

## **Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee**

### **MEETING NOTES**

1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10  
Metro Regional Center, Room 370

### **Goal 5 update**

Paul Ketcham from Metro's planning department provided an update on Metro's fish and wildlife habitat protection program (Goal 5). A public involvement process is planned for this fall when the Metro Council will be making several key decisions about the program.

The Metro Council has approved an inventory and map of regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat. An analysis of the economic, social environmental and energy impacts of protecting – or not protecting – fish and wildlife habitat is nearly complete. Using the information from these two efforts and input from local partners and the public, the Metro Council will consider adopting a habitat protection program by the end of 2004.

For more information, visit the Metro web site at [www.metro-region.org/habitat](http://www.metro-region.org/habitat) or call Paul Ketcham at (503) 797-1726.

### **Site conservation planning workshop**

Jayne Cronlund from Three Rivers Land Conservancy presented information about a site conservation planning workshop designed to produce a full site conservation plan for a natural area of your choosing and give natural area managers a framework and software for developing future natural area plans.

The workshop will use The Nature Conservancy's site conservation planning model as the foundation for developing a management plan. Participants will receive a digital workbook to develop and document the plan and expert assistance from planner Terry Frederick. The group will meet four times (for an entire day) over a four month period beginning the second week of November 2003. Cost per natural area is \$1,250 for government agencies and \$750 for nonprofit organizations. Register by Oct. 1. For more information, call Jayne at (503) 699-9825.

### **Letter to the Metro Council**

Jayne Cronlund presented a letter to the Metro Council in July signed by representatives from Three Rivers Land Conservancy, Friends of Forest Park

and several other nonprofit and government agencies in the region. The letter expressed enthusiasm about the possibility of a future ballot measure for greenspaces and urged the council to think broadly in terms of components of the measure and in terms of building a coalition of support. The group recommends that a ballot measure program include acquisition, a local share component, trails acquisition and construction and natural areas management in a regional context.

On Sept. 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., people who signed the letter will meet for an informal gathering at the Lucky Lab on Hawthorne. All are welcome.

### **Meeting with President David Bragdon**

On Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in room 370 at Metro Regional Center, Metro Council President David Bragdon will meet with people who went on the trip to Minneapolis and those who signed the letter referenced above to have a discussion about greenspaces funding. There will be a presentation by Patricia McCaig of the results of recent polling on this topic. Council President Bragdon will be looking for input and advice from those in attendance and the meeting should be thought of as a preliminary conversation.

### **Parks inventory update**

Heather Nelson Kent of Metro parks and greenspaces announced that it is time to update the parks and greenspaces inventory required every five years by Metro's Regional Framework Plan. The information gathered in the inventory will, as it did in 1998, update the parks layer in RLIS (Metro's regional land information system) and result in a new region-wide parks and greenspaces map. This year, however, it will also support two additional products intended for public use—a regional parks and greenspaces user map and a web-based "find-a-park" tool.

User map: Metro staff proposes a user map for current and potential users of regional parks, natural areas, trails and greenways. The map would educate the public about the benefits of an interconnected system of parks, natural areas, trails and greenways. The map would be similar to Metro's Bike There! map. It would feature 50-100 of the parks and greenspaces that are part of the regional system and include a matrix of information about activities and amenities at each site. Heather distributed a list of 50 parks that Metro staff thought might be good candidates for the map and asked park providers to look at the list and make changes and additions.

Find-a-park web tool: The find-a-park web tool will provide a comprehensive web-based catalog of all the public parks and greenspaces in the region for current and potential visitors (searchable by a variety of park amenities and by location). The web tool will be a "one-stop-shopping" resource that helps people find parks near them with the facilities and programs they are seeking—regardless of jurisdiction. Users will enter an address or intersection

and select from a list of park features (not required); then find-a-park will return a list of the 20 nearest parks that fit the search criteria. "Clicking" on a park in the list leads to more information about the park, maps to and of the park and a link to the provider's web site.

Inventory update: Representatives from each jurisdiction will hear from Metro staff soon about the inventory process, which will benefit from the foundation laid by (and lessons learned from) the 1998 inventory. Instead of starting from scratch, inventory participants will update the 1998 data. Also, the data categories have been significantly simplified and streamlined. For example, instead of the 8 questions about picnic areas on the 1998 inventory, the 2003 inventory will only ask whether or not there is picnicking at a park.

For more information on any of these topics, contact Heather at (503) 797-1739. If you would like to see the handouts about the user map and find-a-park tool distributed at the meeting, contact Lia Waiwaiolē at (503) 797-1728 or [waiwaiolel@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:waiwaiolel@metro.dst.or.us).

### **Proposal to merge Metro parks committees into a new form and function**

Jim Desmond introduced a proposal for a new parks and greenspaces policy advisory committee that would report directly to the Metro Council. Under the proposal, the new committee would replace and combine GTAC and Metro's parks department citizen advisory committee. The proposal is preliminary and has not yet been reviewed by the Metro Council. A discussion draft of the committee's charge and potential makeup is attached.

Jim explained that the proposal follows a recommendation that came out of the small group of GTAC members who met last winter to discuss the future of GTAC after it "sunsetted" at the end of 2002. It was hoped that the creation of a policy advisory committee that reports directly to the council would help elevate parks issues in the region.

Metro staff was also hoping to remove the line between internal operations and regional partnerships implied by having two separate committees—one mostly focused on Metro parks department functions and one focused on regional issues. Also, one of the citizen advisory committee's primary functions—departmental budget review—seemed out of step with the new Metro structure.

Jim added that the policy advisory committee would need to call GTAC back together on an ad hoc basis. Also, quarterly trails meetings would continue.

Discussion of the proposal focused mostly on the question of committee makeup. GTAC responded to two different proposed committee structures in the discussion draft (one with 9 members and one with 15) with suggestions

about how to better organize and group the represented agencies and organizations. People also weighed in on the relative representation of each geographic area, the right balance of citizens vs. park providers and local officials, and the extent to include representation from environmental groups. There was also some conversation about continuing GTAC in some other form.

Jim asked people to continue thinking about all of these questions and giving him their input on the discussion draft. He emphasized that he is not in a hurry to finalize the proposal and would like as much input as possible before he does. If people think it's a good idea, he would present it to the Metro Council in October or November. Jim can be reached at (503) 797-1914 or [desmondj@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:desmondj@metro.dst.or.us).

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**Next meeting:** Wednesday, Oct. 8 – quarterly trails meeting. Contact Mel Huie with agenda items:

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