

METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES
Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes:

GTAC Meeting
September 13, 2000
1 to 3 p.m.
Metro Regional Center

Regional Greenspaces System Map Update

Jennifer Budhabhatti from Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces reviewed the process leading up to the first draft of the Regional Greenspaces System Map including the recent series of workshops held around the region to refine the map with local experts. Mel Huie talked briefly about the work being done to identify regionally significant trails, which will be discussed further at the October GTAC/Quarterly Trails meeting.

History of the Greenspaces Master Plan

Mike Houck of the Audubon Society of Portland presented a slide show chronicling the evolution of the greenspaces protection work in the metropolitan region over the past 20 years. He called for a return to the spirit and creativity of the early partnerships among the "players" and discussed the need to engage the business community in this work. At the close of the presentation, Charlie Ciecko asked the group whether they felt this work was as important today as it was in 1988 when the Greenspaces Master Plan was completed. There was unanimous agreement that the work is even more important now.

What will it mean to be in the regional system?

Steve Bosak from Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District opened the discussion with two handouts providing a brief overview of some similar regional systems around the United States and Canada and a summary of some of the possible measures that have been discussed so far. The group continued the discussion with the following comments and ideas:

- need a visioning process; need to think 15-20 years ahead
- look for regional funding sources
- further research on other systems that might be good models for us
- partnership will mean give and take; it doesn't matter who pays the bills and provides the service as long as the public gets to use the site; there will always be more need than can ever be met by one provider
- need to look at who might be missing from the table
- be sure to include state and federal representatives
- how do we elevate trails in regional importance
- visioning process should include a survey of individual jurisdictions and providers to determine their needs and preconceived notions about the system

- should poll the elected boards, commissions and councils from each jurisdiction to get a sense of their impressions of the successes and areas for improvement in our work so far; this process would also be valuable in assessing the political landscape
- repeat the "Country in the City" conference and possibly bring back some of the same people to tell us how we've done since the last one
- pull together the existing information and research that has already been done by individual jurisdictions about public opinion, etc.
- visioning process should include more than one scenario; preferred vs. problem
- should have a gathering to reinvigorate everyone
- reestablish ties to elected officials
- need to find supporters
- need to get people up to speed on where we are and what we are doing from a historical perspective
- need more frequent updates at GTAC about the acquisition program
- need to reintegrate the more informal approach the work and involve citizens better
- we need to take care of the properties we've bought
- need a system wide natural resources management plan
- much of the public is not aware of the amount of maintenance involved in natural area management
- will help to learn from one another and help assure that we're working together and using time and money efficiently
- need to work to help private landowners do the right thing
- coordinate with regulatory approach (Goal 5, Title 3, ESA)
- should have a program to honor people who are doing the right thing

A number of GTAC members are interested in discussing these and other ideas. Volunteers included: Steve Bosak, Jim Sjulín, Mike Houck, Chris Neamtzu, Scott Talbot, Charlene Richardson, Ron Carley, Valerie Lantz, Dee Craig and Tim O'Brien. All other GTAC members (or interested parties) are also encouraged to participate. Tentative date: October 24 at 5 p.m. at The Lucky Lab.

The next GTAC meeting is also a quarterly trails meeting. It will be **Wednesday, October 11** from 1 to 3 p.m. in room 370 at Metro Regional Center.
