

# River Plan / South Reach

## Environmental Stakeholders Meeting – Notes

### 02/28/18

LOCATION: Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Conf Rm 7A

#### ATTENDEES

Mike Houck, Executive Director, Urban Greenspaces Institute, & Planning & Sustainability Committee (PSC) member;  
Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director, Portland Audubon Society;  
Jeanne Galick, environmental advocate;  
Adriana Escobedo-Land, Coordinator, West Willamette Partnership (Samsara Group);

Leslie Bliss-Ketchum, Director, Samsara Group;  
Paul Ketcham, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services staff;  
Debbie Bischoff, Jeff Caudill, and Sallie Edmunds, BPS South Reach project staff

#### NOTES

##### Character of South Reach

- Abundance of natural resources
  - Most natural resource-rich stretch of the Willamette River
  - Regionally-significant resource
  - South Reach has extensive resources, compared to the small pieces of habitat that we are attempting to preserve/bring back in North and Central reaches
- Access
  - Place with easy residential access – people can recreate
  - Visual access is just as important as physical access
- It's a place that Portland is known for. It is unique!
  - Ross Island is just as significant to Portland as Forest Park

##### Issues/Opportunities

- Management Approach
  - Think of it as a complex.
    - Emphasize connectivity corridors
    - South Reach connectivity is unique and should be emphasized – maintain the integrity that is left!
    - Ensure high-quality connection between Willamette River (Powers Marine Park) and River View Natural Area on the westside, Oak Bottom complex and Westmoreland Park (Crystal Springs) on the eastside
    - Waverly Country Club – in our Urban Services Boundary; should be viewed as an open space/connectivity opportunity

- Parks has lots of property within the South Reach and should manage them as a collective
  - Come from the species' perspective (salmon, birds, etc.)
    - Great variety of species – birds, amphibians, pollinators, fish, etc.
    - Western Pond Turtle identified in many locations in the S Reach
    - Driver should be, “how do we support species,” then go from there
  - Incorporate the FEMA Biological Opinion (BiOp) requirements – the underlying logic of the requirements is sound
  - Climate change/adaptation should be incorporated whenever possible
  - Start with functionality – “balancing” is not effective; not balancing but *integrating* various needs (e.g., recreation) is needed.
- Setback requirements
  - Often try to place too many things into the setback area (e.g., trails, etc.)
  - Setback widths need to be larger (including in Dunthorpe area), especially for undeveloped parcels
  - Existing development should also be addressed
  - Is it possible to have a setback short-term v. long-term (new development)? Can it be more flexible?
- Development adjacent to the setback
  - Building heights along the Greenway are too high.
- Riparian vegetation/landscaping requirements
  - Property owners adjacent along the river repeatedly remove vegetation to preserve views, which impacts habitat function in the riparian zone – updated regulations should address this.
- Oaks Bottom
  - More usage/trails within this area is a non-starter; student projects should be discouraged – there are ample educational opportunities in westside parks/open spaces
  - Concerns about increased activity from Moreland Woods – provide visual access, rather than physical access
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- Greenway Trails
  - Springwater (east) – Not designed with balance of various interests in mind; creates conflicts
  - Greenway (west) – path is narrow in some areas; creating conflicts
- Northwest side of the river (Cottonwood Bay area)
  - This area is key – along with Heron Pointe
  - Small is beautiful!
- Opportunities
  - Powers Marine Park – Improve connection to Riverview Natural Area (culvert replacement, etc.)
  - Peregrines at Sellwood Bridge

- Recognition of connectivity to adjacent landscapes – West Hills, Waverly Country Club, etc.
  - Connectivity corridors – Johnson Creek, Crystal Springs, Stephens Creek, etc.

#### Suggested Contacts/Programs/Events

- Johnson Water Creek Council – Daniel Newberry, Exec Director.
- Reed College SEEDS (Students for Education, Empowerment, and Direct Service) program
- Great Blue Heron Week
  - Tim Beatley – Coming to PDX for “Biophilic Cities” event
- Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF) People’s Plan – a resource for guidance on reaching out to underserved communities