

METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES  
**Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee**

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**Meeting Notes:**

GTAC meeting  
Dec. 12, 2001  
1 to 3 p.m.  
Metro Regional Center, rm. 501

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**What does it mean to be in the Regional Greenspaces System?**

Jennifer Budhabhatti reviewed the changes to the Discussion Draft Concept (*What does it mean to be in the Regional Greenspaces System*) since the November GTAC meeting. Additional comments from GTAC included addressing regional trails more specifically in the proposed scenarios and the inclusion of lands owned and managed by non-profit organizations who agree to be cooperators. GTAC members also reviewed the list of Regional Natural Areas, which are publicly-owned sites in the regional system of 40 acres or more. It was agreed that the regional trails should be added to that list.

Metro staff urged GTAC members to wrap up their work on these initial products so that review by policy makers and citizens can be initiated this spring.

**Signage**

Steve Bosak talked about some possible signage options for the regional system. He proposed some kind of "good housekeeping" seal of approval type logo that explains why the place is special and how to take care of it. Heather Nelson Kent shared examples from the Regional Coalition for Clean Rivers and Streams and their process for creating a multi-agency logo for a public awareness campaign begun last year. GTAC also again reviewed the regional parks map that was developed by the Metro Council in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Valerie Lantz suggested some kind of decal that could be added to existing signs.

**Portland's Salmon Safe Certification Program**

Deb Lev reported to GTAC about Salmon Safe, a program that certifies farms and dairies as "salmon safe", meaning that their agricultural practices do not endanger salmon-bearing streams or water quality. Portland Parks has contracted with Salmon Safe to come up with a list of criteria or standards to be used to certify city of Portland parks and natural areas. The certification may be made available to other jurisdictions. The city of Portland staff would like other jurisdictions to look at it and give feedback.

## **Prioritizing Best Management Practices**

Heather Nelson Kent introduced this topic by saying that Metro is really interested in providing something useful in the way of best management practices – either by making some existing information available or by doing some new work to develop better information on a particular topic. For example, best management practices for trail siting and construction has been identified by state and local GTAC members as a need. She emphasized that whatever best management practices are developed will be tools and guidelines, not requirements.

Jennifer Budhabhatti has talked with staff from several jurisdictions to find out what might be most helpful. Suggestions include: outreach materials for neighbors (private land owners), workshops, sharing work among the jurisdictions and retailer outreach. See memo to GTAC from Jennifer Budhabhatti titled *Best Management Practices*.

## **Guidelines for siting new trails**

Jennifer Budhabhatti met with Lisa Hammerlynk, Jennifer Thompson, Don Baack, Gregg Everhart, Mel Huie and Valerie Lantz to put together some trail siting guidelines. The intention is to build trails that avoid or minimize negative impacts to natural resources while providing recreational and transportation opportunities for people. (See handout called *Trails*.) GTAC members recommended that the guidelines also address the following:

- lighting
- ADA accessibility
- direct impacts and indirect impacts (additional impacts as time goes on due to safety concerns, etc.)
- range and typology of trails
- could be presented in a matrix
- mitigation
- views and vistas
- public transportation
- Willamette greenway trails have specific needs and requirements, jurisdictions with Willamette river frontage would be grateful for some help with that
- connectivity with transportation system is critical
- could be approved by NMFS and other agencies
- neighbor issues
- screening and buffer issues for neighbors
- monitoring program to track use and impacts
- boardwalks and water issues
- access