

Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee

Mike Ragsdale, Chair



METRO

MEETING NOTICE

Thursday, March 24, 2005
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Metro Regional Center, Rm. 501
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

PURPOSE

- To identify task force tasks, schedules and products
- To discuss and clarify the regional bond measure and its relationship to GPAC's work

AGENDA

1. Introductions and announcements
2. Task force organization and work assignments
3. Regional bond measure discussion (Council President David Bragdon)
4. Adjournment

Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee
Proposal: Task Force Organization
March 22, 2005

Background

Since February 2004, GPAC has been developing and refining a vision for the Greater Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area that will maintain and enhance the region as a place where people enjoy a high quality of life and help protect and enhance ecologic, cultural, civic and economic infrastructures.

In order to translate the vision into sequential actions that can be successfully accomplished over time, issues common to its objectives, outcomes and means need to be identified and resolved. The following proposal describes four key areas for the Committee's focus through June, 2005.

Task Force Organization

For the next three months (90 days) four (4) task forces will work on specific issue areas and develop the necessary steps to be taken in accomplishing the work identified in each topic. The groups will augment GPAC membership with experts who will work with the groups through June to develop short and long-term work plans, task lists and partners. Task Force members will decide how and when to meet according to task force needs and member schedules. The GPAC chair and staff will coordinate with and between the groups, check schedules for timely progress and aggregate all material into a final draft for presentation to the Metro Council in June, 05.

Ground Rules. Several key principles resonate throughout the current vision statement and serve as ground rules for the task forces' work:

- **Connect** – erase institutional, ownership and physical boundaries; make connections between many efforts
- **Integrate** – combine different elements into holistic thinking about the system, its development over time and the institutional relationships needed to make it a reality
- **Innovate** – explore new models for developing the system, and devise new ways to fund and manage
- **Advocate** – build community support at all levels and with all populations
- **Activate** – exercise leadership

The System Task Force

This group will further define and describe the physical system and its components, and develop strategies for its establishment and growth over time.

Problem Statement: GPAC's vision includes natural systems and recreation corridors but needs an equally clear description of public and private local places, ranging from

urban plazas to backyards, that people cherish in the metropolitan region. The description should also express aesthetic values, ecological function and cultural meaning. In addition, the vision needs a spatial framework that serves as a strategy for building the system while maintaining and enhancing biodiversity functions - a framework that helps integrate the human and built landscape and makes the system more visible to the region's residents.

Some questions the task force could begin to answer include:

- What is the system? What are its elements? What is in it now? What is missing from the system (where are the gaps) and why?
- What are the "best realized and least-realized places" in the system?
- What elements could we lose? What elements should be added to strengthen our way of thinking about the system?
- What have been the challenges to building the system? Immediate and long-term
- What (where) are the opportunities? Immediate and long-term
- What defines regional or local importance? How do they differ? How can they support each other?
- Where are future lands that need to be protected now because of immediate threats from growth and/or development?
- Where is the greatest threat to the system? How should these areas be prioritized? What is the timetable for their protection?
- What new system models (spatial or other) can we devise for underserved neighborhoods, suburbs, rural areas, new neighborhoods that would contribute to the overall vision?
- What new models can we devise for diverse populations?
- How do we integrate natural systems into shaping a vision for the urban environment?
- What are the roles and responsibilities in shaping the system? What is Metro's role in building and maintaining the system?
- How can this larger vision of the system support the bond and the regional integration of natural systems and the built environment?

Deliverable by early June, 2005: Graphic and written descriptions of the system, development (structural) strategy, work plan (steps and roles) and timeline for priority tasks (short and long term).

Funding Task Force

This group will review existing funding sources, study and propose new sources and ways of combining existing sources to fund the acquisition, operation and management of the regional system in perpetuity.

Problem Statement: Existing funding for parks and other elements of the system at local, regional, state and federal levels is inadequate to build and sustain the current and

proposed regional system of natural areas, recreation resources and cultural landscapes. Yet current funding is not always leveraged (or pooled) in the most effective ways.

Questions to be answered by the group could include:

- Where does current funding come from?
- What's being spent today, how is it being used and by whom?
- What are the challenges in using existing funding? What are the opportunities?
- Are there other ways that current funding can be pooled and leveraged to raise the funds necessary to maintain and expand the system?
- Are there untapped sources? Can a package be developed from a variety of sources that funds all components of the system?
- What are the roles and responsibilities for developing the package? What is Metro's role at the regional and local levels in a funding strategy?
- What part of the system should be in the 2006 bond? What might be the breakdown of regional/local share? How should it be determined?
- Is there the prospect for a unified "federal agenda" in this arena, has the region has done for transportation and Chicago has done for parks?

Deliverable by early June, 2005: Proposed funding concepts, work plan (steps and roles) and timeline for priority tasks (short and long term).

Message Task Force

This group will craft message(s) that describe the civic wealth that parks and open space provide to all residents of the region. The message(s) will become the 'buzz' that builds community support for the vision and system.

Problem Statement. While people increasingly use freely use the landscape for recreation, health, relaxation, relating to nature and general enjoyment, and usage is up, they have little appreciation for the true costs of protection, conservation and construction. An understanding of the importance of the system and a willingness to pay to expand and maintain it should be a given civic responsibility.

Questions that the group could begin to answer include:

- What is the economic value of parks and open space to residential property values, value for new development, attraction for business and work forces, environmental services – reduction in infrastructure costs, etc.? As it is better defined and understood, how can that value be maximized and advertised?
- How do we describe that value to a range of audiences in human, non-governmental style terms they relate to?
- What is the message we need to develop to sell the system, the place, our quality of life, and the importance of an integrated natural and built environment?
- Is there one message or multiple messages? If more than one, how do they support each other and paint the picture of an integrated regional system? What unifying themes tie together what is of necessity a diverse story?

- How do we recruit more participation ~~Who should participate~~ in crafting and disseminating the message? What role does Metro play in fashioning this message?
- How can this larger message(s) support the bond, as one initial example of the need to support the system?

Deliverable by early June, 2005: Draft of key principles to include in message(s) for different audiences, work plan (steps and roles) and timeline for priority tasks (short and long term)

Institutional Relationships Task Force

This group will focus on building partnerships and leadership among existing institutions and organizations, encourage new partners and propose mechanisms to develop, support and implement the system in perpetuity. This clarification of roles should be inclusive and help everyone to “do what he or she does best” in terms of core competencies.

Problem Statement. A variety of agencies currently plan, acquire, operate and manage parks and open spaces throughout the region. However, they often work independently which can be perceived as cross purposes. This diversity and variety is a strength which should not be eroded through unnecessary “centralization,” but this diversity and variety could instead be leveraged by being woven into a larger “virtual” multi-jurisdictional network of some sort.

Questions to be answered could include:

- How and when do local, state and regional park planners and providers currently work together or independently? What are their existing roles and responsibilities?
- Where are these roles/responsibilities coordinated? Where are they in conflict? Can better coordination lessen the conflict? In what ways?
- Is there a set of roles or relationships that could be developed and actualized to help manage and operate the system more equitably and efficiently? How might it work? Who will do what?
- What would be the best process and tools to develop such a network? Who should be involved? Who should take leadership roles?
- Taking the primacy of local government as a given, what are the appropriate roles in parks provision by federal, state, and regional agencies?
- How can this coordination be articulated and supported by the bond measure?

Deliverable by early June, 2005: Draft strategy for roles/responsibilities, work plan (steps) and timeline for priority tasks (short and long term)

Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee

Vision, outcomes, objectives and means

DRAFT: March 15, 2005



METRO

A vision for the greater Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area

We envision an exceptional, multi-jurisdictional, interconnected system of neighborhood, community, and regional parks, natural areas, trails, open spaces, and recreation opportunities distributed equitably throughout the region. This region-wide system is acknowledged and valued here and around the world as an essential element of the greater Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area's economic success, ecological health, civic vitality, and overall quality of life.

As the region grows and develops, this region-wide system also expands, diversifies, and matures to meet the needs of a growing and changing population. All residents live and work near and have access – regardless of income – to nature, areas for recreation and leisure, and public spaces that bring people together and connect them to their community.

This region-wide system of parks, natural areas, trails, open spaces, and recreation opportunities:

- Drives the region's economy and tourist trade
- Preserves significant natural areas for wildlife habitat and public use
- Enhances the region's air and water quality
- Promotes citizens' health, fitness, and personal well-being

- Connects the region's communities with trails and greenways
- Provides sense of place and community throughout the region
- Supports an ecologically sustainable metropolitan area

There is a powerful, shared ethic that a region-wide system is essential. There is widespread recognition of its value from economic, personal health, community, and ecological perspectives. Tools for its support are well established, including partnerships, policies, and funding. Individuals and organizations from all parts of the region appreciate and champion the system through education, advocacy, and stewardship.

Definitions

Objective: 1. Something toward which effort is directed or an aim, goal or end of action. 2. A strategic position to be attained or a purpose to be achieved.

Outcome: Something that follows as a result or consequence.

Means: A method, course of action, or instrument by which an act can be accomplished or an end achieved.

Objective	Outcomes	Means	Who	When	Lead
1. Drives the region's economy and tourist trade	1.1. The system is marketed as part of the region's overall quality of life and constitutes a strategic advantage in attracting new and expanded businesses. People and business interests alike value and invest in the system as an essential service that maintains clean water and air quality, preserves and restores habitat, manages storm water and provides environmental buffers.	1.1.1. Develop a marketing strategy that includes naming the system, developing a key message, and integrating the message into existing economic marketing packages. 1.1.2. Promote the system to all audiences using a speakers' bureau; publications that describe the system's value and importance to the region at all levels; web-based newsletters, journals, etc 1.1.3. Formally adopt fish, wildlife and botanical icons at the local and regional levels as highly visible public benchmarks for measuring the success of protection and restoration efforts. Publicize and integrate the icons by electronic and print media across the region, outside the urban growth boundaries, and on both sides of the Columbia River. 1.1.4. Research and distribute analyses of the economic benefits of the system to various audiences and integrate their findings into local economic development and other marketing strategies. 1.1.5. Establish a regional business council to promote the economic benefits of the system and to encourage investment in it by the business community.	1.1-3. Metro, local and county governments, park providers, conservation nonprofits, planning and other local and regional departments, business associations, chambers of commerce, media 1.1.4. Scientists, educators, agencies, consultants 1.1.5. Metro, key business leaders		
	1.2. The system is valued as a core element of the region's identity and is a significant attraction for tourists interested in nature-based experiences and recreation within a metropolitan and regional context.	1.2.1. Market the system, its attributes and uses – hiking, biking, boating, stewardship activities, etc. – as reasons to visit the region. 1.2.2. Integrate the message (1.1.1.) into local and regional tourism marketing strategies.	1.2.1. Metro, business leaders, local chambers		
	1.3. Elements of the system – natural areas, parks, trails and recreation resources – are strategically located in or near the region's employment centers to revitalize neighborhoods and commercial areas, and to provide attractive settings for new residential, commercial and industrial development.	1.3.1. Identify opportunities for targeted investment in parks, trails, natural areas, and/or recreation development, and amend local and county comprehensive plans and ordinances to include such opportunities. 1.3.2. Provide parks and open space, prior to redevelopment/construction, as an economic catalyst to developers. 1.3.3. Encourage developers to include tracts of accessible open space in development plans.	1.3.1-4. Metro, county and local jurisdictions		
	1.4. Elements of the system – natural areas, parks, trails and recreation resources – serve as catalysts for regional and economic development.	1.4.1. Work with state, business and local economic development groups to devise economic development strategies that promote the system as a key component of the region's livability, its high quality of life, enhanced property values, and attractiveness for new businesses and workforces, etc.	1.4.1. Metro, state and local economic interests		

Objective	Outcomes	Means	Who	When	Lead
2. Preserves significant natural areas for wildlife habitat and public use	2.1. Additional significant natural areas are conserved, protected and continually acquired ensuring that vital habitat and regional biodiversity are protected.	2.1.1. Develop, adopt and implement a regional biodiversity recovery and management plan. 2.1.2. Pool and share best management techniques and successes from around the region, and coordinate public and private resources to encourage and facilitate large-scale volunteer biodiversity protection efforts. 2.1.3. Focus acquisition efforts on prioritized habitat and natural areas as identified in the biodiversity plan (e.g., large tracts).	2.1.1. Metro, local and county jurisdictions, all natural resource managers (nonprofits, universities, state and federal agencies) 2.1.2. Metro, local governments, watershed councils, nonprofits, schools, private property owners		
	2.2. Functional wildlife corridors throughout the region are conserved, protected, restored and managed.	2.2.1. Coordinate and focus corridor acquisition, restoration and management activities on connections between habitat areas as identified in the biodiversity plan.	2.2.1. Metro, local jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, land trusts		
	2.3. Invasive plant, animal and aquatic species are removed, controlled or managed where appropriate. Native species are reestablished throughout the region.	2.3.1. Pool and coordinate public and private resources to conduct large-scale volunteer eradication efforts. 2.3.2. Pool and coordinate public and private resources via comprehensive database, forums and training sessions, etc. to share best management practices. 2.3.3. Develop a regional invasive plant policy and plan for aggressive removal, control, management and coordinated implementation at local and regional levels. 2.3.4. Develop education programs and outreach activities to increase public awareness of invasive species and to motivate citizens to eradicate and control them whenever possible.	2.3.1. Metro, local governments, state agencies, local and state weed boards, soil and water conservation districts, universities, neighborhood associations, private property owners		
	2.4. Activities that harm natural areas and interfere with public use and enjoyment, such as illegal dumping, discharge of pollutants, vandalism, and inappropriate recreation activities, are substantially reduced.	2.4.1. Pool best management practices and conduct large-scale volunteer clean up efforts. 2.4.2. Increase public education efforts, security and monitoring by land managers, rangers and law enforcement to reduce harmful activities. 2.4.3. Develop a process to identify, promote and publicize recreation activities appropriate for natural areas, wildlife corridors and other habitat areas.	2.4.1-2. Metro, local governments, private property owners, federal agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service)		
	2.5. People of the region treasure and enjoy immediate access to nature and its experiences within a short walk of their homes and work places, whether it's a natural area, inner city park, garden or green space.	2.5.1. Develop quantitative and qualitative level of service standards and implementation strategies at local and regional levels.	2.5.1. Park providers and planners		

Objective	Outcomes	Means	Who	When	Lead
	2.6. Schools and youth groups regularly visit and use natural areas as outdoor laboratories or classrooms which helps build a lifelong relationship with nature and an attitude of stewardship toward one's landscape.	2.6.1. Develop region-wide school and youth programs, field trips, volunteer and other educational activities to teach and offer practice in stewardship.	2.6.1. Metro, existing educational infrastructure, nonprofit groups		
	2.7. Citizens and private landowners, all levels of government, organizations (e.g., watershed councils, nonprofits, land trusts), and business interests (e.g., the development community) promote a united stewardship ethic that is reflected in the active protection and restoration of natural areas for wildlife and people.	2.7.1. Implement smart growth and other coordinated policy, planning, design and conservation efforts among residents, businesses, government and the development community to protect biodiversity. 2.7.2. Define what constitutes a 'stewardship ethic' and develop strategies for popularizing it at neighborhood, community and regional levels. 2.7.3. Incorporate 2.7.2. into existing local and regional economic development, tourism and other marketing strategies.			
	2.8. Ongoing funding is available for acquisition of significant natural areas for wildlife habitat and public use.	2.8.1. Develop a multi-tiered funding strategy.			
3. Enhances the region's air and water quality	3.1. A healthy urban forest canopy is recognized throughout the region as an essential element of the system that contributes to storm water management, habitat, and air quality.	3.1.1. Actively monitor, increase and manage the extent and health of the region's urban forest canopy through coordination with private property owners and public agencies. 3.1.2. Expand urban tree programs region wide including planting of more trees, expanded technical assistance and improved management of existing tree canopies.			
	3.2. An interconnected system of local and regional trails, bike paths, pedestrian-friendly streets and other transportation alternatives significantly reduces vehicle miles traveled and miles of impervious road surfaces. Both reduce air pollutants and storm water runoff pollution.	3.2.1. Continue expanding, improving and implementing the regional trails plan. 3.2.2. Identify and pursue alternative trail and transportation funding sources for planning and implementation. 3.2.3. Develop resources (e.g., plans, design guidelines) to help local jurisdictions develop and implement their own trail plans.			

Objective	Outcomes	Means	Who	When	Lead
	3.3. The system is an essential, "green" part of the urban infrastructure and intentionally used to improve the region's air and water quality.	3.3.1. Establish a scientific target for Effective Imperviousness within each watershed and sub-basin. 3.3.2. Use public parks, natural areas, green streets, bioswales, etc. as demonstration sites for practical and innovative storm water management techniques, and as ways to educate public and private landowners about the multiple benefits that rivers, streams, wetlands and floodplains provide.			
	3.4. The region's watersheds successfully maintain the long-term ecological integrity of streams, wetlands, rivers and their floodplains, including their biological, physical, and social values.	3.4.1. Develop, integrate and implement cooperative watershed management strategies. 3.4.2. Focus land acquisition, restoration, regulations and stewardship programs on maintenance of the hydrological integrity of sub-basins, and watersheds as a whole. 3.4.3. Integrate existing surface water management plans with regional efforts, and coordinate overall goals for fish and wildlife habitat protection.	3.4.1-3. Bureau of Environmental Services, Water Environment Services, Clean Water Services, American Water Works Association, Clark County, Endangered Species Act plans		
	3.5. An informed, passionate public consistently advocates for restoration activities, resource conservation and appropriate use of natural areas to maintain the region's air and water quality.	3.5.1. Use public parks and natural areas as demonstration sites to illustrate innovative natural resource management techniques and educate private and public landowners about the multiple benefits that rivers, streams, wetlands, and floodplains provide. 3.5.2. Develop an advocacy strategy and implementation plan that will help residents recognize the importance of air and water quality, and encourage their active involvement in its maintenance and improvement.			
4. Promotes citizens' health, fitness, and personal well-being	4.1. The region's parks, green spaces, community centers and public/private facilities provide a range of diverse, affordable and accessible recreation resources to all, regardless of income, physical ability or location. People reach such resources easily by foot, bike, horse or public and private transportation.	4.1.1. Develop standards that, at a minimum, define measures of affordability, accessibility, desired facility characteristics, and funding strategies for every neighborhood. 4.1.2. Apply and coordinate these standards at regional and local levels to identify common goals, geographic and activity deficiencies, and development strategies responsive to local needs. 4.1.3. Formulate grassroots education programs to increase citizens' awareness of the connection between nature and an improved quality of life.	4.1.1. Existing scientific, educational infrastructure 4.1.2. Metro, GPAC, local jurisdictions, existing educational infrastructure, neighborhood associations, local citizen groups		

Objective	Outcomes	Means	Who	When	Lead
	4.2. People connect parks and green spaces with their physical and mental health. A variety of inviting, fitness-based resources enable everyone to improve and enrich his or her daily well being.	4.2.1. Develop full-service neighborhood community centers, trails and sports facilities within a short walk, bus/car trip or bicycle ride of every home in the region. 4.2.2. Develop education and activity programs that increase citizens' awareness of the connection between nature and an improved quality of life.	4.2.1-3. Local jurisdictions, private interests, existing educational infrastructure, neighborhood associations, local citizen groups		
	4.3. The regional system contains easily accessible places for contemplation of nature, appreciation of natural beauty, and refuge from the stresses of urban life.	4.3.1. Identify geographic and activity deficiencies to help determine development goals. 4.3.2. Develop and conduct education programs to increase citizens' awareness of the connection between nature and an improved quality of life.	4.3.1. Metro, local jurisdictions 4.3.2. Existing educational infrastructure, neighborhood associations, local citizen groups		
	4.4. The regional system provides places and settings that encourage creativity and other experiences that help residents maintain and improve their psychological well being.				
5. Connects the region's communities with trails and greenways	5.1. All residents have physical access within fifteen minutes of home or destination, by foot, bike, horse or transit, to a comprehensive, well-designed system of neighborhood, local, regional and inter-regional land and water trails.	5.1.1. Continue expanding, improving and implementing the existing regional trails plan. 5.1.2. Define accessibility, including distance and physical ability measures, and integrate them with regional and local service standards. 5.1.3. Identify gaps in the existing regional system, including neighborhood and other local connectors. Create and implement an integrated plan for their development. 5.1.4. Identify trail corridors that meet ADA and other accessibility requirements. Establish cost estimates and schedules for their development. 5.1.5. Develop and strategically distribute a variety of high quality, materials (e.g., signs, maps, brochures, web-based tools, etc.) to clearly identify the system and encourage its use among a broad public.	5.1.1-4. Metro, local and county jurisdictions, trails groups 5.1.5. Metro, media and graphic consultants		

Objective	Outcomes	Means	Who	When	Lead
	5.2. Trails and greenways are a fundamental infrastructure actively used to augment transportation networks and link parks, natural areas, waterways, public facilities (schools, libraries, etc.), neighborhoods, communities, towns and regional centers.	5.2.1. Develop and strategically distribute a variety of high quality, materials (e.g., signs, maps, brochures, web-based tools, etc.) to clearly identify the system and encourage its use among a broad public. 5.2.2. Adopt and incorporate pedestrian, bicycle and waterway networks into all existing transportation systems and transportation planning. 5.2.3. Expand the regional trails inventory and plan by integrating identified local connectors to and from neighborhoods, parks, public facilities, waterways and other system features.	5.2.1-3. Metro, local and county jurisdictions		
	5.3. The trail and greenway system connects existing and future natural resource and other significant areas on the edge of and beyond the metropolitan region (e.g., the coast, mountains and Oregon's wine country).	5.3.1. Develop a plan for a larger trail network that connects significant natural and cultural landscape resources.	5.3.1. Metro, four county jurisdictions, Willamette Valley interests, scientific and cultural stakeholders		
	5.4. The trail and greenway system is funded on an ongoing basis as an affordable commuter transportation alternative that also provides access to nature, diverse recreation opportunities, and other settings that improve peoples' health and well being.	5.4.1. Seek bond measure funding for regional trail and corridor acquisition, construction and maintenance. 5.4.2. Seek dedicated state funding (e.g., State Recreation Trails Program, etc.) for interregional trails planning and implementation. 5.4.3. Maximize use of Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and other transportation funds for trail development throughout the region.	5.4.1-2. Metro, trail advocacy groups		
	5.5. The region's major arterial streets complement the trail and greenway system as well-designed, attractively planted corridors for pedestrians, cyclists and autos alike.	5.5.1. Develop and adopt arterial design and planting standards and integrate them into local and regional transportation plans.	5.5.1. Metro, local jurisdictions, Portland Department of Transportation		
6. Provides sense of place and community throughout the region	6.1. The system as a whole is an integral part of our identity as a region – a shared sense of place that crosses all boundaries. Elements of the system – significant natural, scenic and cultural features, and the ordinary landscapes of our daily lives, reflect the region's essential character and identity, regardless of boundary.	6.1.1. Develop a coherent, readily understood message about the region, including key phrases, images and aspirations. Integrate it into existing local and regional marketing and acquisition strategies. 6.1.2. Acquire and manage areas of varying size, from small neighborhood pocket parks and gathering spaces to public plazas and regional scale nature preserves.	6.1.1. Metro, local jurisdictions, citizen and "friends" groups		
	6.2. Individual elements of the system, such as natural areas, interconnected trails, parks and public spaces, help physically and visually define and distinguish each neighborhood, community and city in the region.	6.2.1. Identify features whose character and value to citizens helps define individual places.	6.2.1. Metro, local jurisdictions, citizen and "friends" groups		

Objective	Outcomes	Means	Who	When	Lead
	6.3. Elements of the system facilitate a sense of community by providing physical and cultural settings for diverse activities that foster community interaction at all levels.	6.3.1. Use elements of the system to organize volunteer, nonprofit, business and governmental activities that support and protect the system, and encourage active participation in neighborhood, local and regional community life. 6.3.2. Develop public gathering spaces and/or facilities in residential neighborhoods, town and regional centers.	6.3.1. Metro, local jurisdictions		
	6.4. People value and appreciate 'living in nature' as part of the region's identity.	6.4.1. Acquire and ecosystem-manage natural areas of varying size – from small neighborhood pocket parks to regional scale nature preserves and refuges – throughout the region. 6.4.2. Where natural areas are no longer possible, provide small parks, gardens or restored green spaces as nature experiences at the neighborhood, community and city level.			
7. Supports an ecologically sustainable metropolitan area	7.1. The region's diversity of habitat types, plants and animals is protected, conserved and restored across the region's urban and rural landscape.	7.1.1. Develop, adopt and actively implement a bi-state, four-county Regional Biodiversity Recovery and Management Plan. Integrate it with other sustainability and transportation plans and planning efforts. 7.1.2. Identify significant natural areas for acquisition/protection and formally integrate them into transportation, land use planning and other sustainability plans and projects (e.g. green streets) through regional and local policies. 7.1.3. Develop and implement a tool box of innovative strategies (e.g., acquisition, regulatory, stewardship and incentive programs) to conserve the region's natural resources and ensure that large and small refugia are interconnected in every neighborhood in the region.	7.1.1-3. Metro, four-county coalition, scientific community, natural resource managers		
	7.2. In all the region's neighborhoods, parks, greenways and other natural areas protect and maintain clean water, wildlife and access to nature.	7.2.1. Use parks and natural areas as models of best management practices for storm water, water usage, and pest management. 7.2.2. Partner with nonprofit organizations, schools and government agencies to use natural areas as classrooms and on-site laboratories for environmental education and interpretation of watershed health, fish and wildlife habitat issues.	7.2.1. Local jurisdictions 7.2.2-3. Metro, existing educational infrastructure		
	7.3. Long-term, comprehensive federal, state, and regional funding, strongly supported by elected officials at all levels, the business community and the general public, is established to continually expand, operate and maintain the system.				

Objective	Outcomes	Means	Who	When	Lead
	7.4. Full-time professionals staff regional and local elements of the system and collaborate with nonprofit organizations, private property owners and citizens to protect the diverse flora and fauna associated with urban natural areas.	7.4.1. Hire and fund, on an ongoing basis, staff with expertise in urban ecosystem management, restoration practices and community collaboration projects.			
	7.5. The ecological health of the system's natural resource elements is continually monitored.	7.5.1. Establish standards and monitor changes in the system on a site specific, and watershed and regional scale over time. Produce a bi-annual "Ecological State of the Region" report and distribute to all residents of the region. 7.5.2. Establish a regional ecosystem research consortium to conduct, document and apply new research to strategies that protect, restore, and manage the urban ecosystem and the region's natural areas. Develop monitoring as a combination of adaptive management and new information to influence choices and applications. 7.5.3. Complete a regional assessment of and recommendations for the ecosystem services or "natural capital" values of the system, including natural areas, streams, floodplains, and wetlands. 7.5.4. Place quantitative and qualitative values on individual elements and on the system as a whole to help make policy and investment decisions.	7.5.1-3. Metro, universities, scientific community, nonprofits, land trusts 7.5.4. Universities, federal agencies		
	7.6. Biodiversity protection and recovery efforts in the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Region are integrated with similar urban initiatives in Salem, Albany, Corvallis, and the Eugene-Springfield area. Parks, trails, and natural area planning in the urban areas are integrated with efforts to maintain biodiversity goals throughout the Willamette Valley.	7.6.1. Develop, adopt and implement a Willamette Valley Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement Strategy.	7.6.1. Metro, four-county coalition, Willamette Valley coalition, scientific community, Willamette Urban Watershed Network, Governor's Willamette Initiative, nonprofits, Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center		
	7.7. Natural areas, parks, trails and recreation resources are recognized, embraced and used as an essential infrastructure in public and private community planning and design, permitting and development, especially in areas outside of the Urban Growth Boundary and throughout the Willamette Valley.				

CRAG proposes big park system for metro residents

Residents of the Portland metropolitan area would have available a network of more than 750 miles of trails, greenways, parkways and scenic drives within the urban area under proposals of a Metropolitan Park and Open Space System now being readied for public discussion.

There also would be a regional, or general-purpose, park within 30 minutes drive of every home in the area, a community park within 15 minutes of every home and a neighborhood park within walking distance.

These proposals are included as part of a \$254.6 million park and recreation development during the next 30 years recommended by planners for Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) and approved by the executive board of the planning organization for Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties in Oregon and Clark County in Washington.

Plan outlined

Key elements include:

- Development of greenways, scenic corridors and parkways along at least 460 miles of urban area shoreline and 325 miles in a network of routes throughout the metropolitan area.

- Development of 17 regional park sites (including 4,200 acres) currently purchased and purchase and development of another 11 park sites (with 3,200 acres).

- Acquisition of another 4,500 acres of park and open space lands, including seven new golf courses.

- Development of 30 new community parks, 1 of 20-30 acres) and 269 new neighborhood parks (of 10 acres or more) on 1,300 acres of land now acquired, but not developed, and another 3,000 acres to be purchased.

More funds urged

The proposal recommends that \$8.5 million be spent each year on park and open space development, rather than the \$1.7 million currently spent.

Specific proposals are recommended for the first 10 years of the plan, with top priority given to purchasing land as soon as possible to assure its availability. It also urges all public agencies to

forestall any efforts to develop areas pinpointed for parks and open spaces.

The plan calls for appointment of a citizen's advisory committee to help spearhead the drive for widespread discussion of the plan, and appointment of a fulltime project director to follow through on implementation.

Long-term financing of the parks and open spaces projects at the local levels would be handled through the Metropolitan Service District in Oregon counties, the CRAG planners recommend.

Estimated costs for acquiring property (at 1970 prices) are \$5,000 per acre for riverfront property; \$4,500 per acre for regional park sites; \$6,500 per acre for neighborhood and community parks.

Development of parks and open spaces was estimated at \$7,500 per acre for special-purpose regional parks, \$4,500 per acre for general-purpose regional parks and \$15,000 per acre for neighborhood and community parks.

Of the over-all costs, it is estimated that the development of greenways, parkways, trails and scenic drives will cost \$55 million (1970 dollars); regional park proposals will cost \$115.6 million; and local park proposals will cost \$84 million.



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