MT TABOR Desired Future Conditions

Landscape Setting
Mt. Tabor is a 196-acre hybrid park composed of discreet sections of forested upland natural area adjacent to and separated by areas of developed parkland with mowed lawns, play structures, benches, restrooms, picnic shelters and other amenities. Mt. tabor is located in SE Portland, just east of SE 60th Avenue and north of SE Division Street, and belongs to the complex of volcanic geologic features east of the Willamette River known as the East Buttes [1]. It is surrounded by residential development and lacks direct connection to other natural areas, the closest of which is Rocky Butte two miles away. Three open reservoirs on the south and west sides of the park are used for drinking water storage. Paved and unpaved roads and trails provide access throughout the park.

Topography and Soils- Mount Tabor consists of three peaks, a broad shallow valley on the western slope, a steep eastern slope, a small ravine in the northwest corner and a volcanic cinder cone that forms the northern slope of that ravine [2]. Elevation at the highest point is 650'. Soils at Mount Tabor are classified into two types by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: Multnomah Silt Loam and Urban Land Latourell Complex[3]. Both soils are gravelly and cobbly and in some places have been graded or filled, and both are well-drained, and prone to erosion on the steepest sections (30-60 % slope). Plants can root to a depth of 16"- 40". *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir), *Quercus garryana* (Oregon white oak), *Acer macrophyllum* (big-leaf maple), *Thuja plicata* (western red cedar), *Acer circinatum* (vine maple), *Symphoriocarpus alba* (snowberry), *Rubus ursinus* (trailing blackberry) and *Holodiscus discolor* (oceanspray) are typical vegetation on these soils.

Desired Future Conditions – Planned Vegetative Communities (Alliances)
The following two vegetative community types, or alliances, are the combinations of vegetation (trees, shrubs, and forbs) planned for the forested upland and managed view corridors. These community types were adapted from the National Vegetation Classification System (NVCS) [4], with modifications appropriate to local conditions in Portland and the Upper Willamette Valley.

1. *Pseudotsuga menziesii – Tsuga heterophylla* Forest Alliance (A. 107)
This climax forest type, composed mostly of *P. menziesii*, *Tsuga heterophylla* (western hemlock) and *T. plicata*, has a canopy cover greater than 60%, with individual trees as tall as 150'. *Acer macrophyllum* can occur, particularly in gaps. Currently *P. menziesii* and *A. macrophyllum* are the dominant canopy species. In the next 25 years, *P. menziesii* will continue to overtop *A. macrophyllum* and the variety of non-native trees growing in mixed stands, while *T. heterophylla* and *T. plicata* will regenerate in the understory as the canopy becomes denser, particularly on north-facing slopes. *Quercus garryana* and *Arbutus menziesii* (madrone) are not typical associates of this community, but they may occur on drier, open habitat, particularly on south-facing slopes. *Alnus rubra* (red alder), *Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa* (black cottonwood) and *Fraxinus latifolia* (Oregon ash), also not typical associates of this forest type, will continue to be present as marginal species, and on wetter sites they may colonize gaps after tree-fall. Currently *P. menziesii* comprises approximately 60% of the canopy and big leaf maple 20% [3]. *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *T. plicata*, *A. macrophyllum* and *F. latifolia* are regenerating in the understory currently. Shrubs and forbs typically associated with this vegetation type are *Berberis nervosa* (Oregon grape), *Vaccinium parvifolium* (red huckleberry), *A. circinatum*, *Gaultheria shallon* (salal), *S. alba*, *Polystichum munitum* (swordfern), *Pteridium aquilinum* (brackenfern), and *Achlys triphyllum* (vanillaleaf).

2. *Acer circinatum* Shrubland Alliance (A. 2600, and view corridors indicated by arrows)
This community is a shrub layer dominated by *A. circinatum* to 20" high. *Athryium felix-femina* (lady fern) and *Tolmeia menziesii* (piggy-back plant) are common associates. In the Willamette Valley other species that may occur include *Rosa gymnocarpa* (baldhip rose), *S. alba*, *H. discolor, Amelanchier alnifolia* (serviceberry), *Rubus parviflorus*

[1] David Alt and Donald Hyndman. 1995. *Northwest Exposures: A geologic story of the Northwest.* Mountain Press Publishing Co., Missoula, MO.
[2] Walker-Macy Landscape Architects. 2000. *Mt. Tabor Master Plan Report.* Portland, OR.
[3] United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, in Cooperation with Oregon Agricultural Experiment. 1983. *Soil Survey of Multnomah County, Oregon* (http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov).
[4] Natureserve. 2010. *Natureserve Explorer: An Encyclopedia of Life.* (http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/).
[5] Portland Parks and Recreation. 2004. *Natural Area Vegetation Survey Database.* Portland, OR.

(thimbleberry), *G. shallon*, *B. nervosa* and *P. munitum*. This community type is planned for view corridors and may be modified with introduction of *Q. garryana* and *A. menziesii* on appropriate sites within the corridors.

[1]David Alt and Donald Hyndman. 1995. *Northwest Exposures: A geologic story of the Northwest*. Mountain Press Publishing Co., Missoula, MO.
[2] Walker-Macy Landscape Architects. 2000. *Mt. Tabor Master Plan Report*. Portland, OR.
[3]United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, in Cooperation with Oregon Agricultural Experiment. 1983. *Soil Survey of Multnomah County, Oregon* (http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov).
[4]Natureserve. 2010. *Natureserve Explorer: An Encyclopedia of Life*. (http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/).
[5] Portland Parks and Recreation. 2004. *Natural Area Vegetation Survey Database*. Portland, OR.

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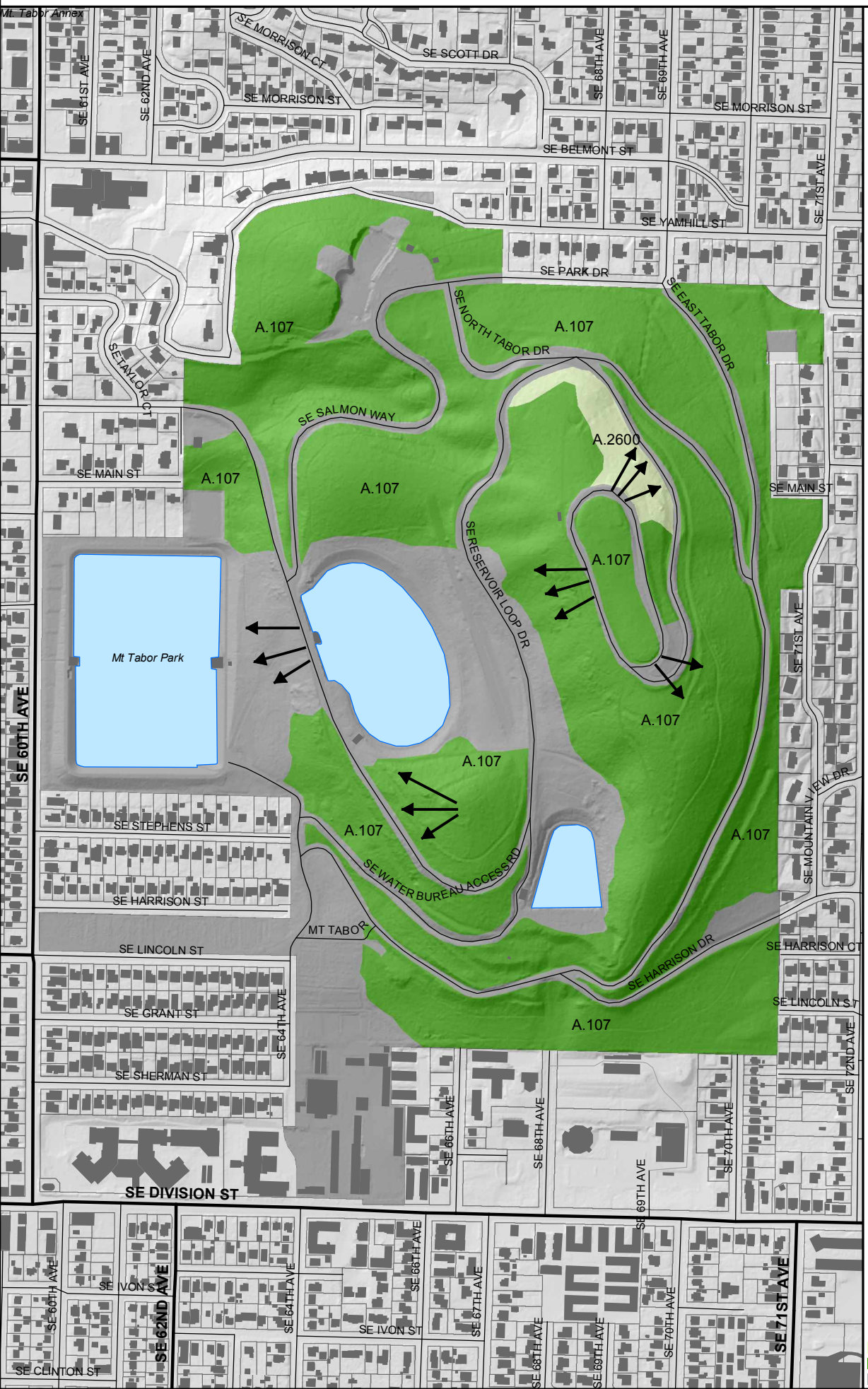
Draft 8/9/2010



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

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0 200 400 600 800

Feet

= View Corridor

Key

DFC Alliances

- A.2600 Acer circinatum Shrubland Alliance
- A.107 Douglas-fir - Western Hemlock Forest Alliance
- A.0 Cultural Landscape