
**Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area
Management Committee**

Patt Opdyke, Chair

Coordinated by:

Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1515

Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee Meeting

Note: There is no November 23, 2004 meeting.
November & December meetings have been
combined
and scheduled for:

Tuesday, December 7, 2004
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Metro Regional Center, 600 N E Grand Ave., Room 270
Portland, Oregon 97232

AGENDA

Welcome, introductions	(Opdyke)	5:30 - 5:35 pm
Review October meeting notes	(Opdyke)	5:35 - 5:40 pm
St. Johns Landfill beneficial uses - finalize	(Opdyke/ Stewart)	5:40 - 6:15 pm
Metro Parks & Greenspaces reorganization	(Stewart)	6:15 - 6:30 pm

NOTE: The Management Committee may choose to take additional time to discuss the Parks Dept. reorganization and implications for Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. Management Committee members should be prepared to stay beyond 6:30 p.m., if necessary.

*Take - current & new org charts
- amended ben. use doc. w/ Paul's changes*

**Summary Meeting Notes
Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee
December 7, 2004**

In attendance:

Patt Opdyke, Chair *	North Portland Neighborhoods
Pam Arden *	40-Mile Loop Land Trust
Carrie Butler *	Port of Portland
Brenda Hanke *	St. Johns Neighborhood Assn
Jim Morgan *	Metro
Jim Sjulín *	Portland Bureau of Parks
Dale Svart *	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Bill Egan	Oregon Bass & Panfish Club
Elaine Stewart	Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager
Paul Vandenberg	Metro Solid Waste & Recycling
Pat Sullivan	Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces

* denotes voting SBLMC member

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair at the meeting start time, Jim Sjulín volunteered to act as Chair in their stead.

Consideration of previous meeting notes

As a quorum was not present at this time, the October meeting notes were deferred until the end of the meeting should a quorum be present then.

St. Johns Landfill beneficial uses - finalize

Elaine Stewart distributed the latest version of the list the Management Committee has been working on, "Evaluating Future Uses of the St. Johns Landfill", which included criteria for evaluating future uses as well as activities to be encouraged and activities to be discouraged. She also noted that this latest version differed somewhat from the one e-mailed to committee members recently, having received input from Paul Vandenberg of Metro's Solid Waste & Recycling Dept. since then. Changes included a reference to the landfill cover and other environmental protection systems in the section titled "Vision" and a reference to secure public access to the landfill in the bullet point labelled "Public access".

A request was made by Dale Svart to send any attachments to e-mails to him by regular mail as his computer is not able to open them. Pam Arden made the same request.

Discussion continued from previous meetings on the criteria and activities being evaluated. For members new to the committee, Elaine noted that this is an advisory document to Metro suggesting activities to be encouraged on the St. Johns Landfill. Metro needs such input from the Management Committee at this time because a Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study is being done and as part of that process beneficial uses must be identified.

Patt Opdyke arrived at this point and assumed her role as Chair. Elaine relayed comments about the document under discussion offered by committee members who were unable to attend tonight's meeting. Troy Clark noted "it looks good". Nancy Hendrickson offered some suggestions to clarify points made. Under the section "Activities to be Encouraged" she suggested adding riparian and wetland habitats to the restoration bullet.

Put back in.
1) SJNA desire to have dogs
2) FosB concerns re structures/kiosks

The discussion proceeded through the document considering further revisions. Elaine emphasized that this document is not a plan, it is only feedback to the Solid Waste Dept. about what this Management Committee would foresee as reasonably likely uses in the future - short-term and long-term.

The changes to the recommended activities to be encouraged and to be discouraged in this document were approved by a unanimous vote of the committee. The revised document will be sent to committee members within the week. *See attached copy of the final document.*

Metro Parks & Greenspaces reorganization

Elaine reported on changes occurring in the Parks and Greenspaces Dept., and all of Metro, as Metro Council goes through a strategic planning process. Since his appointment as Parks Director, Jim Desmond has been considering whether or not the current department structure is the most effective or if there are better ways to deploy the staff. Parks Dept. organizational charts were distributed.

Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area has had a full-time manager dedicated to the site since 1996. In addition, there has been a .3 FTE seasonal providing operational and maintenance support. Having a full-time manager has allowed a great deal of energy to be directed to habitat restoration, to getting the water control structure implemented and being able to deal with surrounding land use issues. An area where the managerial deployment was less successful was in operations, e.g. trimming of vegetation, picking up garbage and patrolling the trail. There was not enough time to do that effectively.

There will now be an emphasis on the split between the restoration, sciences and natural resources team and the operations team. Elaine will be assigned to a new Science & Stewardship division, which will be headed by Jim Morgan, and will no longer be permanently assigned to Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. This division will be responsible for Smith & Bybee as well as all the other Metro properties. Being removed is the separation between the properties purchased under the bond measure and those that had been acquired earlier from Multnomah County. Jim Morgan and 2-1/2 staffers will be responsible for the 12,000 to 13,000 acres in the portfolio with Smith & Bybee Lakes being 2,000 acres of that total.

According to Elaine there will now be more attention paid to the ranger/patrol duties. Two rangers will be based out of the St. Johns Landfill office. Part of their daily duties will be patrolling the new facilities, including the parking lot and trails. With the new facilities coming online, with the newly completed segment of trail that the Port has put in, with the strong likelihood that additional trails will be constructed within the perimeter of the wildlife area within the next three to seven years, the additional ranger support will be needed to patrol the wildlife area.

Anticipating concerns that there will no longer be a full time manager assigned to Smith & Bybee Lakes, Elaine reminded the committee that a lot of the planned environmental and restoration projects mentioned in the Management Plan have been completed or are well under way. Reduced attention on the restoration side will be made up for by increased attention to the operations side. This may be the time when it is necessary to do that, Elaine observed.

Some of the transitions will go into effect the first of January. Elaine will continue to staff the Management Committee for the time being; Jim Morgan will continue to represent Metro as a voting member. In terms of budgeting, for the last two fiscal years, salaries for Metro staffers have been paid for out of the Regional Parks Fund, not the Smith & Bybee Lakes Trust Fund. A

likely future practice is that Metro will continue to have all the Smith & Bybee-related salaries covered by the Regional Parks Fund and to reserve interest accrued from the Smith & Bybee fund for restoration and other special projects and also to be re-invested into the Smith & Bybee fund.

Review October meeting notes

The October meeting notes were accepted by the Chair as submitted.

Next meeting

The Chair reminded the committee that the meeting schedule would return to its usual fourth Tuesday of the month, making the next meeting set for January 25. Future meetings will re-examine the Management Plan and how to approach it now that the short-term and long-term needs of the landfill have been considered.

Updates

Carrie Butler reported that the radio tower building at Vanport Wetlands is gone now.

Elaine announced that the Smith & Bybee facilities are progressing and will likely be open to the public at the end of December.

The trails technical working group work is proceeding, although it is unclear at this time if an update will be available by the January meeting. That group agreed on a set of criteria and a scoring system for looking at different segments of potential trails. Next steps will probably focus on an entire alignment.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy A's comments, 12/7/04

Troy -
looks good.
(via phone 12/7 aft.)

Evaluating Future Uses of the St. Johns Landfill

Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee, December 2004

Vision of future uses of the landfill: it is generally a natural meadow habitat, managed to target native species that require this quickly disappearing habitat for their survival such as Western Meadowlark and Northern Harrier. [Although creating a native prairie on the site is not realistic] do we need this preceding bit? Without defining what a native prairie is or exactly why it is not realistic, I think it might confuse more than inform. The rest of the sentence works well on its own. the landfill can accommodate many elements of prairie and savanna systems and provide valuable habitat for plants and animals that are disappearing from the Willamette Valley landscape. Public use is directed to areas and activities that support people's desire to enjoy the natural landscape and views, promote public safety, protect wildlife and its habitat and provide educational opportunities. The landfill cover system and other infrastructure are well-maintained ~~and to~~ minimize human and ecological risks from the landfill's contents.

Criteria:

These points were used to guide whether disturbances would be encouraged or avoided:

- Noise level – noise affects visitors to the natural area as well as the wildlife that occurs there. Excessive noise detracts from a visitor's experience at Smith-Bybee. People come to enjoy nature and get away from the urban environment. Wildlife often requires low ambient noise to conduct its daily business, e.g., songbirds need to hear each other's songs and calls to find mates. Current noise levels from industrial activity, air traffic and other surrounding uses already exceed desired background levels at various times and locations. Additional noise from artificial sources is undesirable.
- Amount and type of development – most additional development within Smith-Bybee is to be avoided. Development includes anything that cannot be classified as natural area vegetation or infrastructure required to manage the closed landfill. The geographic and visual impacts are important considerations in evaluating new development.
- Habitat continuity – habitat management should take advantage of the large blocks of contiguous habitat that are available at Smith-Bybee, including the landfill. Smaller, fragmented habitat patches have value for certain wildlife; however, many plants and animals suffer when their habitat is over-fragmented. Many of the latter species are in decline, and the landfill offers an opportunity to create, restore and/or protect habitat for sensitive, grassland-dependent species. Uses that increase the amount of habitat fragmentation are to be avoided. Might want to underscore that fragmentation is not just within one certain kind of habitat, but also between habitats, such as fragmentation is to be avoided between the landfill and the slough/lakes, etc.
- Public access – Smith-Bybee is a valuable natural resource for the people of the Portland metropolitan area. Providing opportunities for people to enjoy the site is an important objective in managing Smith-Bybee. In order to conserve these cherished natural resource values and avoid "loving it to death", public access needs to be directed to some areas and restricted in others. Human activity – even simply walking through an area – may disturb wildlife, spread invasive plants and reduce habitat value. Much of Smith-

Bybee should remain “off limits” to attract and provide habitat for plants and animals that can spread into and be seen in public areas.

- Landfill operations – the landfill is actively managed by Metro. There is considerable infrastructure on the site, including a methane gas recovery system, a matrix of monitoring wells and piezometers, a stormwater management system and an impermeable liner system. Landfill staff continuously monitor, maintain and repair all of these systems. Public activities and uses that create excessive risk to the systems, interfere excessively with Metro’s ability to manage the site and/or create unacceptable human health risks for visitors are to be avoided.

Activities to be Encouraged

These activities would be encouraged:

- Restoration of native meadow/prairie, scrub/shrub and savanna habitats. What about riparian, wetland, eg along the perimeter?
- Increasing patch size and limiting “edge effects” of existing habitats.
- Habitat enhancement that discourages nuisance species.
- Monitoring and maintaining the landfill cover system, gas collection system, etc.
- Wildlife viewing.
- Environmental education, including public education regarding the landfill.
- Research related to the landfill, wildlife and plants.

Examples of disturbances that would be allowed include:

- A trail along the landfill’s perimeter, which may include a single loop or spur trail to a viewpoint, as outlined in the April 11, 2003 letter from the SBLMC to Metro Council President David Bragdon.
- Natural resource-related recreational activities that interact with the natural environment with minimal negative impact. Examples include walking, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, and fishing.
- Landfill management activities – Metro will seek ways to minimize mowing and other habitat-disturbing activities to the extent possible and practical.
- Grazing – as an alternative to mowing for maintaining appropriate landfill cover vegetation and supporting grassland habitat restoration.
- Habitat management, including but not limited to seeding and planting native vegetation and controlling exotic plants.
- Monitoring activities such as plant surveys and bird counts.
- Research activities related to landfill operations, habitat restoration, wildlife use, etc.
- Environmental education, including small kiosks, interpretive displays and guided field trips.
- Volunteer habitat stewardship activities.

Activities to be Discouraged

These activities would be discouraged:

- Activities that introduce excessive noise.
- Activities that require extensive and/or visually intrusive development.
- Activities that result in habitat fragmentation.
- Unrestricted human access to protected natural areas.

- Activities that disrupt or interfere with landfill operations.
- Recreational activities that are not related to natural resources.

Examples of disturbances to be avoided include:

- Motorized equipment of any kind such as model airplanes, mopeds, cars, motorcycles, amplified speech/music, etc. (Vehicles and equipment used by staff and contractors to maintain and repair the landfill and improve wildlife habitat are acceptable disturbances.)
- Discharge of firearms (e.g., hunting, target-shooting).
- Large tracts of intensively managed landscape that are not primarily wildlife habitat (e.g., ball fields, golf courses, archery ranges, etc.). now that my son is really into archery I think maybe we should reconsider archery ranges (HAHAHA)
- Large tracts of development such as parking lots and large buildings.
- Development that includes the expansion of utilities such as electricity and water, unless that development is required to maintain and repair the landfill and/or to improve wildlife habitat.

Examples of disturbances that could conceivably be mitigated include:

- Bicycles, scooters and other non-motorized vehicles – if there is a fence blocking access to off-trail areas and the fence's construction allows target wildlife species to move as needed. Fencing would be necessary to control public access to landfill infrastructure and to protect human health by reducing potential exposure to gases or other unhealthful materials.
- Dogs and other pets on leashes or otherwise contained – if there is a fence blocking access to off-trail areas and the fence's construction allows target wildlife species to move as needed.

SBMC edits 12/7/04
Approved as amended

Evaluating Future Uses of the St. Johns Landfill

Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee, December 2004

✓ **Vision** of future uses of the landfill: it is generally a natural meadow habitat, managed to target native species that require this quickly disappearing habitat for their survival such as Western Meadowlark and Northern Harrier. ~~Although creating a native prairie on the site is not realistic,~~ ✓ the landfill can accommodate many elements of prairie and savanna systems and provide valuable habitat for plants and animals that are disappearing from the Willamette Valley landscape. Public use is directed to areas and activities that support people's desire to enjoy the natural landscape and views, promote public safety, protect wildlife and its habitat and provide educational opportunities. The landfill cover and other environmental protection systems are well-maintained and have minimized human and ecological risks on the landfill surface that are associated with the buried waste.]

Criteria:

These points were used to guide whether disturbances would be encouraged or avoided:

- Noise level – noise affects visitors to the natural area as well as the wildlife that occurs there. Excessive noise detracts from a visitor's experience at Smith-Bybee. People come to enjoy nature and get away from the urban environment. Wildlife often requires low ambient noise to conduct its daily business, e.g., songbirds need to hear each other's songs and calls to find mates. Current noise levels from industrial activity, air traffic and other surrounding uses already exceed desired background levels at various times and locations. Additional noise from artificial sources is undesirable.
- Amount and type of development – most additional development within Smith-Bybee is to be avoided. ^{minimized} Development includes anything that cannot be classified as natural area vegetation, minor structures associated with an educational program (e.g., interpretive displays), or infrastructure required to manage the closed landfill. The geographic and visual impacts are important considerations in evaluating new development.
- Habitat continuity – habitat management should take advantage of the large blocks of contiguous habitat that are available at Smith-Bybee, including the landfill. Smaller, fragmented habitat patches have value for certain wildlife; however, many plants and animals suffer when their habitat is over-fragmented. Many of the latter species are in decline, and the landfill offers an opportunity to create, restore and/or protect habitat for sensitive, grassland-dependent species. Uses that increase the amount of habitat fragmentation are to be avoided. ^{minimized}
- Public access – Smith-Bybee is a valuable natural resource for the people of the Portland metropolitan area. Providing opportunities for people to enjoy the site is an important objective in managing Smith-Bybee. In order to conserve these cherished natural resource values and avoid "loving it to death", public access needs to be directed to some areas and restricted in others. Human activity – even simply walking through an area – may disturb wildlife, spread invasive plants and reduce habitat value. Much of Smith-Bybee should remain "off limits" to attract and provide habitat for plants and animals that can spread into and be seen in public areas. ^{or that disrupt habitat continuity} Secure public access to the landfill offers a

wildlife area experience, but with less disturbance to wildlife and habitat than may result from allowing public access to certain other parts of the wildlife area.

- Landfill operations – the landfill is actively managed by Metro, and closure operations are strictly regulated. There is considerable infrastructure on the site, including a multilayered cover system, collection systems for landfill gas, leachate, and stormwater, and a network of monitoring wells and piezometers. Landfill staff routinely inspect, maintain and repair all of these systems, and use the infrastructure for the routine environmental monitoring that is required by various permits. Public uses to be avoided are those that create uncontrolled risk of damage to infrastructure and interference with site management, and/or create unacceptable health and safety risks for visitors.

Activities to be Encouraged

These activities would be encouraged:

- Restoration of native meadow/prairie, scrub/shrub and savanna habitats.
- Increasing patch size and limiting “edge effects” of existing habitats.
- Habitat enhancement that discourages nuisance species.
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- Motorized equipment of any kind such as model airplanes, mopeds, cars, motorcycles, amplified speech/music, etc. (Vehicles and equipment used by staff and contractors to maintain and repair the landfill and improve wildlife habitat are acceptable disturbances.)
- Discharge of firearms (e.g., hunting, target-shooting). *point-ball and lasertags*
- Large tracts of intensively managed landscape that are not primarily wildlife habitat (e.g., ball fields, golf courses, archery ranges, etc.).
- Large tracts of development such as parking lots and large buildings.
- Development that includes the expansion of utilities such as electricity and water, unless that development is required for landfill closure operations and/or to improve wildlife habitat.

X Add - ex. policy is no dogs.
Examples of disturbances that could conceivably be mitigated include:

- Bicycles, scooters and other non-motorized vehicles – if there is a fence blocking access to off-trail areas and the fence’s construction allows target wildlife species to move as needed. Fencing would be necessary to control public access to landfill infrastructure, in order to protect health and safety, and to reduce risk of damage to the infrastructure.
- ~~Dogs and other pets on leashes or otherwise contained – if there is a fence blocking access to off-trail areas and the fence’s construction allows target wildlife species to move as needed.~~

Director
Director – Jim Desmond

Parks and Natural Area Management
Program Director – Janelle Geddes

Lead Mgr **J. Lind**
Asst. Mgr **D. Vasnik**
Rangers – **9.0 FTE**
& Specialists

11 FTE

- Area 1 – Columbia District**
Sandy River Office
- Oxbow Regional Park
 - East Buttes
 - Ambleside
 - Sandy River Properties
- Columbia River Office*
- Chinook & Gleason Boat Ramps
 - Blue Lake Regional Park
 - Cemetery Maintenance
 - Beggars'-tick
 - Glendoveer

Lead Mgr **D. Kromer**
Rangers – **5.0 FTE**
& Specialists

6 FTE

- Area 2 – Willamette District**
Willamette River Office
- Smith & Bybee Wildlife Area
 - Howell Territorial Park
 - Sauvie Island Boat Ramp
 - Mason Hill Park
 - Multnomah Channel
 - Forest Park Additions
 - Willamette Cove
 - Banks
 - Gales Creek
 - Dairy Creek
- Tualatin River Office*
- Tualatin River
 - Clackamas River
 - Mt. Talbert
 - Cooper Mountain
 - Graham Oaks
 - Borland Barn
 - Clear Creek
 - Willamette Narrows
 - Newell Creek
 - Canemah Bluff
- Metro Regional Center*
- Leases & Buildings

Lead – **Bousha**
1 FTE

Cemeteries – Sales and services
Lake House Operations

Science & Stewardship
Manager – Jim Morgan

- Restoration
- Forest Management
- Riparian management
- Invasives
- Mitigation Banking

Jim Morgan
Elaine Stewart
Curt Zonick
Jennifer Bodhabhatti (0.4)
Assoc. Planner - vacant

4.4 FTE

System & Facility Planning
Manager - vacant

- System planning
 - Trail planning
 - Facility design
 - Acquisition
 - Easements and rights-of-way
- Manager / Analyst - Taylor*
- Construction management

Manager - vacant
Glenn Taylor
Nancy Chase
Mel Huie
Jennifer Budhabhatti (0.4)
Jane Hart
Lora Price (0.8)
William Eadie

7.2 FTE

Community Involvement
Manager – Heather Kent

- Public affairs
- Volunteers
- Environmental Education
- Events
- Website
- Media Relations
- USFWS Grants
- NFWF

Heather Nelson Kent
Lupine Hudson / Mary West
Deb Scrivens
Lis Neely (0.5)
James Davis
Lia Waiwaiole
Cathy Sherick (0.5)
Ilene Moss (0.5)

6.5 FTE

Administration & Finance
Program Analyst – K Smith

- Reservations
 - Administrative Support
- Manager – Jeff Tucker*
- Budget
 - Finance
 - Accounting, AP, AR
 - Contracts

Kathie Smith
Jeff Tucker
Rachel Fox
Pat Sullivan
Sue Lowe
Sandy Jamison
Vickie Eldridge

7 FTE

**Regional Parks & Greenspaces
FY 2004-05
Total FTE: 44.1**

