

**Frequently Asked Questions  
from River View Natural Area (RVNA) Open House (May 4, 2015)**

**Why can't the RVNA Management Plan be delayed until completion of the Citywide Off-Road Cycling Plan?**

The City has a fiscal responsibility to complete the RVNA Management Plan (Plan) this calendar year, including abiding by the consultant contracts that expire in September of 2015.

**When and how will the City look at the proposed half-street improvements in terms of traffic volume, entry/egress, and number of parking spaces?**

The RVNA Management Plan will only contain a conceptual parking proposal for SW Palatine Hill Road. Specifics will be determined by the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) during permitting, design, and construction of the half street improvements.

**What is the difference between the Terrestrial Ecology Enhancement Strategy (TEES) *Interior Forest* on the Natural Resources map and the *Interior Preserve* on the Access and Management Concept?**

*Interior Forest* is defined by the City's TEES as a forest patch of 30 acres in size or greater that is more than 300 feet from the nearest forest edge. Interior forest habitats are buffered from non-forest land and from primary and secondary roads (i.e. large enough to break canopy, ~15 feet) and transmission right-of-way corridors. This definition is used by the City of Portland to map and define Interior Forests. Use and intensity are not defined in TEES; this is determined on a site by site basis.

*Interior Preserve* is a PP&R management-defined area where public access is limited to research and monitoring through the PP&R permit process and stewardship activities with City staff. The preserve area provides critical habitat for a diversity of wildlife and plant species that are sensitive to activities and disturbances. The City has chosen to rename this to *Habitat Preserve* to eliminate confusion between the two terms.

**Is a bigger habitat area better? If so, why?**

Habitat size and connectivity are important because larger habitat patches generally provide more species diversity. "Edge effect" is a transition in habitat type. Edge effect can negatively impact habitat through increased invasive species, changes in vegetation structure, and alterations in temperature and humidity. The

impacts can be felt quite far into the interior habitat. The City's goal is to minimize those edge effects by protecting larger habitat patches.

### **What is the volume of water flowing from the streams on RVNA?**

The City has not conducted extensive flow monitoring at this site. However, the City has documented that four of RVNA's tributaries are perennial (flow year round). Initial modeling estimates the annual average rainfall runoff from RVNA is approximately 80 million gallons annually. Developing and implementing a long-term water quality monitoring program is a priority action in the RVNA Ecological Prescriptions that will be included in the Plan.

### **What does "cold water refugia" refer to and why is it so important here?**

The Willamette River in Portland has been designated as critical habitat for Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout, which are provided protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, the Willamette River's temperature does not meet the basic needs for the survival of ESA-listed fish and wildlife. Cold water refugia are "stepping stones" or "rest stops" that allow salmonids to survive migration upstream to spawning streams and downstream to the ocean through warm water. The seven streams that flow through RVNA provide cold water to the Willamette River, as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit colder at the mouths of those streams than in other parts of the Willamette River within the City during the summer months.

### **How much of the proposed trail alignment impacts the Aquatic Function Area?**

Design criteria for RVNA include a conservation action to keep trails within 300 feet of the property boundary where feasible. PP&R requested a loop trail, which involved some passage into the Aquatic Function Area. The City will employ PP&R's Trail Design Guidelines (2009) during trail construction and is also in the process of developing trail Best Management Practices (BMPs) to ensure the new trail will be sustainable and minimize impacts to water quality and habitat.

### **Why is the City not restricting access to the site to all users?**

The City has a goal of protecting natural resources and providing sustainable access to nature for all Portlanders. Restricting access to the site entirely would reduce stewardship, research, and environmental education opportunities. Additionally, the presence of visitors and neighbors provides valuable input to City staff.