significant, and many of those are more than just protected, but to be *highly* protected.

These natural features are often the remnants of the remnants of once common natural features of the Willamette Valley.

My hope is that these Highly Protected Natural Features (and they are generally fairly intact) be given the respect and high level of protection within the new parks master plan. I would like that the baseline language be added to the draft master plan in every appropriate place, that says that:

How does this line up w/ Comp plan

the Highly Protected Natural Features are to receive the higher (or top) priority over every other Parks and Recreation objectives.

This language would be helpful on page 68 (added to Mr. Howell's testimony), as well as on pages 69, 79, and 81.

Another NRPA objective is stewardship of natural resources. That extends to being a role model in the community for management of natural features.

If, for example, path infrastructure is significant enough in size as to open a forest canopy, and alter the micro-climate of a woodland (please see my testimony dated July 18, 2013), that path will do at least two things:

1. The natural feature will be altered (blackberries at a minimum), and would then no longer be the wonderful location to enjoy to visit; and,
2. The wide path infrastructure would not demonstrate to the community sound stewardship practices.

It is usually difficult to achieve one objective without compromising other key objectives. The best that one can do is to somehow balance the two, often giving one a higher priority. But, I would argue that it is often difficult to know at the time *what* other objectives could be compromised.

I think that this is the case with how we are planning to locate connector and other paths through significant natural features. The one objective is the "gold ring", and we are uninformed of other adverse consequences.

Stream Corridors, specifically: I am concerned that if a connector or other wider path is placed within a stream corridor, it will either remove woodland canopy or compete with an area available for restoring an appropriate riparian canopy. This could allow additional light to reach the stream and/or stream corridor.

I would like a criterion to be included in the master plan where stream corridors are discussed:

that stream channel and riparian shading preservation and restoration be an evaluation and design criterion when both siting a path, and determining a path's width.

Seems OK

III. Matching Type of Path with Users.

Using the recent Creekside development, as an example, the ash wetland location for a connector path would have required an elevated path to maintain the hydrology of the proximate ash wetland. However, a boardwalk would not have worked well the various users, and a paved surface would be costly.

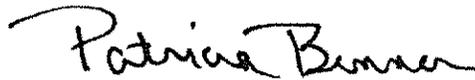
I would like to see language in the master plan that:

See us
OK

requires that a path's location be evaluated for compatibility with the site and the path's functions prior to siting the path.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the master plan at this time.

Sincerely,



Patricia Benner

August 15, 2013

Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board
City of Corvallis
501 SW Madison Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97333

Re: Draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Dear Members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and for making changes in response to comments at the July 17 meeting. I will focus my comments on the Trails portions of the draft Plan, with an emphasis on how well it does or does not protect natural features.

As a case study example to illustrate my comments, I will be referring to the recent Creekside Center development proposal for the corner of 53rd and Philomath Blvd. Dunawi Creek flows through this property, which also supports a rare, highly-valued, ash-forested wetland. (You saw photos of this wetland at your July 17 meeting.) Based on an interpretation of the language in the current Park & Recreation Facilities Plan and the Transportation Plan trails map, the City Council has approved a 12-foot wide paved multi-modal path through the forested wetland, which will require extensive tree removal and permanent disruption of the hydrology, vegetation community, and wildlife habitat on the site. This site will provide a good example for testing the language of this draft Plan for its ability to protect valuable natural features.

Conservation Objectives: The draft Plan includes some laudable conservation objectives in the *Conservation Trends* section (pp. 35-37). However, this is provided as information, and the NRPA recommendations listed are not adopted as objectives of the Plan. If the Plan is intended to highlight good stewardship of natural features, some of this language should be integrated into the Plan's *Goals and Recommendations* for the Trails Plan (Section K, pp. 80-81). That section, also, does not state any specific Plan goals, but only refers to other documents from which the goals are derived. It could be that the following sections are the goals, but that is not clear. If so, the only references to natural features protection is in *Trail Design* (Section P, p. 83)—“minimize impacts to natural features” and “remain sensitive to landscapes.” This is very weak language compared to the NRPA recommendations. The current Plan contains much stronger protective language, but was not specific enough to prevent damage to the Dunawi wetland.

Other sections appear to make natural features protection subservient to the objective of placing trails. For example, *Natural Features and Sensitive Lands* (Section I.5, p. 79) states:

*One underlying tenet of the recreational trail system is to **enable placement of trails within natural features corridors** to provide access to the City's unique landscapes as well as accommodating environmental education and stewardship goals. [emphasis added]*

Trail Classifications: The description of the *Trail Hierarchy* (p. 67) states that the “differences between trail classifications within the hierarchy are based on purpose, intensity of use and connections, rather than on trail width, material or user.” However, then the Plan goes on to specify the trail width, material, and users for each trail classification, in both text and Table 5 (p. 72). As indicated on the Proposed Trails Network map, the Dunawi Creek Trail (Bald Hill Natural Area to Sunset Park) is designated as a Connector, which indicates it will be 8'-12' wide, paved or boardwalk, and multi-user. Although there is an allowance for gravel, there is no allowance for a trail appropriate to a forested wetland—either a narrow earthen trail for summer use, or a narrow (4' max) boardwalk, either of which could be provided as side trails off of a Connector that is routed outside the forested wetland. Although Single-Use Trails, including Pedestrian Only trails, are described (p. 70), it does not appear that option can be applied to protect natural features if a trail is designated as a Connector. It should be noted that Connector and Regional trails that can accommodate a high volume of users in portions outside of natural features cannot easily be modified for stretches within sensitive areas—they should instead be re-routed outside the sensitive area, while providing side trails into the natural feature where appropriate.

Recreational vs. Transportation Trails: On p. 81, the Plan indicates that the goals and policies of this Plan “apply to trails and pathways that are recreational in nature. Goals and policies related to pathways that are transportation oriented are found in the City’s Transportation Plan.” However, it does not clarify which policies to follow when a trail is both recreational and transportation-oriented (e.g., the Corvallis-Philomath Path). For example, the Dunawi Creek Trail is subject to both the standards in the Park & Recreation Facilities Plan and the Transportation Plan, and there is less flexibility in protecting natural features for a major transportation route. This Plan should give clear direction for these overlapping routes by stating that the policies and standards of this Plan govern all trails identified as primarily Recreational Trails illustrated on its Trails Map, and that the Transportation Plan governs those routes identified as primarily Transportation Trails. The Board should work with Public Works and BPAC to determine which trails should be governed by recreational standards, and clearly illustrate those on this Plan’s map. Transportation trails can still be illustrated on the map in different colors.

Design Standards: The classification standards illustrated on pp. 73-74, although indicating some flexibility to protect natural features, do not provide enough specific options. For example, it is not adequate to state that Connector trails can be narrowed or be of gravel or boardwalk to protect natural features, when the rest of the trail is developed in a way to encourage users (cyclists, skaters, etc.) and volumes that conflict with these modifications. Regional or Connector Trails that are also transportation trails make it difficult to modify portions of a route through a sensitive area. Instead, the Plan should specify options for routing the trail (especially Regional and Connector Trails) to the edge of the natural feature (stream corridor or wetland), and provide secondary park

trails for access to the sensitive area, if appropriate. This is consistent with some of the language in *Natural Features and Sensitive Lands* (Section I.5, p. 79). However, language in this section is less specific (in terms of setbacks, etc.) than in the current Plan, and the current Plan was not adequate to protect the Dunawi Creek forested wetland.

Proposed Trails Network map: The Proposed Trails Network map states:

The proposed trail routes are intended to illustrate optimal alignments, which will be contingent upon future design studies and successful negotiations with property owners for access and use.

The current Plan maps are labeled as "conceptual," but were still interpreted by the City Council as mandating the routing of the Dunawi Creek Trail within the stream corridor and the forested wetland. It was asserted that, since a Plan map showed the trail going through a natural feature corridor, the intent was to route it through that natural feature. The term "optimal alignment" is even more prescriptive, and will further limit the flexibility of determining an alignment that is protective of natural features, at least as part of a land use hearing process. Once a land use application is received, there is no opportunity to do a design study to determine if the Map's route is indeed optimal. Since no ground-truthing has been done to evaluate the proposed routing on this Map, and many mapped routes freely cross sensitive areas, the term "optimal" should be replaced.

Land Use Implications: This Plan when adopted will be referenced in the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. Where the Code generally forbids development in stream corridors or significant wetlands, it allows exceptions for trails specified in the Park & Recreation Facilities Plan. However, the determination will be made based on the Council's interpretation of the language in the Plan, and will not be subject to the consideration of the PNARB. So it is very important that the language fully and clearly reflect your intent for offering protection to natural features, and specifics on how that protection will be provided.

Recommended Changes to the Draft Plan: I would like to recommend the following changes, as an attempt to remedy the problems noted above. (Additional language is bolded, deleted language is crossed out.)

P. 35, *B.6 Conservation Trends*. Add to first sentence: "The top ten recommendations of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Conservation Task Force were published in the November 2011 issue of Parks and Recreation Magazine, and are adopted by reference as goals of this Plan."

P. 68, *Regional Trail and Connector Trail*. Add language to each section, stating, "**This classification of trail shall be routed to avoid passing through designated highly or partially protected stream corridors, locally significant wetlands, highly protected vegetation, or other sensitive areas, except for incidental crossings. Secondary park trails may be used to access the natural feature if designed in a manner that protects the resource.**"

P. 69, *Local Trail and Park Trail*. Add language to each section stating, “**Paved trails of this classification within a non-wetland stream corridor are allowed if set back at least 50’ from the top of bank, and designed in a way that does not require any tree removal. Earthen Park Trails of less than 3’ in width are allowed in stream corridors within the 50’ setback. Local and Park Trails should typically be routed to avoid significant wetlands, but boardwalks or earthen trails of no greater than 5’ wide can be allowed in limited sections of non-forested (open) wetlands.**”

P. 72, *Table 5*. Add column for **Constraints**, and add language above for Regional, Connector, Local, and Park Trails.

Pp. 73-74, *Classification Standards*. Add above language to bullets in each section.

P. 78, *1.3 Private Lands*, modify last sentence to read: “Future negotiations with property owners are necessary, and the alignments shown on the Proposed Trails Network map indicate ~~optimal~~ **conceptual, preliminary** alignments that can vary depending upon landowner willingness, **locational standards in this Plan, and along with** environmental and design constraints.”

P. 79, *1.5 Natural Features and Sensitive Lands*. Paragraph 1, last sentence should read: “As enacted by development regulations, trails are ~~not~~ expressly prohibited within **highly protected** natural features lands, but **can be allowed under limited conditions within the restrictions of this Plan for the location, development, and surfacing apply.**”

Paragraph 2, first sentence should read: “One underlying tenet of the recreational trail system is to ~~enable~~ **design and select** the placement of **low-impact** trails within natural features corridors to provide **limited** access to the City’s unique and **sensitive** landscapes in a manner that **protects the properly functioning conditions of the habitat and ecosystem, while as well as** accommodating environmental education and stewardship goals.”

Paragraph 2, last sentence should read: “This includes **setting standards in this Plan for** ~~considering~~ trail surface types and linear distances or buffers from natural features, in addition to using a lower classification **local or park connector** trail, rather than major regional **or connector** linkage, to traverse sensitive resources to further lessen any potential impact on ~~feature~~ **the resource.**”

P. 81 First paragraph, last sentence: “These apply to trails and pathways that are recreational in nature, **as specified on the Proposed Trails Network map**. Goals and policies related to pathways that are transportation oriented are found in the City’s Transportation Plan.” **[Specify on map which are primarily recreational trails subject to this Plan, and which are primarily transportation trails subject to policies in the Transportation Plan—now’s the time to work this out.]**

P. 85, *Connector Trail Routes*. Third sentence should read: “Several of these routes will run along, **but outside**, existing natural area corridors, while others are located on-street.”

P. 87, *Recreational Trail Guidelines*. Modify to read: “The recreational trails included in this Chapter shall be developed in accordance with the following **design** guidelines, **subject to locational criteria outlined in Section D.2 and Table 5**. In certain

locations where physical or environmental constraints preclude the practical implementation of a path or trail under the following standards, the City of Corvallis reserves the right to modify the standards in order to preserve the continuity of the system, avoid or minimize environmental and significant natural feature impacts and preserve community character. **Of these, avoiding impacts to designated highly protected natural features shall take precedence.** For trail segments ...”

P. 93 W.4 Riparian Areas and Sensitive Lands. Add a new Fourth paragraph: **“As outlined in Section D.2 and Table 5, trails designated as Regional or Connector Trails shall be routed to avoid passing through designated highly or partially protected stream corridors, locally significant wetlands, highly protected vegetation, or other sensitive areas, except for incidental crossings. Paved trails within the Local or Park Trail classification are allowed within a non-wetland stream corridor if set back at least 50’ from the top of bank, and designed in a way that does not require any tree removal. Earthen Park Trails of less than 3’ in width are allowed in stream corridors within the 50’ setback. Local and Park Trails should typically be routed to avoid significant wetlands, but boardwalks or earthen trails of no more than 5’ wide can be allowed in limited sections of non-forested (open) wetlands.”**

Proposed Trails Network (with Natural Features) map, and other maps with this language. Modify to read: “The proposed trail routes are intended to illustrate ~~optimal~~ **conceptual, preliminary** alignments, which will be contingent upon future design studies, **locational standards in this Plan, environmental constraints,** and successful negotiations with property owners for access and use. **The location of a mapped route through a natural feature does not indicate an intent for the final location to be within the natural feature.**” [This last sentence clarifies a mistaken interpretation from the maps in the current Plan.]

Thank you for your time and effort in considering community input on this draft plan.

Sincerely,



Tony Howell

