



Draft meeting notes

project River View Natural Area Management Plan

date 06/03/2014

time 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

present See below

location: PP&R's Springwater
Conference Room,
Portland Building

subject TAC Meeting #4

Meeting Attendees, Including Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	
Paul Agrimis, Project Principal, ESA VA	Sage Jensen, Natural Resource Ecologist, Sage Environmental Services
Shannah Anderson, Land Acquisition Specialist, BES (TAC)	Susie Mattke-Robinson, Landscape Architecture Staff, ESA VA
Mary Bushman, Environmental Specialist, BES	Kendra Petersen-Morgan, Westside Ecologist, PP&R (TAC)
Rachel Felice, Natural Area West Supervisor, PP&R (TAC)	Steve Roelof, Project Manager, ESA VA
Kate Holleran, Natural Resources Scientist, Metro (TAC)	Emily Roth, Project Manager, Natural Resource Planner, PP&R (TAC)
Jeff Hough, Trail Technician, City Nature West (TAC)	Maija Spencer, Public Involvement Specialist, PP&R (TAC)
Zach Jarrett, Lead Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management (TAC)	

1. Introductions

Emily Roth, Project Manager at Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) commenced the third indoor meeting for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) by welcoming attendees, who gave brief introductions. Emily next reviewed the meeting agenda.

2. Project Manager Update

Emily reviewed the current schedule for the project, noting upcoming dates for the PAC meeting and the Community Open House #2. The planning process to date has included work sessions with the ecology team to develop design criteria and refine ecological prescriptions for RVNA. Dogs will not be permitted in the natural area due to adverse impacts to wildlife and water quality. Trails at RVNA will be primarily shared use for hiking/biking. They will be narrower than PP&R standard trail widths for shared use trails in order to reduce impacts to the site. Lewis & Clark has agreed to allow a trail segment connection along their property at the south edge of RVNA. Parking areas on the Lewis & Clark campus will not be available for use by the general public. Emily noted that the revised draft Habitat and Trail map will be shared at the next PAC meeting on June 25th.

3. Review Draft Habitat and Trail Map

Steve Roelof (ESA Vigil-Agrimis) led the group in reviewing the updated draft Habitat and Trail map and Half-Street Improvements figure. To protect interior forest habitat, wetland areas, and multiple streams, the design team set aside the central area of the property as protected interior habitat. To the extent practicable, the team routed trails along a 300-foot wide corridor at the edge of the property. To provide a family-friendly trail experience a short loop trail is shown on the flattest portion of the site. Due to topographic constraints and the desire to provide a beginner loop, certain portions of the trail system do not remain within the outer 300 feet. The interior habitat area boundary shown on the plan is 200 feet from the edge of trails. Lewis & Clark will allow a trail connection along the northern edge of their property, creating a loop trail around the natural area. Most trails will be two-way hiking/bicycle, with the exception of the trail next to Palatine Hill Road that provides hiker-only access near the wetland. The plan includes both a wildlife underpass at Stream 6 and a pedestrian connection to Powers Marine Park and the Willamette River. Half-street improvements along the east side of Palatine Hill Road would treat stormwater from the roadway and provide parking for bicycles and vehicles. The half-street improvements may require an approximate encroachment of three and a half feet past the existing ROW into the site.

TAC members had the following responses:

- If the half-street improvements extent a few feet beyond the existing right-of-way line it's likely that encroachment will not impact the site values protected by the conservation easement. It may depend on how many trees would need to be removed.
- Half-street improvements would be required by the city along entire edge along Palatine Hill Road (not a portion)
- Showing existing conditions metrics (such as existing trail miles and stream crossings) could be helpful to the public. Yet, it is important to remind the public that the team started with a blank slate for the plan.
- There is a functional 300-foot buffer around exterior, but the beginner loop lies beyond the buffer. Must discuss the drivers for this choice, and the compromise made on interior habitat to accommodate beginner loop. This beginner loop responds to community feedback to provide recreation for a variety of users, and is located in the least impactful area to keep rogue trails from forming. The beginner trail loop is also important for handicap access.
- Trail widths are smaller than PP&R trail width guidelines to lessen impacts to habitat. Shared trails are also less impactful. With this perimeter trail system plan, the overall ecological uplift would be much greater than current conditions.
- The wildlife crossing could be an underpass for shared human and animal use, example from Oswald West and Cape Horn. An underpass is less impactful than overpass.
- Trail management techniques such as limiting hours/days/directions are tools that can help create a high-quality experience for all users. Techniques such as hiker-only days and clockwise or counterclockwise biking days may create better experiences for all, and limit

conflicts (example at Betasso Preserve in Boulder, CO). Neighbors/friends group can help enforce.

- The northern edge of the property could currently be considered interior habitat, but it is susceptible to management changes on adjacent properties. The interior habitat area, as labeled on the proposed plan, could be renamed Interior Habitat Management Area.

4. Round-table: additional thoughts/comments

Paul Agrimis (ESA Vigil-Agrimis) led the round-table wrap-up for additional thoughts and comments. TAC members provided the following additional comments:

- The draft Habitat and Trail plan strikes a good balance of providing recreation that is compatible with ecological values of the site. Appreciate that core values are kept in mind.
- Adaptive management will be an important tool for facilitating high-quality experiences for multiple user groups. Trail monitoring is very important as we move forward. There may be management challenges keeping people out of the interior of the site. Parks personnel performing restoration and monitoring activities will travel into this area and may inadvertently create visible trails.
- Remind the public about larger context of terrestrial and aquatic connectivity of RVNA. Provide previous connectivity map and remind public of aquatic refugia potential, and habitat connections when culverts are replaced.
- A City press release may help convey a clear message about the planning process prior to the next PAC meeting.

Emily adjourned the meeting.