

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING INTO A) RESOLUTION NO. 99-2783A
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE)
OREGON PARKS FOUNDATION TO ACQUIRE)
AND MANAGE FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION)
AND OPERATION OF THE DIACK NATURE) Introduced by
CENTER AT OXBOW REGIONAL PARK) Mike Burton, Executive Officer

WHEREAS, In July 1992, through Resolution 92-1637, the Metro Council adopted the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan that identifies a desired regional system of parks, natural areas, trails and greenways for fish, wildlife and people; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan encourages building environmental awareness through coordinated programs of information, technical advice and environmental education so that citizens become active and involved stewards of natural areas; and

WHEREAS, In December 1997, through Resolution 97-715B, the Metro Council adopted the Regional Framework Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Regional Framework Plan recognizes environmental education as a tool to enhance understanding, enjoyment and informed use of natural, cultural and recreational resources in the region; and

WHEREAS, In October 1997, through Resolution 97-2553A, the Metro Council adopted the Oxbow Regional Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Oxbow Regional Park Master Plan identifies environmental education and natural resource interpretation as a major feature of the park visitor experience; and

WHEREAS, The Oxbow Regional Park Master Plan calls for the construction of an environmental education facility; and

WHEREAS, The Oxbow Regional Park Master Plan calls for the environmental education facility be named in honor and commemoration of the Diack family for their contributions to the creation of Oxbow Regional Park, the protection of the Sandy River Gorge and the philanthropic support of environmental education; and

WHEREAS, In Resolution 97-2553A the Metro Council requires that the total cost for construction of the environmental education facility come from grants and donations; and

WHEREAS, The Oregon Parks Foundation seeks the statewide growth and development of parks that provide outdoor recreation and education in a protected natural setting; and

WHEREAS, The Oregon Parks Foundation and Metro place a high priority on providing educational opportunities that enhance the understanding, enjoyment and informed use of the region's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, On March 31, 1999, the Oregon Parks Foundation unanimously approved an agreement with Metro (Exhibit A) to work cooperatively for the purpose of procuring and managing funds for the construction and operation of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park; and

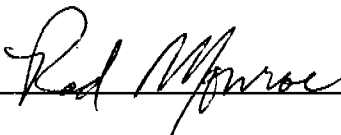
WHEREAS, On April 6, 1999, the Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee recommended Metro Council approval of the cooperative agreement between Metro and the Oregon Parks Foundation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED

1.) That the Metro Council hereby authorizes the Metro Executive Officer to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Oregon Parks Foundation (Exhibit A) for the purpose of procuring and managing funds for the construction and operation of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park.

2.) That the contracts and agreements for detailed design, construction and operation of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park pursue opportunities, where feasible, for efficient use of energy and materials that demonstrate innovative methods to minimize deleterious impacts on the natural environment.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council on this 1st day of July, 1999.



Rod Monroe, Presiding Officer

Metro and the Oregon Parks Foundation Memorandum of Understanding

The Oregon Parks Foundation (OPF) is a nonprofit, tax exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Oregon law. Among its goals, OPF:

- ◆ Seeks the statewide growth and development of parks that provide outdoor recreation and education in a protected natural setting;
- ◆ Accepts donations of property, funds or securities (designated for parks) that fulfill the goals of OPF;
- ◆ Assists in fundraising, publicity, record keeping, community organization and response to donors through related publicity or memorials;
- ◆ Advises and assists prospective donors in search of desirable programs and projects to fund and support.

Metro is a Metropolitan Service District and home rule charter unit of local government under Oregon law. Among other assigned responsibilities, Metro is authorized to exercise functions including "...acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of...a system of parks, open spaces and recreational facilities of metropolitan concern..."

Metro and OPF each place a high priority on providing educational opportunities that enhance the understanding, enjoyment and informed use of our natural resources. Metro and OPF also desire to recognize the numerous contributions of the Diack Family in support of the mutual goals and objectives of both parties by constructing the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park to serve schools, volunteers and citizens of the region.

Metro and OPF also desire to work cooperatively for the purpose of raising funds for design, construction and operations endowment of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park. Raising the funds necessary to build and operate a nature center at Oxbow Regional Park will require a sound, carefully planned strategy. A cooperative effort between Metro and OPF to develop and implement a fundraising strategy for the environmental education facility will help assure the successful completion of this project.

Accordingly, Metro and OPF enter into this Memorandum of Understanding, setting forth a legally non-binding statement of their objectives and intentions. Metro and OPF agree to work cooperatively for the purpose of procuring and managing funds for the construction and ongoing operation of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park by methods and cooperative efforts that include, without limitation, the following:

- 1) Representatives of Metro and OPF will serve on the Diack Nature Center Steering Committee to direct the facility design and fundraising activities for the nature center construction. Metro and OPF may recruit other members to serve on the committee.

- 2) Metro and OPF representatives will work together to complete preliminary plans for the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park. The plans will include final floor plans, elevation drawings, architectural themes and narrative. Based on the preliminary plans, cost estimates will be developed for construction of the facility and an endowment fund to support at least one ecology education staff position and general facility maintenance. Metro may fund these design services from the existing Metro Nature Center Trust Account or an outside financial resource.
- 3) Metro and OPF shall mutually agree to a fundraising target amount for construction and endowment based on the outcome of the preliminary design of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park.
- 4) OPF will create and manage a separate trust account called the Diack Nature Center Fund to receive, hold in trust and manage grants funds and other donations for the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park. Expenses associated with management of the trust account shall be paid from resources in the account.
- 5) Metro will contract for professional fundraising services to develop and write a strategic fundraising plan for the nature center. Metro may fund the plan development from the existing Metro Nature Center Trust Account or an outside financial resource. The Diack Nature Center Steering Committee will participate in plan development. Metro and the OPF will have an opportunity to review and approve the plan.
- 6) Metro and OPF will implement the strategic fundraising plan according to the roles and responsibilities identified in the plan.
- 7) OPF and its board members will be encouraged to make a donation in support of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park.
- 8) OPF and its board members will assist in identifying and contacting potential donors to the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park.
- 9) Metro will be responsible for the design and production of fundraising materials including, without limitation fact sheets, donor envelopes and letterhead stationery. OPF will have the opportunity to review and approve the fundraising outreach materials.
- 10) OPF will be acknowledged for its cooperative efforts with Metro in printed materials, promotions and events in support of the fundraising campaign for the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park. The OPF also will be acknowledged as part of the donor recognition at the nature center facility.
- 11) Metro will be responsible for writing grant requests for the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park.
- 12) Representatives of OPF will assist Metro in making funding request presentations to select foundations, corporations and other potential funding organizations.
- 13) Upon completion of the strategic fundraising plan objectives, OPF shall transfer the Diack Nature Center Fund to Metro to hold for the exclusive purpose of the construction and operation of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park. Following such transfer, OPF shall have no further obligation with respect to the construction and operation of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park.

Approved by the Oregon Parks Foundation this _____ day of _____ 1999.

Jack Brown, President

Approved by Metro this _____ day of _____ 1999.

Mike Burton, Metro Executive Officer

Approved as to form:

Daniel B Cooper, Metro General Counsel

METRO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 99-2783A, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE OREGON PARKS FOUNDATION TO ACQUIRE AND MANAGE FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE DIACK NATURE CENTER AT OXBOW REGIONAL PARK.

Date: June 24, 1999

Presented by: Councilor Atherton

Committee Action: At its June 9, 1999 meeting, the Metro Operations Committee voted 3-0 to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 99-2783. Voting in favor: Councilors Atherton, Kvistad and Washington.

Council Issues/Discussion: Charlie Ciecko made the staff presentation for the Parks and Greenspaces Department. Metro Council approved the Master Plan for Oxbow Park in October, 1997. The plan included an objective for the creation of an educational nature center, with the requirement that funds for the construction of the center come from private sources. Since then the Oregon Parks Foundation has indicated its willingness to join Metro in an endeavor to develop the final plans for the center, and to help raise funds for the construction and operation of the center. The Oregon Parks Foundation Board unanimously approved an agreement to accomplish these objectives on March 31, 1999, subject to Metro Council approval.

A steering committee comprised of members of Metro and the Oregon Parks Foundation would finalize a conceptual-level design for the center, cost estimates and a fund raising strategy and plan. Funds for these activities would come from a dedicated account, transferred to Metro from Multnomah County during the overall parks transfer. The Oregon Parks Foundation would then create a special account for the creation and operation of the center, the goal being to raise \$2.5 million.

Councilor Atherton said that he had spoken with Mr. Ciecko about a possible amendment to this resolution, specifying that design and construction of the center to be performed in an innovative and energy-efficient manner, that would minimize the impact on the environment. Mr. Ciecko was in agreement with the goals of Councilor Atherton's suggestions, but was less clear with regard to two specific suggestions related to the use of composting toilets and parking lot construction.

Chair Washington instructed council staff to see that Councilor Atherton's ideas were incorporated into the development of an RFP and supporting resolution, when these eventually come to Council for approval.

Committee Action June 23, 1999

At its June 17, 1999 regular meeting, the Metro Council sent Resolution 99-2783 back to committee for further consideration. On June 23, 1999 the Metro Operations committee amended Resolution 99-2783 and recommended Council approval by a 3-0 vote. Voting in favor: Councilors Kvistad, Atherton and Washington.

The committee agreed to additional language at the request of Councilor Atherton, which seeks to minimize the impact of construction and operation of the Diack Nature Center on the natural environment at Oxbow Park. Staff agreed that this added language would not require any further action from the Oregon Parks Foundation, relative to the cooperative agreement with Metro, that is the subject of this resolution.

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ADOPTED by the Metro Council on this ____ day of _____, 1999.

Rod Monroe, Presiding Officer

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ADOPTED by the Metro Council on this ____ day of _____, 1999.

Rod Monroe, Presiding Officer

METRO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 99-2783, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE OREGON PARKS FOUNDATION TO ACQUIRE AND MANAGE FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE DIACK NATURE CENTER AT OXBOW REGIONAL PARK.

Date: June 11, 1999

Presented by: Councilor Atherton

Committee Action: At its June 9, 1999 meeting, the Metro Operations Committee voted 3-0 to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 99-2783. Voting in favor: Councilors Atherton, Kvistad and Washington.

Council Issues/Discussion: Charlie Ciecko made the staff presentation for the Parks and Greenspaces Department. Metro Council approved the Master Plan for Oxbow Park in October, 1997. The plan included an objective for the creation of an educational nature center, with the requirement that funds for the construction of the center come from private sources. Since then the Oregon Parks Foundation has indicated its willingness to join Metro in an endeavor to develop the final plans for the center, and to help raise funds for the construction and operation of the center. The Oregon Parks Foundation Board unanimously approved an agreement to accomplish these objectives on March 31, 1999, subject to Metro Council approval.

A steering committee comprised of members of Metro and the Oregon Parks Foundation would finalize a conceptual-level design for the center, cost estimates and a fund raising strategy and plan. Funds for these activities would come from a dedicated account, transferred to Metro from Multnomah County during the overall parks transfer. The Oregon Parks Foundation would then create a special account for the creation and operation of the center, the goal being to raise \$2.5 million.

Councilor Atherton said that he had spoken with Mr. Ciecko about a possible amendment to this resolution, specifying that design and construction of the center to be performed in an innovative and energy-efficient manner, that would minimize the impact on the environment. Mr. Ciecko was in agreement with the goals of Councilor Atherton's suggestions, but was less clear with regard to two specific suggestions related to the use of composting toilets and parking lot construction.

Chair Washington instructed council staff to see that Councilor Atherton's ideas were incorporated into the development of an RFP and supporting resolution, when these eventually come to Council for approval.

STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 99-2783 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE OREGON PARKS FOUNDATION TO ACQUIRE AND MANAGE FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE DIACK NATURE CENTER AT OXBOW REGIONAL PARK

Date: April 22, 1999

Presented by: Ron Klein

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Oxbow Regional Park has a long history of providing visitors quality nature and environmental education programming. Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces currently conducts a successful interpretive and education activities at the park that reach over 7,000 people each year. As much as possible, the programming puts people in direct contact with nature. However, when indoor facilities are required (e.g. preparation for outdoor activities, slide shows, displays, nature crafts, labs, getting out of inclement weather), staff make the best of it with makeshift arrangements in the park maintenance shop and vehicle bay or an unoccupied picnic shelter.

There has always been a need at Oxbow Regional Park for indoor space to support a growing and successful environmental education program. The Oxbow Regional Park Master Plan recognizes this need and calls for a nature center facility that will improve the program experience for people and allow increased program capacity. Metro Council approved the master plan in October 1997 with the requirement that funds for the nature center come from private sources.

The Oregon Parks Foundation (OPF) and Metro share a strong commitment to providing educational opportunities that enhance the understanding, enjoyment and informed use of the region's natural resources. Working cooperatively with OPF will provide important support to Metro in developing the final plans for the nature center and fundraising activities.

At a July 7, 1998 board meeting of OPF, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces staff introduced the concept of a cooperative effort to raise funds for the construction and operation of the nature center. On March 4, 1999, Metro parks staff submitted a proposal (Attachment 1) to OPF describing the nature center project and the elements of a cooperative agreement between Metro and OPF. An agreement between Metro and OPF was unanimously approved by the OPF board on March 31, 1999, subject to Metro Council approval.

BUDGET IMPACT

Metro labor supporting the development and implementation of the strategic fundraising plan, production of the final concept and design plans, production of fundraising printed materials and coordination of fundraising activities will be done with existing staff. The proposed FY 99-00 budget reflects costs associated with the above expenses.

Expenses for professional services (fundraising, architect and facility planning services) will be paid from the Regional Parks Trust Fund, Oxbow Park Nature Center account. The current balance of the Oxbow Park Nature Center account is approximately \$231,000. Expenses for FY 99-00 are estimated at approximately \$30,000. These funds are adequately appropriated in the FY 99-00 adopted budget.

Direct expenses associated with the management of the Diack Nature Center Fund held by OPF will be paid from that account.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Metro Council authorize the Metro Executive Officer to enter into a legal, non-binding, cooperative agreement (Exhibit A) with the Oregon Parks Foundation for the purpose of acquiring and managing funds for the construction and operation of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park. Representatives of Metro and OPF will serve on the Diack Nature Center Steering Committee and direct the facility design and fundraising activities.

OPF will establish the Diack Nature Center Fund to hold in trust and manage grant funds and other donations. Metro will take the lead in implementing the fundraising plan with assistance from OPF.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 99-2783.

The Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park

*A Partnership Proposal to the
Oregon Parks Foundation*

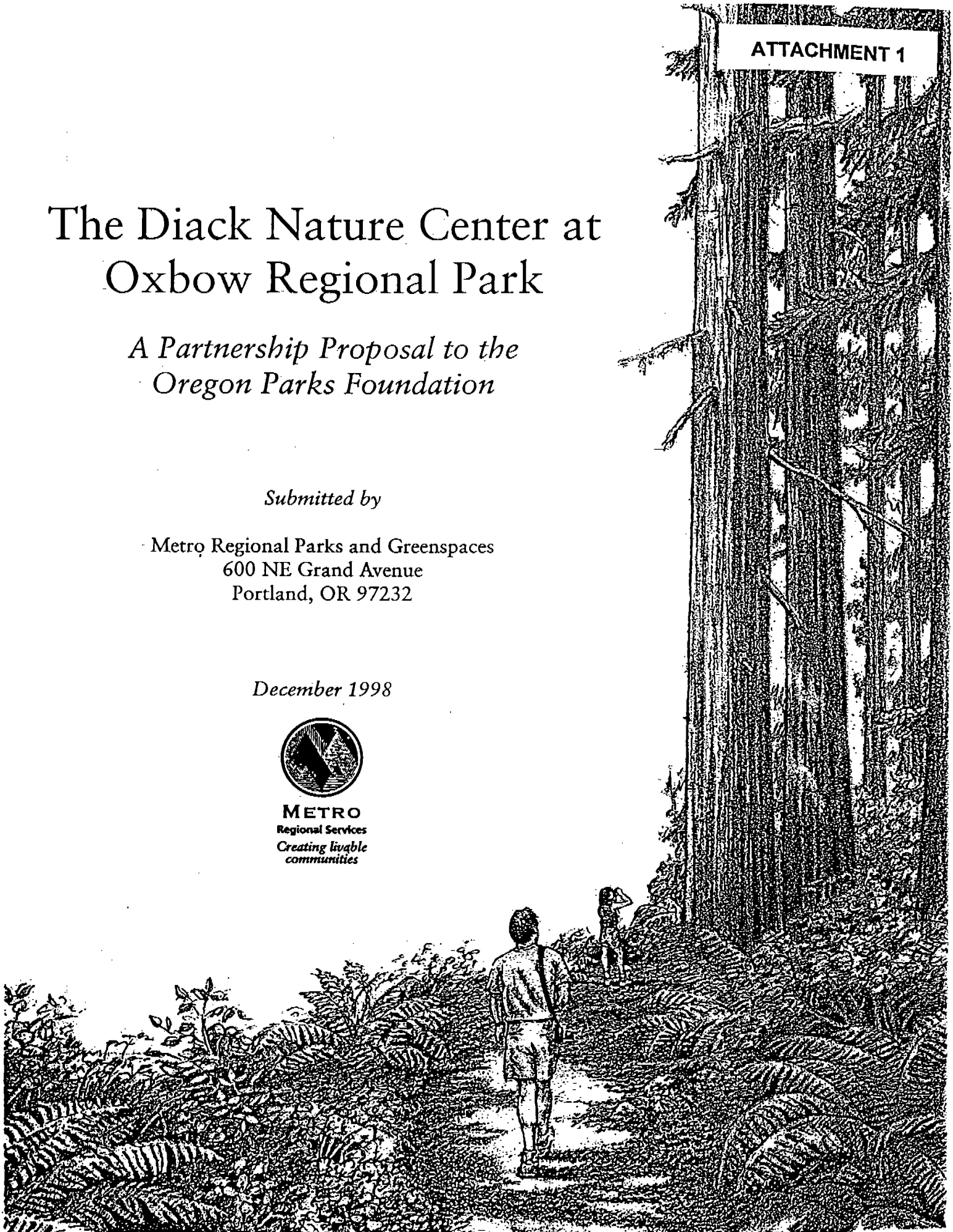
Submitted by

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

December 1998



METRO
Regional Services
*Creating livable
communities*



THE DIACK NATURE CENTER AT OXBOW REGIONAL PARK

A Partnership Proposal to the Oregon Parks Foundation

Oxbow Regional Park needs an environmental education facility. The Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department conducts a successful interpretive and education program at the park that reaches over 7,000 people each year. As much as possible, the programming puts people in direct contact with nature. However, when indoor facilities are required to prepare for outdoor activities, present slide shows and displays or conduct nature craft and laboratory activities, arrangements to get indoors are difficult at best. Currently, park naturalist staff must utilize space in the park maintenance area to conduct the indoor portions of environmental education activities.

A nature center facility would improve the program experience for people and allow increased program capacity. A quality environmental education facility at Oxbow Regional Park would serve schools, volunteers and visitors contribute to the development of an involved and informed citizenry for the protection and sustainable management of the region's natural resources.

The nature center is also a special opportunity to honor Arch and Fran Diack, longtime friends of Oxbow Regional Park and the Sandy River. Their generous commitment to environmental education and extraordinary stewardship of the Sandy River Gorge will be the foundation and the heart of the Diack Nature Center.

The Oregon Parks Foundation and Metro in Partnership

The Oregon Parks Foundation and Metro share a goal of providing educational opportunities that enhance the understanding, enjoyment and informed use of our natural resources. The construction and operation of a nature center at Oxbow will contribute to achieving this goal. Raising the funds necessary to build and operate a nature center at Oxbow Regional Park will require a sound, carefully planned strategy. A partnership between the Oregon Parks Foundation and Metro to develop a conceptual design and fundraising plan for the facility and a joint commitment to carry out the plan will help assure the successful completion of this vital project.

The following are elements of a proposed partnership between the Oregon Parks Foundation (OPF) and Metro to raise funds to design, construct and operate the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park:

- 1) The OPF and Metro will work together to complete preliminary plans for the Diack Nature Center. The plans will include final floor plans, elevation drawings, architectural themes and narrative. Metro will fund the design services from the existing Nature Center Trust Account or other resources.
- 2) Based on the preliminary plans, cost estimates will be developed for construction of the facility and the creation of an endowment fund for its operation. Proceeds of the endowment fund will support facility maintenance and a staff position for ecology education. The general cost of the project (construction and endowment) is currently estimated to be in the range of \$1.7 to \$2.5 million.

- 3) Under the leadership of a professional fundraising consultant (selected by the OPF and Metro), a strategic fundraising plan will be written with the involvement of the OPF and Metro. Metro will fund the fundraising planning services from the existing Nature Center Trust Account or other resources.
- 4) The OPF and Metro will implement the strategic fundraising plan according to the roles and responsibilities identified in the plan.
- 5) The OPF will create and manage a separate trust account(s) to receive, hold and manage grants and donations for the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park. Expenses associated with management of the trust account(s) shall be paid from resources in the account(s).
- 6) The details and provisions of the partnership between the OPF and Metro shall be expressed in writing and approved by the appropriate authority of each partner.

Arch and Fran Diack – Friends of the Sandy River



The Sandy River remains a special place today because of the extraordinary efforts of Arch and Fran Diack. Arch and Fran's love affair with the Sandy River began in 1941 when they purchased 288 acres in the Sandy River Gorge with Arch's brother, Sam.

By the mid 1960's Arch and Fran had recognized the special nature of the Sandy River Gorge and its growing importance to the ever expanding population of the City of Portland. When Multnomah County began developing Oxbow Park, Arch and Fran provided momentum to the effort by donating 11 acres for inclusion in the Park.

In 1970, Arch and Fran donated 200 acres to the Nature Conservancy creating the conservation group's second nature preserve in Oregon and the foundation for the Sandy River Preserve which today encompasses 600 acres between Dodge and Oxbow parks.

With encouragement from Arch and Fran, Governor Tom McCall designated a 12-mile segment of the Sandy River a component of the State's fledging Scenic Waterway System in 1973. The stretch of the Sandy River between Dodge Park and Dabney State Park remains the only Oregon Scenic Waterway designated by gubernatorial proclamation.

Arch and Fran were not content. They realized that conservation of the Sandy River's unique attributes would ultimately depend on an informed citizenry. So beginning in the mid 1970's and for the next 25 years, they provided scholarships to Reed College students to pursue natural resource related research in the Sandy River Gorge. Concurrently, Arch helped to bring a similar educational focus to the Oregon Parks Foundation on a statewide basis. Today, the Foundation continues to provide grants to public agencies, private organizations and schools around the State, which enhance appreciation and understanding of our natural world.

Prior to Arch's death in 1993, he and Fran once again demonstrated their life long commitment to environmental education by creating the Diack Ecology Education Fund. Through the Diack's

generous contribution, the Ecology Education Fund is endowed to provide financial assistance to efforts which enhance our youth's understanding of nature by putting them in direct contact with it. The Oregon Parks Foundation administers the Diack Ecology Education Fund for the benefit of students and ecology throughout Oregon.

The Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park

There is a serious need at Oxbow Regional Park for indoor space to support a growing and successful environmental education program. A nature center facility will improve the program experience for people and allow increased program capacity. A quality environmental education facility at Oxbow Regional Park will serve schools (60 schools within 10 miles of the park), volunteers and visitors in building an involved and informed citizenry for the protection and sustainable management of the region's natural resources.

The Oxbow Regional Park Master Plan calls for a nature center to be located adjacent to the Sandy River and ancient forest in the vicinity of the existing Group Picnic Area A. This site was selected because of its easy access to the park's natural resources, the ability to easily accommodate outdoor and indoor learning activities and its central location among other parks amenities.

Tentative plans for the nature center include class and meeting rooms, exhibit space, natural history reference library, office space and a gift shop. A special feature associated with the nature center will be the development of a barrier-free interpretive trail in the adjacent ancient forest. This short (1/8 to 1/4 mile) loop trail will provide visitors an introduction to the natural setting of Oxbow Regional Park and the unique qualities of the Pacific Northwest's temperate forests. The master plan proposes a 4,900 square foot building, but the final floor plan and dimensions will be determined in a final design process. Estimated cost of the center as proposed in the master plan is about \$1.5 million. *Illustration #1 shows the preliminary site plan from the adopted master plan.*

Arch and Fran Diack have had a long association with Oxbow Regional Park, the Sandy River and were strong advocates of ecology education. The Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park will be a fitting and lasting tribute to their natural resource conservation efforts. The facility and its ongoing education programs will help visitors develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the natural world that results in a greater sense of stewardship.

The Diack Nature Center will complement other nature centers and interpretive facilities in the region. The Nature Center at Tualatin Hills Nature Park in Beaverton, Environmental Learning Center at Clackamas Community College, Nature House at Tryon Creek State Park, Audubon House in Portland and the planned nature center at Jackson Bottom in Hillsboro serve environmental education needs in various areas of our growing region. The Diack Nature Center will provide similar opportunities in the eastern reaches of the metropolitan area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Geography of the Sandy River and Oxbow Regional Park

The Sandy River is located on the western slope of the Cascade mountain range in Clackamas and Multnomah counties. Along with its tributaries, the Sandy drains an area of 508 square miles. From its headwaters on Mt. Hood, the river flows about 55 miles west and north to its confluence with the Columbia River. Oxbow Regional Park is located in the lower quarter of the watershed between river miles 10 and 13.

Oxbow Regional Park lies in the geographic heart of the Sandy River Gorge. The natural beauty and pristine values of the river were formally recognized in 1973 when Governor Tom McCall included 12.5 miles of the Sandy River between Dodge Park and Dabney State Park in the state's Scenic Waterway Program via gubernatorial proclamation. In 1988, the same stretch of river received the national designation of Wild and Scenic River. Oxbow Regional Park encompasses 3.6 miles of the scenic Sandy River.

Located about 8 miles east of Gresham Oregon, the 1,040-acre Oxbow Regional Park offers visitors an opportunity to experience the unique attributes that led to the state and federal recognition of the Sandy River. Steep, forested slopes give way to a meandering Sandy River forming "oxbows" that open onto large gravel bars, shallow riffles and floodplain. This is the unique natural setting of Oxbow Regional Park.

The Nature of Oxbow Regional Park

An ancient forest of western hemlock, Douglas fir and western red cedar cover about 160 acres of Oxbow Regional Park. The 300+ year old trees offer a rare opportunity for visitors to explore a Pacific Northwest temperate forest and its associated plants and wildlife – within 25 miles of the Oregon's largest urban center. The park also contains younger forests of Douglas fir as well as deciduous woodlands dominated by red alder and bigleaf maple. Extensive flood plain and riparian areas support black cottonwood, red alder, willow and Oregon ash.

Oxbow Regional Park and the Sandy River Gorge provide habitat for an abundance of fish and wildlife. Winter, spring and fall runs of salmon and steelhead spawn in the glacier-fed, oxygen-rich waters of the Sandy River. Wildlife such as osprey, bald eagles, kingfishers, mergansers, otter and mink take advantage of the abundant fish. Deer, bear, cougar, elk, beaver, fox and a variety of songbirds also make the area their home.

Oxbow Regional Park is naturally inviting to people in the Portland metropolitan region. Over 250,000 people visit the park each year to enjoy camping, fishing, swimming, picnicking, hiking and nature study. *Illustration #2 shows the current configuration of the park.*

Management and Protection of Oxbow Regional Park

Oxbow Regional Park is a key access point to the Sandy River Gorge. Taking steps to protect and manage the area for the benefit of fish, wildlife and people will assure that future generations will enjoy high quality opportunities to experience the park, the river and its many natural features. Environmental education is an important element in meeting this objective.

Oxbow Regional Park is made up of properties owned by the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Metro. Metro, through its Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, operates and maintains the park. In addition, the YMCA, The Nature Conservancy and other private parties own land adjacent to the park.

In support of the Sandy River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, Metro is acquiring additional properties. With funds from the Open Spaces, Parks and Streams bond measure approved by voters in May 1995, Metro is working to acquire an additional 900 acres within the Sandy River Gorge. To date, 736 acres have been purchased to meet this goal. Land acquisitions made by Metro are primarily for the purposes of protecting fish, wildlife and scenic resources, and water quality.

Oxbow Regional Park Master Plan

In October 1997, Metro Council approved the Oxbow Regional Park Master Plan, which will guide the future development and management of the park. Since 1963, the park has provided outdoor recreation and learning opportunities without substantial improvements to the infrastructure. The existing facilities have exceeded their useful life expectancy and it is now necessary to upgrade roads, trails and other park facilities to continue providing safe, high quality outdoor recreation experiences for visitors.

The Master Plan management objectives include:

- ◆ Expand Metro role in the management of the Sandy River Gorge in cooperation with other public and nonprofit conservation agencies.
- ◆ Manage approximately 90% of the park to support fish and wildlife resources
- ◆ Manage approximately 10% of the park to enhance the visitors experience in activities such as picnicking, hiking, camping, river access, fishing and environmental education.
- ◆ Manage the ancient forest for wildlife, access to nature and environmental education.

The master plan identifies the following park improvements:

- ◆ **Build an environmental education center to improve and expand environmental education and interpretive programming.**
- ◆ Restore and reconstruct the park trail system.
- ◆ Realign the road system and reallocate parking to improve safety, aesthetics and efficient use of limited developable land.
- ◆ Upgrade water and electric utilities.
- ◆ Replace pit toilets with flush toilets in the primary use areas.
- ◆ Renovate the park entrance to include a public restroom and visitor orientation.
- ◆ Upgrade the boat ramp.
- ◆ Renovate campground facilities and reopen overnight campsites.
- ◆ Reconfigure group picnic areas.

Environmental Education at Oxbow Regional Park

For many years, educational programs and activities about the plant communities, fish and wildlife of the Sandy River Gorge have involved thousands of visitors to the park. The primary purpose of engaging people in outdoor learning activities is to build a better understanding and appreciation of natural resources and to foster a stewardship ethic. Metro also is committed to providing environmental education opportunities for citizens to increase their understanding of how natural resource management decisions affect environmental quality and the livability of the region.

Environmental education and interpretive programs currently are carried out by 2½ Metro Regional Parks staff with support from a team of volunteer naturalists. In recent years, Metro has focused its efforts to improve the quality of educational activities in content and time spent with individuals. Although the number of people involved in these activities (about 7,400 per year) has remained steady recently, the hours spent by each person has increased from 1.4 hours in 1990 to 3.3 hours in 1997. The capacity to serve more people now seems to be limited by the existing park facilities.

Participants in the programs include members of the general public as well as organized groups and school groups. Whenever possible, learning is done in direct contact with nature. A variety of programs and activities are offered including summer campfire programs, natural history classes (e.g. wildlife watching, animal tracking, plant identification), nature crafts, salmon viewing walks, sensory awareness skills, and school field trips emphasizing ancient forests, wetlands and salmon biology. *Illustration #3 shows use trends of Metro-hosted environmental education programs.*

Environmental Education Plan at Oxbow Regional Park

Oxbow Regional Park features a glacial-fed river, spawning salmon, an ancient forest and the community of life dependent on these natural characteristics. The Environmental Education Plan focuses on these natural features and includes activities for park visitors that are entertaining and informative. The following environmental education and interpretive themes outline proposed subjects for learning at the proposed Diack Nature Center.

River

- ◆ Oxbow Regional Park is the heart of the Sandy River Gorge, where the river meanders to connect forest, fish, wildlife and people.
- ◆ The drinking water for most City of Portland residents originates within the 508 square mile watershed of the Sandy River.
- ◆ The wild and free flowing Sandy River is part of an intricate web of life.
- ◆ The special qualities of the Sandy River are nationally recognized in its designation as a National Wild and Scenic River.

Ancient Forest

- ◆ Oxbow Regional Park's ancient forest is a remnant pocket of habitat for a unique array of life that live together in interesting relationships.
- ◆ A Pacific Northwest ancient forest can be recognized by the presence of certain physical characteristics.

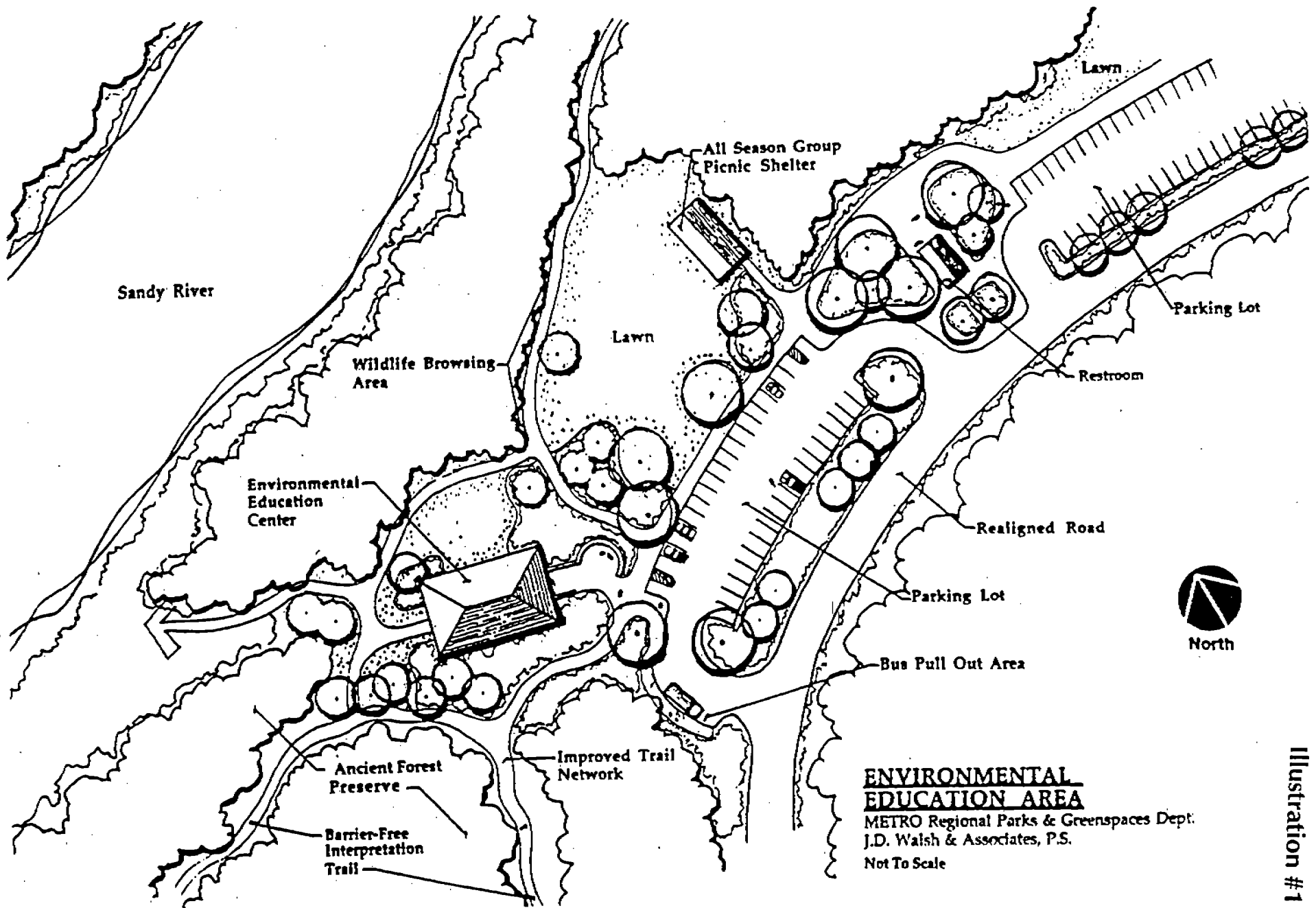
Salmon

- ◆ Salmon serve as barometers of watershed health.
- ◆ In an age-old cycle, fall Chinook salmon return to their spawning grounds within Oxbow Regional Park bringing nutrients as they link ocean to river to forest.
- ◆ There are several physical characteristics of the Sandy River that are critical to survival of salmon.

Wildlife

- ◆ Oxbow Regional Park habitat provides homes to a wide variety of wildlife.
- ◆ Tracks and traces reveal the secret lives of animals.
- ◆ People and wildlife have been coming to Oxbow Regional Park for thousands of years.
- ◆ Oxbow Regional Park's plant, fish and wildlife occupants are a valuable part of Oregon's heritage and are protected by laws.

Illustrations by Evelyn Hicks



**ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION AREA**

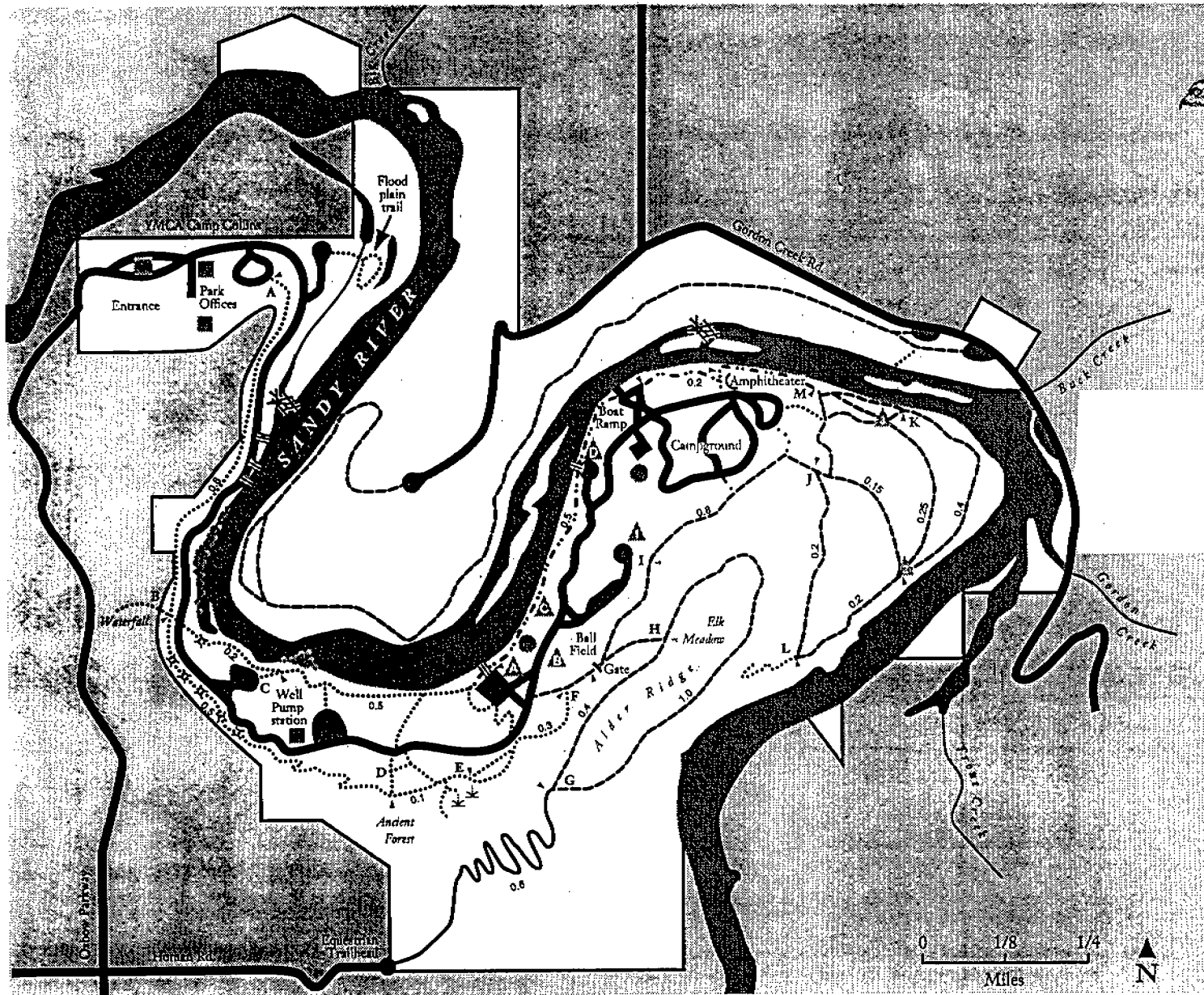
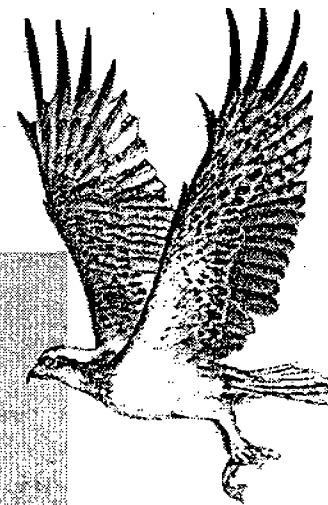
METRO Regional Parks & Greenspaces Dept.
J.D. Walsh & Associates, P.S.
Not To Scale



Metro
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Oxbow Regional Park

3010 S.E. Oxbow Parkway, Gresham, OR 97080 (503) 663-4708



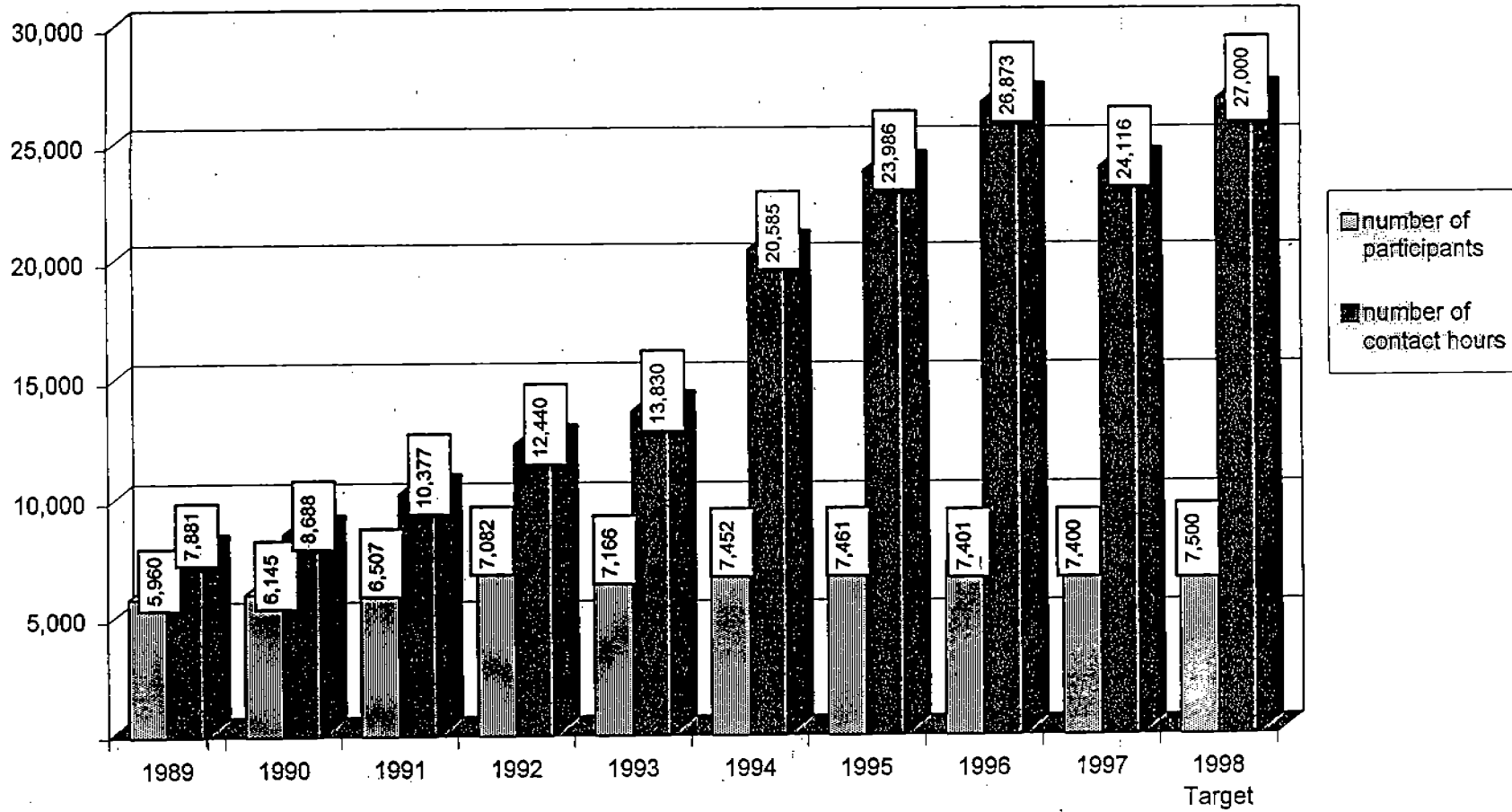
Legend

- Group picnic area
- Group camping area
- Children's play area
- Building
- Hardened river access
- Distance between points
- Trail markers
- Bridge
- Log jam
- River boulders
- Wetlands
- Pedestrians only
- Pedestrians and bicycles only
- Pedestrians and horses only
- Electricity easement
- Paved road
- Gravel road

Trail Markers

- Pedestrians allowed
- Bikes allowed
- Horses allowed
- Trail marker
- No Bikes
- No Horses

**REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES DEPARTMENT
 PLANNING AND EDUCATION DIVISION
 EDUCATION PROGRAM ATTENDANCE**



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Hunter Education--ODFW
Oregon Natural Resources Council
SalmonWatch
Kid Connection
Northwest Service Academy
Troutdale Historical Society
CopCamp
Water World Program
Blazer Scouts
Girl Scout Troop #511
Brownie Troop #864
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Two Rivers Montessori
French American School
Irvington School Math and Science Institute
Temple Christian Extension School
Forest, Farm & Stream Learning Center
Migrant Education Summer School
Humboldt Summer School
Outdoor Adventure School
Various home schools
Ascension Early Childhood Center
Children's Village
Delphinian School
Alameda Elementary
Archer Glenn Elementary
Chapman Elementary
East Orient Talented & Gifted Program
Eagle Creek Elementary

East Orient Elementary
West Orient Elementary
Gilbert Heights Elementary
Gilbert Park Elementary
Hector Campbell Elementary
Harold Oliver Primary School
Highland Elementary
King Elementary
Kelly Creek Elementary
Lincoln Park Elementary
Lynch Meadows Elementary
North Gresham Grade School
Park Rose Grade School
Powell Valley Elementary
Richmond Elementary
Rigler Elementary
Rose City Park School
Springdale Elementary
Scappoose Elementary
Sweetbriar Elementary
Sunnyside School
Troutdale Elementary
Beaumont Middle School
Binnsmead Middle School
Environmental Middle School
Fernwood Middle School
George Middle School
Lake Oswego Junior High
Oregon Trail School
Portland Adventist Academy
Portland Cornerstone Academy
Portsmouth Middle School
Riverdale Middle School
River Mill School
Sellwood Middle School
Metro Learning Center
West Orient Middle School
Sandy High School
Sam Barlow High School
Alpha High School
Centennial High School
Milwaukie High School
Tigard High School
Tualatin High School
Reynolds High School