

# **GREENSPACES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING NOTES**

1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11  
Metro Regional Center, Room 370

### **Metro Councilor Susan McLain**

Councilor McLain thanked GTAC members and participants for their hard work on the Greenspaces Master Plan update. Calling it one of the most important pieces of work in the building, Councilor McLain read from the introduction to the Greenspaces Master Plan approved in 1992. She reminded the committee that the work being done to update the Regional Greenspaces System Concept is the "big picture vision". She emphasized the importance of moving the map through the Metro Council adoption process this fall. She said that having this update completed by the end of the year will put it in the best possible position to support other work happening at Metro and around the region in the next year -- including the possibility of the discussion of a future regional greenspaces funding measure.

### **Greenspaces Master Plan update**

Heather Nelson Kent delivered a PowerPoint presentation chronicling 10 years of work in the region to implement the Greenspaces Master Plan. Metro along with its local parks partners, natural resource agencies, environmental groups, businesses and citizens have worked very hard to lay the framework for a cooperative, interconnected regional system of parks, natural areas, greenways and trails for fish, wildlife and people. Much has been accomplished through land acquisition, environmental education, volunteer stewardship, work with public and private land owners, long term planning and complementary regulatory programs. Still, much work remains, and we continue to hear from the public and our partners that parks and greenspaces are a top priority in the region. The next step is to complete GTAC's work updating the Regional Greenspaces System concept map.

### **Next steps**

Charlie Ciecko asked the committee to discuss what would be needed to move the updated map forward for Metro Council consideration and adoption. He clarified that what Councilor McLain is asking for is to move the map forward on its own, separate from discussions we have had at GTAC to define what it means to be included in the regional system. He solicited input about the map itself, asking people to express their level of comfort with the map as it stands. He also asked GTAC members what they thought would be the appropriate process in their local jurisdictions to establish local support for the map update.

### **Comments about the map**

- Heather Nelson Kent introduced the latest draft of the map and explained some of the changes that have been made since GTAC last looked at it, which are mostly aesthetic. The corridors were given a standard width, making them more conceptual and less property specific. Metro is also continuing to add to the information presented on the Washington State side of the map.
- There was a lot of discussion about the color coding on the map and the legend. Many people found it confusing and suggestions were made for improvement.
- One member suggested that people might feel more comfortable with the map if there had been a process similar to the one GTAC used to complete the Regional Trails Map.
- There were lingering questions and concerns about what it will mean down the road for a property to be on or off the map. What exactly is the relationship between the map and

future acquisition efforts? Is Metro still planning to enter into IGAs with public owners of land in the system?

- Councilor McLain reiterated that the map will only be a "concept" map and that further refinement would be necessary for an acquisition effort or any other specific actions. She also said that there will be a process in place to amend the map as needed, reassuring people that they would not have to wait another 10 years to make changes or additions to the map.
- It was also reiterated that the Greenspaces Mater Plan has no regulatory authority over local governments or private property owners.

#### **Comments about local support**

- Some representatives thought the map would need to go before their advisory boards and/or their council (or other elected body) for approval.
- Some representatives felt that if the map was only a "concept" map, then they did not need approval from their elected officials. This could come from the administrative level.
- Some jurisdictions will be affected by elections in the next couple of months, making this process more complicated and possibly more time consuming.
- A few representatives felt that the proposed timeline (finishing by December) was too aggressive. Some thought they could get a letter or recommendation in a month or two.
- There were mixed feelings about including a public process. At least one person felt it was important at this stage, but others felt that because it is so often mistaken for a regulatory program that conducting a public involvement process before there is a clear plan to go with the map will be confusing for people.
- Charlie said that Metro staff would be happy to come to the local jurisdictions to talk to people about the map and/or deliver the PowerPoint presentation.

It was agreed that Metro staff will mail out copies of the map and a short written explanation to go with it, so that GTAC representatives and participants can review it more closely and come back to the next meeting with specific comments.

#### **MTIP**

Metro transportation planner Bill Barber gave an update on MTIP. The application will be finalized and available in September; applications are due in December. The primary policy objective for the 2004-07 program is to support town and regional centers, industrial areas and urban growth boundary expansion areas with completed concept plans. Other objectives include emphasizing modes that do not have other sources of revenue, completing gaps in modal systems, and developing a multi-modal transportation system.

Bill encouraged people to build coalitions within their own agencies for trail projects by working with their transportation planners and engineers. Metro will be meeting with transportation staff from local jurisdictions soon and advised GTAC representatives to try to get themselves invited to those meetings. He also emphasized the effectiveness of multi-jurisdictional coalitions on regional projects. For more information about the MTIP, call Ted Leybold at (503) 797-1759 or send e-mail to [leyboldt@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:leyboldt@metro.dst.or.us). For additional information about bicycle projects, including multi-use paths, call Bill Barber at (503) 797-1758 or send email to [barberb@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:barberb@metro.dst.or.us).

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**NEXT MEETING: October 9, 1 to 3 p.m., Metro Regional Center, Room 370**

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