

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee (SBAC)
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Place: Zoom

5:30 p.m.	Welcome and introductions	All
5:35 p.m.	Approve September 2021 meeting summary	Troy Clark
5:40 p.m.	New committee Chair recruitment	Troy Clark
5:50 p.m.	CNRP	Troy Clark
6:40 p.m.	Conservation projects update	Jonathan Soll
7:05 p.m.	Parking lot items	All
7:25 p.m.	Goals and next meeting agenda	All
7:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

Upcoming SBAC meeting:

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 on Zoom

For agenda/schedule information, contact Annie Toledo at annie.toledo@oregonmetro.gov

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Meeting summary

Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee

November 16, 2021

Committee members in attendance

- Troy Clark Audubon Society of Portland
- Carrie Butler Port of Portland
- Emily Roth Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes
- Daryl Houtman City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
- Jonathan Soll Metro
- Pat Jewett 40-Mile Loop Trust
- Eugenia Tam North Portland Neighbors
- Max Samuelson Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Others in attendance

- Andrea Berkley Metro
 - Allan Schmidt Metro
 - Annie Toledo Metro
 - Katie Gavares PSU Master’s in Public Policy program/The Intertwine Alliance
 - Eric Stern Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes
 - Susan Barthel Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes
-

WELCOME

The September 2021 meeting summary was approved, pending one change in the attendance roster.

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIR RECRUITMENT

Troy Clark is stepping down as the Chair but still plans to be a member of the committee. Carrie Butler volunteered to move from her role as Vice Chair to Chair—the decision will be up for committee vote at the January 2022 meeting. The position of Vice Chair is currently vacant.

COMPREHENSIVE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CNRP)

The current CNRP expires in 2023 and the committee must decide whether they’re going to advise Metro to extend it for time (3, 5 or X years), develop an updated 10-year CNRP (i.e. amend for time and content), create a new type of guiding plan (not a CNRP), or let it sunset. Jonathan Soll sent a memo to the committee on November 9, 2021 outlining Metro’s preference for addressing the expiration. *Attachment 1*.

Per the memo, Parks and Nature director Jon Blasher “has asked for a clean set of options, with costs and benefits laid out” in order to make a decision on the issue. Conservation Program director Dan Moeller “hopes that he can recommend extending the existing CNRP as is for 3-5 years, in order to allow a thoughtful conversation on a longer term future plan.” Jonathan Soll spoke about the memo and said that the reality is that there is no simple way to amend the CNRP for time only, all options would require a substantial procedural undertaking and be very expensive. The costs have

yet to be confirmed but would be anywhere between \$30-150k with a base cost of \$20k just for fees to City of Portland.

Emily Roth asked if Metro wants a recommendation from the committee or if this is a decision that is going to be made based on what Metro learns from the Bureau of Development Services regarding process costs. She shared the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes' viewpoint of wanting to keep the plan and listed plan advantages such as the trust fund, advisory committee and no dogs being allowed. She mentioned that a new plan would cost at least \$100-150k, and asked if the committee feels it is worth Metro staff time and \$150k? Without a CNRP would there still be a commitment to a no dog policy when the regional trail is complete? Will there be an advisory committee? Will there still be a trust fund? What is Metro's commitment if there is no CNRP?

Jonathan Soll wants to bring the advisory committee's recommendation to Jon Blasher and Dan Moeller for them to consider; the decision is ultimately Jon Blasher's. Absent the CNRP, both the advisory committee and trust fund could still exist, but if the regional trail is completed (then the decision about permitting dogs would be a Metro Council decision. Given the substantial planning and financial hurdles to completing the regional trail, including a bridge across the Slough it is highly unlikely that trail would be completed even within the next CNRP. Ultimately the two main facets of consideration are the significant investment of funds and staff time to go through a Type III Land Use Review process to amend the plan and Metro Council yielding decision making authority over one of our sites. While the current CNRP is the most intensive public facing conservation planning that Metro has ever done, its structure is quite similar to a standard Metro Site Conservation Plan. The CNRP has not reduced the planning effort necessary for access projects, despite the significant up front effort and cost.

Alternatives

1. Most expensive: Develop a new CNRP (i.e. amend for time and content).
2. Expensive: Amend for time only (extend for 3, 5, X years). Slightly dependent on if the Columbia Blvd. Bridge gets funded.
3. Least expensive: Let the CNRP expire and develop new guiding plans such as Site Conservation Plan and Master Plan. Site returns to base zoning and Metro will manage like all of their other properties.

Exact costs and outcomes are not available at this time.

Committee opinions

Max Samuelson: It sounds like the status of the Columbia Blvd. Bridge is very dependent on the CNRP. If we recommend it, is this even something that Metro could take on? Sounds like it is about will and capacity. We don't lose anything by extending the plan but it sounds like there are a lot of extenuating circumstances. He feels that Metro will make the right decision and improve habitat on their properties no matter what. What is purely lost without the plan at this point? If the plan's purpose is to change zoning with a bit more autonomy on their own, then he doesn't see how the plan preserves or expedites anything.

Eugenia Tam recognized that Emily Roth listed several advantages of keeping the plan. It would be helpful for the committee to map out the alternatives, associated costs and outcomes so she can gain a better understanding. For example, what exactly is the commitment Metro Council would make to enforce no dogs at the site? Susan Barthel is especially concerned about the enforcement of no dogs since the site is an important bird area, and affirmed the need for a document that lists alternatives.

Carrie Butler agrees that creating a list of alternatives and associated costs would be helpful. She wants to know more information about why the Columbia Blvd. Bridge project is so closely tied to whether the CNRP is extended or renewed since it is not in the plan. Allan Schmidt provided the explanation, see Columbia Blvd Bridge below.

Troy Clark is in favor of seeing the CNRP extended or renewed and is concerned that Metro's management perspective for the area is shifting from a natural area to a park. He does not want dogs on the property. Pat Jewett and Eric Stern feel that the site needs a different kind of handling than the other Metro properties due to its uniqueness.

Emily Roth said that the plan sets out really strong conservation goals and highlights the ecological importance of the area. She wants to know if Metro would keep these same ecological goals in the forefront in managing Smith and Bybee without a CNRP. Jonathan Soll affirmed that Metro is committed to protecting and enhancing habitat quality and will do that with or without this plan; a new document, such as a Site Conservation Plan and/or Master Plan, would be put in place and hold the same ecological principles in the forefront. Andrea Berkley, Metro scientist, said that she is comfortable with either the Site Conservation Plan (for ecology) or Master Plan (for access) guiding their work forward—it is what she uses for all of the other properties she works on.

Emily Roth offered to lead a subcommittee to create a table of alternatives and associated costs. She will reach out to Carrie, Susan and Metro to work on this list so the committee can review it at the January meeting and come to a decision.

COLUMBIA BLVD BRIDGE

Portland Parks and Recreation took over the management of this Columbia Blvd. Bridge project a couple months ago. See the September 28, 2021 SBAC meeting summary for more information. The bridge is currently on the potential project list for PP&R Local Share of 2019 Metro bond funding. Metro's St. Johns Prairie Trail project and the Columbia Blvd. Bridge are very closely linked: you can't build a bridge to nowhere and a trail isn't valuable if people can't safely access it. Therefore, if the bridge is funded then Metro is likely to fund the trail construction. Part of the trail construction process will be a Type III Land Use Review and this is where the CNRP renewal/amendment comes into play. Type III Land Use Reviews are expensive, laborious and lengthy—if the process starts for the trail then the CNRP can piggyback on that and both can be accomplished at one time. If the bridge is not funded, the trail construction won't be and therefore the Type III Land Use Review procedure would have to be implemented just for the CNRP. The funding needed for the bridge is \$3 million. The potential project list exceeds the available Local Share dollars and it won't be determined if the bridge will receive the funding until early 2022. Hopefully we'll know more by the January 2022 meeting.

Emily Roth is disappointed by the response that Dan Moeller sent to the committee in regards to Metro's role in funding the Columbia Blvd. Bridge project. The North Portland Trail is a regional trail and she thinks it is important for Metro to remain an active sponsor and stay involved as part of the team, but this is not the sense that she got from Dan Moeller's email. She would like to see active involvement in seeking funding.

CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATES

KEA evaluation report

Andrea Berkley presented a summary of the key ecological attributes (KEA) evaluation report that she and Elaine Stewart are working on. *Attachment 2*. This report will help check in on ecological objectives outlined in the current CNRP and inform land management decisions. The data collection has been completed and they are currently in the analysis phase with report completion scheduled for late January 2022. If all goes well, Andrea might be able to present to the committee about the findings at the January meeting. However, she does have a Turnstone Environmental report about a few of the conservation targets that she is able to share before then, if folks are interested. Although there is not a lot of preliminary results available from their evaluation, the riparian forest shrub wetland and bottomland forest looked good overall. There are some KEAs that seem to do a good job of capturing what we want to track for Smith and Bybee, while some others are less informative and may be worth dropping from future use. The chances of streaked horned larks nesting doesn't seem to be in the cards, but they definitely use the site and the KEAs are being met for their habitat type.

Water control structure impoundment assessment update

Metro has not yet decided on an alternative to repair the risk of piping (internal seepage), due in part to animals burrowing through the embankment and in part to the loose soil types used in the impoundment. At this time it is difficult to determine the urgency of installing sheet pile to eliminate the risk of piping, but the main concern is that if there is a sudden failure of the water being held in the levee, then the water rushing out would go to the base of the landfill which is something we definitely want to avoid. Andrea said that each alternative (one is sheet pile – either metal or HDPE plastic, the other is a slurry wall) would include 200-feet of construction on both sides of the embankment, and that at least one ash tree would be compromised. Interim measures to monitor the situation and reduce risk include filling the burrows with bentonite-coated rocks, groundwater monitoring in recently installed groundwater monitoring wells, and spot checks for additional burrowing activity and for bank face erosion. Depending on what Metro learns within the next few months, and permitting requirements, they might implement the larger sheet pile or slurry wall repair project in FY23 or FY24.

Other updates

Jonathan Soll mentioned that budget proposals for next fiscal year are currently being submitted; there are no other budget updates at this time. He said they expect to continue maintaining the two Columbia sedge meadow projects, the three phases of forested wetland and three phases of the St. Johns Prairie.

They've not been successful in establishing trees and shrubs in the area that turns from emergent wetland to shrub wetland and are ceasing additional efforts for now. No details on what the loss is attributed to. Jonathan will send out a map showing the area under question.

The water control structure is being kept closed this winter, which is different than how it's been managed in the past. This is to accommodate planting projects (with bare root planting only possible at lower water levels in January and February) and help with Ludwigia control. Even with the heavy rain, folks will notice that conditions are drier because of this.

Emily Roth asked what monitoring work is being done off of the Interlakes Trail near Bybee Lake. She's seen flagging and nut bags in transects and they've been there for a few months. Andrea Berkley isn't sure but she'll look into it and get back to her.

BYBEE LAKES HOPE CENTER

Troy Clark spoke to representatives at the Bybee Lakes Hope Center and they are doing really well. They just finished their first year at the site (former Wapato Jail) and anticipate another large portion of the facility being completed soon – making room for more program participants.

JANUARY 2022 MEETING AGENDA

- Vote for new committee Chair.
- CNRP discussion and committee recommendation.
- KEA evaluation final report presentation by Andrea Berkley.

ACTION ITEMS

- Subcommittee led by Emily Roth to develop a table that outlines CNRP alternatives, costs and outcomes for the committee to review at the January 2022 meeting.
- Jonathan to send out a map of the location near the water control structure where trees and shrubs have not been successful in establishing.
- Andrea Berkley will look into what monitoring work is currently being done on the Interlakes Trail and get back to the committee.

NEXT MEETING

January 25, 2022
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Metro**600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Memo

Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021
To: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee
From: Jonathan Soll, Parks and Nature
Subject: Metro's preference for addressing expiration of CNRP in 2023. Information for Nov. 16, 2021 meeting.

Folks,

Thanks for your patience on this issue. We have been trying to fully clarify the options and consequences for future planning guidance for the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. The final decision on what Metro prefers rests in the hands of Parks and Nature's Director, Jonathan Blasher. He has asked for a clean set of options, with costs and benefits laid out. We still can't provide that and so we don't have a decision from him to share.

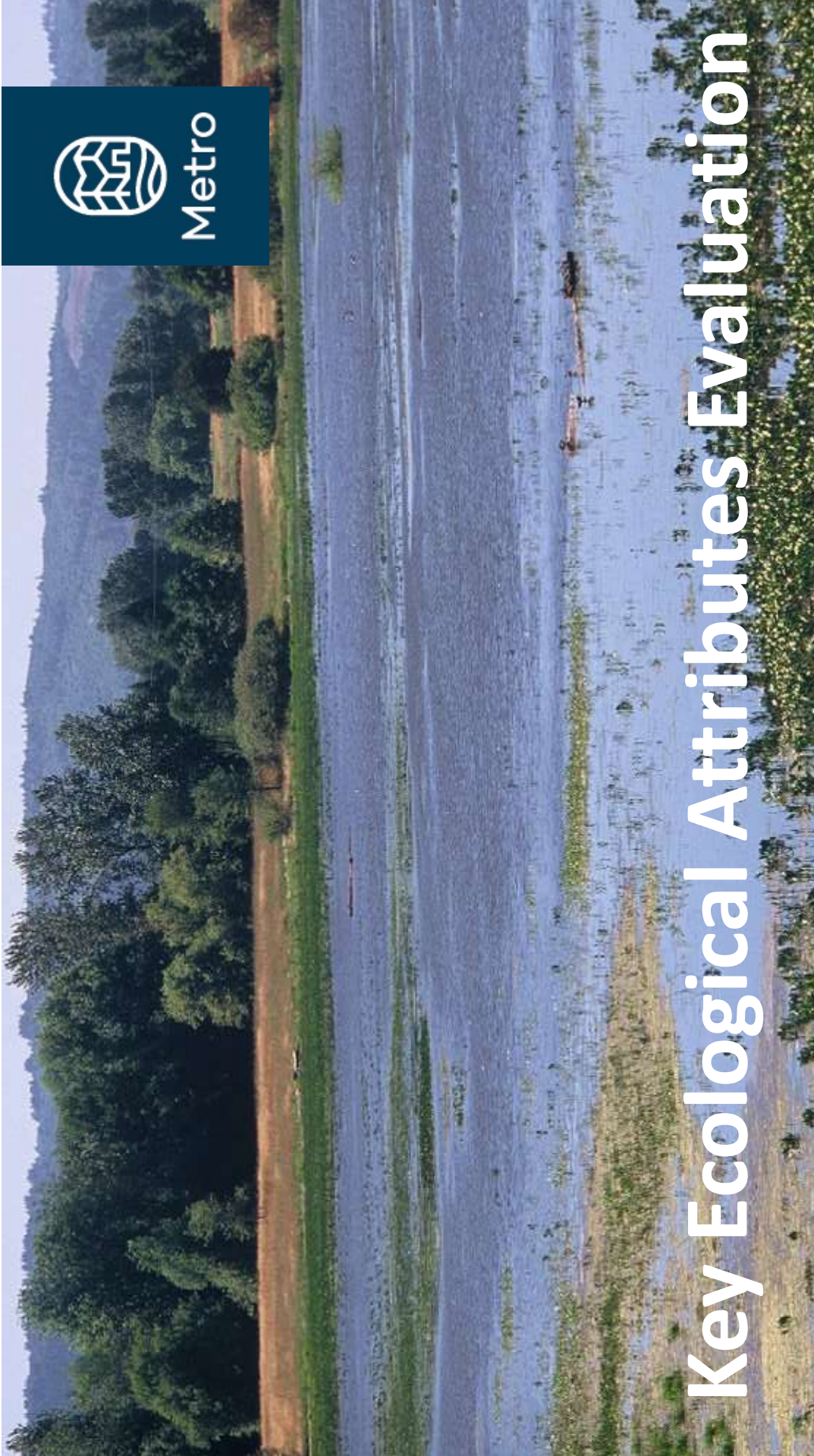
That said, Dan Moeller, Conservation Program Director hopes that he can recommend extending the existing CNRP as is for 3-5 years, in order to allow a thoughtful conversation on a longer term future plan. What has yet to be clarified with the City of Portland Bureau of Development Services is how difficult an extension for time only would actually be. We know it will be a Type 3 review, will require the consent of all landowners and require a \$13,000+ application fee. What we have not been able to clarify is whether an extension for time only would be a relatively simple review once landowner consent was obtained, or whether it would necessitate extensive time and effort to prepare and defend an application. Allan Schmidt, planner for Smith and Bybee estimates that \$50-100,000 for consultant support just for the application process is not out of the question. Until we have clarity, Dan is not prepared to carry choices to our Director.

We look forward to a discussion at the November 16th meeting to clarify the position of the Advisory Committee members. In the meantime we will continue to press for clarity on the issue with Portland. If we learn more in the interim, we will report it at the meeting.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Soll".

Jonathan Soll
Parks and Nature Science Manager
Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee representative



Metro

Key Ecological Attributes Evaluation

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

November 16, 2021

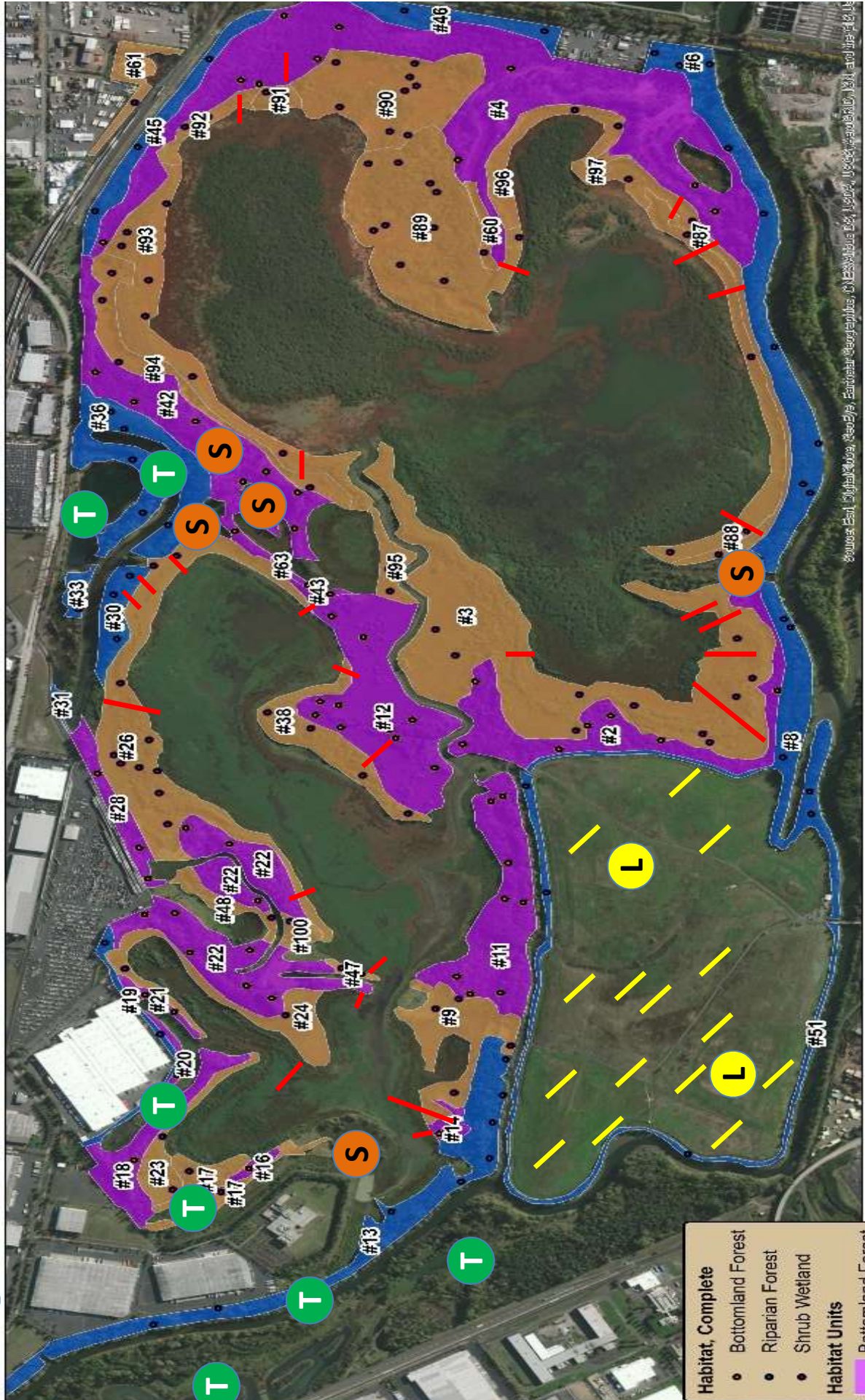
Data Sources

Source & Methods:	Data Collected in:	Used to Evaluate KEAs in:
Turnstone (2021) 0.1 ac fixed radius plots, 0.01 ac nested subplots, intuitive meander	2021	RF, BF, SW
Lascheck (2018) Line intercept on 25 50m transects	2015-2016	EW, SW
Metro (2021) Point intercept & 1m quadrat on 50m transects	2021	UP, SHL
Metro (2021) Visual survey protocol	2021	WPT
Metro (2021) Desktop methods	2021	RF, BF, SW, EW, UP, WPT

RF=Riparian Forest, BF=Bottomland Forest, SW=Shrub Wetland, EW=Emergent Wetland, UP=Upland Prairie, SHL=Streaked horned lark, WPT=Western painted turtle

Sampling and Data Collection Locations (approximate)

T



Habitat, Complete	
●	Bottomland Forest
●	Riparian Forest
●	Shrub Wetland
Habitat Units	
■	Bottomland Forest
■	Riparian Forest
■	Shrub Wetland

1.5 Miles

1 0.5 0.25 0

Sample Points for Field Data Collection

T= turtle, S=edge meadows
L=streaked horned lark plots



Project Timeline

Apr-Oct 2021:
Data collection &
synthesis

Nov-Dec 2021:
Data analysis

Jan 2022:
Complete report