

What Reaction does the Community Have to the Design?

1. Where will funding come from? Jim Morgan of Metro said that he will begin presenting the design to METRO Council and other potential funders very soon.
2. Will the Port of Portland be involved in helping to pay for the center? Jim Morgan said the Port has some fiscal responsibility and we will try to utilize that.
3. Will the facility be handicapped accessible? Dave and Don said yes, and the ADA guidelines require a summary or "like experience" (i.e. film or mini-trail) for handicapped persons who cannot access all the available amenities at the site.
4. What is the Skywalk? It is a ramp to the top of the building that allows views of the lakes and area around while creating microcosms of the area with water collected from the tower roof that feeds a series of mini life zones, as well as areas planted with natural vegetation on the roof.
5. Will there be bicycle parking/security for those who arrive via the bike trail and 40-mile loop connection? Yes, probably near the caretakers house/parking lot area. It is important to honor non-motor vehicle transportation in this area.

Will there be a bridge over the Slough? We are planning on the creation of a dedicated bicycle/pedestrian bridge over the Slough that is connected to the Peninsula Crossing Trail (Carey Blvd.).

6. Will the dangerous egress from N. Portland Blvd and nearby bridge be mitigated near the entrance to the Interpretive Center? Yes, the City is working on a new N. Marine Dr. truck route, and hopefully less trucks down N. Portland Blvd.
7. Is there a place for learners of all ages, not just school children? Of course. We would like to see Senior groups learning about the biology of the place, taking a canoe trip, painting the scenery, or becoming involved with the wildlife habitats. We would welcome tourists of all ages and background who have come to see a huge wetlands preserve within City limits and enjoy and learn from the permanent and temporary exhibits, and learn about the peninsula community as well.

Who will implement this education program? We will utilize the present resources available such as METRO Programs and Parks and Rec. programs, as well as guides/volunteers from the community through the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes, local High School students/teachers, Audubon Society, and volunteers from the community.

8. Is there a community liaison group for the facility once it is built, to oversee the maintenance and educational goals? Yes, the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes could be charged with making sure the community is linked to the Interpretive Center, and fulfills the goals that the community has set for the center.
9. What is the time frame for final design and construction? We anticipate at least two years for necessary funding, approval, permitting and construction start.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, 19 JULY
6:00 - 7:30 PM @ ST. JOHN'S COMM. CTR.

10. Round walls cost less than square ones-can you make the building cheaper by making the design with square walls? The walls are of such a large radius that the construction cost will not be significantly higher than straight walls. In the places where there are tight radius curves, there will be some extra cost, but it is a unique, memorable building that will blend into the natural land forms and be worth a little extra cost in the long run, since it will be an attractant, not an eyesore.
11. Are the green glass trails going to remain? Jim Morgan of METRO says that they were an experiment, and we are still seeking ways to maintain a non-invasive/nature damaging trail into the delicate earth surrounding the lakes.
12. Will the center be using recycled materials in the construction? Yes, as many as possible.
13. Is this the way the center will look, according to these model drawings? The colors will be different, and the building is designed in such a way that allows the basic building to be added to as additional funding becomes available.
14. Will the local community be involved in building this center? Yes, as practically as possible. We will use the normal bidding system as City policy requires, with certain percentages of the work going to women-owned and minority-owned businesses, at-risk youth and local people will also be involved in construction.
15. Eve Vogel of Roosevelt High School stated that Roosevelt is considering making the focus of all their Pathways Programs the Smith & Bybee Lakes area. That means the Engineering track students could be involved in design, etc. of bridges or other things, and the Natural Resources students could help with biological considerations, etc.
16. This is an historic and ecological unique treasure, and needs to be preserved and protected.
17. This Center can be an economic/tourism attractor to the Peninsula/St. Johns community; the base of tourism/economics in this area could use this expansion.
18. We will involve Native American consultants in the design/exhibitry as plans become finalized for the Smith & Bybee Lakes Interpretive Center.

Ted Smith said he would like to see Native American artifacts from this area repatriated to the Center to house items that were used here by Native Americans years ago.
19. What is the projected number of visitors/users of this center during the year? We think maybe 300,000 per year like other nature/visitor centers in the area. We are purposely keeping the number of vehicle parking spaces to about 50, and classroom space small to accommodate no more than 2 busloads of children at a time in order to preserve the wilderness feel and keep wildlife wild.
20. What about the water quality in the lakes? Where does the water in the lakes come from now? It is now from rainfall or Columbia River overflowing of the natural banks. Water could be pumped in from the Slough, or the Slough itself can be connected to the Lakes as it once was. We would like to include water monitoring in the experimental/educational component of the center.

21. Citizens said that they liked the variety of spaces and the design of the building. It provides a regional consciousness for conforming to the wetlands and lakes and its special characteristics, and being respectful of the issues of water quality/quantity. Also, they thought the innovative design would be a beacon to the area; and the inclusion of ideas from the high school and middle school students will give these future users a sense of ownership.