

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING AND)	RESOLUTION NO. 04-3501
APPROVING THE CANEMAH PARK MASTER)	
PLAN AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO)	
THE CANEMAH PARK PROPERTY)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE)	Michael J. Jordan, with the concurrence of
CITY OF OREGON CITY)	Council President David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on July 23, 1992, via Resolution No. 92-1637 (For the Purpose of Considering Adoption of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan), Metro Council adopted the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan which identified a desired system of natural areas interconnected with greenways and trails (“Metro Greenspaces Master Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the Canemah Bluff portion of the Willamette River Greenway Natural Area was identified as a regionally significant open space by the Metro Greenspaces Master Plan (“Canemah Bluff”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Metro Open Spaces, Parks and Streams 1995 Ballot Measure 26-26 (“Metro Open Spaces Bond Measure”), Metro acquired over 100 acres in Canemah Bluff (the “Canemah Bluff Natural Area”), a large portion of which is located in the City of Oregon City (“Oregon City”), immediately adjacent to the neighborhood park known as Canemah Children’s Park (“Canemah Park”), which is owned by the City of Oregon City and currently improved with a picnic shelter, swing sets and similar park improvements; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2003, Metro entered into the Canemah Park Property Intergovernmental Agreement, Metro Contract No. 924863 (“IGA”), with Oregon City providing for master planning by Oregon City of the one-acre portion of the Canemah Bluff Natural Area nearest Canemah Park (the “Canemah Park Property”); and

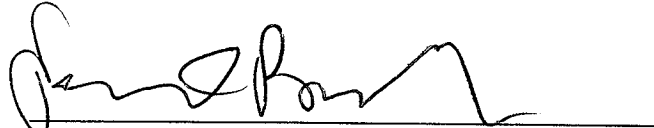
WHEREAS, the IGA provides that, upon approval by the Metro Council of a resource management plan for the Canemah Park Property, Oregon City will assume development, management, maintenance and operation responsibility for the Canemah Park Property; and

WHEREAS, the IGA requires, and Oregon City has now prepared, a resource management plan that sets forth both the term of Oregon City’s control and responsibility for the Canemah Park Property and the guidelines and standards governing Oregon City’s development, management, maintenance, and operation of the Canemah Park Property (the “Canemah Neighborhood Park Master Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the Canemah Neighborhood Park Master Plan has been reviewed by Metro Parks and Greenspaces staff and it meets or exceeds all requirements of the IGA and the Metro Greenspaces Master Plan, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metro Council hereby authorizes and approves the Canemah Neighborhood Park Master Plan in the form set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto, and authorizes the amendment of the Canemah Park Property Intergovernmental Agreement to provide for a perpetual term.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 7th day of October, 2004.


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

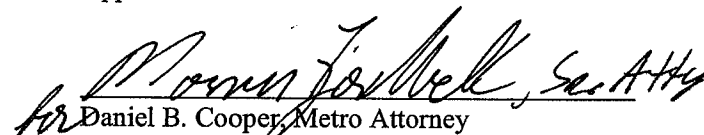
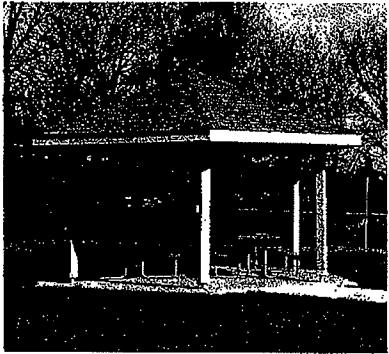

for Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



Exhibit A
Resolution No. 04-3501



Canemah Neighborhood Park Master Plan

Prepared for the City of Oregon City, Oregon by:
Lango Hansen Landscape Architects
Winterbrook Consulting

11 August 2004

Table of Contents

Overview	1
Public Involvement	1
Project Location	2
Metro Natural Area	2
Existing Conditions	3
Workshop 1: Master Plan Visioning	4
Workshop 2: Master Plan Alternatives	5
Workshop 3: Master Plan Presentation	7
Overlook Improvements	8
Appendix	9



Existing Canemah Park with new picnic shelter.

Overview

The Canemah Neighborhood Park Master Plan suggest improvements for a 1.5-acre open space in the Canemah neighborhood in Oregon City. The 1.5 acres includes an existing neighborhood park, the Paquet Street right-of-way and a 1-acre parcel owned by Metro, but managed by the City of Oregon City through a memorandum of understanding. The goal of the master plan is to create a small multi-use neighborhood park that provides a transition to an adjacent 38-acre (Metro-owned) natural area.

Park improvements are designed to encourage a variety of uses, respond to safety concerns, take better advantage of the site's natural setting and views, provide a gateway to the natural area and recognize the natural and cultural history of the site and surrounding neighborhood.

The Canemah bluff, adjacent to the Canemah neighborhood, has been designated by Metro as a "regionally significant natural area site" and is subject to policies issued in the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan. Park improvements on the Metro property must not endanger wildlife habitats and provide passive recreational opportunities that support ecological values.

The site is also within the Canemah Historic District which is on the National Register for Historic Places. The Oregon City Code states that "no major public improvements shall be made in a district unless approved by the Historic Review Board and given a certificate of appropriateness". In addition to respecting the ecology of the area, the execution of the Master Plan shall respect the history of the area. This is particularly relevant to any structures placed on the site like picnic shelters, play equipment and interpretive signage or kiosks.

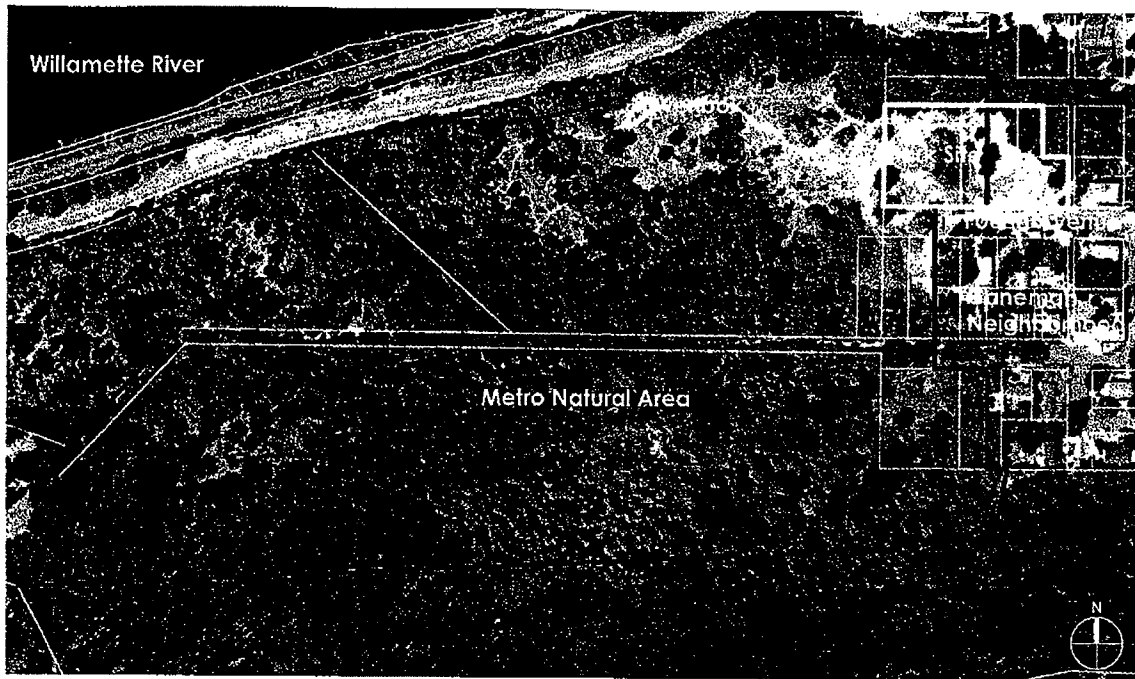


Eastern end of Canemah Park adjacent to residences.

Public Involvement

Information sharing between the neighborhood, park users and the designers was necessary to ensure a successful master plan that responds to the needs and concerns of neighboring residents and stakeholders. Canemah residents were invited by mail to participate in two workshops and to attend a draft master plan presentation to the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC).

Residents that participated were enthusiastic to share their desires and concerns. The design team incorporated their suggestions and presented the drawings at later meetings. Design options and public responses are discussed later in this document.



Vicinity map including a portion of the Canemah neighborhood, the park site and it's relationship to the adjacent Metro natural area.

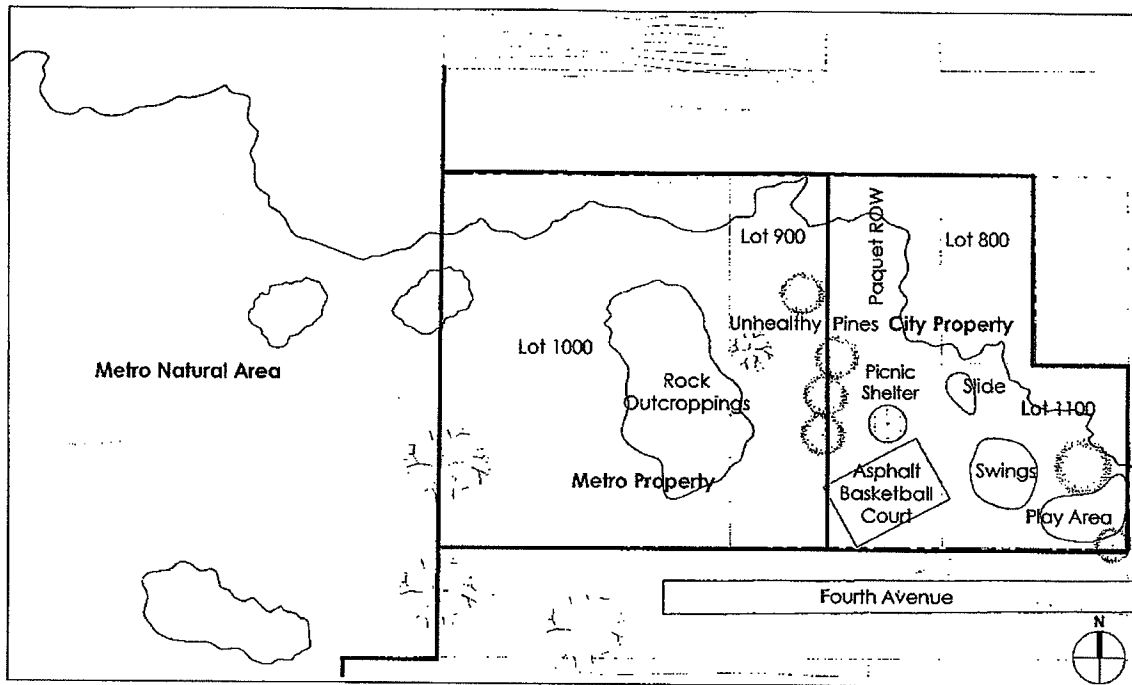
Project Location

The project area is shown on the northeast corner of the vicinity map and outlined in white. It sits atop Canemah Ridge which is defined on the north by basaltic cliffs which have been carved by the Willamette River and by more recent blasting to enable the widening of Highway 99E. The eastern portion of the project area is the existing Canemah Park, a children's park, which includes tax lots 800 and 1100 and the Paquet Street right-of-way (see map on page 3). Adjacent to the park to the west is the 1-acre parcel of land (lots 900 and 1000) owned by Metro, but managed by Oregon City Parks and Recreation (through an intergovernmental agreement). This parcel will serve as a transitional open space area between the more active park space to the east and 38 acres of Metro land to the west.

Metro Natural Area

The 38 acres of Metro land will be managed by Metro as a natural area. A large contiguous forest, diverse system of wetlands, seeps and rocky cliffs characterize this property. Metro has undertaken restoration efforts of the area which include scotch broom and blackberry removal. User trails have developed on the site and local residents regularly use the area for walking. Unfortunately, the site has also attracted misuse by vandals. It is anticipated that park improvements, particularly in the transitional area, will deter further unwanted use by providing better opportunities for those activities that are wanted, education of visitors and self-enforcement by local users.

An exposed overlook on a rock outcropping about .15 miles from Canemah Park looks out to the Willamette River but also presents significant safety risks to the public. Although outside the park limits of this master plan, access to the overlook and enhancement suggestions are included in this document.



Canemah Park and transition area to Metro property.

Existing Conditions

Canemah Park is approximately .61 acres inclusive of the Paquet Street right-of-way. It was developed incrementally over time and does not support an overall plan with regard to use and circulation. The topography dips greatly making it extremely challenging to even play catch. Much of the space is unusable and unfortunately wasted in a neighborhood where rocky outcroppings and extreme slopes limit usable backyard space.

The park sits high above highway 99E and overlooks the Willamette River but understory overgrowth prohibits openings to the panoramic view. A low chainlink fence is providing temporary restraint along the cliff edge.

Park limits and access are poorly delineated. The gravel parking area is loosely defined by the crumbling asphalt road edge and there is no designated

pedestrian route or entry into the space.

Park elements consist of a very small open lawn area interrupted by trees in poor health, a half basketball court, aging playground equipment, a small parking area and a picnic shelter.

The playground pieces include an aging wood structure that does not meet current safety standards. It is set at a lower grade than the rest of the park and is not universally accessible. Adjacent to the asphalt basketball court is a freestanding metal slide and swingset. The slide is not up to code and the swingset appears to meet safety standards but will require a formal inspection prior to relocation.

The picnic shelter is about a year old and fixed in its current location. Master plan improvements must be designed around the shelter.

Workshop 1: Master Plan Visioning

This initial meeting with the public introduced the project, described the master plan process and initiated a dialogue to discuss the goals and objectives for the park. The objective of this meeting was to identify additional issues and to gather social, cultural and historical information about the site.

Turnout for this first meeting was fairly high and neighbors videotaped the workshop (as well as all subsequent meetings). The designers did not present any plans at this stage and instead showed existing conditions maps/aerials and site photographs.

Workshop Comments

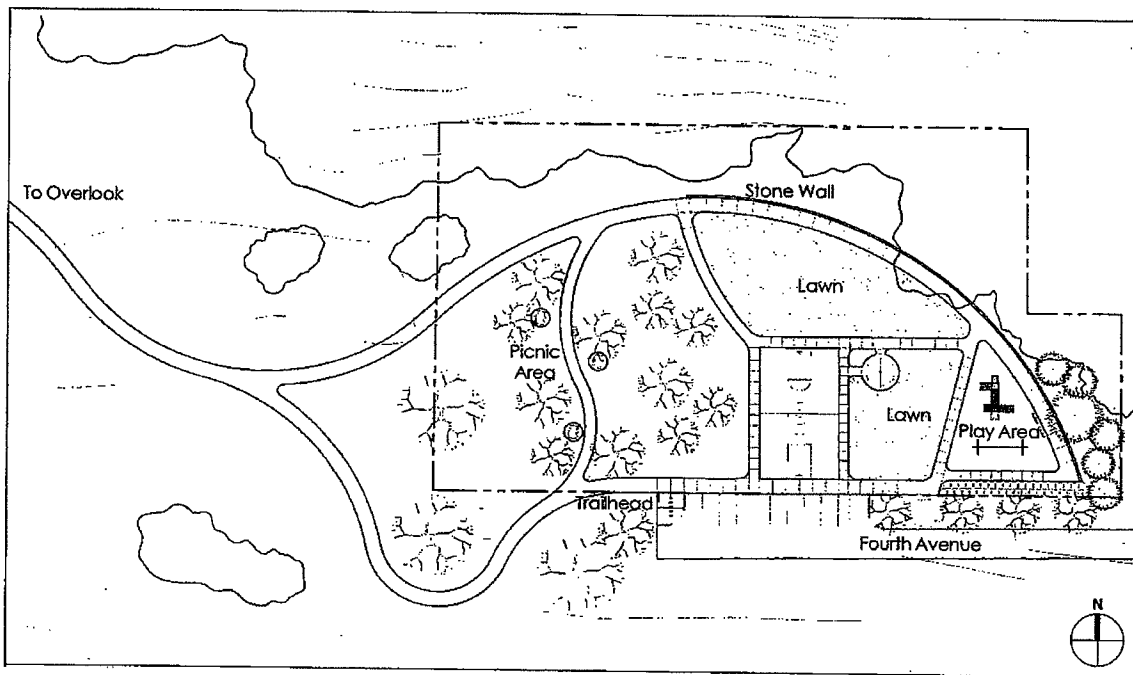
- Oregon City Parks & Recreation sees the site as a location for informal, passive recreation. Pick-up ball fields could be allowed, but athletic field lighting and team benches are not permitted due to Metro Greenspaces regulations. Elements of the park should not attract activities out of scale with the neighborhood.
- Tax lot 900 may be the flattest area and most appropriate for a pick-up field.
- The park is considered a living room to the neighborhood and used for several gatherings including National Night Out.
- There are differing opinions on ball fields. Some people say no ball fields and others say an area is needed to throw a ball around.
- The parking area should be small to accommodate only handfuls of people. Neighbors want to discourage driving to the park. Traffic is a concern.
- Musicians need electricity.
- Some type of restroom would be nice. Because sewers are cost prohibitive, perhaps an alternative type.

Vandalism and maintenance issues suggest a temporary restroom in the warmer months. A permanent pad with screening could be constructed to house the temporary structure.

- The park should have amenities that attract younger people and their children. The neighborhood should support new generations of people to help regenerate the community.
- Views should be taken advantage of, particularly the view from the overlook. A stone overlook could reference other stone features throughout Oregon City.
- Interpretive/historical signage is important. Signage should speak to the natural and cultural uniqueness of the site. Signage should be durable. Plaques on boulders were suggested. A marker to honor Howard Clemson is very important. His story should be told so his legacy can continue.
- If possible, space for community gardening would be good since most residents have very little soil in their yards.
- The existing pines are diseased and will most likely die (one is dead). They should not be considered in the master plan.
- The root cellar should remain.
- Vandalism is an issue now, but it was agreed that a park that supports many activities will deter vandalism. It will also contribute to a greater sense of community.
- If topographically appropriate, a small amphitheater might be incorporated. Perhaps it could be part of the overlook?
- Although understandably expensive, a small stone-walled promenade could overlook the river.
- Low-level, environmentally friendly lighting would be appropriate.
- A school house was in the location of the existing slide. It was torn down in 1945.

Workshop 2: Master Plan Alternatives

Based on the information received from the first workshop, the design team developed two master plan alternatives and presented them to the public. This meeting provided an opportunity for Canemah residents to discuss the pros and cons of each alternative and begin to establish a more concrete vision for the master plan.



Option A

Option A centralizes the primary activity areas on the eastern half of the site and proposes an enhanced natural landscape for the western portion of the site adjacent to the Metro property.

A stone-walled promenade along the northeast side of the park leads to the overlook. The children's play area is raised to be level with the rest of the park as well as being enlarged from its current size. An evergreen buffer screens it from adjacent residents. The basketball court is rotated for a north-south orientation. Open lawn areas are intended for informal play and picknicking. The west side of the park is minimally developed to serve as a transition to the adjacent natural area

where a north-south trail creates a spine for picnic areas and vegetation enhancement. A small paved parking area that accommodates 10 vehicles terminates at a trail head where interpretive signage and bicycle parking is located.

Public feedback included making both the lawn areas and the play areas larger. The promenade was suggested to be a 'walk of history' where interpretive elements could be integrated into wall with perhaps an overlook. There was a desire to see more of a pedestrian entrance to the park with a small space that creates a sense of arrival. This was the preferred option.

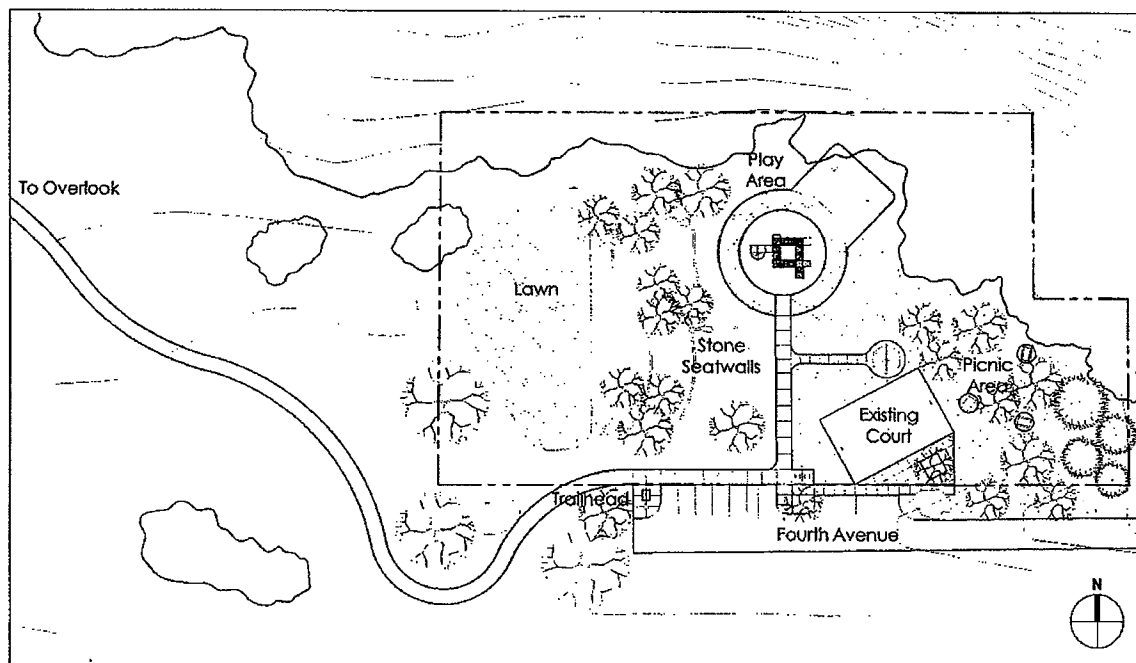
Option B

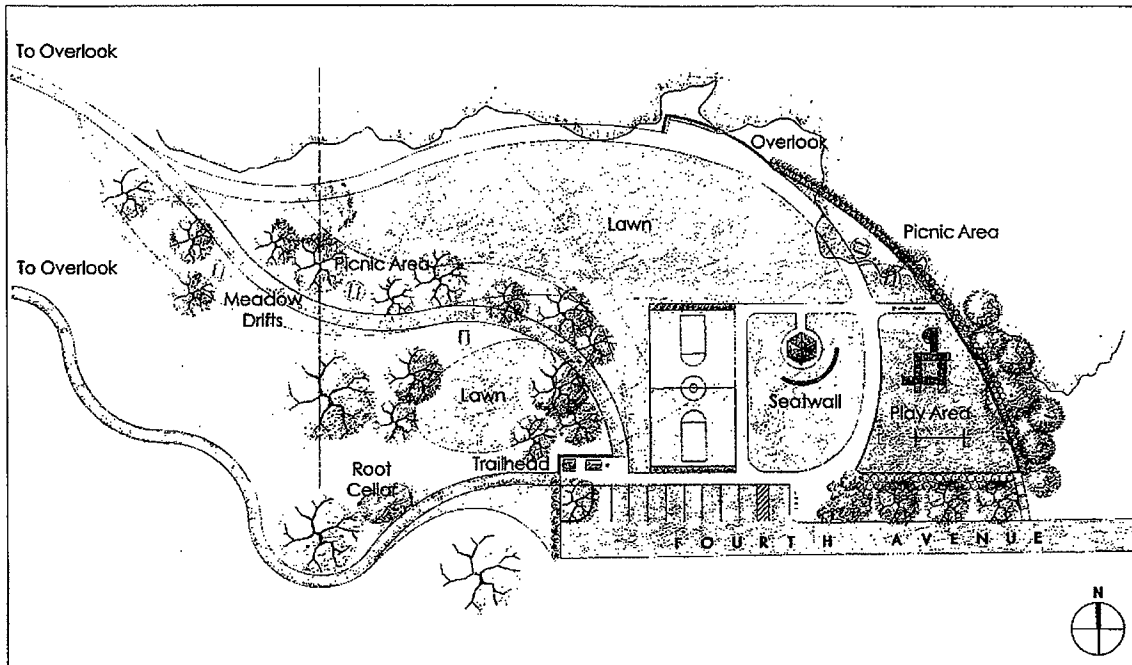
Option B locates uses with highest levels of activity on the eastern portion of the site, and proposes an informal playing field on the western half of the site (City-managed Metro property) next to the Metro natural area.

Option B retains the existing basketball court which inherently constrains the design. A small plaza connects the court to the circulation system. The play area is centrally located to distance it from the adjacent residence. The east side of the park is raised to be level with the rest of the park and additional trees are proposed to create a small picnic area. The west side of the park is more developed in this option with low serpentine stone walls creating informal amphitheater seating and a transition to a lawn area for light recreation. The topography shifts and exposed bedrock in this area will necessitate added fill to accommodate the field.

The form of the lawn and the serpentine walls are conceptual at this stage and subject to change given surveyed topographical conditions. The paved parking area can accommodate eight cars. Similar to Option A, a paved trailhead with interpretive signage is located at the end of the parking area.

Both the residents and the Parks and Recreation staff agreed that there is no reason to retain the existing basketball court and limit the design opportunities for the park. While the larger lawn area was viewed as a plus, there seemed to be consensus that the west side of the park should remain less developed and more natural. The stone seatwalls were well-received and it was suggested that perhaps they could occur on the more developed east side of the park. The larger play structure in this scheme was preferred.





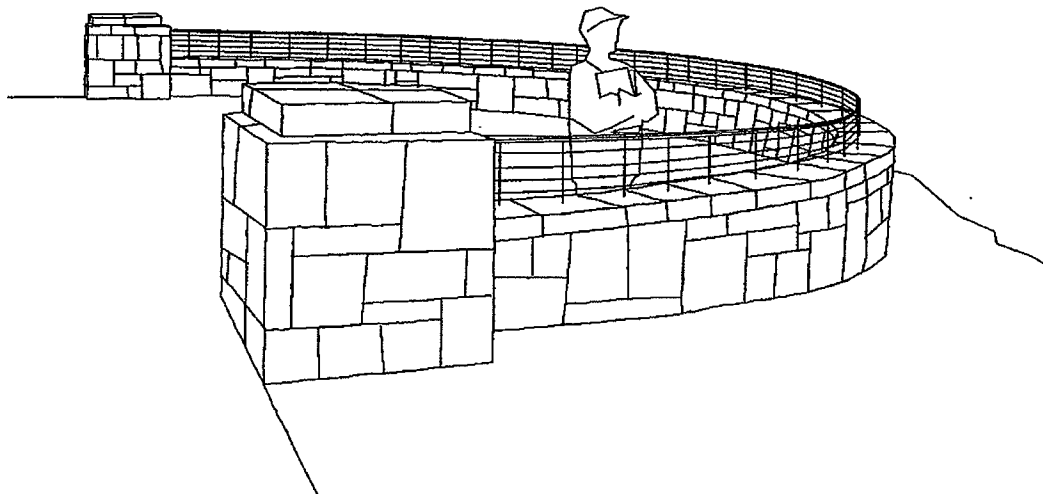
Final Master Plan

Workshop 3: Final Master Plan Presentation

The master plan was presented at the third workshop meeting to Canemah residents and the Oregon City Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC). Both the residents and PRAC approved the plan and recommended it be presented to the Oregon City Planning Commission.

The master plan integrates the responses to options A & B heard at the second public meeting. The promenade has been moved further north to expand the lawn and play areas to the south. The enlarged play area will be at the same grade as the rest of the park so that it is clearly visible. It will accommodate both a new play structure and the existing swing set. The continuous stone wall along the promenade evolved into a stone overlook that will provide opportunities for seating, viewing and historical/cultural acknowledgment. Other stone elements include a seating wall by the picnic shelter and a low enclosure wall at the trail head.

The trail head has been expanded to include space for a portable restroom as well as an interpretive kiosk describing the natural features of the area. The lawn area has also been enlarged to the west with its form and actual size to be determined during the construction documentation phase of this project. A path which leads to the overlook point connects the natural area to the developed park area. Along the path are picnic tables, tree groves and wildflower drifts. To the south of the path is a smaller lawn area for more passive recreational activities. The pedestrian entrance to the park is a small paved area adjacent to an existing rock outcropping. Additional boulders and plantings are intended to enhance the small plaza which also contains a drinking fountain and bicycle parking. The root cellar/rock outcropping to the west of the trail head is anticipated to be another entry feature to the natural area that will be cleared and planted.



A possible approach toward treating the overlook outcropping.

Overlook Improvements

Although the Willamette River overlook lies well within the Metro natural area and is outside of the scope of this master plan, it is a pedestrian destination point from Canemah Park and should be acknowledged as a design element related to the park.

The proposed routes to the overlook transition from concrete sidewalks in Canemah Park to asphalt paths that follow the existing unpaved user-defined trails. The overlook location in its current state presents a significant safety risk to the public because of the precipitous drop-off, with no constructed barrier or restraints. Improvements should be considered high priority for master plan implementation.

The panoramic view atop this rock outcropping is spectacular and demands a permanent and contextually sensitive treatment.

The wide use of basalt stonework throughout Oregon City suggests a stone wall that will complement the stone walls proposed in the park (draft master plan, page 8). A metal railing system on a low stone wall could provide the minimum height requirements while still maintaining a sense of transparency.

The rich natural and cultural history of the site and surrounding area should be incorporated into the overlook design as integrated interpretive elements.

Appendix

Site Specific Plant List for Meadows, Rock Outcrops and Woodland Edges

TREES

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments ('D' is drought tolerant)
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Pacific madrone	D – specimen tree or grove
<i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	Western flowering dogwood	Woodland edge or specimen planting
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Black hawthorn	Woodland edge
<i>Quercus garryana</i>	Garry oak	D – specimen tree or grove

SHRUBS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments ('D' is drought tolerant)
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	vine maple	D - fall color; cover, forage, mod. deep spreading roots
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	saskatoon serviceberry	D - flowers and edible fruits, small tree specimen; forage, cover habitat; soil binder
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	kinnickinick	D - evergreen groundcover
<i>Arctostaphylos columbiana</i>	hairy manzanita	D - evergreen shrub
<i>Bacharis pilularis</i>	coyote bush	D - evergreen shrub
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	tall Oregon-grape	D - evergreen shrub
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	salal	Low evergreen cover, butterflies, soil binder
<i>Paxistama myrsinifolia</i>	Oregon box	D - low evergreen cover
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	mock orange	D – fragrant, flowering shrub
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	shrubby cinquefoil	Low shrub with large yellow flowers
<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	baldhip rose	Flowers in clusters, bright red hips
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	red flowering currant	D - flowering shrub; draws butterflies, hummingbirds
<i>Spiraea betulifolia v. lucida</i>	birch leaf spiraea	D - flowering shrub; wildlife forage, cover
<i>Symphoricarpos alba</i>	snowberry	Wildlife forage and cover

GROUNDCOVER

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments ('D' is drought tolerant)
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	pearly everlasting	D – masses, long flowering
<i>Antennaria microphylla</i>	rosy pussytoes	Rock outcrops/rock garden, with Penstemon
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	showy milkweed	Fragrant, butterfly host
<i>Camas leichtlinii</i>	great camas	meadow; plant in drifts (masses)
<i>Camas quamash</i>	common camas	meadow; plant in drifts (masses)
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mt. Avens	mat forming, wall drapery; rock outcrops/rock garden

Appendix

GROUND COVER CONT.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	beach daisy	D - wall drapery; rock outcrops/rock garden
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Oregon sunshine	D - mat forming; rock outcrops/rock garden
<i>Erythronium oregonum</i>	trout lily	moist, shady areas in woodland
<i>Frageria chiloensis</i>	coastal strawberry	evergreen groundcover, wall drapery
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	blanket flower	yellow flower with red center; rock outcrops/rock garden
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	small-fl. alum root	shady areas
<i>Iris douglasii</i>	Douglas iris	D - clusters; rock outcrops/rock garden
<i>Iris tenax</i>	Oregon iris	D - clusters; rock outcrops/rock garden
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	wild blue flax	Rock outcrops/rock garden; grayish leaves
<i>Lithophragma parviflora</i>	small flowered woodland star	Rock outcrops/rock garden and meadow
<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	hairy honeysuckle	train on walls or fences
<i>Lupinus rivularis</i>	stream-bank lupine	groups near fern, strawberry
<i>Penstemon rupicola</i>	rock penstemon	D - shrubby evergreen; rock outcrops/rock garden
<i>Phlox diffusa</i>	spreading phlox	creeping; rock outcrops/rock garden
<i>Plectritis congesta</i>	rosy plectritis	vernally moist meadow areas and rock outcrops
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	sword fern	evergreen cover; in groups, w/ strawberry, shady
<i>Sedum oregonum</i>	Oregon stonecrop	D - rock outcrops/rock garden; wall drapery
<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	broad-leaved stonecrop	D - rock outcrops/rock garden; wall drapery
<i>Sidalcea campestris</i>	meadow checker-mallow	meadows

SELECTED MIX FOR ROCK OUTCROP AREAS/ROCK GARDENS

Beach daisy
 Blanket flower
 Broad-leaved stonecrop
 Douglas iris

Appendix

ROCK OUTCROP AREAS/ROCK GARDENS CONT.

Mt. Avens
Oregon iris
Oregon stonecrop
Oregon sunshine
Penstemon sp.
Pussytoes
Rosy plectritis
Small flowered woodland star
Spreading phlox
Wild blue flax

NOTES:

1. Groundcover plants that are prairie species will require periodic burn, well-timed mowing and possible herbicide applications for maintenance.
2. Site preparation for planting should be clear and thorough. Establishment of an open prairie will require thorough elimination of weeds. Take a full growing season to prepare the site, kill weeds, stimulate the seed bank and kill newly germinated weeds before planting.
3. Clumping of tree and shrub communities will allow easier maintenance of open areas and quicker establishment of canopy cover.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 04-3501 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE CANEMAH PARK MASTER PLAN AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CANEMAH PARK PROPERTY INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF OREGON CITY

Date: September 23, 2004

Prepared by: Patricia Sullivan

BACKGROUND

On July 23, 1992 Metro Council approved Resolution No. 92-1637 (“For the Purpose of Considering Adoption of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan”) which adopted the Metro Greenspaces Master Plan identifying a desired system of natural areas interconnected with greenways and trails. The Canemah Bluff portion of the Willamette River Greenway Natural Area was identified as a regionally significant open space by the Metro Greenspaces Master Plan.

Metro has acquired over 100 acres in Canemah Bluff, a large portion of which is located in Oregon City adjacent to Canemah Park, which is owned by Oregon City. Park improvements currently include a picnic shelter, swing sets and other similar park improvements.

Metro entered into the Canemah Parks Property Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oregon City on March 19, 2003. The agreement provides for master planning by Oregon City of the 1-acre portion of Metro’s Canemah Bluff Natural Area immediately adjacent to Canemah Park. The IGA provides that, upon approval by the Metro Council of a resource management plan for the Canemah Park property, Oregon City will assume its responsibility for development, management, maintenance and operation of that property.

Oregon City has now prepared a resource management plan (The Canemah Neighborhood Park Master Plan), which suggests improvements for a 1.5-acre open space in the Canemah neighborhood of Oregon City. The 1.5 acres include an existing neighborhood park and the 1-acre parcel owned by Metro. The goal of the master plan is to create a small multi-use neighborhood park that provides a transition to Metro’s 38-acre natural area.

The public involvement portion of the master plan included information-sharing between the neighborhood park users and master plan designers, Lango Hansen, Landscape Architects. Canemah residents participated in two workshops and attended a draft master plan presentation to Oregon City’s Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. In these venues, residents voiced their suggestions and concerns, which were considered and incorporated into the process.

Metro Parks and Greenspaces staff, having reviewed the Canemah Neighborhood Park Master Plan, found it meets requirements of the Intergovernmental Agreement and the Metro Greenspaces Master Plan. Staff also recommends authorization of an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement to provide for a perpetual term of management.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known opposition:

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents:**

- Metro Council Resolution 92-1637 adopted the Metro Greenspaces Master Plan identifying a desired system of natural areas interconnected with greenways and trails.
- A March 2003 Intergovernmental Agreement between Metro and the City of Oregon City provided for master planning by Oregon City of the 1-acre portion of the Canemah Bluff Natural Agreement nearest Canemah Park

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Implementation of the Canemah Neighborhood Park Master Plan will produce a small multi-use neighborhood park that provides a transition to Metro's adjacent 38-acre natural area.

4. **Budget Impacts**

None.

-

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Michael J. Jordan, Chief Operating Officer, with the concurrence of David Bragdon, Council President, recommends approval of Resolution No. 04-3501.