Trail Subcommittee
Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee
November 4, 2002

Subcommittee members attending: Jim Sjulin, Pam Arden, Tom Boullion (filling in for Denise Rennis), Emily Roth, Nancy Hendrickson, Holly Michael
Other attendees: Elaine Stewart (committee staff)

The group first discussed how to proceed on the issue. It was agreed to:
1. Work through "Potential Subject Areas for Trail Discussion", a handout prepared by E. Stewart
2. Take up best management practices or performance standards for trails
3. Develop recommendations

Impacts of existing development and trails
Positive:
- visitors see the wildlife area and develop an appreciation and sense of stewardship for it
- intended activities (walking, birdwatching) take place
- great opportunities for education

Negative:
- people don't stay on the trail and create "bandit trails" such as the one beyond Bybee Blind
- dogs and bicyclists use the trail although it's not allowed – there is not enough enforcement capability with staff levels (Sjulin pointed out that there is no baseline against which to compare wildlife disturbance and evaluate impacts of dogs and bikes)
- garbage is dumped along the planned and bandit trails
- illegal harvest of native plants

Existing policies and practices at the wildlife area
The group discussed the policy prohibiting dogs; members could not see a reason why this policy couldn't continue on sections of the 40-mile Loop Trail that might be located within the wildlife area.

Re prohibition on bicycles: Sjulin suggested that bicycles be contemplated on sections of the 40-mile Loop Trail within the wildlife area. He further said that the intent of the 40-mile trail is safe biking and walking for people of all ages.

Stewart reviewed the baseline maintenance standards to help members be aware of the workload aspect of trails. Current standards include trimming vegetation back from the sides of all improved trails and to a height of 7 feet above improved trails, and weekly garbage pickup year-round (twice weekly during the busy season).

Conceptual and actual plans for trails and development

Sjulin explained that the comprehensive plan alignment for the 40-mile Loop Trail does not prescribe a surface for the trail. It is silent re bicycles and pets, and may allow for the trail to be constructed on the west side of the St. Johns Landfill.

A question arose re which would take precedence, the comp plan or the NRMP? (This will be researched prior to the next meeting.)

The 1992 Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Metro Council but has no force of code with the City of Portland (it was not adopted).

Roth pointed out that much more is known now about wildlife uses of Smith and Bybee lakes than in 1992, and would like to see that information integrated with the trail information in various plans. What is the mechanism for integrating this? (This will be researched prior to the next meeting.)

Michael suggested that the group review the publication by Colorado Parks and Recreation, a thorough treatment of planning for trails with wildlife in mind. Stewart will locate the publication and make it available.

Stewart was asked what the issues with bicyclists were and replied there are 3 areas of concern: disturbance of wildlife (due to faster movement than walking), damage to habitat by bikes taken off the planned trails, and safety (collision potential with pedestrians).

The group identified several concerns with dog use of the area: harassment of wildlife (especially ground-nesting birds, small mammals, and reptiles and amphibians), waste and safety.

Guidance from the Natural Resources Management Plan

The NRMP has a goal statement, objectives and a number of policies and potential projects. Sjulin stated that the goal and objectives are to be interpreted in only a very general way.

Best management practices or performance standards

The question was asked: what is being done to enforce wildlife area rules and discover how often those rules are violated? It was explained that staff limitations make enforcement sporadic and obtaining statistics on violations impossible.

The rest of this discussion will be deferred until other subjects are discussed and the Colorado Parks and Recreation document is available.

New developments and information that updates our understanding of the wildlife area

More information is now available regarding wildlife use at the wildlife area. Stewart will compile information for the next meeting including: use of the wildlife area by

sensitive species, habitats used by those species, habitat requirements of those species. Stewart will also research bicycle conflict information.

New developments at the wildlife area include completion of the Peninsula Crossing trail segment and the 40-mile Loop Trail section along North Marine Drive. Assuming that the Port of Portland will complete a trail segment along the north bank of the Columbia Slough past Leadbetter Peninsula, there will soon be new trail segments on 3 sides of the wildlife area.

Known or suspected impacts of additional trails or development
This dovetails with related topics; Stewart will work on this with help from Michael.

Benefits of additional public access and use
The principal benefit is increased stewardship/ownership/appreciation of the wildlife area by the public. Another benefit is getting the public access to nature and a safe place to walk.

Optimum balance between public access and resource protection
Roth: would like to see alternate routes considered that are located outside the wildlife area. Should also consider making the Port trail an "experience" trail, where visitors move through at a slower pace, viewing wildlife and scenery, rather than an "express" trail for those who are on their way somewhere else and moving faster. There is a need to evaluate what is the best access for the two purposes: quiet experience of the site and passing through the site.

Sjulin: values getting people there in a meaningful sense, i.e., there is connectivity. Desires protection of natural resources to an acceptable level. To him, meaningful access is a perimeter system of trails providing good visual access to the wildlife area with options for additional access further into the area. Taking the loop access completely out of the wildlife area provides no experience (view).

Hendrickson: would like to see a trail to a high point on the St. Johns Landfill dome; it could be a spur trail. She discussed a pattern of balancing development with nature (the 50% compromise): if half is given away each time and half is preserved during each development cycle, then eventually there is very little nature left. Re the loop/perimeter trail concept – do we need it? How critical is the connection from St. Johns to Kenton within the wildlife area? If the trail connects over the north of the Wildlife Area, do we need it connecting through the south as well?

Arden: values loops within the bigger loop, so people don't have to do the big loop and can go shorter distances. Also desires access for a variety of abilities (bikes, walking, etc.). Does not want to see people "barred" from experiencing the wildlife area.

Boullion: thinks the dead-end trail may have more loitering if it doesn't go through (an argument for connectivity) at least for pedestrians. A bridge over the North Slough to the St. Johns Landfill would be the lowest impact route.

Michael: 90 percent of trail use in national parks occurs within 0.5 mile of where people park. Likes the idea of bicycling opportunity that does not provide Smith-Bybee as the destination – use spur trails for experiencing the wildlife area. Spur trails tend to have higher wildlife value than through trails. Likes having some pedestrian-only trails.

The group needs a map of significant wildlife habitats with supporting information on habitat buffer needs and needs of sensitive species. Stewart will develop this for the next meeting. Resources include Lori Hennings' work on riparian widths and Gregg Everhart may have prepared a GIS layer with some potential trail alignments.

The next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 18th at 5:00 p.m. or Wednesday, Nov. 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Notes taken by E. Stewart, reviewed by N. Hendrickson

✓ = found at Smith-Bybee

Riparian and other habitat requirements of representative species that inhabit the Columbia Slough watershed. Riparian widths refer to that needed for core habitat. Minimum corridor width (on each side of stream) is typically regarded as 50 feet.

Species or group	Status (fed, state)	Preferred riparian width (feet)	Other habitat requirements
✓ (North Slough, Col. Slough) Salmonids (Coho and Chinook salmon)	LT, SC	to 200	Juveniles require large woody debris for cover.
Cutthroat trout		50-200	
Red-legged frog	SoC, SV/SU	100	Well-shaded ponds adjacent to woodlands; stems for attaching egg masses.
✓ Turtle (painted or pond)	Painted = SC, pond = SoC, SC	350	Basking logs; nesting sites sparsely vegetated with sunny exposure; low human disturbance.
✓ Great blue heron		600	Large trees for rookeries.
✓ Neotropical migrants (songbirds)		330	
✓ Willow flycatcher (neotropical migrant)	SV	125	Scrub-shrub habitat away from urban and cowbird areas.
✓ Red-eyed vireo (neotropical migrant)		165	Large cottonwoods, high degree of canopy closure with young trees recruiting.
✓ Yellow warbler (neotropical migrant)			Good shrub and subcanopy layers, high habitat heterogeneity.
✓ Swainson's thrush (neotropical migrant)			Dense understory/shrub layer; low recreational disturbance.
✓ Belted kingfisher		100-200	Snags in open water.
✓ Western meadowlark	SC		Low grasslands; 20 acres per pair, 100 acres for population.
✓ Northern harrier			Upland and wet prairie; grasslands not mowed before July 1st; nest more than 1/4 mile from human disturbance; 400 acres for home range.
✓ American kestrel			Savannah habitat; large trees with cavities for nesting.
✓ Downy woodpecker			Snags more than 10 in. diameter for nesting.
✓ Deer		200	Vegetation suitable for browsing.
✓ Beaver		300	Trees less than 1 ft. diameter.

LT = federally listed threatened species

SoC = federal species of concern

SC = state listed sensitive/critical; species for which listing as threatened or endangered is pending, or those for which listing as threatened or endangered may be appropriate if immediate action is not taken.

SV = state listed sensitive/vulnerable; species for which listing as threatened or endangered is not imminent and can be avoided through continued or expanded use of adequate protective measures and monitoring.

SU = state listed sensitive/undetermined status.

Sensitive Species at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area

Anodonta californiensis (California floater, a mussel)
- Where found: throughout Smith and Bybee lakes and the channel between them
- When found: year-round resident
- ONHP status: list 3 (status undetermined, more information needed)
- Federal status: species of concern (under review as possible ESA candidate)

Chrysemys picta (western painted turtle)
- Where found: mostly in ponds and sloughs on north and west sides of wildlife area
- When found: year-round resident
- ODFW status: sensitive-critical (listing as threatened or endangered is pending, or may be appropriate if immediate conservation action not taken)
- ONHP status: list 2 (threatened with extirpation)
- Federal status: none

Empidonax traillii brewsteri (little willow flycatcher)
- Where found: nests along the south sides of Bybee and Smith lakes, to a lesser extent in the shrub-scrub on the peninsula between the lakes
- When found: during breeding season
- ODFW status: sensitive-vulnerable (listing as threatened or endangered can be avoided with protection efforts and monitoring)
- ONHP status: list 4 (of conservation concern and requiring continued monitoring)
- Federal status: none

Falco peregrinus anatum (American peregrine falcon)
- Where found: hunts in open areas, particularly on the landfill and the south side of Smith Lake
- When found: year-round (breeding and wintering birds)
- ODFW status: listed endangered
- ONHP status: list 2 (threatened with extirpation)
- Federal status: none

Haliaeetus leucocephalus (bald eagle)
- Where found: hunts in open areas of both lakes including the slough between them
- When found: year-round (breeding, juvenile and wintering birds)
- ODFW status: listed threatened
- ONHP status: list 2 (threatened with extirpation)
- Federal status: listed threatened

Sturnella neglecta (western meadowlark)
- Where found: St. Johns Landfill
- When found: late summer through winter (breeding not documented in recent years)
- ODFW status: sensitive-critical (listing as threatened or endangered is pending, or may be appropriate if immediate conservation action not taken)
- ONHP status: list 4 (of conservation concern and requiring continued monitoring)
- Federal status: none

Weekly Bird Counts
South Side Smith Lake

	1998 counts		1999 counts		2000 counts		Total	
	# birds	# sightings	# birds	# sightings	# birds	# sightings	# birds	# sightings
American Coot	598	21	240	23	93	12	931	56
American Crow	234	30	225	29	142	29	601	88
American Goldfinch	69	21	95	21	111	21	275	63
American Pipit					6	2	6	2
American Robin	301	34	466	35	316	39	1083	108
American Wigeon	64	11	165	11	219	9	448	31
Anna's Hummingbird			2	1			2	1
American Avocet					1	2	1	2
Bald Eagle	17	12	11	8	38	21	66	41
Barn Swallow	672	18	138	17	173	16	983	51
Belted Kingfisher	36	20	23	16	6	6	65	42
Bewick's Wren	90	34	94	38	96	37	280	109
Black-capped Chickadee	208	35	243	39	228	39	679	113
Black-headed Grosbeak	44	8	23	9	23	11	90	28
Black-throated Gray Warbler	8	2	5	1	1	2	14	5
Blue-winged Teal	2	1					2	1
Bonaparte's Gull					1	2	1	2
Brewer's Blackbird	150	1	218	7	47	4	415	12
Brown-headed Cowbird	70	10	107	13	95	14	272	37
Brown Creeper	40	23	58	33	27	21	125	77
Bufflehead	25	7	94	11	42	13	161	31
Bullock's Oriole	29	8	27	8	18	7	74	23
Canada Goose	1381	27	2733	29	3683	33	7797	89
Canvasback			2	1			2	1
Caspian Tern	12	5	130	4	1	2	143	11
Cedar Waxwing	341	20	278	17	122	18	741	55
Chestnut-backed Chickadee			2	1			2	1
Cliff Swallow	29	6	56	11	34	6	119	23
Common Bushtit	146	12	135	24	176	20	457	56
Common Merganser	27	5	24	6	96	8	147	19
Common Yellowthroat	49	19	67	18	36	15	152	52
Cooper's Hawk	2	2	2	2			4	4
Dark-eyed Junco	13	3	4	2	9	4	26	9
Double-crested Cormorant	441	27	889	30	544	29	1874	86
Downy Woodpecker	88	30	81	32	84	35	253	97
Dunlin					50	2	50	2
Dusky Flycatcher	1	1					1	1
Eurasian Wigeon	501	34					501	34
European Starling	1	1	644	39	3106	40	3751	80
Fox Sparrow	10	6			8	8	18	14
Gadwall	44	14	20	7	33	10	97	31
Glaucous-winged Gull	13	8	55	12	11	8	79	28
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13	8	24	10	32	12	69	30
Golden-crowned Sparrow	42	12	50	17	61	11	153	40
Common Goldeneye			2	1			2	1
Great Blue Heron	92	34	96	39	582	38	770	111
Great Egret	70	5	163	4	46	5	279	14
Great Horned Owl	3	2	5	5	6	6	14	13
Green Heron	1	1					1	1
Green-winged Teal	65	13	56	8	1131	17	1252	38
Harris's Sparrow	2	2	1	1			3	3
Hermit Thrush	4	3	2	2	3	4	9	9
Hooded Merganser	12	3	13	4	11	2	36	9
Hooded Oriole			5	1			5	1
House Finch	213	29	222	29	136	26	571	84
House Sparrow	21	12	10	7	14	9	45	28
House Wren	40	15	26	13	24	12	90	40

Weekly Bird Counts
South Side Smith Lake

	1998 counts		1999 counts		2000 counts		Total	
	# birds	# sightings	# birds	# sightings	# birds	# sightings	# birds	# sightings
American Kestrel			2	2	2	3	4	5
Killdeer	65	13	50	18	67	19	182	50
Lesser Scaup	625	7	749	8	135	4	1509	19
Long-billed Dowitcher					412	5	412	5
MacGillivray's Warbler					1	2	1	2
Mallard	549	36	1187	40	2052	36	3788	112
Marsh Wren	4	4	66	21	87	18	157	43
Mew Gull					62	8	62	8
Mourning Dove	98	18	69	27	100	28	267	73
Northern Flicker	64	30	41	26	43	26	148	82
Northern Harrier			1	1	1	2	2	3
Northern Shoveler	209	14	236	19	375	20	820	53
Northern Shrike			4	4			4	4
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	1					1	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	6	5	1	1	4	4	11	10
Osprey	43	19	43	20	37	17	123	56
Pacific-slope Flycatcher			7	2	11	6	18	8
Peregrine Falcon			2	2	6	7	8	9
Pied-billed Grebe	13	9	7	6	10	7	30	22
Northern Pintail	12	4	35	2	7	4	54	10
Red-tailed Hawk	75	34	82	38	94	40	251	112
Red-winged Blackbird	88	21	51	18	48	19	187	58
Ring-necked Duck	7	2	10	2	1	2	18	6
Ring-billed Gull	72	10	257	27	468	26	797	63
Rock Dove	56	19	77	23	97	17	230	59
Rough-winged Swallow	3	2	1	1			4	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	59	17	68	18	67	22	194	57
Ruddy Duck	26	4	23	7	29	9	78	20
Rufous Hummingbird					2	3	2	3
Savannah Sparrow	6	1	2	2	2	2	10	5
Scrub Jay	51	24	42	25	54	26	147	75
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	6	5	3	4	10	10
Song Sparrow	647	36	739	39	768	40	2154	115
Spotted Sandpiper	3	3	3	3	7	8	13	14
Spotted Towhee	17	11	16	10	14	12	47	33
Steller's Jay	3	1	7	6	12	11	22	18
Swainson's Thrush	14	6	22	9	15	10	51	25
Tree Swallow	219	16	208	15	446	17	873	48
Tundra Swan	41	2	10	1	8	3	59	6
Turkey Vulture			2	2	1	2	3	4
Varied Thrush	9	4	5	4	3	4	17	12
Vaux Swift	129	15	73	14	25	11	227	40
Violet-green Swallow	10	5	11	5			21	10
Warbling Vireo	1	1	2	2	4	3	7	6
Western Grebe	3	1	4	3	1	2	8	6
Western Sandpiper	15	3	2	1	318	8	335	12
Western Tanager	22	5	2	2	5	5	29	12
Western Wood-Pewee	44	13	73	15	60	14	177	42
White-crowned Sparrow	6	4					6	4
American White Pelican					4	2	4	2
Willow Flycatcher	16	10	31	13	38	6	85	29
Wilson's Warbler	17	6	4	1	8	7	29	14
Wood Duck	14	6	10	6	2	2	26	14
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1					1	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	104	15	44	8	43	13	191	36
Yellow Warbler	100	15	112	14	78	13	290	42
Total birds or species	**9,902**	**93**	**12,530**	**96**	**17,859**	**96**	**40,291**	**113**

HO #1

Potential Subject Areas for Trail Discussion

I thought it might be helpful to outline some possible areas of discussion for the trail subcommittee, as a starting point to help get your thoughts moving. Please add your own thoughts to the list in preparation of the subcommittee meeting. Hopefully this will help you make the best use of your time in the subcommittee.

1. Impacts of existing development and trails (what has been learned from the development that is already in place).

2. Existing policies and practices at the wildlife area (e.g., no dogs or bikes; baseline maintenance standards).

3. Conceptual and actual plans for trails and development (include all plans: NRMP, Recreation Master Plan, Recreational Facilities Plan, the Port's consent decree work).

4. Guidance from the Natural Resources Management Plan for Smith and Bybee Lakes.

5. Best management practices or performance standards.

6. New developments and/or information that updates our understanding of the trail issue at the wildlife area.

7. Known or suspected impacts of additional trails/development on wildlife, vegetation and operations and maintenance of area.

8. Benefits of additional public access and use.

9. Optimum balance between public access and resource protection.

10. Recommendations (what does the subcommittee want to cover, as well as the actual recommendations themselves).

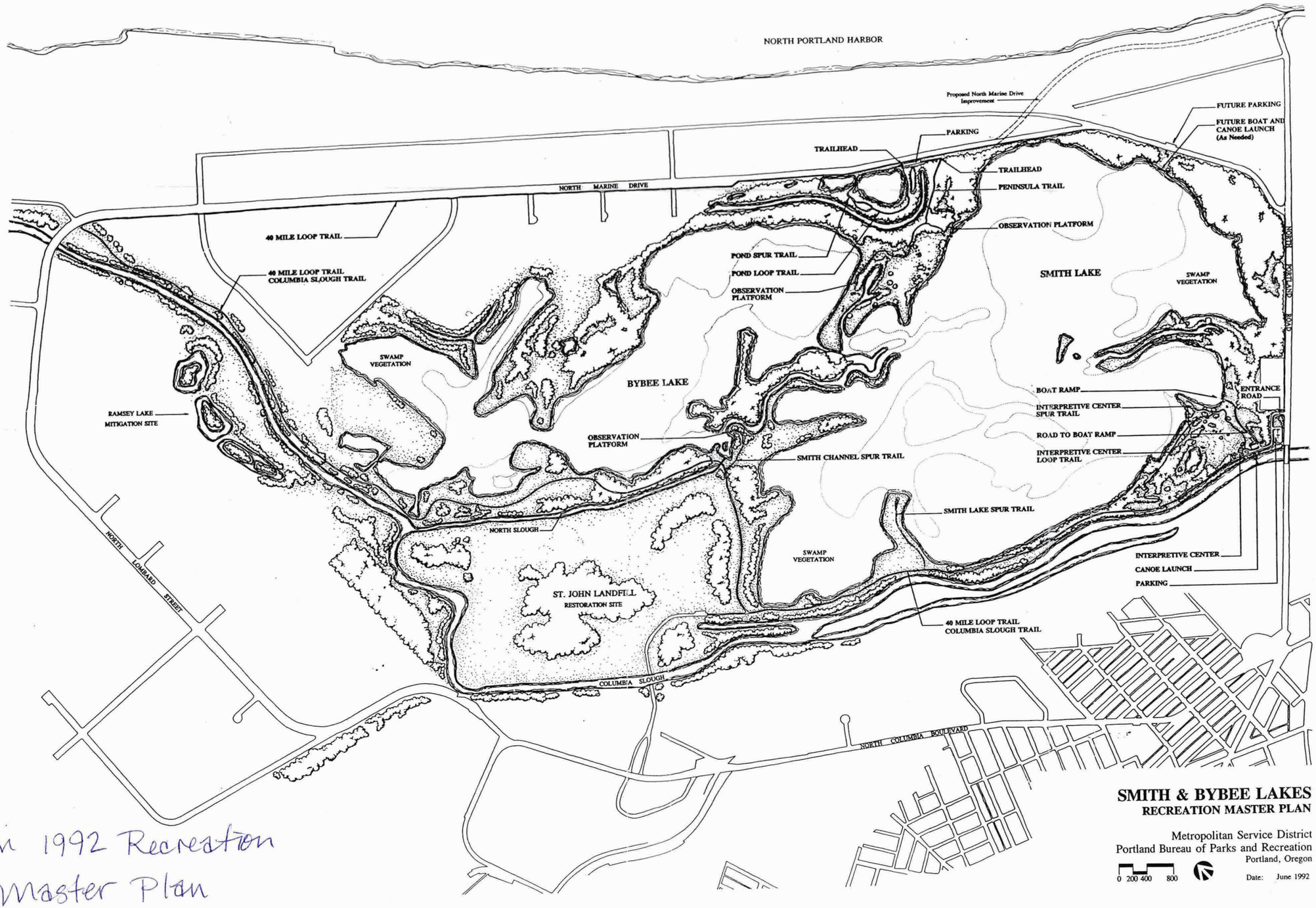
Trail Siting Criteria and Best Management Practices

Possible trail siting criteria

- Avoid or minimize impacts to significant wildlife habitats and water resources
- Provide connections to parks, other trails and pedestrian routes
- Take advantage of scenic, interpretive and recreation opportunities
- Identify restoration and preservation opportunities
- Anticipate the range of trail users, intensity of use, and desired access (may consider limiting access by design)
- Determine the general dimensions, construction type and materials that will suit field conditions and meet the needs of users
- Make certain that trail type and level of use is consistent with habitat protection needs

Possible best practices for environmentally friendly trails

- Avoid natural resource impacts
  - Use existing disturbance corridors
  - Locate trails at habitat edges
  - Keep trails out of core habitats and avoid fragmenting sensitive or significant habitats
  - Minimize corridor crossings
  - Avoid or minimize stream or wetland crossings
  - Avoid small patches of high quality habitat that may serve as connectors to other habitat patches
- Minimize natural resource impacts
  - Minimize intrusion of trail into a significant habitat and construct trail in a manner that encourages users to stay on the trail
  - Use vegetative buffers to protect sensitive species from disturbances
  - Establish setbacks for sensitive species
  - Keep trail-derived sediments out of wetlands and water resources
  - Protect sensitive resources from trampling
  - Employ both passive and active measures to control trail uses
- Use the new trail alignment as a means to accomplish natural area restoration
- Establish guidelines for landscaping with or restoring native plant associations
- Provide passive opportunities for infiltration and filtration of trail runoff
- Mitigate for natural resource impacts



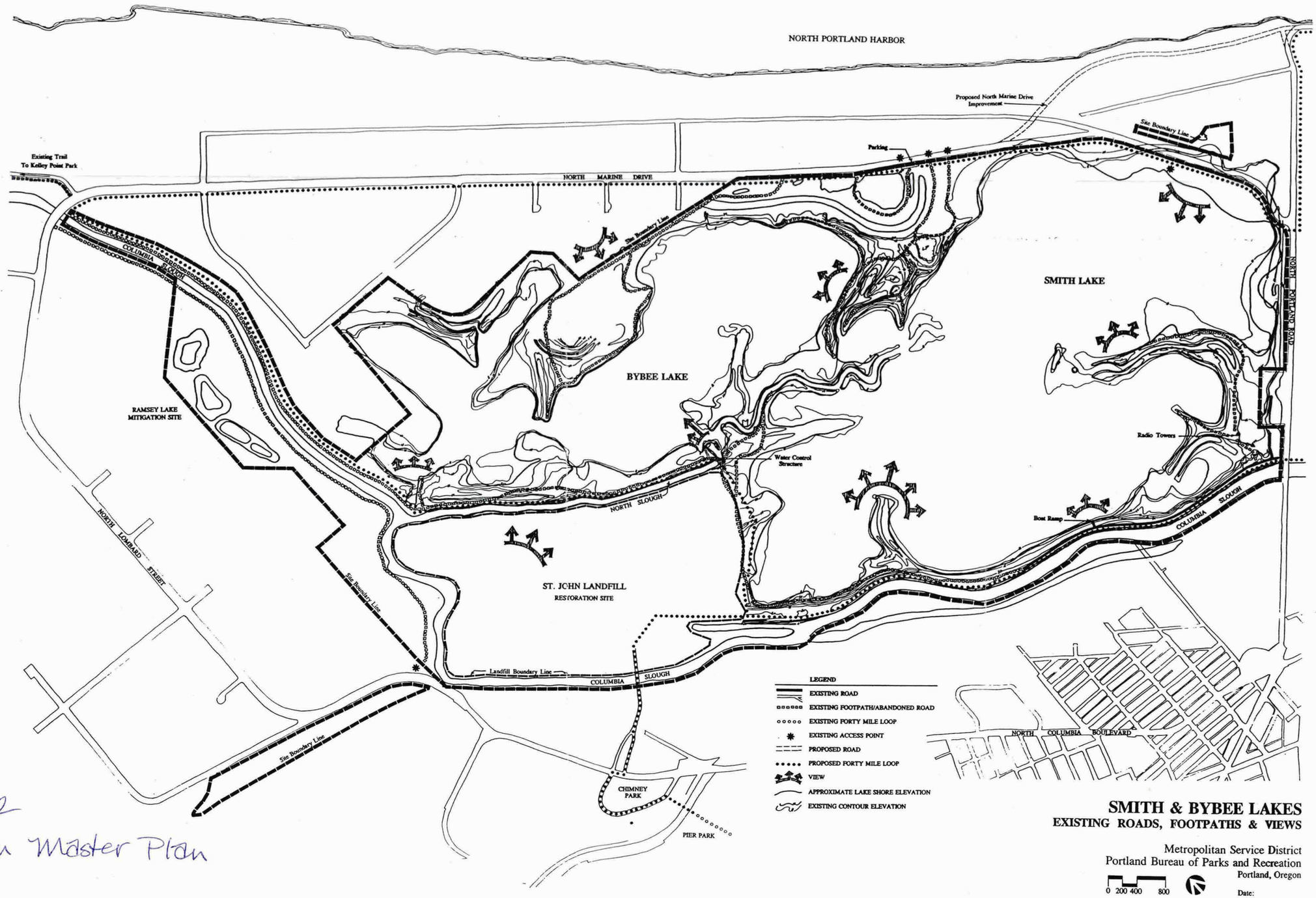
SMITH & BYBEE LAKES
RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Metropolitan Service District
Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Portland, Oregon

0 200 400 800

Date: June 1992

From 1992 Recreation Master Plan



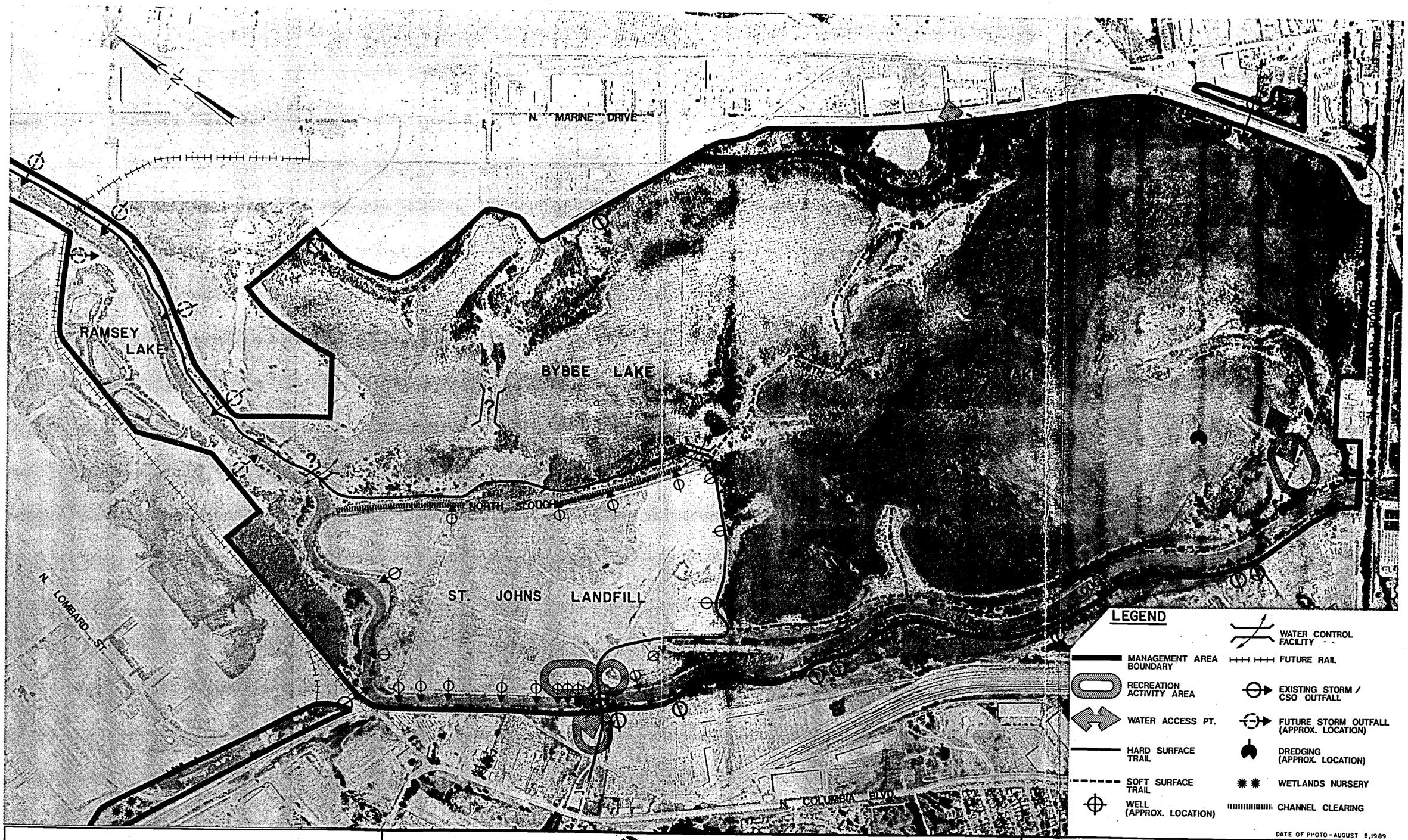
From 1992
Recreation Master Plan

SMITH & BYBEE LAKES
EXISTING ROADS, FOOTPATHS & VIEWS

Metropolitan Service District
Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Portland, Oregon

0 200 400 800

Date:



Port of Portland

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SCALE IN FEET

SMITH & BYBEE LAKES MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROJECTS

FIGURE 5 RG 90-10 3/4 (C-3)