

What We've Learned About Natural Resource Protection and Restoration

The following summary is based on public input from project meetings and events, presentations at community meetings and the draft *River Plan/South Reach Existing Conditions* draft report.

OVERALL

- Expand river setback for new development; broaden natural area along the riverfront
- Invasive species management/removal is an important issue
- Concerns expressed about increased public access and potential implications on natural resource protection
- Erosion occurring at several locations along the Springwater Corridor Trail and along the slope north of SE Sellwood Blvd
- Respect existing development but limit new development and limit landscaping options - no invasive species
- Important to balance human use with natural resources
- Jet boats sometimes create conflicts with sailboats, wildlife, and swimmers
- Mooreland Woods needs protection, better signage, and improved public access
- Waverly Country Club (not in project boundary) – can a trail connection along the river to the City of Milwaukie be made? Concern expressed about environmental impacts/pollutants run off into the river
- Powers Marine Park: continue the park further south

RIVER ACCESS – BEACHES AND DOCKS

- Consider restructuring the retaining wall at Sellwood Riverfront Park; extend beach further back to create a larger beach area
- A more formal option to access the beach along the northeastern portion (west of Springwater Corridor Trail) would be beneficial
- Old Staff Jennings property has potential for river access. Existing dilapidated dock should be rebuilt as a public dock
- Build small piers along the river for fishing, to serve historic users (Native American) and current immigrant populations that fish

River Plan/South Reach



RIVERBANK VEGETATION MANAGEMENT/LANDSCAPING

- For riverbank restoration, it is important that there are appropriate setbacks and native plantings for wildlife and natural habitat. (In relation to Willamette Park)
- Participants stated that while there should be respect for those living in the area, there should be more appropriate plantings and landscape treatments to preserve the natural habitat corridor along the riverfront
- Concern that homeowners will be unduly burdened by any changes to vegetation management/landscaping requirements
- Landscape requirement should encourage more habitat areas and “beef up” regulations on what plants you can cut
- Incorporate more green walls along public and private areas
- Maintain riprap for flood protection

WILLAMETTE PARK

- Community members like the Willamette Park Master Plan concepts included in the existing park master plan for riverbank layback with habitat restoration and a seasonal public swimming beach. Concern was expressed about ensuring separation of the areas since habitat restoration is the primary objective
- The park must be viewed as not as an amenity, but as critical infrastructure
- For riverbank restoration, it is important that there are appropriate setbacks and native plantings for wildlife and natural habitat

ROSS ISLAND

- Should be doing everything we can to support natural resources/species on Ross Island
- Public access should not be allowed.
- Why is this not an open space? This needs to be an open space
- Ross Island Sand and Gravel – can they be relocated?
- If all of island can be obtained, designate portion of the island for more active recreation (e.g., swimming, boat landing area, etc.)
- To address toxic algal blooms that are now frequent within Ross Island Lagoon, the island should be returned to two islands (Ross Island and Hardtack Island) by removing the connection between them at the southern end of the island
- A management plan is needed to ensure coordinated management of the Ross Island/Oaks Bottom/Oaks Crossing complex

OAKS BOTTOM WILDLIFE REFUGE

- Opportunities for environmental education opportunities, including stewardship projects with Brooklyn community members
- A management plan is needed to ensure coordinated management of the Ross Island/Oaks Bottom/Oaks Crossing complex
- A number of invasive species have been identified in the refuge: garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, others. Management of purple loosestrife resulted in insects eating vegetation on adjacent properties
- Better enforcement of leash requirements for dogs in the refuge is needed
- A zip line could be installed across Oaks Bottom down to Oaks Amusement Park
- Establish a non-profit organization (501(c)(3)) to ensure on-going support for refuge
- Nervous about pedestrian path along Oaks Bottom; possibly provide few places to access or get off trail?; access from Moreland Woods could help