METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES

Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes:

GTAC meeting June 13, 2001 1 to 3 p.m.

Metro Regional Center, rm. 370

Special edition of GreenScene: Local Share Program

Ron Klein of Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces announced that a special edition of GreenScene highlighting the Local Share program will be completed in July. Copies will be made available to local jurisdictions and a celebration of the program is being planned.

Metro's "2040 reengagement project" and spring 2002 conference planning

Mike Hoglund from Metro Community Planning presented information about Metro's public involvement strategy designed to support the Council's decision-making around several important issues in 2002. These issues include UGB expansion, transportation and parks funding and the scope of regional regulations for riparian area protection (Goal 5). These efforts aim to reengage the public in a conversation about 2040 and livability issues in the region and ensure that all of Metro's planning projects are well integrated and mutually supporting. Outreach efforts will include surveys (available now on Metro's web site at www.metro-region.org), table talks in the fall and a major conference in spring 2002.

Review of Regional Trails and Greenways Map nomination forms

Mel Huie of Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces passed out the new nomination forms for additions and corrections to the Regional Trails and Greenways Map (which are the same as the ones e-mailed to everyone prior to the meeting). Nomination forms are due to Metro by June 29 and will be presented at the July 11 GTAC Quarterly Trails meeting. For more information, call Mel at 503-797-1731 or send e-mail to huiem@metro.dst.or.us.

Regional Greenspaces System Map

Charlie Ciecko of Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces proposed that GTAC agree to a timeline for completion of their work on the Regional System Map that would end with a vote to recommend a draft map to the Metro Council at the September meeting. Several people expressed concern that it might be inappropriate and/or difficult to refine the map without first specifically defining what it will mean to be in the regional system. Charlie assured the group that it would still be a "draft" map that could be modified if necessary and that the process would remain consensus-based. He also explained to the group that the map will be an important part the 2040 reengagement effort and outreach to the public and could impact the Metro Council's consideration of specific areas for possible UGB expansion. The deadline for comments on the map was extended to June 28, 2001. For more information or a copy of the map and the matrix of comments, call Jennifer Budhabhatti at 503-1876 or send e-mail to budhabhattij@metro.dst.or.us.

Discussion of "What does it mean to be in the Regional Greenspaces System?" GTAC members began a discussion of what it will mean to be a publicly-owned component of the regional system.

Jennifer Budhabhatti presented some of the ideas that had been discussed in previous meetings about what tools could be used to define the regional system. These ideas included things like master planning guidelines, best management practices, use of environmental education and interpretation, common signage, etc. There was some confusion/discussion about whether these were being suggested as criteria or requirements. It was eventually sorted out that they are not meant to be either, but are suggested simply as ideas of ways to make these public components of the "regional system" feel more unified.

Comments from GTAC included:

- Being in the regional system might mean access to certain kinds of support and/or funding from Metro and other sources. Metro's current policies regarding roles and responsibilities for local park provision could be amended by Metro Council based on recommendations from the MPAC parks report.
- It might be appropriate to have different levels of practices and tools for different sizes and types of parks and greenspaces.
- Could have 2 different maps one that was ecologically based and included the whole system and one that was geared toward human use and highlighted the sites that are regionally significant to people.
- Some "best management practices" should apply to all components regardless of use or size because of their ecological significance.

There was general agreement that all tools should not apply equally to all publicly owned lands included within the regional system. Metro staff will prepare to facilitate the next part of this discussion at the September GTAC meeting (September 12) by developing some concepts describing a "tiered" approach.

Next GTAC meeting (also a quarterly trails meeting): Wednesday, July 11, 2001, 1 to 3 p.m. at Metro Regional Center in Room 501.

Special GTAC/Trails meeting: Wednesday, July 18, 2001 2 to 4 p.m. if needed to complete review of proposed nominations. (Also at Metro Regional Center in Room 501).

August meeting is CANCELLED.

Next regular GTAC meeting: Wednesday, September 12, 1 to 3 p.m. at Metro Regional Center in Room 370.