

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

July 17, 2013

Agenda Item: 12a

Action

Topic: Tryon Creek Comprehensive Plan

Presented by: Mark Davison

Background:

OPRD has developed the Tryon Creek Comprehensive Plan to guide resource management and visitor experience enhancements at the Tryon Creek State Natural Area over the next 15 years. An advisory committee, the general public, partners and park staff provided input on the plan. During the process staff worked closely with the Friends of Tryon Creek to understand their goals and ensure the close partnership continues to grow.

Plan Concepts for Tryon Creek State Natural Area:

The values and goals of this plan call for conservation of natural resources and the continuation and enhancement of existing recreation activities resulting in a wider variety of great visitor experiences at Tryon Creek. The natural resource survey is the most extensive undertaken of the park to date. The resulting stewardship guidelines provide guidance on future management including invasive species removal and improvement to the overall habitat conditions for wildlife. Another important focus of the plan is the arrival experience at Tryon Creek. Enhancements needed to meet future visitor needs at the nature center day use area include an enhanced parking lot, improved orientation and way finding as well as an outdoor classroom and nature paly area. In addition, the plan includes proposals for two additional trail heads on the east and west sides of the park that will provide new recreation access opportunities and to better accommodate existing needs.

Next Steps:

The draft comprehensive plan was presented to the public, partners and staff in early June and the resulting comments have been incorporated into the plan here today for your approval and adoption. If approved today, staff will seek land use approvals in fall 2013 and go to state rulemaking in early 2014 to formerly adopt the plan

Prior Action by Commission: Information Update on Planning Effort, July 2011, June 2012, January 2013

Action Requested: Adoption of Tryon Creek State Natural Area 2013 Comprehensive Plan

Attachments: Tryon Creek Natural Area 2013 Comprehensive Plan

Prepared by: Jaime English and Mark Davison

DRAFT
July 2013



TRYON CREEK
STATE NATURAL AREA

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN





Tryon Creek State Natural Area

Comprehensive Plan, July 2013

Volume 1

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department: Salem, Oregon

The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

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A letter from the Director of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department

As we adopt this plan for Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Oregon's state park system is nearing the beginning of its second century. The decades have swept past, and the role of state parks has grown into one that includes a natural resource conservation approach where people have places both to play and to connect with our spectacular natural home. Parks are our gift to future generations. We asked for and received knowledge, opinions, and passion from many people who joined us in giving this gift. I am grateful to those who rose to the occasion and participated in this public planning process for Tryon creek.

When Tryon Creek was established over 40 years ago as a State Natural Area, the park was viewed as a retreat from the city, a natural island in a developing area. A new comprehensive plan retains this original concept, but also helps identify and serve the current and future needs of the public. This document focuses on understanding what exists at Tryon Creek, what is needed, and what could be. It describes park management values, goals, strategies, and actions that will conserve the landscape and enable careful access to it. The park maps and project descriptions provide the public, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, and local governments with a basis for approving us to move forward.

Our ultimate goal for visitor experiences is to reinforce the bond with the great natural surroundings at Tryon Creek, to raise the level of appreciation for the parks as a community resource, and to get them invested in its stewardship. If we succeed in these goals, the benefits and value generated will be a legacy for generations.

This plan sets direction to guide the park forward for many decades: stewardship of the environment is at the forefront, and recreation enhancement is modest and just enough to invite an introduction to the natural landscape for each visitor to the park. The thoughtful public and professional comments shaping this plan reflect the deep love visitors share for the park's natural beauty. This plan is thus, a reflection of both the landscape and the people who care most about its stewardship. With a comprehensive plan in place and your continued support of Tryon Creek, I have great confidence in our ability to make Tryon Creek a thriving habitat and an outstanding natural retreat for generations to come.



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The Light At Tryon Creek

Under the falling light that catches
On the mossy branches of cedar and fir
And hemlock where the shadows falling
Obscure the bright green moss
And turn moss and bough and fanning branch
The color of the forest's shade

The ferns grow wild over December mud.
The ground is leaking rain
The paths hold panes
Leaking back December sky
The wind hones white
Moving until it fills the panes with light
Moving until it overgreys

And the bright mossy branches
Lifting ferns into the light
And the incisions
Of shadow in the bright fir bark
Fade into the weft and wending
Of bare-boughed alder
And the green-grey
Of fern and hemlock and cedar
Until only the forest remains.

– Andrew Haley, on the occasion of First Day Hikes at Tryon Creek, 2013



1

Plan Summary & Process

**In the middle of the city,
Tryon Creek State Natural Area
transports visitors into the forest
where they experience
the natural beauty
of Oregon.**

A Vision for the Park

Established in 1922, Oregon's State Parks system is nearing its first centennial birthday in 2022. As the department plans for the next 100 years it is guided by its mission: "To provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations." This Comprehensive plan for the Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA) holds the State Parks mission as its guiding principle, recognizing the great natural value of the site within its urban context and the resulting opportunities for recreation and education.

Tryon Creek SNA officially opened in 1975. The original 1971 master plan preface stated that the parks vision was "to provide intellectual and physical recreation values for this and future generations of an urbanizing public." This sentiment holds true nearly forty five years later. At all times of the year, visitors fill Tryon Creek to explore the forested trails (keeping their binoculars close in hopes of an elusive bird species), relaxing in the Glen Jackson Picnic Shelter, or attending a family event at the Trillium Nature Center. Tryon Creek SNA has defined itself as a vital hub of the natural community with an active community group, The Friends of Tryon Creek, who work to teach the value of stewardship and share their passion for nature with Tryon visitors and their community. The popularity of the park is a testament to its success as a natural attraction in the area for a multitude of uses, ages, and abilities.

The Tryon Creek SNA Comprehensive Plan represents a shared vision among those living in Clackamas and Multnomah Counties who have attended public meetings and continue to support this effort as we move to the next stage of developing the park. Input was also received from the nonprofit Friends of Tryon Creek, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and the citizens of Oregon. Completing the plan—its values and goals, strategies and actions—has been a shared effort with the local community, the regional public, community partners (including neighbor groups, surrounding public and private institutions, local businesses), other agencies, and recreation and resource advocates.

The qualities of the park—its natural and cultural resources—are defined by more than their current condition. The ecological health of Tryon Creek can be improved. This is confirmed by assessments of the plants, animals, soils and waters, plus a preliminary study of archaeological and historic resources (see Chapter 3 and the Appendices). As stewards of the park, OPRD

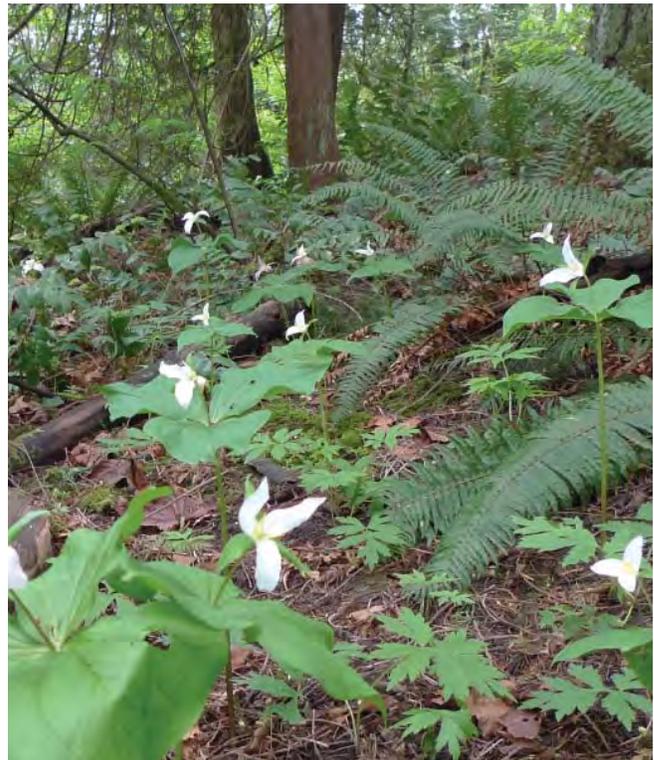


Photo 1.1 Trilliums in Bloom

devotes itself to two related resource goals: protecting quality resources from harm, and restoring damaged resources to something closer to their potential. One of the purposes of an Oregon state park is to serve as a reference point, a living reminder of the best examples of different kinds of habitat and human culture.

The resource assessments and park service concepts in this plan are incomplete until they are shaped—and acted upon—by the regional community. Neighbors, coalitions, governments, formal and informal organizations all have long histories of improving the region. OPRD understands that Tryon Creek will continue to thrive only if it builds upon the momentum already established within this community. We continue to learn, foster trust, and provide the services necessary to maintain this valuable place. The park also needs help to achieve its challenging natural and cultural resource goals. The skills of established partnerships are obviously crucial.

Outdoor recreation in an Oregon state park relies on natural and cultural resource management—protecting examples of Oregon's natural and cultural heritage—to establish the setting for recreation. Recreation can simply be a physical experience, but it also has the power to spark a deeper understanding of the state's natural identity and a love for place. Careful resource management reinforces exceptional recreation opportunities.

The recreation vision for Tryon Creek will enable visitors to choose the nature of their experience in this tranquil landscape, ranging from exploring the park on foot along one of its several pedestrian courses, meandering along the Ruth Pennington Trillium Trail, or bicycling the length of it as one travels across the Portland metropolitan area on Portland's 40-Mile Loop. Additionally park visitors will increasingly be able to interact with nature through the enhancements of the Nature Center Day Use area or the historic Arnold-Park Cabin. Tryon Creek is a successful example for the nation in how natural areas can thrive inside highly urbanized areas, and our hope is that this plan encourages the continuation of the tradition established during its first half-century as a state park. In the middle of the city, Tryon Creek SNA transports visitors into the forest where they experience the natural beauty of Oregon.

Need for a Plan

While Tryon Creek was established over 40 years ago as a State Park, much has changed within the park, but even more has changed in the surrounding landscape. A new comprehensive plan is required to help the park serve the current and future needs of the public as well as to properly maintain the value of the highly impacted natural resources on the site.

This document represents the first phase of planning work, known as the Tryon Creek Comprehensive Plan. This volume focuses on understanding what exists at Tryon Creek, what is needed and what could be. It describes park management values, goals, strategies, and actions that will conserve the landscape and enable careful access to those lands. The park maps and project descriptions provide the public, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, and local governments with a basis for approval of the plan. The plan serves as the basis for park management and development; operational strategies provide park managers with a basis for effectively taking care of the park and its day-to-day business.

The contents of this plan represent Volume 1, which covers the Comprehensive Plan for the park and will be submitted to the counties for their approval. Volume 2 expands upon the Volume 1 strategies and actions. This second volume includes annual or biennial projects for the park and is updated by the park manager based on the goals and strategies laid out in Volume 1. Volume 2 includes a detailed operational plan, interpretive plan, and natural and historic resource management prescriptions. Finally, Volume 3 includes substantial appendices of park inventories and assessments.

After Volume 1 is adopted and approved by the public, Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission and the two local counties, it becomes the basis for enacting the plan's goals, strategies and actions.



Photo 1.2 Arnold-Park Cabin Studio

The plan can be updated only through an official amendment, an action that requires this same approval process. An OPRD plan is usually amended every five to 25 years, depending on the circumstances. Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan is more flexible; it stays inside the boundaries set by Volume 1, but adapts as the budget, natural events and other external forces change.

In summary, the Comprehensive Plan is divided into three volumes:

- Volume 1: Park vision, goals, strategies, concepts and mandatory land use planning information.
- Volume 2: Groundwork needed to create and operate the park.
- Volume 3: Assessments undertaken to understand every aspect of the landscape and those who use it.

Planning Framework

The Comprehensive Plan for Tryon Creek SNA accomplishes three tasks:

- It meets OPRD's legal obligation to provide a plan for local land use and state-level approval.
- It sets down the vision, goals, concepts and actions to guide park development and operation.
- It collects a library of assessments to help park managers succeed with their stewardship mission.

This plan works for a variety of audiences: the visiting public, park manager, county planners, local communities, and partner agencies. First and foremost, the Comprehensive Plan represents the vision of the public and describes their vision and intent for the park. The park manager at Tryon Creek will use every volume to manage the park. Clackamas and Multnomah Counties will review Volume 1 (which satisfies the legal requirements of a Master Plan), for compliance with their own County Comprehensive Plans. Our partner agencies, who jointly shaped the park boundary, will work with us to ensure the plan is implemented.

Volume 1 contains the park vision and goals, and will guide overall park management. It also lists more specific strategies and actions, all related to the vision and goals. This volume, usually updated every 10 to 20 years, contains:



Photo 1.3 The Nature Store

- Agency's vision for the park
- Brief park history and regional context/role
- Overview of park natural, cultural, and scenic resources
- Overview of park recreational uses and facilities
- Overview of park operations
- Summary of stakeholder and public discussion
- Summary of physical and operational opportunities and constraints
- Park values and management goals
- Strategies and actions based on the values and goals; including resource prescriptions, recreation activities, supporting facilities, programs, staffing, and partnerships.

Leaping off this springboard, Volume 2 describes work plans and detailed guidelines for park operation. This volume will be updated annually by the park manager to reflect completed projects and programs as well as work scoped for the upcoming year. It will form an annual record of work completed at the park based on priorities for park planning as spelled out in Volume 1, and contain:

- Natural Resource Management and Action Plans
- Cultural Resource Management and Action Plans
- Scenic Resource Management and Action Plans
- Interpretive Management and Action Plans
- Recreation Management and Action Plans
- Design Guidelines
- Public Safety and Emergency Management Actions
- Sustainable Management Plan
- Community Engagement and Partnerships
- Marketing and Concessions
- Maintenance Management Plan
- Administrative Operations

Volume 3 is a repository for inventories, assessments, technical reports, policies and other documents that support Volumes 1 and 2. Like Volume 2, this volume will grow over time. Sample reports already in Volume 3 include:

- Vegetation Inventory and Botanical Assessment
- Interpretive Assessment
- Trail Inventory and Assessment
- Cultural Resources Overview
- SCORP Regional Recreation Survey
- Day Use Visitor Survey Report

Planning Process

The planning process for public involvement is also outlined in state rule. OPRD goes beyond the state rule to ensure extensive public consultation and input for this plan. In general, this includes:

- Informal and formal public and stakeholder involvement before issuing a final draft plan
- Formal hearings for reviewing the plan
- Director and Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission support for amending state rule to include this plan
- Approving the plan through local jurisdictional land use

The first step is to confirm the department's vision and management for the park. Staff gathered information about resources and potential uses, including natural, historic/prehistoric, scenic, existing uses and recreational and interpretive opportunities, plus information about the local communities and the surrounding region. The process included four rounds of public meetings. A web site blog, mailings and meetings with interest groups provided many other opportunities for public comment.

Measuring Success

Implementing this plan will include several layers of analysis to determine how successfully OPRD has translated the needs of the local community, statewide community and the agency as a resource steward into discrete actions that uphold the department mission and adhere to the park vision. The primary method for determining success is to apply a traditional project management approach based on cost, scope, and schedule (Figure 1.1). The planning process identified many actions; each of these actions has costs, schedules, and scopes of work. The tasks will be refined and prioritized based on available budgets and park needs as Tryon Creek continues operation. The park manager, with the district and region manager, will prepare annual work plans to accomplish high priority items.



Photo 1.4 Trilliums

Annual work plans will help refine tasks. The annual work plan will also create a reporting tool for communication to the general public and stakeholders. The planning process helps define the expected or desired visitor experience and helps identify successes and areas needing improvement. A broad community engagement effort—to reflect community and visitor needs and expectations—was essential to the planning process (Figure 1.2). The expected visitor experience becomes a measure of success that will help evaluate the implications of a change to cost, scope, or schedule.

The quality of the experience inherent in the visitor's expectation can be analyzed in several ways. The park manager can use the visitor experience to help prioritize and schedule tasks that will help meet (or exceed) visitor expectations or improve the overall quality of the visit. In most cases this will be a simple comparison with facilities or recreation experiences.

Visitor comments from park advisory committee members and local stakeholders give a deep understanding of the visitor experience. The park manager may have to explore new ways to solicit comments about Tryon Creek SNA in the future. These may include on-the-ground visitor surveys, internet-based surveys, or follow up phone calls to registered visitors. Including the visitor experience as a measure of quality also helps capture some of the intangible elements of park development related to resource protection and enhancement.

Finally, measures also help evaluate the effects of changes to the park budget, and communicate those effects and their related trade-offs. Much of this analysis is contained in the Operations section of Chapter 9: Park Strategies and Operations.

The finite budget for the park must be prioritized to accomplish a wide variety of tasks and actions. Due to changes on the ground, emergencies, and unanticipated park needs, annual plans will require changes. The criteria presented here can help identify ways that tasks and action plans can be adjusted with a conscientious effort to consider impacts to visitors and other resource values.

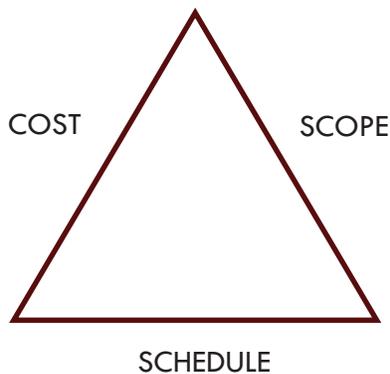


Figure 1.1 Traditional Management Approach Diagram



Figure 1.2 Park Visitors Inform Park Management



2

Context

Chapter Two Highlights

State Park Established in 1970

645 Acres of Natural Area

1.5 million visitors a year

*Located in the West hills of Portland and
Lake Oswego*

Part of a major urban watershed

*A focus on environmental Education, Programs,
interpretation and access to nature*

A regional connection for both habitat and trails

Urban Oasis

Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA) is unlike any other state park in Oregon due to its unique location. Situated on the line between two counties, Multnomah to the north and Clackamas to the south, the park is bordered completely by urban development – single family homes, highly used-roadways, small businesses, and Lewis and Clark College. Despite the surrounding urban quality, the 645-acre natural area is truly an urban oasis to neighbors in the cities of southwest Portland and Lake Oswego, as well as several visitors from the broader region, who enjoy hiking, running, biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, foraging, family interpretive programs, day camps, local events, and other programs based out of the park's Nature Center.

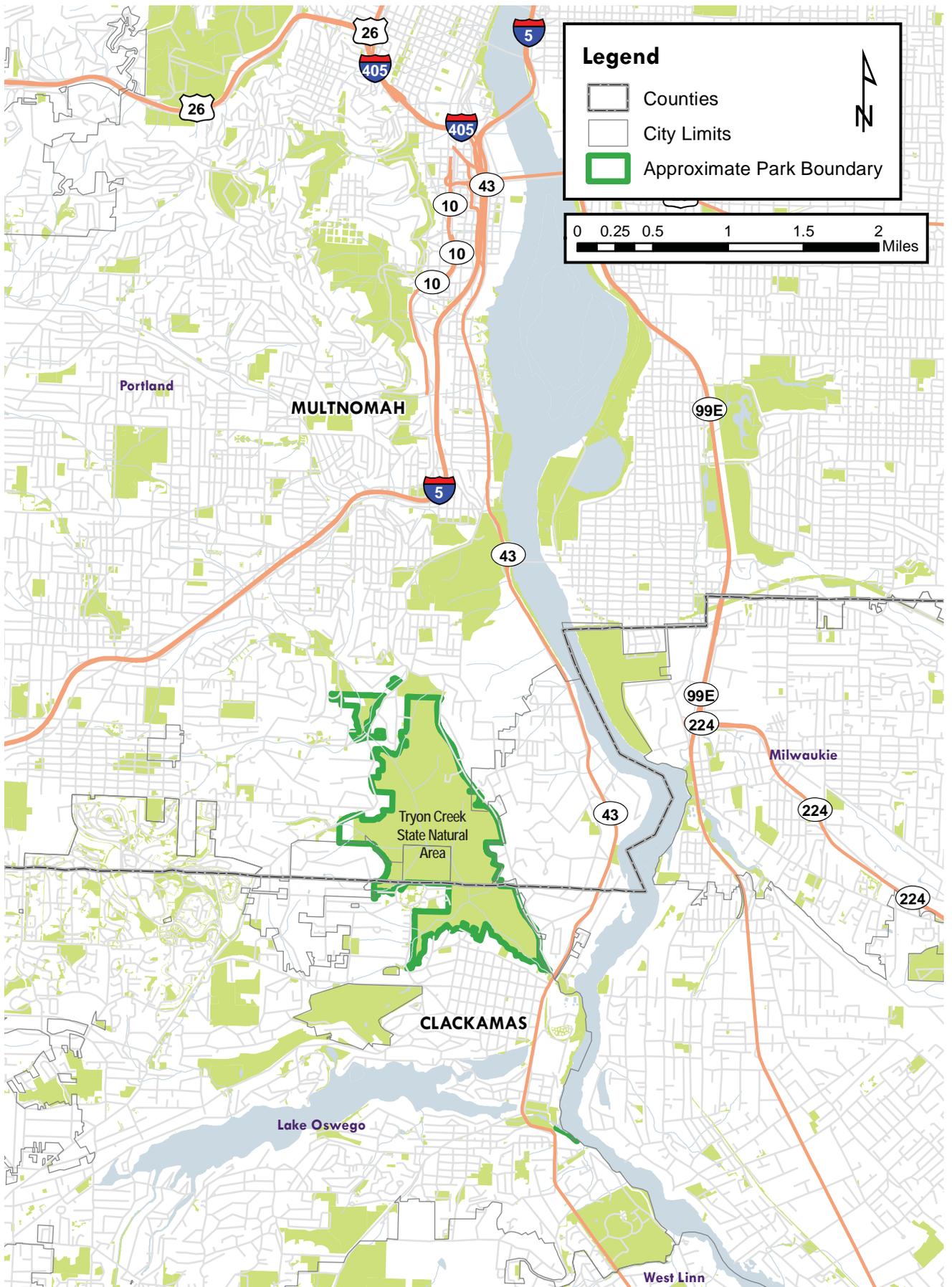
Accessed by Terwilliger Boulevard, which runs the eastern edge of the park and Boones Ferry Road that runs along much of the western park boundary. Single vehicle cars are the most common form of travel to Tryon Creek SNA. The park is six and half miles from downtown Portland,

about 15 minutes traveling on Interstate I-5, making it just minutes away from the Southwestern portion of the city. Downtown Lake Oswego is only two miles away, a five minute drive to the Nature Center and TriMet buses service the western side of the park along Boones Ferry Road. Communities bordering the park can approach its approximately 12-mile system of trails from neighborhood trailheads.

Additionally, bike riders can easily travel to and throughout the park, via the nearly three-mile Terwilliger bike path that runs parallel (but completely separate) to Terwilliger Boulevard. This path is linked to Portland's 40-Mile Loop greenway network which, although partially completed, allows riders to encompass the entire metropolitan area. Unique to highly urbanized areas, equestrians access the park from both the trailer parking lot and neighborhood trailheads.



Photo 2.1 Google Map showing topographical context of the northern park area



Map 2.2 Tryon Creek context

Park History

The parks geographic features are founded in the regional volcanic activity that started as early as three million years ago during the Pliocene era with eruptions from mountains within the Boring Lava Range (Bishop, 2003). Two mountains within this range, Mount Sylvania and Cooke's Butte, are located within the Tryon Creek watershed. During the end of the Ice Age (approximately 19,000-15,000 years ago), the Missoula Floods inundated the northwest forming the present day Columbia River valley. As massive amounts of debris and ice dammed near the mouth of the Columbia, the Willamette Valley was formed through overflow of the continual flooding and draining at the dam. It is during this time that the Tryon Creek watershed was formed into roughly the shape we see today.

Time Line

Pre-settlement - Region commonly inhabited by the Kalapuyan and the Chinookan tribes

1850 Acquired as Homestead

1875 Sold to Oregon Iron Company

1875 -1950 Heavily logged

1950 -1969 Neighbors begin to use Tryon Creek for recreation

1969 First 45 acres established as a park

1970 Friends of Tryon Creek form

1970 Becomes a State Park

1971 First Master Plan completed

1970-1988 600 additional acres acquired



Photo 2.3 Cedar Stump with remnant logging clef

Several nomadic tribes, including the Kalapuyan and Chinookan, were centralized in the Willamette Valley and likely inhabited Tryon Creek SNA, collecting food from its streams and hunting in its primarily Douglas Fir forested slopes. In 1850, during the period of western expansion and active European settlement to Oregon, Socrates Hotchkiss Tryon, a Scottish pioneer, claimed land rights in and around present day Tryon Creek SNA. 25 years later Tryon sold the land to the Oregon Iron Company who heavily logged the forests for charcoal production. The current Iron Mountain Trail was an old logging road and many stumps from the practice are still visible today. Logging continued throughout the first half of the twentieth century and as the industry slowed in the second half of the century, the area began to be used recreationally by local residents who enjoyed walking in the woods and riding their horses to the creek.

It was then that neighbors of Tryon Creek SNA began actively trying to acquire and protect the land so that it could officially become a park. These efforts led to Multnomah County purchasing 45 acres of land in 1969 for a regional park. The Friends of Tryon Creek was formed in 1970 to support the acquisition of additional park property by addressing land-use issues between

the two counties. Later that year Tryon Creek SNA was established as an official State Park in order to provide a natural area typical of the Willamette Valley, within the Portland metropolitan area. This area would be available primarily for public nature study and education. The state began purchasing land with federally-matched funds to acquire an additional 600 acres for the park and has acquired property as recently as 1988.

With its first Master Plan developed in 1971, the years following saw hundreds of volunteers construct the several miles of trails we still walk today throughout the park. In 1975 the Nature Center and Glen Jackson Picnic Shelter were constructed and officially opened to the public. These features were in large part planned and funded through the efforts of the Friends of Tryon Creek. The Friends have remained an active partner in the park's success, with a mission to "connect people to this important natural area, share our passion for the wonders of nature and inspire environmental stewardship in all". Currently the Friends maintain a staff of ten professionals who produce programs and actively partner with numerous organizations to preserve the nature of the park, while also expanding the education and outreach based on stewardship of the watershed's natural resources.

The Park Today

As a refuge, the park is essentially unchanged from the way it was on opening day, however the metropolitan region around it has transformed considerably. While remnant old-growth trees and evidence of the 1900 fire can still be seen in the park, visitor survey and park records show attendance in the day use areas have increased nearly 25% in the last decade with the

Park attendance has increased nearly 25% in the last decade.

major draws to the park being walking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature and wildlife viewing, interpretive programs, summer youth day camps, and special events. Currently, over half a million people visit the park each year.



Photo 2.4 Historic photo of hunting at Tryon Creek from the Nature Center archives

Increased stormwater from the adjacent developments have put a strain on the creeks within the park.

Located in Portland and Lake Oswego, Tryon Creek SNA is a natural and recreational asset to the larger Portland Metro Area. Its setting in the southwest hills of the city make Tryon Creek SNA a significant natural area within an urban developed landscape contributing to the areas habitat and watershed system. Tryon Creek SNA is wrapped by residential neighborhoods on the west side with Lewis and Clark Law School to the north and the Willamette River and Highway 47 at the southernmost point of the park. Terwilliger Blvd. comprises the east side of the park connecting additional residential neighborhoods to the park.

The central spine of the park is Tryon Creek, which runs southeast and bisects the park. According to Oregon Metro, the Tryon Creek Watershed encompasses nearly 4,000 acres, and 20 percent of that area is made up of parklands, a large portion being Tryon Creek SNA. Beginning just northwest of Interstate I-5, near Multnomah Village, Tryon Creek stretches for approximately five miles and receives several smaller creeks, including Falling Creek, Arnold Creek, Park Creek, and Nettle Creek before draining into the Willamette River near the Tryon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Outside of Tryon Creek SNA the stream is largely culverted. Within the park many trails access the creek and cross it with bridges, allowing for scenic quality as it passes through the forest.

Challenges to Natural Resource Protection

While invasive species continue to threaten the park's natural quality, a substantial volunteer effort by the Friends has reclaimed approximately a third of the park over several decades.

Parking on weekends remains an issue to management of natural resources as overflow into areas off-road increases erosion and park maintenance. Enforcement of violations takes precious time away from other park goals. This is a source of frustration for park staff, in addition to users of all recreation types that simply want to experience the solitude of nature. During major park events like the spring Trillium Festival, shuttles to

neighboring parking lots are used to handle to number of attendees.

Additionally, the conditions around the park have changed considerably in the last century. Increases to paved surface areas have put strain on the creek as

it accepts additional stormwater, especially at higher velocities during large storm events. The challenge of managing stormwater in the park effects all natural resources in Tryon Creek, from water quality to wildlife, and it is beginning to be managed from the lens of the entire watershed. There is ample opportunity to face the challenges to natural resources head on.

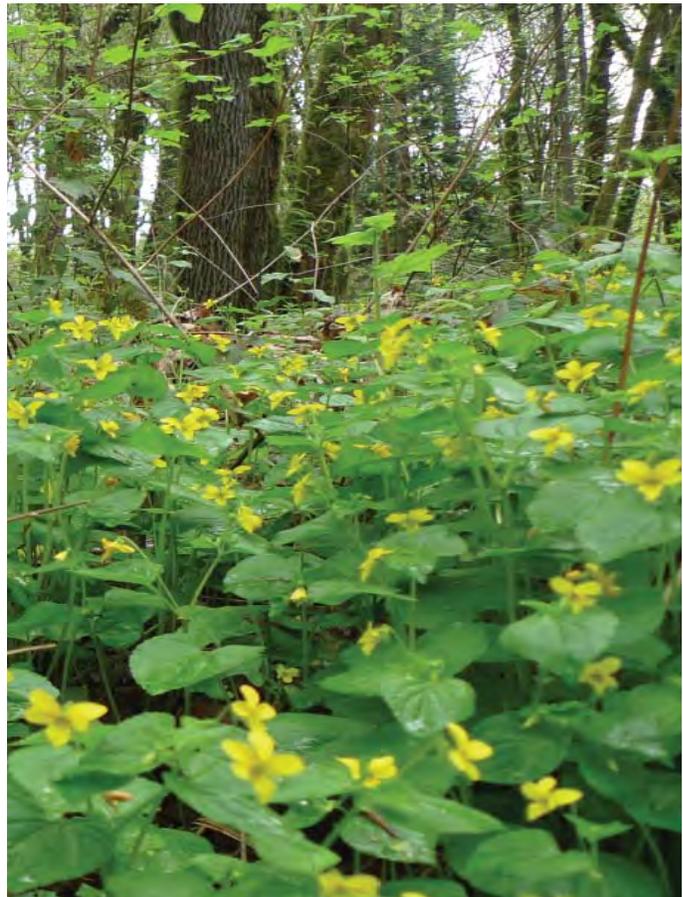


Photo 2.5 Yellow wood violets in spring

Recreation Provided Today

The park offers a unique and highly regarded schedule of environmental education and interpretive events aimed at all age levels, youth to adult. These activities, mostly based out of the Nature Center, are developed by a partnership between Oregon State Parks and The Friends of Tryon Creek. Programs are extensive, including summer youth day camps, year-round field trips, citizen science



Photo 2.6 Trillium Trail in Winter

adult education, guided nature walks, and special events that celebrate natural features in the park. Coupled with the rich history of volunteer efforts and stewardship at the park, Tryon Creek is an extremely valuable model of community citizenship, seamlessly combining neighborhood outreach efforts with ecology and recreation.

The 2010 addition of the park's Arnold-Park Cabin to the National Register of Historic Places will only continue to expand the opportunities for environmental education and park interpretation, while retaining the natural, cultural and scenic values that have been present since Tryon Creek SNA began shaping the watershed thousands of years ago. The character of this area and other expanded elements of the park will certainly be characteristic of Tryon Creek's history, while preserving access to the park as both a place to enjoy and learn about nature for generations to come.

OPRD's Region office in Portland administers the park. OPRD's role throughout the Tryon Creek watershed and in the region is as a park provider. In addition to our goals of recreation, maintenance of facilities and natural resources, and cultural resource protection, the City of Portland, City of Lake Oswego, Multnomah County, Clackamas County, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Oregon Metro, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality all monitor or have interest over areas of the park and its surrounding watershed at various levels. In recognizing the goals of this

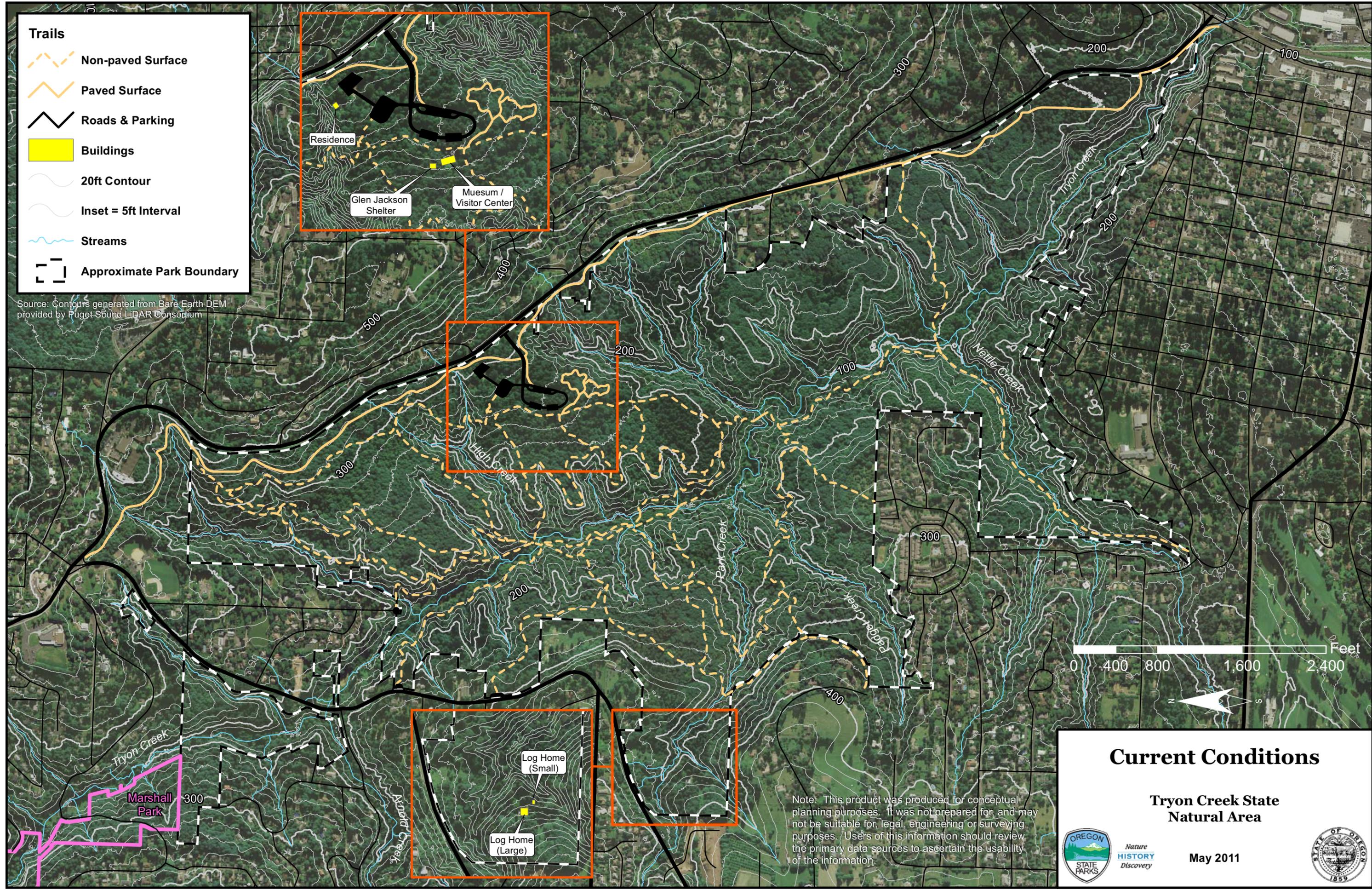
comprehensive plan our hope is that all these entities can continue to work in tandem to promote overall ecological and recreational health through protection of our valued natural resources.

The intention for Tryon Creek SNA is to continue to expand these programs in tandem with extensive natural restoration efforts throughout the park. Methods of making these programs increasingly available to more visitors, along with managing traffic to the trails and Nature Center will be a continual challenge to the future of the park, but a goal that is imbedded deeply in the history of Tryon Creek – sharing its beauty for all generations. The continuing development of the park's education and interpretive opportunities need not result in increased development of its natural resources, and methods of achieving this are of maximum priority throughout the park.

Trails

-  Non-paved Surface
-  Paved Surface
-  Roads & Parking
-  Buildings
-  20ft Contour
-  Inset = 5ft Interval
-  Streams
-  Approximate Park Boundary

Source: Contours generated from Bare Earth DEM provided by Puget Sound LIDAR Consortium



Current Conditions

Tryon Creek State Natural Area

May 2011





Note: This product was produced for conceptual planning purposes. It was not prepared for, and may not be suitable for, legal, engineering or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review the primary data sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



3

Resource Assessments

Chapter Three Highlights

- 1. Tryon Creek and other small surface streams shaped the dissected topography of the landscape.**
- 2. Made up of upland forests with small wetland patches.**
- 3. Surrounded by Moderately dense residential development.**
- 4. Excessive runoff has caused significant downcutting, or vertical erosion, to most of the stream channels.**
- 5. Provides islands of native biodiversity and habitat in a largely developed urban matrix.**
- 6. Today the site is made up of mostly mid succession forests due to extensive pioneer logging.**
- 7. 42% of the plants identified in the park are non-native, exotic species.**
- 8. Dedicated volunteers are essential to restoration efforts.**
- 9. Many wildlife species depend on the park as an urban refuge or as a migration stop.**
- 10. Steelhead trout and Coho salmon are present in Tryon Creek within the park.**
- 11. A total of two pre-contact lithic tools have been found on site.**
- 12. The Arnold Park Log Home site is listed on the National register of historic places and has the highest ranking for historic preservation.**



Photo 3.1 Wildflowers in Trillium Demonstration Garden

Landscape Context of the Park

Tryon Creek SNA is an important 645-acre forested preserve near Lake Oswego in the greater Portland metro area. The landscape of the park is made up of a series of small, forested canyons and draws connected to the greater Tryon Creek drainage, which bisects the park from north to south. Topography within the park ranges from generally flat benches and ridges to moderately steep hillsides and low gradient stream channels in the bottom of the ravines. Tectonic uplift of an old oceanic plate and influence from the Missoula Floods helped shape the general geology of the area. The erosive effects of Tryon Creek and other small surface streams have created the dissected topography laden with small ravines that we find today. The soils within the project area are typically made up of deep silt loam with few or no bedrock outcrops at the soil surface. Due to the relatively high annual precipitation of Portland area, much of the park contains small wetland patches mixed in with the larger mesic upland forest complex. Forested wetland communities often dominate riparian zones within the project area.

Most of the park is surrounded by moderately dense residential development. Roads, driveways, and housing lots disrupt the continuity of natural forest cover along many edges of the Natural Area. The impermeable surfaces of the surrounding developments cause unnatural runoff during storm events in many of the stream channels within the park. This excessive runoff has caused significant downcutting, or vertical-erosion, to most of the stream channels. Tryon Creek SNA and a sparse set of other natural

Park Assessments

OPRD prepares resource inventories and assessments as a basis for resource management and recreation planning. This chapter summarizes the findings for Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA). Assessments include natural (abiotic and biotic), cultural (historic and prehistoric), and scenic (landscape character and views). The 'eco-region' discussed in this chapter is the Portland Metropolitan Area, the Willamette Valley Eco-region, and Tryon Creek, including OPRD, private, and Metro land.

Summary maps are included in this document for the major resource assessments in addition to the Composite Natural Resource Value Assessment Map. Detailed resource maps and technical reports not published in this document are available at the OPRD headquarters office in Salem and on the OPRD web site.

With the natural resources fully mapped in GIS this natural resource assessment represents the first full natural resource assessment for a state park. Some of the surveys and assessments need more annual data collection to fully understand underlying patterns and systems. While some resource projects related to these data gaps will occur in future phases of work, many projects can proceed using known data.

An oasis in the city and an opportunity for connectivity.

habitats in the vicinity provide islands of native biodiversity and habitat in largely developed matrix. They are important natural features, particularly because of their context in the landscape.

While the park is heavily degraded relative to similar habitats occurring outside of the urban environment, it is extremely important as a habitat island/refuge for plants and wildlife persisting in the larger urban context, and migrating through the mostly riparian and woodland ecosystems present in the park.

Historical and Prehistoric Vegetation Patterns

Vegetation present in the park and its immediate vicinity prior to European American settlement was characterized by a Douglas-fir dominated conifer forest. These forests probably had late-successional old-growth characteristics, with many giant mixed conifer trees including western red cedar, western hemlock, and grand fir dominating the forest canopy. Deciduous trees were almost certainly much less prominent, and probably reached dominance or co-dominance only in areas along water features and in disturbed areas resulting from landslides or fires.

Pioneer and industrial logging practices eventually removed nearly all of the old-growth forests in the area, and some evidence of post-logging fire exists on some old stumps and logs within the natural area. The old-growth conifer forests were replaced in the last century by deciduous and mixed conifer forests which remain the dominant vegetation today, although a few remnant old-growth trees remain in the park. Residential development and associated roads and utilities over the past century around the park's boundaries have increased the edge/interior ratio of the park's forests and provided ideal vectors of spread for exotic invaders.

Current Vegetation Patterns

Current vegetation patterns reflect the park landscape's relatively recent history of logging and development. Mid-successional deciduous tree dominated stands now compose the matrix forest type. Overall native vascular plant diversity is relatively low in the park. 42% of plants identified within the park are non-native, exotic species. English ivy (a vine) is the dominant understory plant in much of the park's upland forests. The main Tryon Creek SNA riparian zone has been colonized by exotic wetland invaders taking advantage of the disturbance caused by public works projects such as sewer and storm water line installation. While some small patches of native vegetation loosely resembling historic vegetation conditions exist within the park, these areas are being maintained through the dedicated assistance of restoration volunteers and would quickly succumb to noxious weed invasion without significant control activities.

Wildlife Presence and Usage

Because of its landscape context, Tryon Creek SNA provides - and has an important responsibility to continue to provide - valuable islands of natural habitat and biodiversity. Many wildlife species depend on the park as either a refuge in the midst of expanding development, or as a stopping point along a corridor of migration.



Photo 3.2 Beaver Bridge Sign



Photo 3.3 Woodpecker holes in a tree trunk

Wildlife species and habitat types in Tryon Creek:

- **Coniferous Forest Habitat**
Provides habitat for the woodland salamander, red-legged frog, pileated woodpecker, band-tailed pigeon, olive-sided flycatcher, varied thrush, long-legged myotis (in addition to other bats), and other small mammals.
- **Developed and disturbed Habitats**
Provides limited foraging opportunities for small mammals, reptiles, deer, and elk, as well as nesting opportunities for ground-nesting songbirds; however, few native species are associated with disturbed habitats.
- **Shrubland Habitat**
Comprises a small portion of the total acreage at Tryon Creek SNA, and likely serves as foraging areas for songbirds, small mammals, and deer.
- **Red Alder Forests Habitat**
Provide foraging for songbirds (including neotropical migrants), red-legged frogs, and many other species.
- **Riparian Forest Habitat**
Provides habitat for the aquatic salamander, red-legged frog, western toad, western screech-owl, red-eyed vireo, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, water shrew, Yuma myotis, and American beaver and more.

Aquatic Species and habitat In Tryon Creek SNA:

- Steelhead trout and Coho salmon utilize Tryon Creek, but cannot pass the northern boundary of the park due to a culvert. The culvert at the south end of the park provides inadequate passage to Chinook and juveniles of all species.
- Limited quantities of resident fish such as Cutthroat trout are present up stream of the culvert migration barriers.

Habitat Connectivity

Connectivity is the degree to which a landscape helps or disrupts the ability of an animal to move and acquire resources (Fahrig and Merriam, 1985). Without habitat connectivity individuals may be unable to move between patches, and the population is more susceptible to disease, population pressures, predation, and extirpation from natural disturbance like fires and human-caused disturbances that impact their habitats. Continuing land-use changes as well as the emerging threat of climate change make the need for habitat connectivity even more critical, as many species will need to adapt to a changing climate by moving across the landscape.

The Willamette Valley has experienced significant habitat changes and landscape conversion, with few remnant natural areas remaining. Tryon Creek SNA is a forested island in the urban sea of the Portland Metro area. Immediately adjacent on the north side is Lewis and Clark College, and the surrounding land-use is almost entirely residential. A chain of many small natural areas in what is referred to as the Westside Wildlife Corridor, provide native habitats for wildlife in the Portland Metro area, and efforts to provide habitat corridors connecting these areas should be pursued. While private lands such as country clubs, golf courses, and cemeteries often provide a low level of connectivity, the number of species able to utilize these areas is much lower than areas that support more natural vegetation structure. The closest natural areas of appreciable size are Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and Mary S. Young Park; both border the Willamette River. Forest Park, approximately six miles northeast of Tryon Creek, is one of the larger natural areas in Portland, and establishing a wildlife movement corridor from Forest Park to Tryon Creek SNA will involve connecting smaller parks (Washington, Keller Woods) and private lands. On a broader scale, connecting Forest Park, Tryon Creek SNA, Milo McIver State Park, and the Mount Hood National Forest would allow for dispersal and genetic transfer through much of the Metro area.

Currently, riparian areas provide the main corridors for movement of native species through the landscape and between islands of natural habitat. Several efforts are underway to attempt to provide some additional non-riparian connectivity, but much work remains to make this possibility functional and viable.

Excessive runoff has caused significant down-cutting stream channels resulting in degraded riparian vegetation.

Aquatic Habitats and Hydrology

There is a network of small to mid-sized streams and creeks branching through the Tryon Creek SNA landscape. Additionally, there are numerous scattered wetlands and marshy habitats present in flat areas and in areas of seepage. These aquatic features range in ecological condition from poor to excellent, depending mostly on proximity to development and erosive surface water flow.

The impermeable surfaces associated with developed areas surrounding the park cause unnatural runoff during storm events in many of the park's stream channels. This excessive runoff has caused significant down-cutting of most of the stream channels. This downcutting, or downward erosion has, in turn, resulted in areas of disturbed and degraded riparian vegetation that is less resilient to erosion and that provides less value to the aquatic environment in terms of habitat structure and water quality protection.

Ecological Condition

Much of Tryon Creek SNA is currently rated as being in poor ecological condition, and around one-quarter of the park is in marginal condition, mostly due to large-scale infestations of exotic plants. The healthiest areas ecological conditions are located in the center of the park away from the park's property boundaries. Intensive restoration activities by civic volunteers have helped to control exotic plant cover in some of the portions of the park listed as being in good or moderate condition.

Overall Natural Resource Value Ratings

As a basis for natural resource related planning decisions for the park, OPRD natural resource staff and consultants rated the ecological value of existing plant communities, at-risk plant species, water features, and wildlife habitat. The distribution of these individual resource values were mapped across the park landscape, and then overlaid to build the Composite Natural Resource Value Map. The values rating system has four levels ranging from highly valued (1) to very low value as functioning ecosystem elements (4). Each of the four value ratings (1-4) indicates an appropriate level of resource management and the level of recreation that can occur for corresponding mapped areas of the park. Areas of the highest recorded resource value (1) also have the highest level of protection and conservation value. The Composite Natural Resource Value map is included at the end of this chapter.



Photo 3.4 Skunk Cabbage near creek

Cultural Resource Values

A total of two pre-contact lithic tools have been found within Tryon Creek SNA. Given that the park is located near Tryon Creek, it is possible that additional Native American archaeological resources could be located in the future. The location of the park is within the traditional use areas of the following tribes: Confederated Tribes of Siletz and Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community.



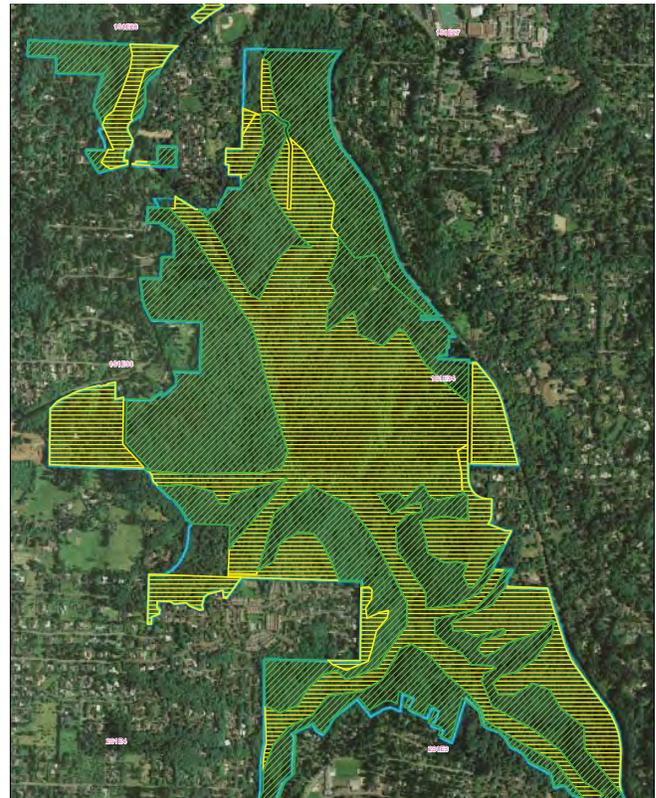
Photo 3.5 Historic wooden sign from the 'Boot Yourself Inn'

A review of Tryon Creek SNA indicates that a pedestrian archaeological survey was conducted in 2006 by University of Oregon archaeologists (Tasa et al. 2007; Figure 1). Four historic archaeological sites were located during the survey, which include two historic refuse scatters, a historic homestead with foundation and brick, and a rectangular depression that could be a cellar. The diagnostic artifacts associated with the historic refuse scatters appear to be around 50 to 60 years old and were not evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places given that archaeological sites are evaluated when they are at least 75 years old. In addition, using historic aerial maps, it has been determined that the historic homestead and depression are apparent in 1955, these archaeological resources could be considered for evaluation for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

Arnold–Park Cabins Architectural & Historical Significance:

The Arnold-Park Log Home site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has the highest ranking for historic preservation. The Arnold-Park log house and guesthouse site (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 02/12/2010, NRIS No. 10000016) is located on a nine acre parcel in the middle section of the park on the west side. The only access is currently through a gate accessing a one-lane dirt road directly off SW Boones Ferry Road. The access is not easily noticed and has significant limitations as to the types of vehicles that can reach the buildings, including a culvert under the road between the houses and Boones Ferry Road where a wooden bridge was replaced in the 1970s.

- Architecturally significant for craftsmanship and design. The cabins were owner-designed and built; log and frame construction. They embody the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement, blending the Craftsman and Rustic Styles. The buildings are thoroughly described in the National Register nomination.



High Low

Note: There are no known archeological sites.

Map 3.3 Archeological Probability Map (OPRD Archeological Dept)

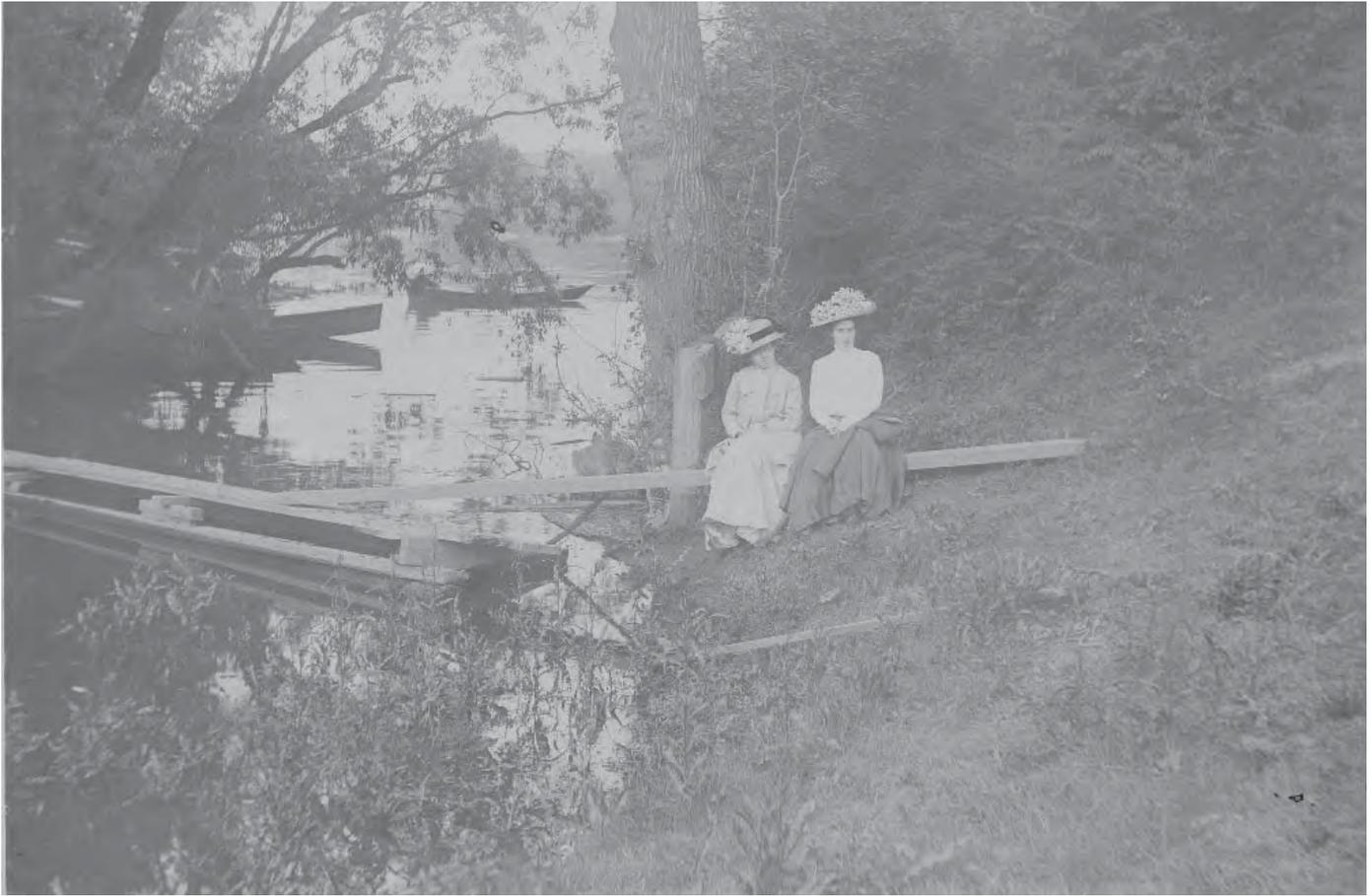


Photo 3.6 Historic Image of Tryon Creek from the Nature Center Archive

- The construction of these houses coincides with the development of the national and state parks. Throughout the Northwest during this period the desire to escape the city encouraged some individuals to create their own natural refuge by constructing vacation residences that took advantage of the healthy natural environments found at the beach, mountains, and forests.
- The Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition of 1905 spotlighted the unique and rich natural resources of the Northwest, as well as the artists and craftsmen working throughout the region.
- John Arnold inherited land from his father, Frederick, at the turn of the century. There he built the first smaller log house for use as shelter while spending 10 years on the larger house. There was also a barn with two hay lofts and two horse stalls on the site. Also, based on research which showed he lived within the city limits of Portland, and his occupation as a police officer, he likely used the property more as a weekend retreat or recreational cabin. After John died in 1930, Samuel Marrotte, step-son, owned the property. It

was reported he planted an elegant garden with flowering shrubs and brick walkways lined with daffodils in the front yard.

- Reportedly during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the smaller log house was used as an inn or flop house, called “Boot Yourself Inn”. Mattresses were laid out where men could sleep for 10 cents

A stay at the Boot Yourself Inn cost just 10 cents a night.

a night. A painted wooden boot bore the now-faded print in the words “Boot Yourself Inn.” This boot still exists and the Park family will donate it to Oregon State Parks.

- Sold to Nancy K and David Park in 1951. Both well-educated, well-off, East Coast Family, they chose a simple lifestyle for themselves and six children. According to Lisa Park, they “ran around barefoot, even in winter, because we could scarcely afford shoes; we lived secluded, out of sight of any neighbors in two log houses.”



Studio Cabin

Arnold Park Cabins



Main Cabin - Back Porch



Main Cabin - Living Room



Main Cabin - Living Room



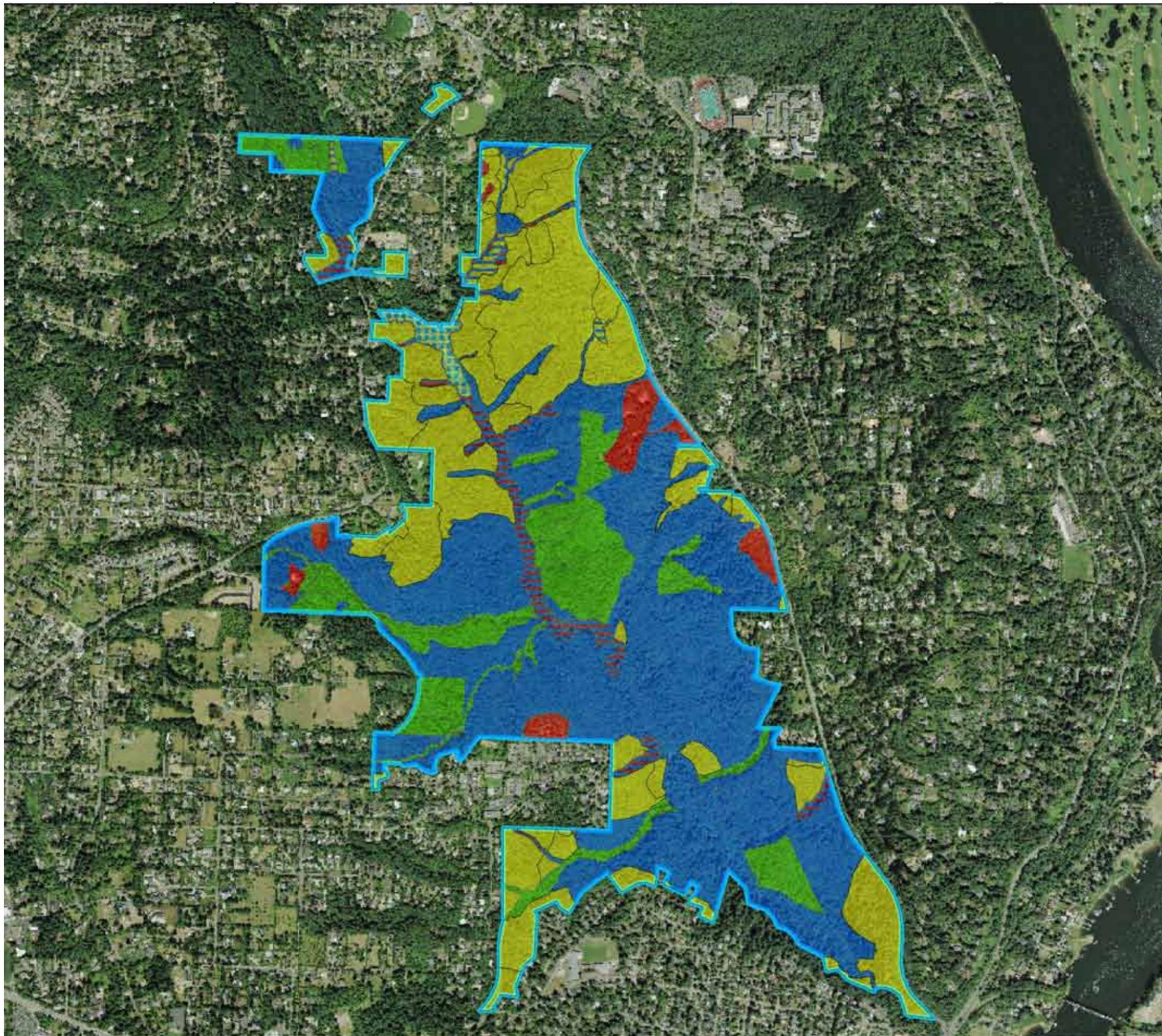
Main Cabin - Window

Photo 3.8 Images of Arnold-Park Cabins

Viewpoints, Viewsheds and Screening Assessment

Tryon Creek SNA is defined by the scenery of lush forest, exemplified by the juxtaposition of the urban environment just outside the park. Lacking broad open vistas, the most interesting viewsheds at Tryon Creek SNA are of particular natural landscape details ranging from views of the creek, wetlands, overlook points down steep slopes. Closer visual interest points are constituted by interesting natural details; exposed tree root systems, herbaceous plants like the trillium flower, and fungi growth. The trails at Tryon Creek SNA provide excellent access to the various views including Trillium Trail, the first ADA trail in the state. Management of these visual treats in the park is successfully achieved by protecting the landscape areas around significant viewing points from erosion and human disruption. Some of these views include:

- Visitors Center Deck view of the forest
- Picnic Shelter view into the forest canopy
- Views from bridges to the creek
- Various points along the trails with views down the canyon slopes
- Remnant cedar stumps with historic logging marks



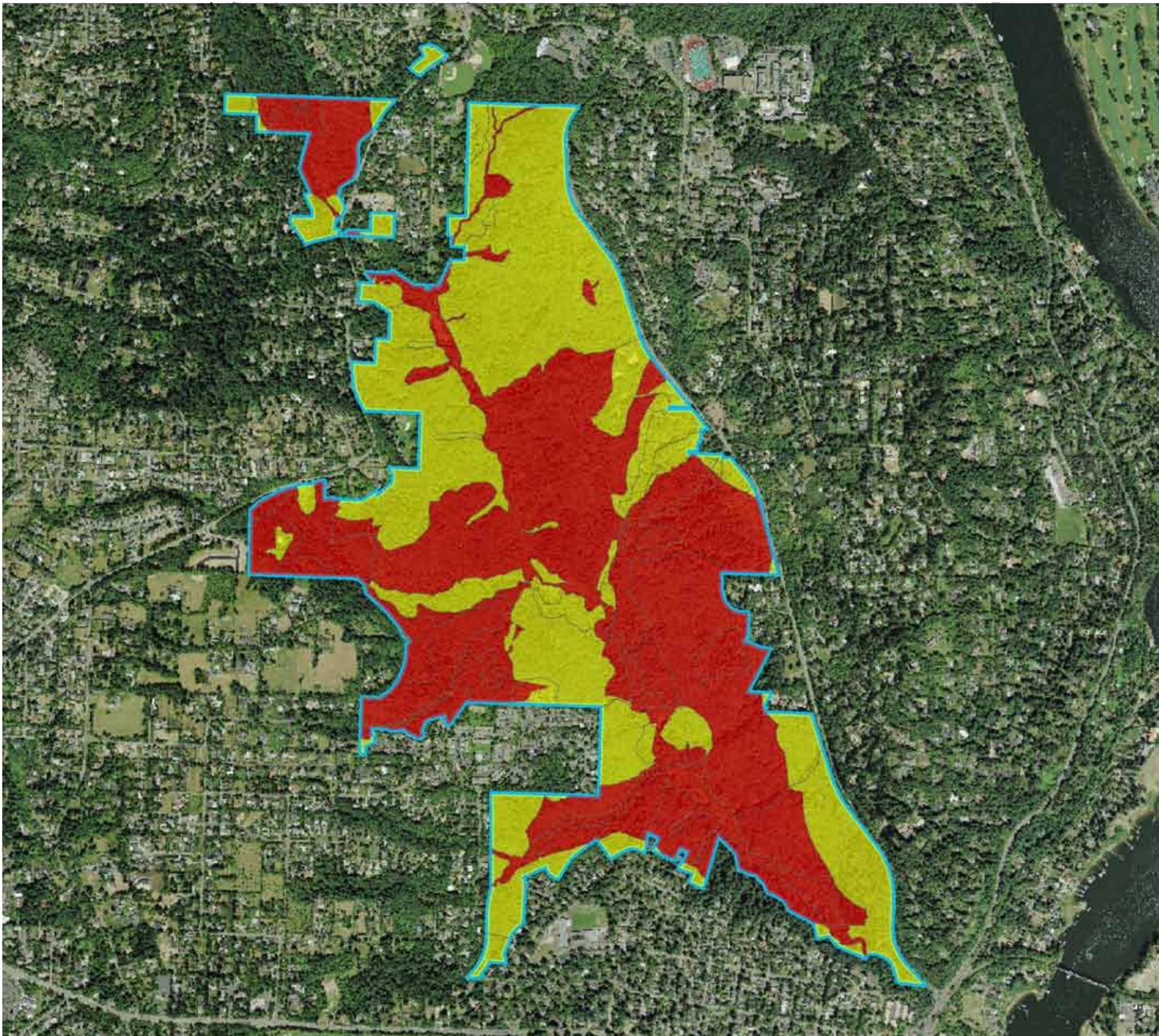
legend

- 1 - High resource value. Highest conservation priority.
- 2 - High resource value and conservation priority
- 2/3 - High conservation priority where wetland, moderate resource value and conservation priority where not wetland
- 2/3(2) - High conservation priority where wetland, moderate resource value where not wetland. Restoration is feasible, and if restored this area would be high resource value and conservation priority.
- 2/4 - Preservation where wetland. Low resource value where not wetland
- 3 - Moderate resource value and conservation priority
- 3(2) - Moderate resource value and conservation priority. Restoration is feasible, and if implemented this area would be high of conservation priority and resource value.
- 4 - Low resource value and conservation priority.
- Approximate Park Boundary



0 100 500 1125 Feet
1"=1125'

Composite Natural Resource Values



legend

-  1. High composite restoration priority
-  2. Medium composite restoration priority
-  3. Low composite restoration priority
-  4. Park Boundary



0 100 500 1125 Feet
1"=1125'

**Composite Natural Resource
Restoration Priorities**



4 Visitor Experience Assessments

Chapter Four Highlights

1. OPRD conducts surveys as part of our Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to determine recreation needs and demands across the state. The top priority needs for Columbia/Willamette Region residents are soft-surface walking trails, access to waterways, playgrounds with natural materials (Natural Play Areas), off-street bicycle trails and nature and wildlife viewing areas, which Tryon Creek SNA has the ability to provide.
2. OPRD staff completed a series of nine regional trail issues workshops across the state as part of the Oregon Trails 2005-2014 Statewide Action Plan. Priorities identified were for trail connectivity, increased non-motorized trails near residences, and increased funding for trails.
3. An interpretive assessment of Tryon Creek SNA acknowledged several natural, cultural and historic themes that should be prioritized in future visitor experiences at the park based on unique qualities of the park, existing programs and visitor demographics.



Photo 4.1 A morning walk on the Old Main Trail

Regional Recreation

To help park providers know what kinds of new facilities and parks might be needed in a region, studies are undertaken to understand recreation trends and demands. These include assessment of the future recreational demand for different types of activities, how that demand changes over time, and surveys of public opinion about participating in future recreational activities. This section outlines regional recreational use estimates, trends and needs for the planning region that includes Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, as well as the entire state. Understanding regional needs provides a broad picture among all parks, public lands and park providers of the type of activities that will meet public demand in the region. The regional demand for Multnomah and Clackamas Counties indicates the hope for increased opportunity for wildlife viewing, interpretive elements, and trail extensions into the park. Oregon State Parks is well placed to provide for this type of demand, which can include improved Nature Center amenities, increasing and realigning the current network with a mixture of short and long trail opportunities as well as efforts at restoration for the Tryon Creek watershed.

Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA) has been assessed relative to its location along travel routes and in relation to other parks. The potential for meeting recreational needs that may be appropriate at Tryon Creek SNA were assessed against the known resource values, and physical and infrastructure constraints at the site. Final recommendations about what will be provided at Tryon Creek SNA are outlined in Chapter 9, Parkwide Strategies and are described in detail in Chapter 10, Park Management Area Concepts of this plan.

Participation Estimates

The Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey was conducted to estimate annual participation levels. Estimates were measured in “User Occasions.” A user occasion is defined as each time an individual participates in a single outdoor recreation activity. The boundaries for Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Planning Region 2: Columbia/Willamette include Portland and Lake Oswego in which Tryon Creek SNA is located. Table 4.1 lists the top annual outdoor recreation activities of 2011. The most popular activities occurring in this

Columbia/Willamette Region 2011 User Occasions

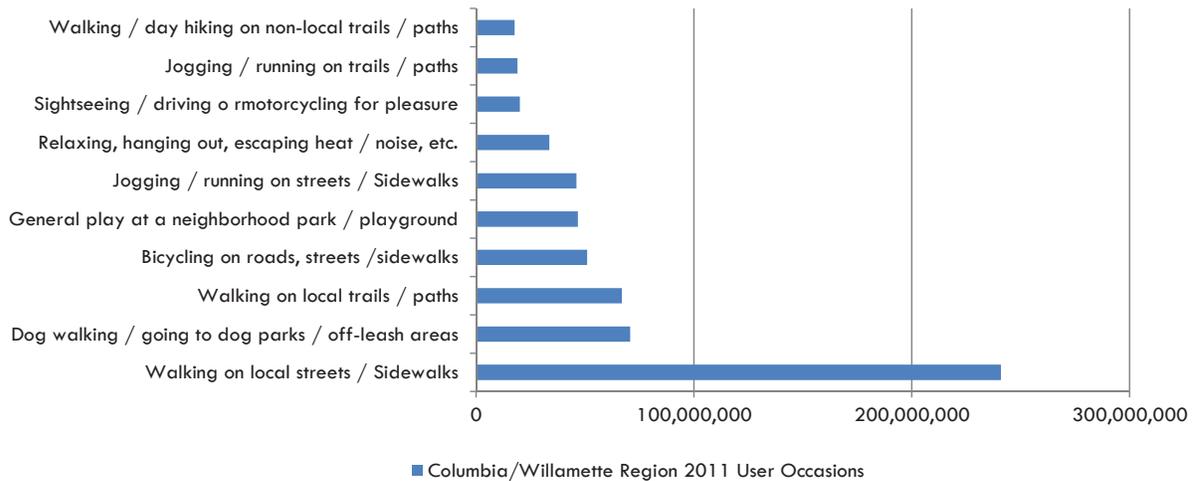


Figure 4.1 Columbia/Willamette Region 2011 User Occasions (OPRD SCORP DATA)

Estimated Visitors Per Calendar Year

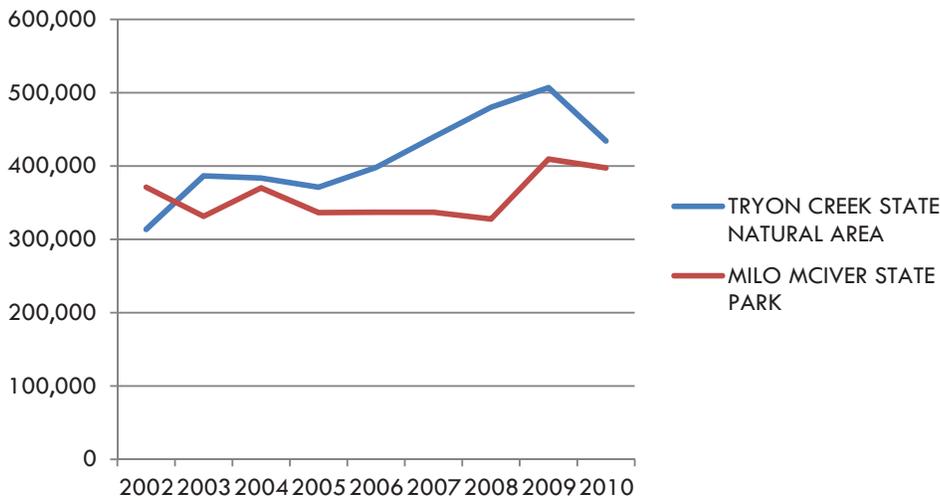


Figure 4.2 Tryon Creek Management Unit Estimated Visitors (OPRD DATA)

region include walking on local streets and trails, dog walking, bicycling, playing at a playground, running for exercise, relaxing and escaping heat or noise, and sightseeing.

Participation Trends

Another method of identifying recreational demands is to look at how participation for a comparable set of activities changes over time to determine which activities are growing and which are becoming

less popular. For the SCORP analysis, recreation participation estimates from the 2002 Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey were compared to participation estimates from the 1986-1987 Pacific Northwest Outdoor Recreation Survey.

The five outdoor recreational activities with the largest increase in participation (growth activities) activities in SCORP Columbia Planning Region 2 & Willamette Planning Region are:

- Nature/Wildlife observation (+254%)
- Golf (+224%)
- Using Playground Equipment (+114%)
- Baseball (+131%)
- Sightseeing/Driving for pleasure (+69%)

Two of the five growth activities could be considered as opportunities for Tryon Creek State Natural Area, including nature/wildlife observation and using playground equipment. Additionally, 2011 SCORP survey participants were asked about their opinions on priorities for the future in and near their community.

Respondents were asked to rate several items for investment by park and forest agencies using a 5-point scale (5 = Highest priority need and 1 = Lowest priority need).

Items were developed by the steering committee, representing several municipal-type areas and beyond. Table 4.3 reports Columbia/Willamette Region results, with items listed in descending order by mean priority ratings. The top priority needs for Columbia/Willamette Region residents are soft-surface walking trails, access to waterways, playgrounds with natural

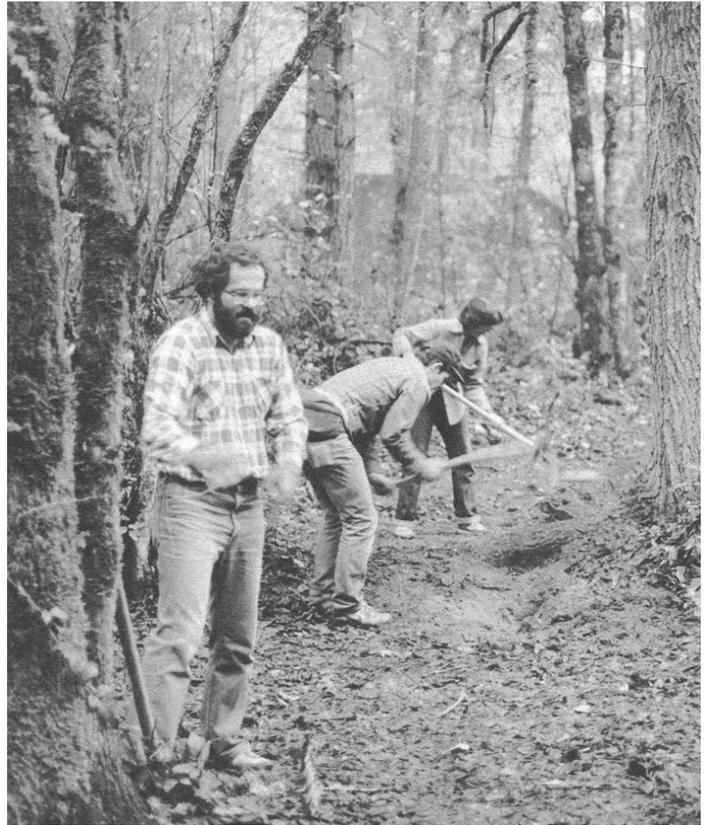


Photo 4.2 Volunteers Building Trails at Tryon Creek

Walking. Bicycling. Playing. Running. Relaxing. Sightseeing.

materials (Natural Play Areas), off-street bicycle trails and nature and wildlife viewing areas. Picnic areas for small groups, paved walking trail, community gardens and off-leash dog areas rated high as well.

Nine of the seventeen items mentioned as desirable provide opportunities for Tryon Creek State Natural Area, with seven of the items ranking as highest on the list. In consideration of the limited opportunities for some of the items mentioned near urban development, such as wildlife viewing or access to waterways, Tryon Creek is of remarkable value to the immediate community.

SCORP survey participants in the Columbia/Willamette Region that participated in outdoor recreation activities were also asked their opinions related to the benefits provided by park and recreation agencies. First, respondents were asked to rate each benefit type based on how valued it is using a 5-point Likert scale (5 = Highest priority need and 1 = Lowest priority need). Table 4.4 reports Columbia/Willamette Region results.

Regional Recreation Needs Assessment

The 2008-2012 Oregon SCORP planning effort used additional methods to understand recreational needs. This included a county-level analysis to identify priority projects for grant funding.

County-Level Priority Needs

Priority projects were identified through a stakeholder discussion approach for both “close-to-home areas” (located within an urban growth boundary or unincorporated community boundary) and for dispersed areas located outside of these boundaries. Data was collected and analyzed to identify need in each of Oregon’s 36 counties and statewide.

Statewide dispersed-area priorities include:

- Non-motorized trails
- Nature study/wildlife watching sites
- Interpretive displays
- Close-to-home all-abilities trails

County-level dispersed area priorities for Clackamas and Multnomah County include:

- Group day-use facilities
- Recreational Trails

- Regional marketing of outdoor recreation to under-represented populations
- Regional youth framework to encourage under-represented youth participation in outdoor recreation through partnerships and school-based recreation clubs

Tryon Creek SNA could be considered for any of these activities listed above.

Park & Forest Agencies Investment Priorities for the Future

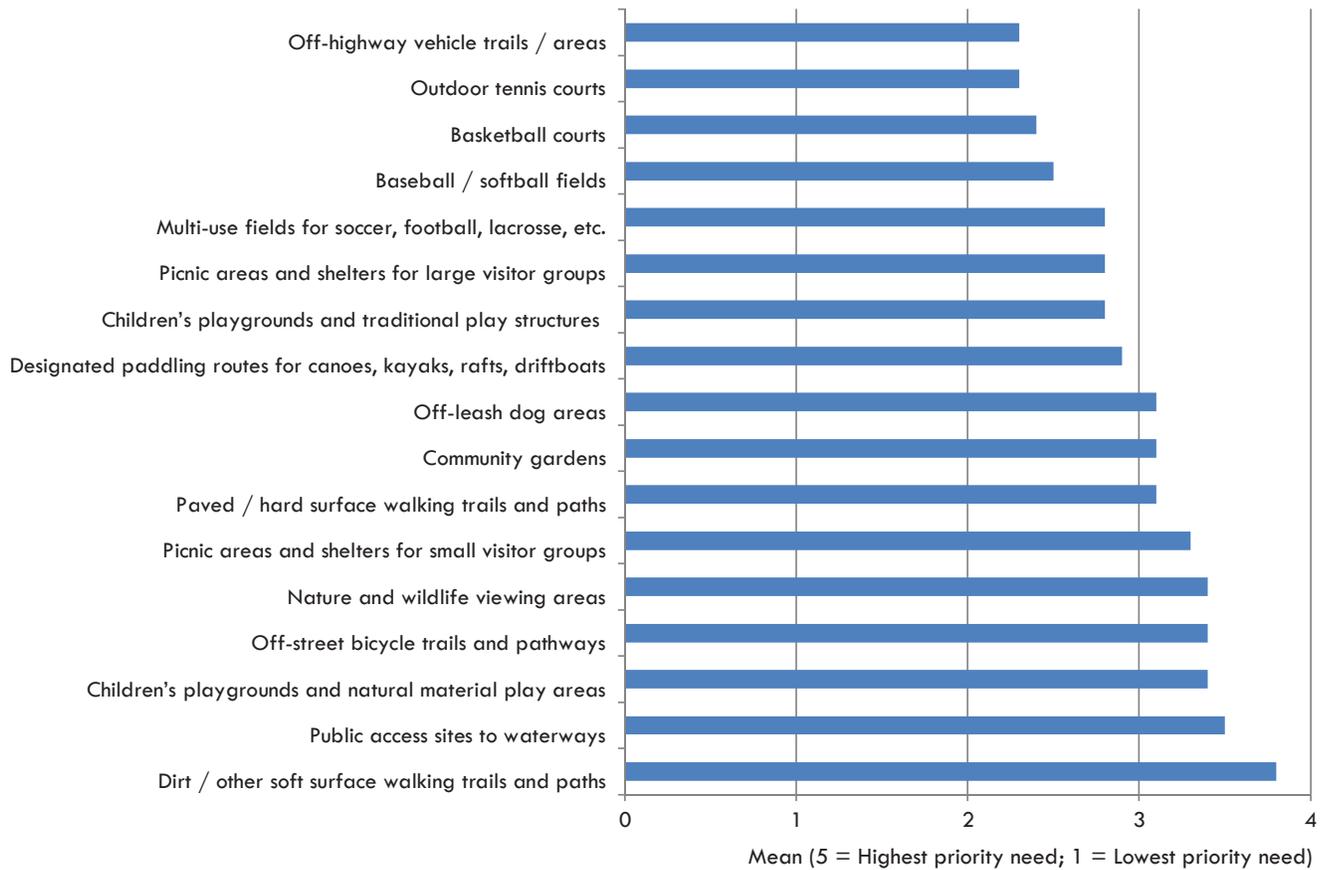


Figure 4.3 Park and Forest Agencies Investment Priorities (OPRD SCORP DATA)

Value For Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services

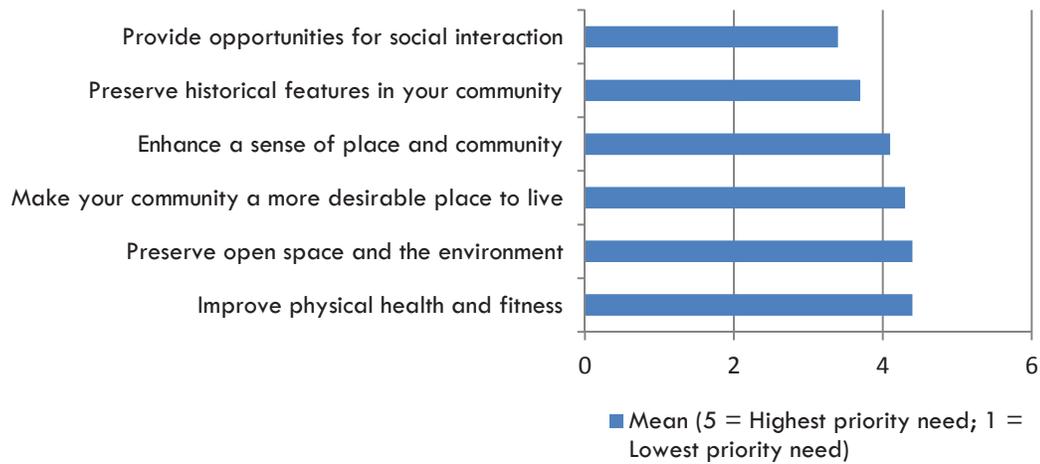


Figure 4.4 Value for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services (OPRD SCORP DATA)

Regional Trail Assessment

OPRD staff completed a series of nine regional trail issues workshops across the state, as part of the Oregon Trails 2005-2014 Statewide Action Plan. Trail issues were defined as any high-impact issue related to providing recreational trail opportunities within the region. At each regional workshop, participants voted to identify top priority issues. An emphasis on the provision of non-motorized trail systems and water trails, statewide emerged as the top priority for trail users. Trails require interagency partnerships to ensure good experiences for visitors and effective management of the sites and lands along them. Adequate trailheads are needed to support peak use and the desired amenity level.

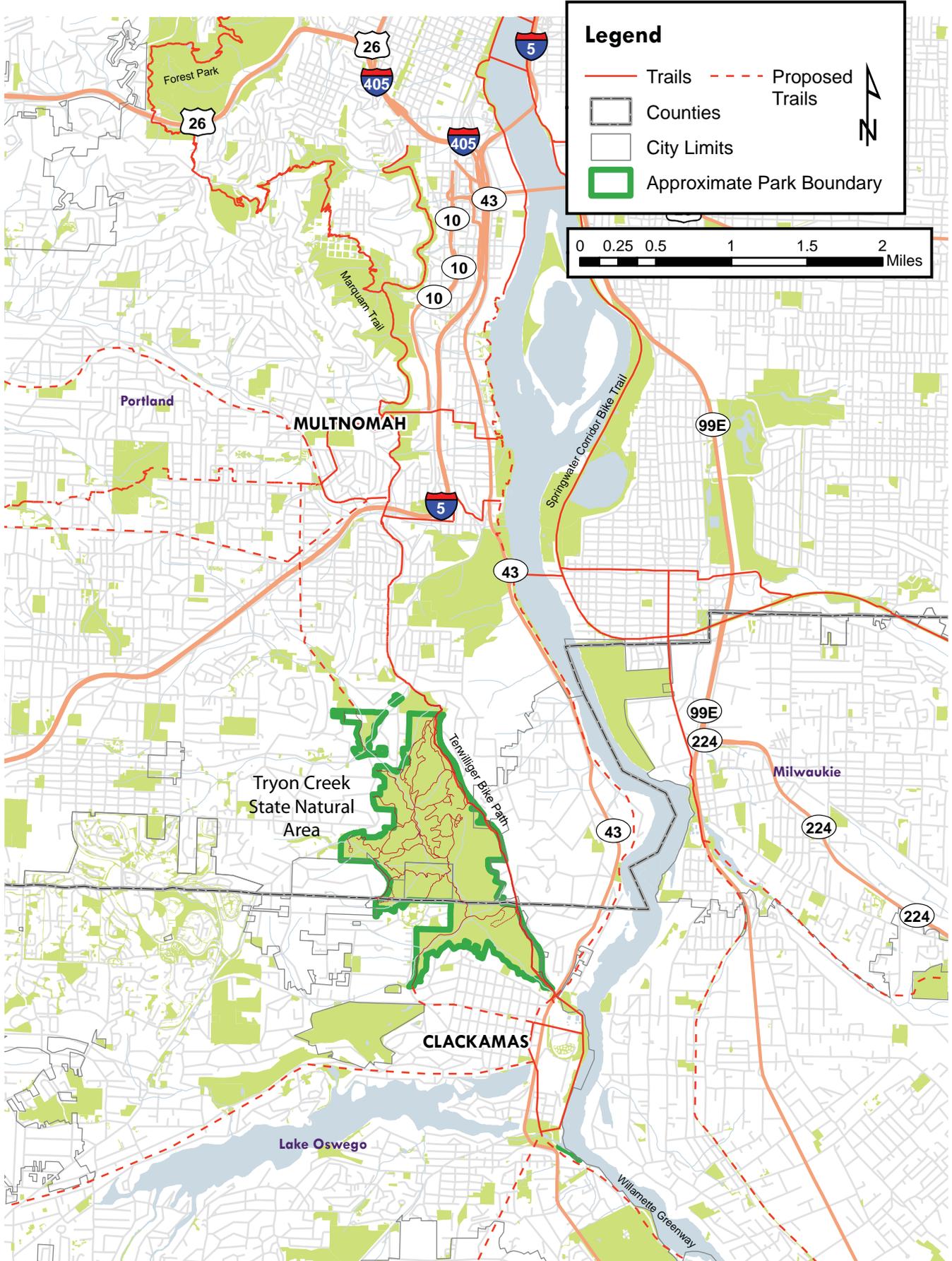
Non-motorized Trails:

- Need for trail connectivity within the region providing access from urban to rural trails, connections between public facilities, parks and open space and connections from state and regional trails to community trails.
- Need for additional non-motorized trails (for all user types) – especially in close proximity to where people live.
- Need for additional funding for non-motorized trail acquisition and development. Potential strategies include allocating a certain portion of the state’s lottery fund; acquisition of fee title, easements, and land exchanges; and ways to allow users to pay for trail facilities and services.

At the statewide level, top non-motorized trail issues include:

- Statewide Issue A: Need for trail connectivity
- Statewide Issue B: Need for trail maintenance
- Statewide Non-Motorized Trail Concern 1: Need for more trails in close proximity to where people live
- Statewide Non-Motorized Trail Concern 2: Need for additional non-motorized trails

Tryon Creek acts as a significant connectivity gateway as a largely protected area of water and wilderness stretching from the Willamette River high into portions of the hills of Lake Oswego and Portland. Additionally, the three-mile portion of paved bike trail that currently runs the length of Tryon Creek State Nature Area is an active extension of Portland’s 40-Mile Loop bicycle greenway connecting riders to Lewis and Clark College. Terwilliger Bike Trail is an active transportation link between Lake Oswego to the south and north all the way to downtown Portland. It feeds into a number of bike routes heading north, also connecting to the SW Urban Trail #5, as part of the City of Portland Southwest Urban Trail Plan (2000). Future proposed connections to the Terwilliger Bike Trail will be with Willamette River Trail in Lake Oswego. Other proposed trail connections are at the north end of property at Boones Ferry Road to Marshall Park. The west Iron Mountain Trailhead provides access for neighborhood schools in Lake Oswego.



Map 4.1 Regional Trail Connections to Tryon Creek
 (Trail Data: Oregon Metro)



Photo 4.3 A Youth Field Trip

Visitor Experience Summary

The main purpose of interpretation is to connect visitors emotionally and intellectually with the park resources so they will be inspired to become lifelong stewards of the natural, cultural, and historic places found in Oregon State Parks. Interpretation is communication that goes beyond information. It reveals what things mean and why they matter. Beyond ownership, visitors can become stewards of our park resources. That can translate into a stronger belief that Oregon State Parks are important to Oregonians.

Interpretive themes are the key messages to be communicated to visitors. The media are the delivery strategies for communicating the interpretive themes as well as orientation and wayfinding information. Media can include personal presentations by rangers as well as brochures, wayside exhibits, audio or video presentations, smart phone applications, self-guided trails, and even facility or landscape design.

Typical Recreation Activities Associated with Identified Interpretive Needs

- Interpretation along hiking/backpacking trails of varying lengths.
- Programs for birding/wildlife watching.
- The combination of scenic vistas and wildlife provide program opportunities for photography, painting, and other visual art forms.

Recreation Activity Table

Resource Value	Activity	Parkwide Median	ROS Class III (Rural)	ROS Class II (Natural)	ROS Class I (Primitive)
Recreation	Biking	Medium	Low	High	Low
Recreation with Natural Focus	Bird or Wildlife Watching	High	Low	High	Low
Recreation	Dog Walking	High	Low	High	Low
Recreation	Hiking/Walking	High	Low	High	Low
Recreation	Horseback Riding	Medium	Low	High	Low
Recreation with Cultural and Natural Focus	Interpretive	Medium	High	High	Low
Recreation with Cultural and Natural Focus	Junior Rangers	High	High	High	Low
Recreation with Cultural and Natural Focus	Nature Store	Low	High	Medium	Low
Recreation	Picnicking/BBQ	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Recreation with Natural Focus	Native Plant Observation	High	Low	High	Low
Recreation with Cultural and Natural Focus	Ranger Led Programs	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
Recreation	Running/Jogging	High	Low	High	Low
Recreation with Cultural and Natural Focus	School Group	Medium	Low	High	Low
Recreation with Cultural and Natural Focus	Sightseeing	High	Low	High	Low
Recreation with Cultural and Natural Focus	Special Events	Low	High	Medium	Low
Recreation with Cultural and Natural Focus	Summer Youth Day Camps	High	High	High	Low
Recreation with Cultural and Natural Focus	Volunteering	Medium	Low	Medium	Low
Recreation with Natural Focus	Photography	High	Low	High	Low

Table 4.1 Recreation Activity Table

This brief summary is a selection of information observed in the 2013 Tryon Creek SNA Management Unit Interpretive Assessment which can be found in full in Volume 2 of the Tryon Creek Comprehensive Plan.

Features for Interpretation

Natural

The following natural features are prioritized for increased interpretive programming at Tryon Creek:

- Geologic features of interest include the formation of the canyon based on volcanic activity during the Middle Miocene and Pleistocene eras and the Missoula floods, especially in relation to the Willamette Valley.
- Mammals inhabiting the park including deer, coyote, beavers, moles, squirrels, rabbits and other small mammals.
- Several dozen species of birds have been spotted in Tryon Creek SNA including several owl species, steller's jay, pileated woodpecker, and the bald eagle.
- The spring and fall migration of neo-tropical migratory birds is significant in riparian areas, as Tryon Creek is an important habitat surrounded by urban development.
- Reptiles include various non-venomous snakes, as well as lizards.
- Many species of amphibians are present in the park in numerous remnant wetland areas.
- Spring and early summer are the best times to view native wildflowers, including the park's celebrated trillium.



Photo 4.4 Trillium Trail Sign Kiosk

- Trees, wildflowers, native shrubs, lichen, and additional plant species present invite lessons on botany, ethno-botany, and stewardship.
- Fungus, bacteria and invertebrate communities provide areas of expanded study.
- There are a variety of invasive plants that need control measures to help in the restoration of native plant communities.
- Tryon Creek has shown to support spring Coho salmon, Cutthroat and Steelhead trout in recent years.



Photo 4.5 Nature Center Entry



Photo 4.6 Nature Center Montage

Historic and Cultural

The following historic and cultural features should be prioritized for increased interpretive programming at Tryon Creek:

- Native Americans lived on this land for countless generations.
- Euro-Americans first settled in the area around 1850.
- Historic activities involving mining and logging for charcoal production on site, and at the nearby Iron Smelter in Lake Oswego.
- The historic settlement on site represents the effects of the Arts and Craft movement on the local region in the early twentieth century.
- The foundation of the park and its basis in land stewardship.

Visitor Marketing and Audience Identification

Visitor Group Descriptions

Visitors come to Tryon Creek SNA to take a break from busy lives and the urban environment, get exercise and visit with family and friends. School groups visit to learn more about the land and the history of Portland. Family and adult groups come to attend classes and special events.

To better serve visitors and plan for their needs, the following categories visitors have been identified.

Category #1 - Destination Visitor

Destination visitors come to Tryon Creek SNA for a specific purpose. They are attracted to a specific class or program or a special event such as a concert or festival. They may come with family or friends from out of town just to walk the trails that day. These visitors usually stay just for the purpose they intended and then may not return for weeks, months or possibly years. The Nature Center may or may not be visited during their stay.

Category #2 – Casual Visitor

Casual visitors are visitors to Tryon Creek SNA on an irregular schedule but may come several times a month on an occasional visit to walk or hike the trails or to check out favorite places in the park. These visitors would not likely use the Nature Center on a consistent basis.

Category #3 - Exertion Visitors

Exertion visitors use Tryon Creek on a regular basis – sometimes daily or weekly – for recreational and exercise purposes. They may come alone or with others in small groups with a direct purpose in mind such as power walking, hiking, bicycling or walking a dog for daily or regular exercise. These visitors know the park well (at least the portion of the trail system they use) and tend not to come inside the Nature Center. This group of visitors is focused on the task at hand and is challenging to reach with conservation messages or educational programming. There are some behaviors (i.e. dogs on leash, trail etiquette, etc.) within this groups that should be the focus of future outreach.

Other ways to categorize the visitors are as follows:

Independent Travelers

Independent travelers are not part of an organized group and are therefore not on a time schedule imposed by the group.

Organized Groups

- School Groups – Visit generally for an environmental education and cultural history learning experience.
- Youth Groups – Such as scouts or after school programs visit for skill building (scouts) or recreation (after school programs).

For more detailed information about these visitor groups, please see the 2007 Interpretive Master Plan.

Original Source: Tryon Creek State Natural Area Interpretive Master Plan 2007 – revised 2010

Who visits Tryon Creek State Natural Area?

Summary of Current Program and Resources

Tryon State Creek SNA is a distinctive example of how a state park can serve as a hub of active community programs and neighborhood stakeholders to promote the use and protection of a valuable outdoor space.

Tryon Creek SNA offers a wide variety of interpretive and environmental education programs through the Friends of Tryon Creek and OPRD staff including:

- Guided Hikes and Walks
- Lecture Series
- Adult Workshops
- Preschool Programs
- Summer Day Camps
- School Programs
- Teacher Workshops
- Special Events (i.e. Trillium Festival)
- Seasonal Events (i.e. Solstice)
- Stewardship Programs (i.e. habitat restoration)

Existing infrastructure that is used for programming includes:

- Extensive interconnected trail system with bridges, benches and other amenities
- Short, looped fully accessible (ADA) trail (The Trillium Trail)
- ADA-accessible platforms with wooden railings along the Trillium Trail
- Nature Center with an outdoor deck
- Large covered wooden deck for programs (Jackson Shelter)
- Community Room in the Nature Center
- Resource library
- Limited number of picnic tables



5

Agency Mandates & Approach

Chapter Five Highlights

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff is continually involved in the long-range review of state park system properties. A Comprehensive Plan is an assessment of resource and recreation opportunities, and management recommendations. The plan includes management guidelines for each park's natural, cultural, scenic, and recreation resource values, goals, strategies, and actions.

The Mission

The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. This gives the agency a dual mandate: serve people by operating the state park system and protect park resources so future generations may also understand and enjoy them.

Each of our parks is an individual place where people play, picnic, camp, rest, hike, renew and everything in between. They are an everyday reminder of the things that make Oregon great, and their very existence is a testament to what Oregonians collectively value. Oregon's outdoor recreation and cultural heritage values are explained in state law; Oregon Revised Statute Chapter 390 opens by stating the well-being of Oregonians is in large part dependent upon access to the state's outdoor recreation resources for their physical, spiritual, cultural and scientific benefits.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is empowered by state law to provide outdoor recreation and heritage programs and plans. The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (the department's citizen oversight body), positions the agency to function at a high level by aligning programs to the powers and duties granted by state law, and by observing and planning for emerging trends. Those laws direct the department to focus on four areas:

1. State Park System: Create and run a state system of parks that protects and manages resources in order to provide recreation opportunities.
2. Natural resources: Exercise forward-thinking, sustainable land stewardship in state parks and along ocean shores and state scenic waterways. Protect state park soils, waters, plants and animals.
3. Statewide recreation advocate: The agency is Oregon's lead advocate for outdoor recreation. Through research, financial and technical assistance, OPRD provides an Oregon context for federal, state and local governments to collectively fulfill their outdoor recreation-oriented missions.
4. Heritage Programs: Work to preserve and protect Oregon's heritage and historic resources.

The Centennial Horizon

The Centennial Horizon—a vision document that looks ahead to 2022 and the 100th anniversary of the state park system—is a series of principles developed to guide the work and priorities of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in fulfillment of its mission. Eight principles compose the Centennial Horizon:

- Principle One – Save Oregon's Special Places
- Principle Two – Connect People to Meaningful Outdoor Experiences
- Principle Three – Taking the Long View
- Principle Four – Engage People Through Education and Outreach
- Principle Five – Build the State Park System with Purpose and Vision
- Principle Six – Attract and Inspire Partners
- Principle Seven – Prioritize Based on the Vision
- Principle Eight – Oregon's Parks will be Tended by People Who Love Their Work

The first three principles play a substantial role in park acquisition, planning and development. The remaining five principles support the first three by offering more specific direction for park operations and programs. Each principle is more fully defined by a series of strategies and actions that change over time as opportunities arise. The full document is available at the department web site <http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/>.

Oregon's State Park System in 2010

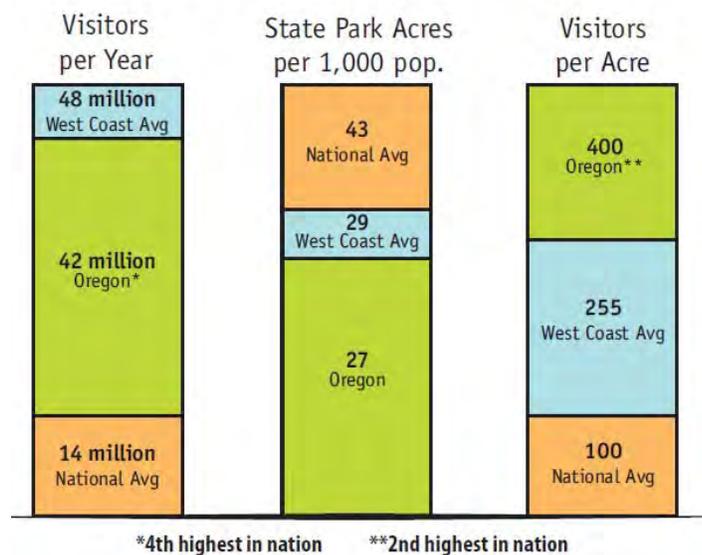


Table 5.1 Oregon State Parks in 2010 (Park System Plan, 2012)



Photo 5.1 Mushrooms on a Fallen Tree

The State Park System

Three criteria define different kinds of state parks: the natural setting, facilities and primary purpose. These criteria help OPRD plan the management and visitor experiences at each park, and combine to create nine types of state park system properties: parks, recreation areas/sites, scenic corridors/viewpoints, greenways, heritage areas/sites, natural areas, trails, and waysides. State scenic waterways are a special category; the state doesn't own scenic waterways, but works cooperatively with the property owner to preserve each waterway's scenic and recreational qualities.

The Oregon state park system contains more than 100,000 acres, nearly all of it natural resource-based. There are more than 300 properties in the system, including 174 developed for day-use, 50 campgrounds, and 110 undeveloped parcels along the Willamette River Greenway.

2012 Park System Plan

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission has been engaged in doing long-term business planning for the state park system. They have focused on developing a greater understanding of how the park system functions and what financial opportunities and challenges are likely over the next ten years. The Commission has reviewed the current business model; the relative mission impact and economic viability of various park system activities; the ways in which the park system creates value and wealth for the state; and projections of future revenues and expenditures.

A number of strategies have been examined and refined about how best to sustain the park system and to continue and improve its valuable contributions to the state economy and to the quality of life for Oregonians. These are summarized in a set of policy directions in the following areas: service delivery, park system maintenance, park system enhancement, workforce maintenance, and park system funding. The park system plan summarizes this work, and is intended to be used to guide investment, decision-making, and staff effort. The state park system generates significant wealth and value in Oregon, and good decisions today can keep this source active and contributing.

System Maintenance Strategy

The strategy for maintenance of the park system is to:

- Maintain up-to-date land and facility condition and mission effectiveness assessments;
- Consider profitability, mission impact, and economic activity prior to every maintenance investment decision to reduce under-performing assets and related activities;
- Complete preventive maintenance on facilities with high mission impact; and
- Reserve and dedicate a portion of earned revenues to a fund to be used for preventive maintenance.

The metrics for evaluating system maintenance includes:

- Percent of scheduled preventive maintenance tasks completed;
- Ratio of facility-closure months to total park facility program months;
- Percent of lands and facilities with condition assessments less than five years old;
- Asset condition index; and
- Ratio of under-performing assets to total assets.

System Enhancement Strategy

The strategy for enhancement of the park system is:

- Create new projects, parks, programs, and services without expanding existing department staff;
- Focus land acquisitions on improving performance of existing parks and addressing under-served markets; and
- Create opportunities for new trails, water access sites, nature viewing, and learning about history by finding internal savings and generating external support.

Determinations about system enhancement investments should rely on many of the criteria provided in the section above. Where enhancements can bring a lower performing property more in line with these criteria, they are better enhancements to consider. The system enhancement metrics for consideration are:

- Current operating expenditures for previous biennium enhancements;
- Change to park system staffing levels;
- Percent of parks with significant in-holdings, adjacent unprotected natural areas, or access problems;
- Percent and density of Oregonians within a 60-minute drive of five or more destination parks; and
- Value of external support towards capitalization of enhancements.



Photo 5.2 Light Snow on Fern Leaves

Resource Management Role

The natural resources staff of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for land stewardship, marine conservation and the rocky intertidal shores, several permit programs, department-wide resource policies, and park plants and animals. We strive to provide a safe environment while maintaining the natural beauty and historic importance of our parks.

OPRD is committed to managing the natural, scenic and cultural resources within the Oregon State Park system. The agency writes plans and conducts management to balance resource protection with recreation use; resources are the essential foundation for nearly all forms of recreation.

The following categories best sum up OPRD's approach to resource stewardship:

- Forest Health
- Fish & Wildlife
- Ecosystems
- Invasive Species
- Protected Species
- Natural Heritage Sites
- National Register of Historic Places, Sites and Districts
- Historic Buildings
- Cultural Landscapes
- Iconic Oregon Views and Scenic Corridors

Role as Recreation Advocate

OPRD connects people to meaningful outdoor experiences by protecting Oregon's special natural and historic places. This inherent tension between recreation and preservation, between the needs of today and tomorrow, has always defined the mission of Oregon State Parks. ORS 390.010 declares the state's broad policy toward outdoor recreation. In summary:

1. Present and future generations shall be assured adequate outdoor recreation resources coordinated across all levels of government and private interests.
2. The economy and well-being of the people are dependent on outdoor recreation.
3. Outdoor recreation opportunities should be increased commensurate with growth in need in the following:
 - Oregon's scenic landscape
 - Outdoor recreation

- Oregon history, archaeology and natural science
- Scenic roads to enhance recreational travel and sightseeing
- Outdoor festivals, fairs, sporting events and outdoor art events
- Camping, picnicking and lodging
- Tourist hospitality centers near major highway entrances to Oregon
- Trails for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling and motorized recreation
- Waterways and facilities for boating, fishing and hunting
- Developing recreation in major river basins
- Access to public lands and waters having recreation value
- Development of winter sports facilities
- Recreational enjoyment of mineral resources.

Planning Framework

In a critical first step for a park-specific plan, OPRD staff compiles data from department and other statewide or regional plans. This background information is used as a lens through which the park plan, like this one for Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA), is first shaped. This data is used to inform and develop a framework for the park plan, then taken to the public for comment and discussion. Public advice and goals of the statewide system are then synthesized to produce the values, goals, strategies, and management actions to become the comprehensive, long-term plan for a park like Tryon Creek SNA.

A park-specific plan therefore includes information on:

- Mission and mandates that define the role of OPRD (Oregon Constitution, Oregon Revised Statutes, and Oregon Administrative Rules.)
- OPRD goals and objectives (Centennial Horizon, Commission Investment Strategy, Legislative Performance Measures, and Oregon Benchmarks.)
- Existing OPRD organizational structure and roles of visitors, volunteers, staff, external parkland managers, and other partners.
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, State Trails Plans, Regional Interpretive Frameworks.

This background information defines the context for a state park comprehensive plan.

Values Based Approach

A critical component to that process is the interest of the public, and the stakeholders and partners that have interest in the property. As a state agency accountable to the public, OPRD seeks to engage the community in a discussion to develop a sense of public interest, concern, and desired experience. During the Tryon Creek SNA process, the community was asked to develop a value hierarchy, to help guide and define proposed management actions. The agency looks to the community to help identify potential opportunities, conflicts, and desired outcomes for the property. The values developed in the public process help relate a sense of place to potential outcomes for management actions. These values help to develop an analysis framework to view the resource inventories and recreation assessments, so that a better sense of future condition or experience can be defined that is relevant to the landscape.

The values statements that were identified by the public were:

Value 1: Natural Resources--We value Tryon as a significant natural area refuge within the urban area.

Value 2: Education, Interpretation and Outdoor Skills--We value Tryon as a learning laboratory and the opportunities it provides for promoting understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the natural landscape.

Value 3: Recreation--We value outdoor recreation at Tryon, the traditional activities that have been enjoyed by the public for generations, and the contributions of recreation to happy, healthy, stress reducing lifestyles.

Value 4: Cultural Resources--We value Tryon's cultural history and experiences and features that represent human interactions with the landscape, and how they inspire our appreciation of, and actions to protect, this unique setting.

Value 5: Community--We value how Tryon helps to strengthen the community through its contributions to mental and physical health, urban livability, and public awareness of its benefits.

These values have close ties to the elements of the OPRD mission that relate to natural, cultural, scenic and recreational

resources. The values, explored further in Chapter 8, provide another layer of analysis to interpret the existing conditions and future potential of the property.

Implementing The Tryon Creek Comprehensive Plan

Recreation planning for the park describes trails, roads, day use areas, overnight areas and associated maintenance facilities that will support recreation activities in the park. To realize implementation of recreation projects, park plans are produced with supporting guidelines showing appropriate locations, layouts, sizes, and types of recreation development for the park. The locations and layouts of development projects are illustrated as schematic designs that will guide construction drawings. For Tryon Creek SNA this includes preparation of a 1" to 200' or 100' scale design development plan showing hard and soft landscape components complete with site cross sections and elevations as necessary. This plan will also show resource management projects, interpretive projects and potential partnership opportunities. This will establish the basis for commencing with the preparation of construction drawings.

The concepts also include preparation of architectural plans showing; building program, floor plans, sections, elevations, details, and colored perspective renderings of the major buildings. Reasonable flexibility to make changes in the locations and layouts of development project components when completing final designs is expected, provided that such changes:

- Do not change the types, maximum sizes or capacities of projects;
- Do not significantly impact important natural, cultural or scenic resources; and
- May not be moved to new development sites that are not identified in the plan, or to other types of use sites where the relocated use would be inconsistent with the planned use of the site.

Preliminary and final project designs are reviewed in cooperation with the local land use approval authority as needed to ensure compliance with the intent of the plan.

OPRD connects people to meaningful outdoor experiences.



Photo 5.3 Creek Restoration Project

OPRD is dedicated to proposing facilities to support outdoor recreation that is needed in the region, and that are appropriate for the park setting and OPRD's roles as a recreation provider. Proposed park facilities are selected, located and designed to avoid significant impacts on important resources, as identified in the resource assessments and Opportunity Areas (Chapter 7) prepared for the plan. The proposed facilities are also selected, located, and designed to avoid incompatible recreation uses or have significant impacts on surrounding land uses.

Sensitive Interpretive Areas

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will work with the State Archeologist in the interpretation of the Native American history of the park. Rare species of plants or animals documented in the park will be interpreted to help the public understand their significance while avoiding disturbance that would be detrimental to sensitive species.

ADA Considerations

Some visitors will likely not be able to travel all trails. There will be benefits to interpretation that help all visitors to experience the more remote portions of the park. This may include communication methods such as smartphone applications, video clips on the web, or other media. Interpretive media will be designed with regard to ADA perspectives. Where possible, alternate methods of communicating interpretive messages will be provided. The trails will be designed to be universally accessible when possible. The Ruth Pennington Trillium Trail at Tryon Creek SNA was the first All-Abilities trail in an Oregon State park and the Tryon Creek park manager and OPRD are dedicated to examining new ways of constructing trails that can be accessed by all park visitors.

Summary

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff is continually involved in the long-range review of state park system properties. A Comprehensive Plan is an assessment of resource and recreation opportunities, and management recommendations. The plans include management guidelines for each park's natural, cultural, scenic, and recreation resource values, goals, strategies, and actions.

In the following sections the layers of analysis will be developed and discussed in greater detail, so peoples' values and park goals as well as management strategies and actions, can be understood in terms of the Agency mission, landscape condition, and public needs and values.



6

Public Involvement

Chapter Six Highlights

Public Comments were collected on the following topics as they pertain to Tryon Creek.

- 1. Recreation*
- 2. General Park Site*
- 3. Natural Resources*
- 4. Community*
- 5. Management*

Opportunities For Feedback

The issues summarized in this chapter were compiled with input from an advisory committee, OPRD staff and consultants, local officials, affected agencies and interest groups, tribal representatives and members of the public. Understanding the community needs and public expectations of a new park is an essential element of creating a comprehensive plan. During the process for the Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA) plan, OPRD has implemented approaches to maximize the opportunity for comment and issue identification. The opportunities to comment and efforts to raise awareness have included:

- Extensive public meetings scheduled to increase awareness and gather comments including three rounds of local public meetings in Portland
- Creation of an extensive mailing list
- Press releases
- Written comment periods
- A web site with interactive comment capability
- Special meetings with relevant stakeholders
- Engagement with neighbors groups to comment on park proposals
- Issues raised and captured in the resource assessment process
- Advisory Committee made up of locals, agency partners, resource professionals, and community leaders to provide guidance and comment
- OPRD Commission input

- Meetings with OPRD staff for guidance and comment
- Media releases to increase awareness of the planning process
- Newsletter to mailing list.

Many of these opportunities yielded excellent feedback and comments that are reflected in the overall planning document. This section addresses the issues that were identified during the outreach process and summarizes responses to these issues.

Comments Summary

During the planning process, OPRD reviewed hundreds of public comments that came from public meetings, the Friends of Tryon Creek, advisory committee, official web site, correspondence, phone calls, partner agencies, OPRD staff, and informal external sources (such as online responses to news stories). The public discussion is summarized below and informs the values, goals and management strategies contained in the following chapters of the plan. Five major categories emerged from the public discussion: general comments, recreation needs, natural resource concerns, community values, and management issues.



Photo 6.1 High Bridge

General

The comments frequently relate to the operation of the agency and the state park system, such as funding for park development, how the park land would be acquired, how the planning process works or general thoughts about how the park should be developed. Specific answers for frequent questions in these comments have included:

Why the need for a new park comprehensive plan, what is wrong with the old one?

Tryon Creek SNA is an established and successful state natural area, but it was designed and constructed over 40 years ago. In order to maintain this park in accordance to OPRD's Centennial Horizon plan, mainly to connect people to meaningful outdoor spaces and create management plans that allow long-term health of the natural area, the plan must be updated to meet current and future generation's needs. A current vision for the park needs to be defined to guide future management and improvements.

Specifically for Tryon Creek SNA, this means considering existing park amenities such as the historic cabins, the nature center, parking, and trails and making sure that the strategies for maintaining them are in line with interpretation, cultural, scenic and recreation strategic goals. Updates to the park in the comprehensive plan should align with the Friends of Tryon Creek strategic plan, the needs of the Nature Center, and increase recreation opportunities in line with natural resource management and restoration efforts.

Is this going to be an adaptive management plan or a set plan?

The plan is adopted through our Commission and Administrative Rules process and then we work with the county for land-use. The ability to have a flexible park plan is very important so it can adapt to varying conditions over time.

How do you fund the development and day-to-day operations?

Oregonians decided to dedicate 7.5% of lottery funds to state parks in 1998. Most of the lottery funds are used to repair and improve existing state parks. State parks are not funded by tax dollars.

We do not receive any tax dollars, but most of our day-to-day park funding comes from three places:

- Visitor fees from campgrounds and day-use areas
- A portion of RV license fees
- 7.5% of lottery funds dedicated by voter passage of Measure 66 in 1998 and reconfirmed in Measure 76 in 2010.

We use these funds to provide recreation and protect resources on more than 100,000 acres across the state. Even though our 2009-2011 budget is lower than it was in 2007-2009, cost-effective management has allowed Oregonians to enjoy well-maintained, open parks during the economic downturn.

The comprehensive plan is a good opportunity for OPRD to evaluate the park and continue to use methods and materials that can be maintained affordably over the long-term.

Additionally, Tryon Creek's support network of volunteers and partnerships is very unique. Volunteers contribute thousands of hours of support to activities from trail maintenance to community education. This volunteer and community support is crucial to its operation.

Recreation

The most frequent comments we received revolve around the types of recreational opportunities that will be available at the park. The planning process is an excellent time to identify community needs or expectations for specific types of recreation or experiences. The result of these comments can be seen in the General Plan map in Chapter 9, where recreational opportunities are identified, and come largely from the expressed needs of those who participate in this process. Some of these comments include:

"We don't have another park in the area. Kids play at the elementary school because there is nothing else for them."

"We feel there are more people who want to use it but the parking impedes it. On weekends it seems there are too many people – too many joggers."

"As a horse rider I tend to ride during the week and during school. This is the only park that is close for equestrians. I can ride for 1 ½ hours and be back in ½ a day."

“One issue is the size of the space for horse trailers. We have to tie our horses to the side of our trailer while we saddle them and there isn’t enough room to safely do this.”

“I found we would run into horses and you have to be careful not to spook the horses.”

OPRD planning staff works with resource experts, recreation advocates and local planning officials, and the OPRD commission to identify if these types of activities are consistent with the resource protection goals of the park, the county or state planning ordinances and technically feasible. In some cases recreational development may be considered but excluded from the plan due to constraints in one or more of these areas. In other cases the recreational opportunity is possible but will be developed over time. In all cases the issues of recreational access are considered very carefully to ensure that the recreational character of the park matches the landscape and the need.

Natural Resources

Many issues that were identified as a result of the Tryon Creek SNA planning process relate to the interaction of recreation and the natural landscape. Tryon Creek SNA is a special place because of the beauty of the landscape and the unique opportunity for people to experience it in proximity to an urban environment. This is a challenge unlike any other OPRD property. OPRD will continue to work very hard to help restore those areas that have restoration potential, and protect those areas that offer outstanding natural or scenic qualities. That strategy is supported by many of the received comments:

“Natural Resources and Invasive Species control should be a major component of this plan. This park has high ecological significance for the Portland Metro area but is heavily infested by Holly, Ivy, and many other non-native species. An increase in funding for natural area maintenance would need to be prioritized. I support this fully. So often those areas outside of the main “people” facilities get neglected.” -- Chris

“Despite the near super-human efforts of thousands of volunteers, over half the Park remains infested with invasive non-native species. Therefore, I ask that invasive species eradication efforts within the park actually be accelerated as opposed to maintained.” -- Carl A.

“More paving for the park will add to run off and water quality issues for the creek.” -- Amy M.

“I have a vision for this park as a place for a natural succession.”

The outstanding natural features of Tryon Creek SNA are essential to the recreational experience. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has the unique role of providing recreational opportunities that are enhanced by the surrounding natural and cultural resources. Many of the proposals in this plan are designed with the intent of preserving or enhancing those resources so that the recreation experience remains outstanding.

Community

Another large segment of comments relate to the place that Tryon Creek SNA holds in the local communities that surround it. While many visitors from outside the region visit the park, the residents of southwestern Portland and Lake Oswego consider the park as a local or backyard resource. OPRD has sought to have this park continue to reflect the character of these communities. This is proven in OPRD’s efforts to identify community partnerships. Members of the community have also provided comment and input on the ways that Tryon Creek SNA could continue to be integrated into the surrounding community.

“What are the public transportation opportunities? This is an area that could be explored. A bus route to the park would be great.”

“How does education outreach become recognized as an express strategy? We would like it to be included in the plan.”

As the planning process moves forward OPRD will be looking for ways that the agency can be a resource for local groups and interests. We hope that the park continues to be a valuable resource for the region.

Management Issues

During the planning process issues, questions, or concerns are often raised about the management practices at the site. Answering these questions can often be difficult for park development because there is no ‘silver bullet’ cure for most of the park’s issues like the availability of parking and eradication of invasive species.

“Tryon Creek is such a rare jewel and we are so fortunate so many people have had the foresight to love it and preserve it! One thing I have noticed is that the sign on Hwy 43 pointing to Tryon Creek is kind of small, and there is no sign before the intersection to warn drivers that the turn is coming up.” -- Roni

“There sure appears to be a need for more parking for all users – hikers, bikers, equestrians, joggers, etc. – especially during heavy use periods such as trillium season.” -- Bonnie S.

“The shuttle bus system that we have been using for the Trillium Festival seems to have worked well from my observation when on parking patrol. Perhaps this could be expanded.” -- Diane P.

“Can we charge for parking? Traditionally Tryon Creek has been free, but maybe we should consider a fee?”

“Equestrians would not hesitate to pay a day-use fee.”

“Low-income families use this park, we can’t restrict access with fees”

“There used to be a covered kiosk with a map. But others thought they could come into the nature center to get information. Signage is an important issue.”

“One of the alternate parking areas described could have an interpretive area with a trail to it from the nature center.”

“I’m concerned about the area that will be both trailer and cars. Parking for equestrian trailers should be separated from vehicle traffic. My horse was almost hit by a car pulling around the side of my trailer where I unload. Between cars speeding around not looking for horses and kids that dart out as soon as they see a horse, there is a safety risk that will occur in time if not prevented sooner.”

The issues raised by the comments in this group will be very important to help identify the best ways to manage the site over time. Not all of the issues can be addressed completely in the planning process. OPRD hopes to find the best way to continue to work through these issues, and continue to provide visitors and the community with the best service possible.

The summary of the comments presented here is not exhaustive, but is meant to provide context for the way that public input has shaped the plan. OPRD staff will continue to develop and manage the site based on public input.

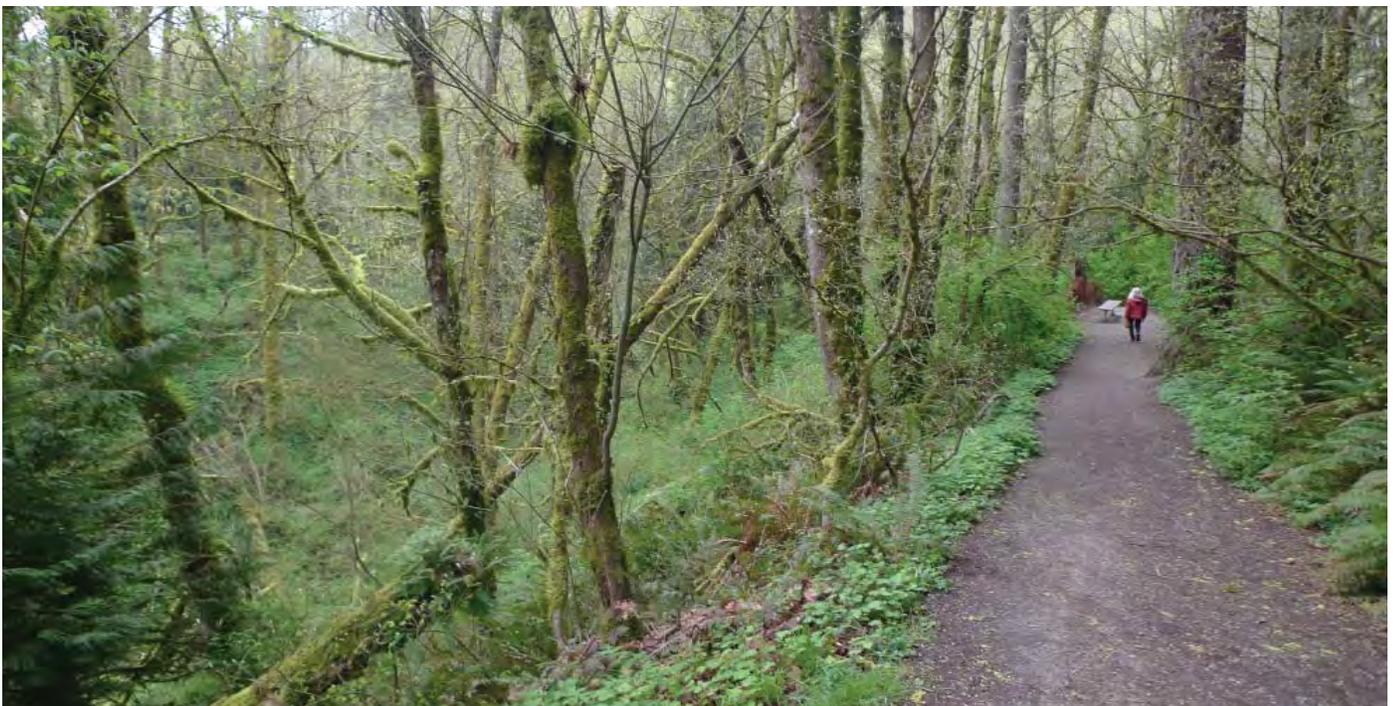


Photo 6.2 Middle Creek Trail in Early Spring



7 Opportunities & Constraints

Chapter Seven Highlights

Major Opportunities and Constraints at Tryon Creek:

- 1. “Wild” landscape features including steep slopes, plentiful vegetation, song birds, and running water*
- 2. Nature Center*
- 3. Use of trails for hiking, jogging, and Horseback riding*
- 4. Environmental Education Programs*
- 5. Interpretive Signage*
- 6. School Group Visits*
- 7. Neighborhood Park*

Understanding the Site

Strategies for a successful park arise from understanding the site's opportunities and constraints. This plan digests opportunities and constraints at Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA), determines the importance of each, and shows how these two work together to both protect and provide access to the land. When reviewed comprehensively, the plan can address the dual mandate of the department in a balanced fashion: protecting and improving the park ecosystem while providing for recreational access. Ever mindful of these opportunities and constraints, this plan defines areas of the park that will be set aside for resource protection and restoration, and those that will focus on recreational uses and facility development. More often than not, these two basic needs mix on the ground, and in those cases, the plan's purpose is to create goals that demonstrate how recreation and resource management can coexist.

OPRD first determines the intent for the park based upon the importance of its resources and the potential for recreational access to those resources (or resources adjacent to the park). The park's classification (as a state park, state recreation area, state natural area, etc.) and preliminary management goals approved by the OPRD Commission reflect this general intent. OPRD refines this intent through detailed inventories of the park's resources and by evaluating appropriate recreation opportunities and feedback from the public.

From the inventories, a composite map of the natural resources shows the current condition of different areas around the park (from excellent to poor) as well as other factors such as soils, slopes, and hazards. Natural resource management is then prioritized based on the importance of conserving good habitat and restoring certain low-quality areas. Natural resource goals are the priority, and they dictate the kind of recreation that is possible in all areas of the park.

Recreation Opportunities Spectrum

At Tryon Creek SNA, the Recreation Opportunities Spectrum (ROS) is a three-point scale, where Class I is a Primitive setting (trails, wild landscape), Class II is a Natural setting (fields, roads, trails, natural appearance predominates), and Class III is a Rural setting (occasional homestead, dirt roads, fields, natural features and appearance). These recreation settings have been applied to Tryon Creek SNA based on natural, cultural, and scenic surveys that describe the quality of the landscape. Cultural resources are also considered and mapped in terms of high to low probability, as well as examined for their eligibility for the National Register. Cultural and scenic areas are then considered in regard to appropriateness and ease-of-access for public recreation opportunities. The proposed park can then emerge as a set of planned experience areas and settings based on the character of the land (or potential character), which includes, but is not limited to waterways, habitat, topography, cultural associations, recreational activities, viewpoints, wildlife, geology, soils, architecture, and so forth.



Photo 7.1 Uprooted Tree

State Natural Areas

By definition in the 2010 State of Oregon Natural Areas Plan, State 'Natural Areas' protect the highest quality native ecosystems and rare plant and animal species. Valued for teaching and scientific research, Natural Areas provide a relatively undisturbed setting in which to study native ecosystems and species. Research projects on Natural Areas can provide important answers to statewide land management questions. Native forests, grasslands, tide pools, bogs, and sagebrush communities are protected on Natural Areas in Oregon, as are many of Oregon's rarest plants and animals.

In addition to meeting these goals, Tryon Creek SNA is an extremely popular recreation area that supports several types of outdoor activities to the population of surrounding neighborhoods including wildlife viewing, hiking, running, interpretive programs and youth camps. By improving the existing facilities at Tryon Creek SNA visitors will have a continued opportunity to experience nature in proximity to an urban area. In public meetings the protection and restoration of the park resources was viewed as a priority. Invasive species and intensified water runoff from surrounding development have degraded the ecological health of the creek and surrounding watershed. The area is a crucial habitat for several animal species and a primary connection link providing a habitat corridor. Conservation and restoration projects for habitat, wildlife and fish were viewed as priority implementation projects to improve conditions at the park. Retaining elements of the historic Arnold-Park cabin facility was also seen as a way to preserve traditional ways of life in the park and interpretive efforts highlighting the history of logging and mills in the area are likely to be expanded. There was also very strong consensus that while recreational access to the nature center area has been the primary access to the natural area for many decades now, parking needs to be increased slightly and perhaps expanded to other areas of the park in order to best protect Tryon Creek SNA's resources.

The opportunity areas shown in this plan therefore reflect the first priority to improve natural resource conditions, while allowing recreation opportunities is the second priority. Proposed developments have been located to avoid precluding long-term resource management decisions.

Opportunity areas in the park are based on information derived from:

- Composite natural resource values;
- Hazards, topography, soils;
- Cultural resources, if any;
- Landscape character;
- Important views and viewpoints;
- Roads, utilities and existing facilities;
- Recreation (and interpretive) opportunities at the park;
- Operational needs; and
- Opportunities/constraints outside the park boundary.

The Opportunity Area Map shows the most appropriate places in the park to provide for resource protection and different levels of recreation compatible with that goal. (See the Composite Natural Resource Values Map in Chapter 3, for locations of the low to high value resources.)

Areas with high natural resource values are protected and need to be conserved through monitoring. Limiting trail expansions and condensing redundant trails in these areas are likely to be considered. (Mostly Level 1 and 2 on the Composite Natural Resource Values Map.)

Areas with moderate natural resource values can be considered for resource enhancement. This often combines a mix of conservation and restoration with priorities established for actions. These areas are sometimes considered for recreation activities if the location has favorable slopes and soils, and is convenient or interesting, but will be generally limited to trails, dispersed camping, and moderate recreational impacts such as small camping or minor day-use areas, and trailheads. (Mostly Level 3 on the Composite Natural Resource Values Map.)

Areas with poor natural resource values will require extensive restoration and intensive weed eradication, much like the successful efforts that have been performed in the Northern and High Priority management zones. Priorities for weed eradication are combined with restoration projects to improve habitat condition. If these areas have favorable slopes and soils, acceptable risk from hazards and cost-effective access to roads and utilities they can be considered for a wide variety of recreation activities. (Mostly Level 3 or 4 on the Composite Natural Resource Value Map.) Parks are also assessed for important cultural resources (including historic and/or prehistoric and/or above or below ground). A cultural landscape assessment is completed to determine the significance of the cultural

resources and compared to the Composite Natural Resource Value map. The resulting assessment leads to strategies for preserving cultural resources and likely areas for facility consideration to identify the opportunity areas for the park.

A total of eight opportunity areas were identified for Tryon Creek SNA. They are organized into three groups, primarily natural, primarily recreational and mixed.

Primarily Recreational Areas are identified with careful consideration for impairment of resources through proposed recreational uses and supporting facilities. Through the composite mapping process the recreation areas have been located in areas where the natural resources are degraded or already developed.

Opportunity Area	Primarily Natural	Primarily Visitor Exp.	Mixed
1) Northern			
2) Trillium			
3) Core			
4) Arnold-Park			
5) Reserve			
6) Southern			
7) Creek			
8) Trail Network			

Table 7.1 Opportunity Area Focus

Therefore, concepts for these areas will include native plantings and other treatments that improve the setting, habitat and experience of these areas and blend them with the surrounding ecosystem as fully as possible.

Primarily Natural Areas

Opportunity Area 5: Reserve

This area, located along the south-eastern edge of the park boundary remains one of the most under-developed regions of the park. Access is currently only facilitated by sections of the Iron Mountain Trail and the Terwilliger Bike Path. Rather than look to this area as space for new development in the park that could facilitate an expansion of existing recreation activities, the decision was made to allow it to remain largely undeveloped. As one of the largest areas of the 645-acre natural area, this zone ranks highly on restoration and conservation priorities. The absence of human presence in this zone (especially in contrast to other sections of the park) makes it a highly suitable area

for wildlife habitat and it has been prioritized as such. The section of expanded parking proposed to the Iron Mountain trailhead will likely have little impact on the majority of the Reserve Zone, especially if permeable paving surfaces are constructed and existing trees are retained. Overall, this small development should minimize the impact on natural resources of visitors to the primary nature center area and increase safety issues concerning the Terwilliger Bike Path and current parking at the trailhead adjacent to Terwilliger Road.

Opportunity Area 7: Creek

The Tryon Creek waterway is the centerpiece of the natural area. This opportunity area includes the stream, floodplain, and terraces of the stream, as well as all the tributaries that feed it from the surrounding watershed. As noted in the natural resource assessment in Chapter 3, the waterways have suffered from an increased sediment load during storm events caused by an increase in paved surfaces around the natural area over several decades. This has resulted in vertical erosion and a decrease in habitat for wildlife and plant communities along the stream. Therefore, there is a high priority of restoration prescribed through much of this area.

Despite its moderate level of ecological health there have been species of salmon and trout seen in the lower portion of the creek. This is a hopeful sign of improving conditions along the creek, and removing culverts that block passage are planned. While recreation is very heavy in the trails adjacent to the stream due to its scenic quality, management practices are likely to continue to limit direct access as it has in the past. Conversely, it is understood that there is much to be gained from interaction with Tryon Creek SNA through education, wildlife viewing, natural beauty, and the calming sound of running water. Management of the riparian zone will prioritize restoration, while balancing the possibilities of bringing people to the water, perhaps by limiting trail setbacks to certain areas or constructing viewing platforms. Erosion issues along the stream banks will require additional plantings in areas to improve stabilization by root systems, which, in turn increases habitat quality for wildlife. Restoration of the stream was one of the most important priorities mentioned by public input and balancing this effort with the interaction with human visitors to the creek is both a challenge and an engaging opportunity to advance the recreational experiences at Tryon Creek SNA.

Primarily Visitor Experience Areas

Opportunity Area 2: Trillium

This zone contains the majority of development within Tryon Creek SNA and the concentration of recreational uses and facilities found here is the gateway to the park for most of its visitors. The Trillium zone includes the Nature Center, Glen Jackson Picnic Shelter, Trillium All-Abilities Trail, maintenance facilities and the main parking area but still generates an undeniable presence of nature as soon as you enter the park. The concentration of development in this area is a limitation because it channels most park visitors to a specific area. Parking at times during peak seasons can be frustrating for people and families who want to use the park, especially if seeking to escape the surrounding city in search of serenity. It has been decided that parking spaces be increased in a way that formalizes parking habits disruptive to the natural resource value of the area, but not increase to provide additional spaces. Once the parking area fills, there is no way to expand capacity to the trails and facilities no matter how quickly the city grows around it. Minimal parking expansions to areas in other sections of the park (Arnold-Park and Iron Mountain trailhead) are being explored to alleviate some of the vehicles who wish to use the park, but might not be interested in visiting at the nature center.

Timing park nature center events to correspond with peak parking situations is one management strategy, while also promoting alternative forms of transportation through expanded bike trail connections and public transportation options. Sharing the valuable resource of Tryon Creek SNA has been a priority and responsibility of the community since the parks founding and there is no doubt will continue. Creative solutions to this situation present opportunities to expand recreational activities in the park. For instance, while increased human activity near the stream might lead to erosion of its banks, the opportunity arises to create a natural play area near the nature center that promotes interaction with elements found within the park's interior for everyone. This has proven in the past to increase ecological awareness while limiting destruction of natural resources. Expansion of facilities in the Trillium zone focuses on increasing education and recreational experiences for a maximum amount of users, while preserving the rest of the park for increased natural resource value and more natural recreation opportunities.

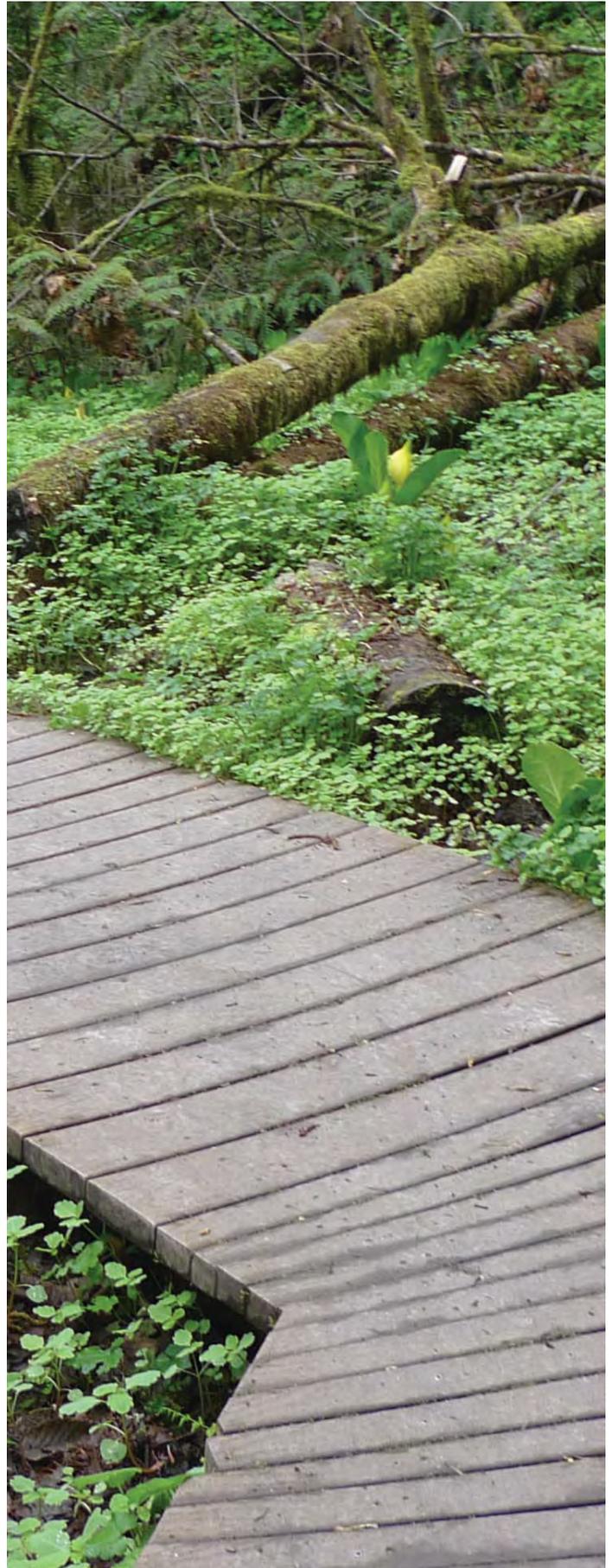


Photo 7.2 Boardwalk on Middle Creek Trail

Opportunity Area 4: Arnold-Park

The Arnold-Park area is a currently disconnected portion of the park that features a historic cabin in an idyllic rustic setting. This cabin was built by a Portland police officer near the beginning of the twentieth century and is representative of the Arts and Crafts Movement that sought to bring people back in tune with their natural surroundings. This underutilized resource provides several options to increase in recreational activities in the park through educational and historical means, but also by perhaps making the space available to an artist, scientist or educator in residence, dedicated to advancing visitor experience in a unique way.

Trails could be expanded in this section of the park to gain access to this resource, and additional parking should be established in the portion of this zone with low resource value, mostly established bramble and blackberry. Permeable paving and replanting of native canopy trees will be prioritized in development. A small stream runs through a portion of this zone but development would be limited as not to increase the potential of erosion to the waterway. Currently there is a bus line that services Boones Ferry Road, which is in alignment with the goals of increasing public transportation access to the entire natural area.

Opportunity Area 8: Trail Network

Due to the location of the park, use trends, and the regional trail plan some priorities were identified in the planning process for trails at Tryon Creek SNA. Dispersing the trail uses out of the core Nature Center area to perimeter trailhead locations can be achieved through enhanced access to neighborhoods (pedestrian trailheads and new connecting trails) and enhancement of two larger trailheads to the southwest and southeast corners of the park.

Changes to the trail network involve re-routing existing trails to provide protection to eroding natural resources or promote transferring resources to other, more popular trails by removing duplicate trails (i.e. trails that are within 30 – 50 feet of one another), especially in the Tryon Creek corridor. The addition of trails fall into three categories: Enhance access to local neighborhoods and schools, create connections with regional trails and new acquisitions and disperse and enhance use to meet local and regional trail needs.

Mixed Areas

Opportunity Area 1: Northern

The Northern management zone includes largely forested sections of the park on both sides of the creek that are comprised of the post-logging deciduous and mixed conifer forests that are typical in most of the park. The large area to the east of the stream and north of the nature center has been the target of massive eradication efforts towards removing invasive species in recent years. The success of this effort is the reason for a lessened restoration priority although it should be closely monitored and plantings of shade tolerant conifers such as Western Red Cedar, Western Hemlock, Grand Fir, Douglas Fir. Understory shrubs to be added might be Indian Plum and California Beaked Hazelnut.

This area of the park is home to a multitude of trails and expansion of the existing network to nearby Marshall Park is an opportunity under consideration and encouraged by Oregon Metro.

Opportunity Area 2: Core

This area is comprised of the most highly prioritized conservation and resource value areas of the park given its centralized location and inclusion of a number of high use trails through Tryon Creek SNA. Park restoration efforts at improving stream dynamics and removing invasive species have begun in this area, mostly in the eastern portion between the nature center and the creek, but there is still work to be done to return this ecosystem to maximum health. Removing invasive and non-natives, such as English Ivy and Holly from these areas and increased planting of Western Redcedar, Western Hemlock, and Grand Fir in this zone is among the highest priority in the park in order to best protect this resource for the greatest majority of visitors to Tryon Creek SNA.

Opportunity Area 6: Southern

The Southern management zone somewhat mirrors the Northern area, comprised of a post-logging mix of deciduous and coniferous hardwood forest and less trails than the concentration in the High Value zone. This area, like the Northern has been affected by non-native species that threaten the ecological health of the existing forest. But as the eradication efforts in the Northern area have proven successful, there is hope to remove many of these invasive species here given additional time and additional plantings of shade-tolerant shrubs and trees will be required.



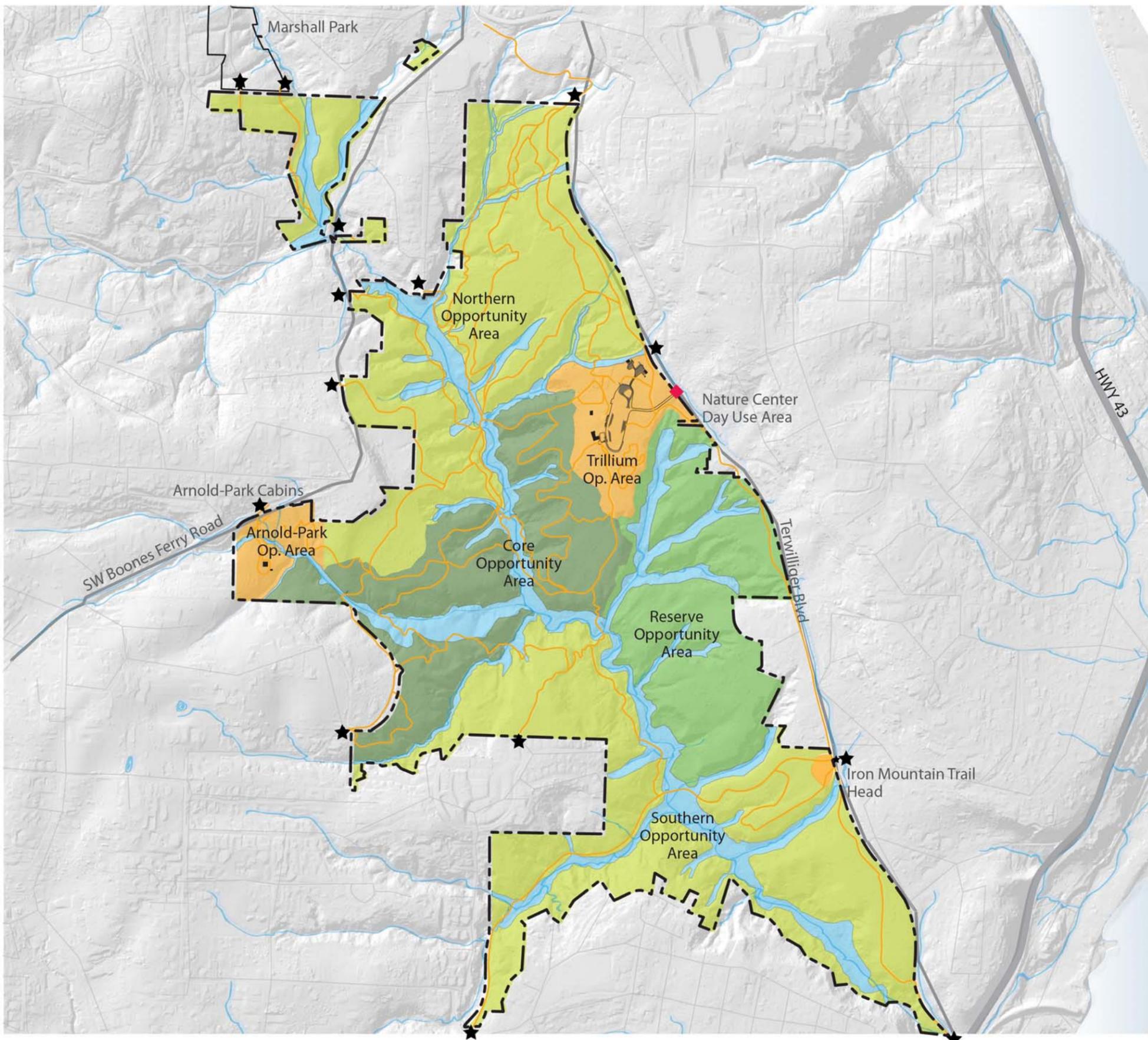
Photo 7.3 Day Use Area Parking Lot

Conclusion

These eight opportunity areas spread across major classes create zones within the park that have different priorities for natural and recreational management. Recreation at Tryon Creek SNA is only possible and sustainable when the natural resource is in good enough condition to support it, so natural resource management is a top priority.

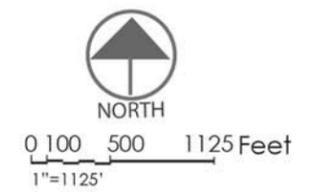
Recreation, especially hiking, wildlife viewing and other low-impact pursuits, reveal the park's natural beauty. Some areas of the park are will not support all kinds of recreation, especially sensitive riparian areas and the steeper slopes with shallow soils. As more areas recover from their currently degraded state, recreation in the park will improve (particularly in the Mixed Opportunity Areas).

These three groups—Primarily Natural, Primarily Recreational, and Mixed Opportunity areas—combine with the values and goals in Chapter 8 to produce park-wide strategies and operational requirements in Chapter 9, leading to more detailed park improvements and management actions in Chapter 10.



legend

- Park Boundary
- City Roads
- Trailhead
- Day-use Area Entrance
- Natural Resource Focus
- Natural + Visitor Experience Focus
- Visitor Experience Focus
- Waterways
- Trails (Recreation focus)



Recreation Opportunity

Site Map

Map 7.1



Values & Goals

Chapter Eight Highlights

The following guiding principles give direction to the work that Oregon State Parks and the Friends of Tryon Creek attempt to accomplish through planning efforts and visitor experiences in Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Value 1: Nature

Value 2: Learning

Value 3: Visitor Experience

Value 4: Heritage

Value 5: Community

Value 1 – Nature

We value Tryon as a significant natural area refuge within the urban area.

Tryon is a large and mostly contiguous island of undeveloped forest within the urban environment, providing important habitat for wildlife and connections for wildlife movement, and contributing to air, land and water quality.



Goal 1: Maintain and improve Tryon’s contributions to watershed health and habitat diversity.

1.1: Maintain and improve priority habitats including remnant patches of late seral forest, forested wetland and riparian communities, and habitats that now or potentially support at-risk species. Manage open meadows in locations, sizes and configurations that benefit biological diversity.

1.2: Develop an action plan to guide activities for maintaining and improving the health and diversity of the park habitats, prioritizing and articulating actions for managing largely intact native habitats and restoring habitat conditions where feasible.

1.3: Retain large snags and other important habitat features.

1.4: Continue to use best management practices in controlling invasive species. Efforts to manage invasive weeds should focus first on avenues of dispersal and potential threats to higher quality native habitats.

1.5 Develop a stream restoration plan for improving stream functions, prioritizing viable projects that benefit stream flow, water quality and aquatic habitat.

1.6 Restore fish passage at road crossings with installation of fish friendly culverts.

1.7: In managing riparian habitat, provide for adequate input of woody debris to the stream system to benefit stream structure.

1.8: Assess the effects of trails on water quality and disturbance to wildlife, and identify and implement measures needed to correct or mitigate impacts. Manage the runoff from trails and other development in the park to minimize erosion and the input of sediment, nutrients and other contaminants to the steam system.

1.9: Assess slide areas and identify and implement measures needed for stabilization.

Value 2: Learning

We value Tryon as a learning laboratory and the opportunities it provides for promoting understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the natural landscape.

Tryon's location within a densely populated metropolitan area makes it ideally suited as a learning facility for a diverse population. Tryon has a 40+ year legacy of offering educational opportunities to the public.



Goal 2: Expand and refine Tryon's education, outdoor learning and interpretive programs, facilities and media, utilizing and building upon the combined assets, resources, partnerships, community support and volunteerism that have contributed to the park's long-term success as a learning facility.

2.1: Continue supporting the cooperative efforts of the Friends of Tryon Creek and OPRD staff to improve, expand and implement educational programs offered at the park, including the related activities largely spearheaded by the Friends such as fundraising and promoting community involvement and volunteerism.

2.2: Explore ways to improve and expand the roles of the Nature Center in providing a range of educational and interpretive opportunities.

2.3: Maintain and strengthen existing partnerships and pursue new strategic community partnerships that promote environmental awareness and stewardship, investing in those that best fit the needs and interests of Tryon Creek's diverse visitors.

2.4: Continue and expand outreach to the area's learning institutions to enhance environmental learning through programs connected to the school curriculum. Maintain and enhance educational opportunities for visiting school groups that support the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan.

2.5: Explore opportunities to develop new educational programs for various age groups and ethnicities through partnerships with learning institutions.

2.6: Continue and build upon interpretive programs for youth that foster emotional connections with the natural environment and promote understanding of ecological interdependencies.

2.7: Develop roving interpretive programs that include trail based activities and education for visitors.

2.8: Explore professional development opportunities for staff and volunteers. Develop a training program for interpretive volunteers specializing in brief interactions with park visitors.

2.9: Promote staff and volunteer involvement with the Metro area's environmental education groups.

2.10: Plan for an Interpretive Prescription to follow in sequence after completion of the Comprehensive Plan, to support next steps in planning and design for improvements to programs, facilities, and media.

Value 3: Visitor Experience

We value outdoor recreation at Tryon, the traditional activities that have been enjoyed by the public for generations, and the contributions of recreation to happy, healthy, stress reducing lifestyles.

The park's large and mostly undeveloped setting is a highly valued recreational resource in the Metro area, offering nature and trail based recreation opportunities.



Goal 3: Continue to support outdoor recreation opportunities that are compatible with Tryon's purpose and character as an urban natural area.

3.1: Continue offering the majority of existing recreation activities at their current levels, including hiking, running, bicycling, horseback riding, nature observation, picnicking, music and other special events, and youth day camps.

3.2: Enhance recreation opportunities and experiences by implementing needed improvements that will not impair the natural resources or character of the park.

3.3: Implement improvements to park facilities, circulation, operations and maintenance as needed to support park functions and facilitate efficient and effective management.

3.4: Explore ways to improve universal accessibility to the park's recreational opportunities, and implement related changes that are compatible with the park's natural resource character.

3.5: Explore possible development of a natural play area and supporting program to encourage children to play outdoors.

3.6: Explore the merits of adding small scale overnight opportunities associated with educational programs.

3.7: Implement changes to the park's trail system as needed to enhance trail experiences, functions and orientation. Pursue viable opportunities to connect trails to surrounding neighborhoods and parklands.

Value 4: Heritage

We value Tryon's cultural history and experiences and features that represent human interactions with the landscape, and how they inspire our appreciation of, and actions to protect, this unique setting.



Goal 4: Explore ways to incorporate more of Tryon's cultural history into public education and interpretative programs and features while taking appropriate steps to protect important historic and prehistoric remnants.

4.1 Follow protocols for investigating potential archeological sites and preserving the integrity of significant sites prior to and during ground disturbing activities within the framework of OPRD's Cultural Resources Policy.

4.2: Implement measures for interpreting historically significant features while taking appropriate steps to preserve their historic integrity. Explore possible uses of the Arnold cabins that would be compatible with their listed status on the National Historic Register. Assess the importance and condition of the orchard at the northwest trailhead and consider the merits of, and possible options for restoration and management.

4.3: Continue working closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and Siletz Indians in identifying potentially significant cultural resource sites and developing appropriate interpretive strategies.

4.4: Through interpretive features and programs, tell the story of Tryon Creek SNA and its Friends group, and how the community has worked together to preserve this valuable resource.

Value 5: Community

We value how Tryon helps to strengthen the community through its contributions to mental and physical health, urban livability, and public awareness of its benefits.



Goal 5: Expand opportunities for the community to keep a close relationship to the park.

5.1: Continue expanding public outreach efforts that raise awareness of Tryon's importance to community health and vitality.

5.2: Explore new opportunities for partnerships with other public service organizations with similar or complementary missions and roles.

5.3: Continue exploring and implementing strategies for involving members of the community in natural resource stewardship activities.

5.4: Work with Metro on options for improving public transportation serving the park.

5.5 Implement changes in public education strategies and programs as needed to adapt to changing demographics in the Metro area.

5.6 Build public trust and credibility of staff

5.7 Increase value of park to local community by connecting visitors to local opportunities that enhance experience.



9

Parkwide Strategies

Chapter Nine Highlights

Park Strategies

- 1. Natural Resource Conservation*
- 2. Cultural and Scenic Resource Management*
- 3. Visitor Experience Management*
- 4. Administrative Program Management*
- 5. Facility Management*
- 6. Community Partnerships and Communication*
- 7. Environmental Sustainability Management*

Parkwide Strategies

OPRD's management of Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA) is guided by a set of natural, cultural, recreational, and social values and goals, as covered in Chapter 8. Protecting these values and goals help guide the park's evolution over time.

This chapter describes major strategies and guidelines. Natural and cultural resource management strategies are detailed first (since they are the priority), followed by recreation concepts, park management needs, and community partnerships.

The Tryon Creek SNA management strategies cover seven main categories:

1. Natural Resources
2. Cultural and Scenic Resources
3. Visitor Experience
4. Park Programs
5. Park Facilities
6. Community Outreach
7. Sustainability

Of the seven categories, the public has often commented that protecting the natural resources is our most important priority. Without protection the plants and wildlife will not flourish and the opportunities to recreate in the park will consequently be diminished. The public also stated that recreation opportunities should be limited to a light footprint on the land that complements and does not impair the natural status of this area.

Each strategy provides a summary of intent for park management over the decade. Chapter 10, Park Management Zones, describes the actions that will fulfill these goals and strategies in each area of the park.

10 Primary Parkwide Strategies

1. **Protect priority native plant communities and wildlife** through partnership with friends group, volunteers, as well as identifying other potential Metro partners
2. **Extensive restoration work** has been completed in cooperation with community partners and the park manager will place emphasis on accelerating this positive, mutually beneficial relationship through the creation of a GIS-based system that is accessible via the web
3. **Develop stream restoration plan** through partnership with watershed council and work into environmental programming as well as future volunteer projects
4. **Update Nature Center** with a focus on space usage and programming initiatives to maximize effectiveness and the visitor experience including a fireplace, deck viewing area, story-telling exhibit and tree canopy meeting room
5. **Enhance the Core Day Use area** to improve orientation, better serve youth groups visiting the park, and ensuring existing visitors get the best facilities to improve their welcome to the park
6. **Create Natural Play Area** to counter nature deficit in children with outreach to underserved communities in the Metro region
7. Use latest sustainable design approaches to **redesign main parking area**, preserving existing tree canopy and enhancing forest gateway experience
8. **Design adaptive uses for Arnold-Park property** while retaining the historic character by working with writers, artists, working landscape groups that can occupy space and bring it back to life
9. **Create GIS trail management database** for park, developing standards for bi-annual assessment, that also shows on the web places of solitude to escape the urban landscape, allowing visitors to plan their day in the park.
10. **Create an alternative transportation system** that provides connections to regional trails, a shuttle service that connects with the larger Metro area, and better opportunities for biking to the park





Photo 8.1 Trillium Trail

1. Natural Resource Conservation Strategies

Value 1: Nature

We value Tryon as a significant natural area refuge within the urban area.

The management issues related to the natural environment at Tryon Creek SNA - including the creek and its tributaries, banks, upland forests, riparian areas and wetlands - are complex and require substantial investigation, planning and funding. As more site information is acquired over the coming decade, management strategies will be refined. A summary of these strategies developed for the park are described below. Opportunities for restoration are detailed in the following chapter.

1.1 *Protect priority native plant communities and wildlife including:*

- Oregon ash swamp communities, remnant old growth patches threatened by invasive exotics or other forms of disturbance, riparian areas, microhabitats like forest openings.
- Protect open meadow areas, managing invasive exotics such as reed canary grass and looking to provide corridor connections where appropriate between open areas.
- Inventory and manage habitat for Western wahoo, which is a rare species that is fairly abundant in the park.
- Create a reserve designation for areas with high resource value.
- Provide regional wildlife connectivity with undeveloped private, state or local government land holdings.
- Design park activities and management practices to reduce negative impacts and improve habitat (i.e. parking design, maintenance practices, and trail density).
- Provide areas of interest associated with park that may improve habitat.

1.2 *Control invasive plants identifying prioritization for management and removal as well as funding requirements and timelines:*

- Continue control efforts, especially where they border priority habitats.
- Continue efforts to control English ivy, which have focused on the area around the Nature Center, and create a systematic plan to control invasive exotics throughout this natural area.
- Do additional survey work of invasive exotics to update park GIS database and chart efforts over time to learn from efforts.
- Continue partnering with Portland State University to study and remove Japanese knotweed.
- Work with partners in watershed to coordinate noxious weed removal and alert each other to potential new issues.
- Install noxious weed cleaning stations at trailheads for public use, and
- Introduce education through staff and signage to make public aware of how they might accidentally bring noxious weeds into park (socks, dogs, etc.).
- Partner with City of Portland, Lake Oswego, county governments, NGOs, and neighbors (Lewis & Clark, etc.)

to attain funding for watershed wide approach to invasive exotic control.

1.3 *Develop restoration options for park including identifying areas of most immediate concern and target restoration efforts to those areas first:*

- Develop systematic priority schedule based on parkwide inventory.
- Designate areas with high resource value that are in poor condition and can be restored.
- Develop forest management plan and consider increasing conifers in park to fit habitat.
- Create canopy openings and manage to control invasives.
- Increase forest floor complexity retaining downed limbs and snags.

1.4 *Develop stream restoration plan:*

- Work with the City of Portland and watershed group to coordinate on stream health and the Tryon Creek watershed system as a whole.
- Develop plans to replace existing culverts through standard life cycle maintenance with fish friendly culverts or bridges.
- Investigate slide areas to establish cause and seek remediation practices to stabilize.
- Establish stabilization plan for human caused slides including re-vegetation of stabilized slope.
- Introduce check dams and or engineered log jams to improve fish habitat and reduce siltation and stream down cutting.
- Continue to work with City of Portland on creek restoration projects, and look towards long-term policy to realign sewer lines.

1.5 *Assess trail use and disturbance to wildlife with appropriate mitigation:*

- Seasonal trail closure for nesting season, wildlife movement, and sensitive species protection.
- Trail realignment for continued threats to targeted species.
- Consider trail closures if threatened & endangered species become vulnerable.
- Mitigate trail impacts on ash swamp and riparian functions.
- Design options for trail to protect rare swamp communities and to improve wetland function.

2. Cultural and Scenic Resource Management Strategies

Value 4: Heritage

We value Tryon's cultural history and experiences and features that represent human interactions with the landscape, and how they inspire our appreciation of, and actions to protect, this unique setting.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources consist of archaeological sites and historic structures (both pre-historic and historic), each with their own methods for documentation, evaluation, and treatment. Research has been conducted on the overall property, and on-site surveys have been conducted in several areas anticipated for park development. The Arnold-Park Cabins are the only historic structures placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The key parkwide findings of these studies, as well as areas that require additional consideration have been summarized below.

2.1 *A total of two pre-contact lithic tools have been found within Tryon Creek SNA. Given that the park is located near Tryon Creek, it is possible that additional Native American archaeological resources could be located in the future.*

2.2 *The location of the park is within the traditional use areas of the following tribes: Confederated Tribes of Siletz and Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community.*

2.3 *The story of how local people worked to conserve this valuable watershed in a natural state is a valuable cultural narrative that should be considered for future program elements.*

2.4 *Recognition of Arnold-Park Cabin Area with National Register:*

- Preserve or stabilize buildings and landscape for interpretation.
- Rehabilitation: adaptive use of cabin area for offices or partner program.
- Rehabilitate the landscape around the cabins as a kitchen demonstration garden that represents the original intention for this property.

2.5 *Develop program to restore and manage historic orchard at Red Fox trailhead:*

- Assess historic importance of orchard.
- Consider options for managing orchard.

Scenic Resources

OPRD evaluates scenic resources in state parks based on OAR 141-100-0000 and follows general guidance provided by OPRD's mission statement, as well as OPRD's recreation setting definitions developed for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The recreation setting definitions are applied in the master plan assessments. This park overall falls into the Class II threshold, Natural Category. See Chapter 10 for settings in specific smaller areas within the park.

There are many viewpoints to be found within the park; the purpose of identifying the major viewpoints is to ensure the scenic beauty of the area can continue to be viewed by the public and is accessible to all. Design considerations have been made that preserve access to these viewpoints without obstruction, as well as universal access such as the overlooks on the Trillium Trail.

The landscape assessment therefore defines the scenic character of the park and will be used to inform design development concepts described in the management zones chapter and design guidelines found in the management section of this plan. The development concepts and design guidelines will inform decision making regarding future development of the park and will help preserve and enhance the scenic character of Tryon Creek SNA.

2.6 *Protect scenic character areas in the park:*

- Tryon Creek
 - Views from the several bridges that cross the stream
- Wooded Creek Valley to west of Nature Center
 - Nature Center
 - Glenn Jackson Picnic Shelter
- View of Tributary and Wooded Valley
 - Trillium Trail Overlooks (2)

2.7 *Manage Scenic Viewpoints and Screening*

The above areas should be considered for additional features that provide access for all park visitors, while also maintaining protection of natural resources. Potentially constructing boardwalks or overlooks at key points along the creek that allow access but decrease degradation of the surrounding banks is encouraged.



Photo 8.2 Trillium Trail Overlook

3. Visitor Experience Management Strategies

Value 2: Learning

We value Tryon as a learning laboratory and the opportunities it provides for promoting understanding and stewardship of the creek and forest.

Value 3: Visitor Experience

We value outdoor recreation at Tryon Creek SNA, the traditional activities that have been enjoyed by the public for generations, and the contributions of recreation to happy, healthy, stress reducing lifestyles.

Visitor Experience

The existing opportunities for visitor activities at Tryon Creek SNA have proven to be extremely valuable to park visitors as they return, sometimes daily, to use the already extensive trail network, nature center, classes and additional amenities. Feedback about additional expanses to the existing facilities have been met with skepticism as people value the intimate setting, quiet nature, and natural quality of the park and this has been reflected in strategies for recreation management. OPRD has chosen to increase opportunities for visitor experiences with a nuanced approach that could be best described as a fine-tuning as opposed to a reinvention of the wheel.

The below strategies seek to retain what already works at the park, including features that have been shaped by decades of volunteer contributions, whether it be from the Friends, scout groups, or weekend volunteers who try and help out as often as they can. Improvements to the park's visitor experience strategies were shaped by input at several public meetings and have been verified as necessary in conjunction with natural resource protection as well as expanded interpretation, education and recreation opportunities.

The parameters for formulating visitor experience concepts at Tryon Creek SNA strive for a balance between providing opportunities for the public to access the resources and protecting the very resources they come to visit. This can be best described as ensuring visitor experience development in the park leaves a light footprint on the land.

Parameters for Visitor Experience

The parameters applied to ensure this happens include:

- Avoid or mitigate significant impacts on important natural, cultural and scenic resources within or adjacent to the park;
- The potential types of visitor experience have been evaluated and will guide recreation opportunities;

- Balance multiple recreation needs and avoid or minimize conflicts among recreation uses;
- Provide appropriate access for vehicles and non-motorized travel to and within the park;
- Locate and design recreation facilities, roads and trails in a manner that is understandable by the public in navigating to and through the park;
- Take advantage of and create scenic views and resource interpretation opportunities;
- Present an appearance that is harmonious with the setting, the region and a state park experience;
- Provide choices for visitors who may have different desires for recreation amenities and settings;
- Cluster development to keep large areas of park lands undeveloped;
- Avoid or mitigate recreation conflicts with neighboring land uses;
- Achieve compliance with regulatory requirements including Federal/State Wild and Scenic goals, state land-use goals, local comprehensive plans, building codes and resource laws;
- Provide opportunities for quality access by visitors with disabilities and different economic and cultural backgrounds;
- Design facilities to be cost effective to construct and maintain;
- Design facilities to blend with their surroundings and be sustainable over their lifetime; and
- Design the park for an enjoyable, safe and meaningful experience.

Visitor Experience Strategies

For the most part, existing recreation activities at the park will be retained, some will be enhanced and a small number of new activities, mostly related to education and outreach will be introduced.

3.1 *Retain the majority of the major recreation activities in the park at their current level*

- Retain existing bicycle trail along Terwilliger Blvd.
- Retain and enhance bird watching opportunities
- Retain hiking opportunities
- Retain horseback riding opportunities
- Retain music events
- Retain opportunities for native plant observation
- Continue annual special events in park
- Retain educational opportunities and summer youth day camps

3.2 *Enhance existing recreation activities in the park where needs require changes to improve activities that do not impair resources*

- Retain and enhance wildlife watching
- Retain and enhance interpretive events
- Retain and enhance interpretive tours for guided nature walks
- Retain and enhance guided interpretive opportunities for school groups
- Retain Junior Ranger program
- Retain and enhance Nature Center including exhibits; create plan for building/space usage and programming initiatives to maximize use and effectiveness of the building
- Retain and enhance nature programs
- Retain and enhance Nature Store – tie revolving store themes & displays to interpretive programming.
- Retain and enhance family interpretive programs
- Retain and where possible improve ADA trail opportunities
- Allow running but do not promote in park

3.3 *Add some new recreation activities in the park where there is an identified need*

- Create new programs, displays and research other media options for connecting visitors telling the story of all Oregon State Parks
- Provide a gateway program that showcases, promotes and provides skills to continue traditional State Park activities and the story of state parks across the state. Examples could include guided interpretive tours to the Columbia River Gorge, the Oregon Coast, and Cottonwood Canyon.

- Improve and add new Interpretive Displays
- Improve Tribal Interpretation
- Provide additional interpretive support for nature programs (await findings of interpretive survey)
- Develop restoration projects for natural resources to include youth and adults, especially stream restoration projects
- Develop environmental education programs that support the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan. In addition to programs that connect to the school science curriculum, also consider programs that connect to other parts of the curriculum, such as programs based upon nature writings and observation, especially around nature center (consider including outdoor art program)
- Plan for and build Natural Play site with a supporting program to encourage children to play outdoors in nature more (consider in partnership with current day camp program)

3.4 *Enhance opportunities for visitors to assist with natural resource program*

- Create program for public to report wildlife sightings
- Partner with master biologist program to survey and inventory park wildlife
- Create volunteer groups to work with wildlife biologist to enhance bird nesting opportunities
- Create volunteer groups to build and maintain stream side viewing decks to reduce bank compaction and erosion.
- Continue current ivy pull program which includes other noxious weeds in park

3.5 *Identify areas of interest for connecting divided park parcels, trail connections, and neighboring green spaces*

4. Administrative Program Management Strategies

Park administrative programming is defined by the actions that allow Tryon Creek SNA to operate. A park like Tryon Creek offers a wide variety of experiences to someone that visits the park. Several planning and implementation efforts guide the quality of the experience that one has when they visit a State Natural Area, with the goal that one can simply arrive and enjoy a natural experience. This section outlines the management strategies for the many operations that aim to seamlessly interact to increase the quality of the experience for all at Tryon Creek SNA.

Visitor Services

4.1 Enforcement

All applicable Oregon Administrative Rules will be enforced as on all other OPRD properties. This will include specific emphasis on:

- a. OAR 736-010-0055 that protects cultural, historic, natural and wildlife resources.
- b. Visitors will be encouraged to stay on established trails due to the sensitivity of the cultural and natural resources.

Specific enforcement patrols will be conducted only on an as-needed basis for specific activities, follow-up on complaints and during other high use periods. Otherwise, enforcement activities will be incidental to other maintenance, inspection, or project activities. The steep canyon terrain and local vernacular make the park a fitting location for horseback patrol.

4.2 General Interpretation and Information

Informational signage at the site will be kept to the minimum needed to adequately communicate safety, park use and orientation messages. Signs on the interior of the site will be low profile and made of natural materials whenever possible. Interpretation will begin at the welcome center and continue at a lesser level of development, at various viewpoints and/or trail stops. The exact locations, types and sizes of interpretative media will be determined during interpretive planning. Other printed materials, presentations, guided hikes and “new media” (such as iPod/cell phone transmissions, if feasible) may be used to deliver interpretive information at the site. Some of the specific interpretive themes developed for Tryon Creek SNA have been identified in the pertinent sections of this plan.

4.3 Non-traditional Park Use

By definition such uses include some group use and filming. An OPRD Miscellaneous Use Permit is required for any organized group or non-traditional use activities. This permit must be signed and closely monitored by the Park Manager. Weddings, family reunions and similar activities that require shelter, structures, generators, or other site alterations may be appropriate in some areas of the park. Group activities that do not disturb the natural setting or other users may be considered. Youth activities (particularly park improvement projects) and educational activities should be encouraged and, if fitting, be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Park Manager. OPRD is currently in the process of creating a separate permit program for non-concession commercial activities, which would likely pertain to guiding types of activities.

Park Administration

4.4 Emergency Response

The park manager is responsible for completing an emergency plan and the plan should be written in the OPRD accepted format with input from OPRD's risk management staff. All park staff should be intimately familiar with the plan. It should be an integrated part of the safety culture of the park and be accompanied by associated regular training and drills. Training each staff member to the highest level, relating to emergency response, permitted within the classification specifications for their position would greatly enhance staff and visitor safety as well as providing comfort and peace of mind to them along with park neighbors. If allowed, relevant certifications might include wildland firefighting, wilderness first responder/emergency medical technician, search and rescue and should be further reinforced with other skills which may not carry certification. Some of these could include abilities to navigate with a Global Positioning System device, orienteering and other survival skills.

While all park staff aspire to create an environment that would safeguard visitors and staff from ever having to evacuate a park, they will confidently and calmly do so, when circumstances dictate. No amount of prevention can guarantee against the need to evacuate, so it is in the staff's best interest to be prepared. With clear guidelines for the evacuation procedure in the Emergency Plan and diligent training exercises, staff will gain the confidence needed to coordinate an evacuation in an assured manner, minimizing panic in visitors and fellow staff.

4.5 Coordination with Law Enforcement and Emergency Services

The location of the park in two counties presents challenges for park rule enforcement and coordination with emergency services. These challenges are complicated by the service levels for emergency response in the region. Almost all emergency response is reliant on volunteer response. The park manager will, on an annual basis, review the emergency response plan and emergency response capabilities with emergency managers in Clackamas and Multnomah Counties. Prior to park opening operations staff will review strategies for coordinating emergency services. This may include staging of specialized equipment, contracts or agreements to provide emergency services, and delineating response areas. While most park rule enforcement issues can be handled by park staff within policy and procedure, there may be an occasion to enlist support from county, state, or federal law enforcement personnel to address issues outside of the jurisdiction of OPRD rules and regulations.

On an annual basis OPRD operations staff will review the enforcement needs of the park to identify areas where additional law enforcement resources are needed. Where appropriate, OPRD will pursue additional resources to respond to on the ground conditions.

4.6 Staffing

The park is currently staffed with a full-time Park Manager, Office Coordinator (shared with Milo McIver Management Unit), a district Park Ranger: Interpretive Coordinator, one Park Ranger: Maintenance and Natural Resource, one Park Ranger: Interpretive, and three seasonal Park Ranger Assistants; one focused on interpretive and two on maintenance.

4.7 Volunteers

A standardized agency-wide mechanism was implemented to more accurately assess the ratio of staff to work. After careful asset inventorying, task analysis and maintenance management scheduling and planning, it was determined that most Oregon State Parks are operating with about 40 percent of the staff needed to ideally run the parks. While most park managers knew this intuitively, they now have the means to measure it. Over the years, park staff had already creatively addressed the problem. One way was through the use of volunteers.

Tryon Creek SNA is a unique state park in that the Friends of Tryon Creek play such an integral role in the operations of the park. From its initial planning and opening as a state park the Friends have been instrumental in retaining Tryon Creek's natural qualities and these efforts remain strong to this day. Their mission is to "connect people to this important natural area, share our passion for the wonders of nature and inspire environmental stewardship in all". This is executed by the organization of nature day camps, family and adult classes, events, partnering with other organizations, self-guided activities and strategic outreach throughout the community. Their 10-person staff operates out of the Nature Center. The Friends also operate as advisors to park operations, natural resource protection and management, and maintain a board of directors.

A variety of other volunteers such as Adopt-A-Park groups, scout troops, conservation nonprofits and corrections crews also prove their worth when applied in conjunction with OPRD's goals to benefit the park. Volunteer management is a specifically assigned duty to prevent communication issues and ensure effective use.

4.8 Park Maintenance Routines

Park staff are trained and expected to competently use the OPRD proprietary maintenance management system known as HUB or a similar system if superseded, in scheduling and management of maintenance activities. The park manager ensures that new facilities do not create an undue sense of confidence that could adversely impact compliance with OPRD maintenance standards. Additionally, the park manager and district manager are charged with inventorying assets, creating task lists and cooperatively developing a maintenance management plan and schedule for the management unit, using agency established methods to ensure standardization of practices.

4.9 Project Selection

The park manager will follow the prescribed OPRD process for submitting project proposals, where projects are selected competitively based on their overall merit and benefit to the park, management unit, park region and ultimately the agency. Project types may include those funded by various OPRD sources such as Preventative Maintenance, Facilities Improvement Project, Cabin/Yurt, Natural Resource, Concession, Residence, Business/Trust Account funds, as applicable. With prior authorization regarding small grant limitation and suitable fit, other projects may compete for external grant funding sources. All projects shall conform to the comprehensive plan and goals of the park.

4.10 Project Timing

The park staff and management will be the best resource for ascertaining park use patterns and applying the information to minimize project impacts to visitor use, including clear conveyance of the use patterns to engineering staff. Until the opportunity has passed for accurate assessment, the manager can refer to the description of types of users and likely seasonal use periods described in Section 3 – Recreation as a general guideline and also confer with peer managers within a reasonable proximity such as at Deschutes State Recreation Area.

5. Facility Management Strategies

The following summary of proposed facilities will be built over a period of years following the development of a phasing plan for the park and as funding allows. More detailed descriptions and site plans are found in Chapter 10 and phasing is described in Chapter 11.

Day Use Areas

Tryon Creek SNA Day Use Areas

1. Nature Center – Existing Day Use
2. Arnold-Park – New Trailhead with Parking
3. Iron Mountain – New Trailhead with Parking
4. Trailheads – Existing Walk-In Access

Day use areas and trailheads in the park are primarily designed to encourage and enable recreation activities inside the park. Development of these areas should consider the primary needs of facilitating relevant recreation activities in and around the day use area, as well as access to the activities inside the park. While some access areas are primary entries to the park, development should be limited around all areas and in consideration of natural resource preservation.

5.1 *Retain the current Day Use areas in the park, enhancing the facilities to better support a variety of recreation activities, especially for education purposes and encouraging a wider audience from the metropolitan catchment area.*

5.1.1 *Enhance the Core Day Use area to improve orientation, better serve youth groups visiting the park, and ensuring existing visitors have the best facilities to improve their experience of the park*

- Name the Day Use Area.
- Improve arrival sequence including entrance sign, turn lane, main entrance and parking area.
- Re-route design of main entrance bike/hike trail from Terwilliger to reduce crossing parking lot.
- Design arrival trail to catch visitors after they arrive at the park.
- Create gathering area that frees Nature Center from congestion.
- Improve picnicking opportunities by providing tables with sun and covered options.
- Create a Natural Play Area.
- Provide art displays based on natural materials and new lenses for nature.
- Improve bike rack situation with potential for eco-roofed bike storage.
- Better demarcate trailheads by creating two, North and South, trailheads.
- Nature Center – Name building Trillium Nature Center.
- Fund final design and construction of exhibit displays for Nature Center (as per interpretive plan).
- Use space differently and maximize use; potential for relocating equipment storage room on main floor (consider small addition).
- Options for second floor:
 - Additional office space necessary and changes needed to floor plan
 - Retain current second floor layout
- Retain current classroom use and design
- Create lodge type area on east wing of main floor (fire place, comfortable seating, etc.)
- Extend back deck for multi-purpose use (classroom, talks, picnic, gathering place for groups)

5.1.2 *Improve road access to Core Day Use area*

- Improve road design for better visitor orientation
- Clearly define junctions and intersections
- Prevent parking along shoulders
- Provide walking path from Terwilliger
- Improve signage at park entry

5.1.3 Redesign Core Day Use area parking area.

- 100 to 120 spaces – Preserve as much forest canopy as possible and formalize parking for current shoulder usage
- Include for all options: Alternatives to cover events –
 - Reconfigure parking areas
 - Bus stop and bike options
 - Partner with Lewis and Clark and other neighbors
 - Review satellite trailhead parking options in park
 - Use of permeable surfaces in parking area like recent parking improvements at Lewis and Clark
 - Add suggestions for equestrian use times to park website to ease parking congestion
 - Describe background and reasoning for parking rules to website (safety, access for all, etc.)

5.1.4 Improve the Iron Mountain Trailhead

- Increasing parking lot to accommodate 20 vehicles (currently 5 max)
- Provide clearly marked spaces and improve entrance/exit to Terwilliger Blvd.
- Redesign trailhead to better orientate visitors

5.1.5 Design adaptive uses for Arnold-Park property while retaining the historic character

- Develop buildings and grounds to retain historic character, but allow for new use:
 - Interpretive displays, exhibits and programs that tell the story of “Park” family, period life styles, rustic living
 - Use as offices for outdoor/environmental education schools program or residence for park host
 - Backcountry cabin experience tied to wilderness skills program
 - Residency program with opportunities to develop potential partnerships, example = research field station.
- Interpret history of cabins
- Connect to park trail system
- New road access along old road bed

5.1.6 Options for making maintenance facility more efficient, enhancing security and preserving park equipment:

- Retain existing structures, but improve layout
- New wing for parking bays
- Replace existing shop to include parking bays, chemical area, storage, office
- Increasing overflow parking by using part of shop yard for staff
- Better separation of manager residence from shop yard



Photo 8.3 Old Main Trail

Site Amenities

Guidelines follow for management of site amenities throughout the park. While the goals reflect strategies for all State Parks, conditions specific to the conditions at Tryon Creek SNA are described below. A comprehensive description of all park facilities can be found in Chapter 10.

5.2 Trails

The impressive forested valley and stream areas encourage visitors to want to explore and the park allows the potential opportunity for up to 15 miles of hiking, equestrian and bike trails. Trail development impacts have been kept to a minimum by limiting new trail development throughout the park, with exceptions where a great need is required. Cultural and natural resource impacts should be a primary consideration in placement of trails. OPRD has created a series of trail standard guidelines that is currently being adopted and the trail updates proposed in this comprehensive plan present a new opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of these standards, since the trails are so heavily used and have a dedicated volunteer staff that maintains them.

Two-year evaluations of all trails in Tryon Creek SNA are suggested for erosion, aesthetic and functional considerations, especially given the consideration of ecological health to the creek area. Trails that reflect signs of stress should be conditionally assessed using the OPRD trail standards and considered for re-routes or closures depending on their potential impacts on the ecological health of the natural area. The findings of the suggested two-year evaluations should be recorded using GIS to best manage and monitor the maintenance of the trail system over time and trail projects should be managed in alignment with the park Natural Resource Management Plan.

Several locations on the trail act as informal nature exploration areas, including hollowed tree snags and uprooted trunks. All of these informal off-trail areas are keenly managed by park staff so impacts are not felt in the surrounding vegetation and remain aesthetically pleasing to trail users. These occurrences are important as OPRD develops programs for active natural interpretation and especially in the context of an urban natural area since they provide opportunities for nature play and unscripted learning. While encouraged, increased monitoring and ingenuity in managing these moments along the trail should be continued.

Retain existing trail structure while considering ways to improve trail management

- Create trail management plan for park that considers all aspects of maintenance and develops standards for bi-annual conditional assessment based on OPRD trail standards
- Improve trailheads to better inform public of park issues and opportunities
- Review local and regional trail connections
- Realign bike trail at Core Day Use area to fit with new design concept
- Review trail alignment and seasonal closures pending resource studies
- Reiterate trail solution under Boones Ferry Road
- Access new designs for increased all-abilities access, with alternative options than existing trail
- Design trail etiquette signs for equestrian and pedestrian trail overlap areas
- Offer introduction to equestrian safety for partner interpretive and education programs that make use of trails to promote safe interactions between children's activities and equestrians in throughout park.

5.3 Signage

Besides OPRD sign standards, sign design should adhere to the same themes as buildings, site furnishings, roads and parking at Tryon Creek. While necessary for providing direction to visitors, interpretation and safety, the scenic values of the park infer that “less is more” would be an appropriate maxim to follow in sign placement.

Review and overhaul current park signage to improve orientation, information and education opportunities:

- Develop a sign plan for the park to improve orientation, delivery of information and interpretation/education
- Build new entrance monument to main day use area (single)
- Build new monument in day use core area (for photographs)
- New design for trailheads to enhance thresholds at trailheads around park boundary

5.4 Landscape Management

Management of the landscape in general will be influenced and impacted by the following classifications and designations: City of Portland and City of Lake Oswego Bureau of Environmental Services, Multnomah and Clackamas County jurisdiction, and State Waterway Protection. These classifications and designations were a primary consideration in park design and should be the foremost consideration for the park manager in planning for the future.

5.5 Buildings and Site Furnishings

Designs and locations strongly consider and are compliments to the natural condition of the property. This includes minimizing visual impact, limiting development and complimenting local vernacular, all while providing economy, function and ease of maintenance, as was dictated by field staff input during design and engineering. Universal accessibility, ADA compliance and sustainability were and should continue to be significant considerations also. The park manager shall ensure any future development or projects adhere to the same ethics.

5.6 Roads and Parking

The design and location goals for additional roads and parking have been heavily considered for low impact on the natural environment of the park. Asphalt paving and extensive road development were minimized, and it is suggested that permeable asphalt be used in additional paving projects. The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration’s Flexibility in Highway Design and the National Park Service’s Park Road Standards are both helpful resources to the park manager in continuing this minimalist approach.

5.7 Fences

Generally fencing should be as inconspicuous and unobtrusive as possible. The materials should be fitting for the application such as use of high tensile wire fence on “T” posts to repair or replace like materials adjacent to privately-owned agricultural land or use of split-rail fence to delineate areas in the park using the local ranch vernacular theme. The ultimate camouflage technique, of course, is to not construct fence unnecessarily.

5.8 Bridges

All park bridges are routinely assessed yearly for safety and routine maintenance. All classification and designations and facility guidelines are inherent considerations. On existing bridges that reflect signs of safety issues, funding for maintenance should be prioritized to decrease the risk of personal injury or catastrophic failure.

5.9 Utilities

Most utilities to the park are limited to development zones of Arnold-Park Cabins and Trillium Nature Center. Additionally, The Cities of Lake Oswego and Portland have several easements for sewer lines and other utilities throughout the park. Routine access to these utilities sometime causes disturbances to the natural resources in the park, especially in the stream corridor. Minimal impact guidelines as well as habitat restoration should continue to be required before, during and after the duration of these projects and strictly adhered to as projects within park boundaries are developed.



Photo 8.4 Permeable Parking Lot at Lewis And Clark College

6. Community Partnerships and Communication

VALUE 5: COMMUNITY

We value how Tryon Creek SNA helps to strengthen the community through its contributions to mental and physical health, urban livability, and public awareness of its benefits.

This section addresses the role of partnerships and communications in park development and operations. Partnership and communication strategies presented here are the result of an intensive community engagement effort designed to identify strategies for the development of public-private and public-public relationships that will support park goals.

Tryon Creek SNA has one of the most extensive volunteer and outreach network out of all State Parks based on its location in a metropolitan neighborhood and historical foundation based on community support. The relationships described below (established and proposed) can be expanded and maintained by these guidelines found in this section.

Tryon Creek SNA Strategic Partnerships

- *City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services* – Stream management and restoration, sewer trunk line lease and management and associated protection and restoration projects, Boones Ferry culvert project, Highway 43 culvert project, trail links to north, boundary and associated land management issues within the City of Portland jurisdiction
- *City of Lake Oswego* – Iron Mountain bridge, feeder sewer line under Iron Mountain Trail management and lease, Nettle Creek restoration and bridge replacement project, boundary and associated land management issues within the City of Lake Oswego jurisdiction
- *Oregon Metro* – Trail links and designs for regional trails, Boones Ferry culvert and Highway 43 culvert projects, Management of Nettle Creek restoration and bridge replacement project
- *Friends of Tryon Creek* – Over all support and fulfillment of environmental education and interpretation goals and objectives, public outreach and relations, natural resource management, trails maintenance, volunteer coordination and direction, visitor services, fund raising, Highway 43 culvert project and various other projects
- *Tryon Creek Watershed Council* – Natural resource management, invasive exotic control, Nettle Creek restoration and bridge replacement project, Highway 43 culvert project, Boones Ferry culvert project, and associated projects, citizen science stream surveys
- *Portland State University* – Various research projects, Capstone classes, experiential learning.
- *West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District* – Various natural resource management issues, sponsorship of volunteer invasive exotic control, awareness and outreach regarding noxious weeds

- *Oregon Equestrian Trails* – Equestrian trail and parking area management
- *Valley View Riders* – Equestrian trail and parking area management
- *United States Fish & Wildlife Service* – Stream quality, fish surveys, Highway 43 culvert project
- *Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife* - Stream quality, fish surveys, Highway 43 culvert project, Nettle Creek restoration and bridge replacement project
- *Tryon Creek Community Farm* – Conservation easement management, Boones Ferry parking management, joint public tours
- *National Association of Interpretation* – Certified Interpretive Guide Train the Trainer courses.

Partners Involved in Specific Projects

- *Oregon Department of Transportation* – Highway 43 culvert project
- *City of Portland Department of Transportation* – Boones Ferry culvert project
- *Southwest Trails* – Boones Ferry culvert project and trail connections north
- *Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District* – Highway 43 culvert project
- *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* – Highway 43 culvert project
- *Union Pacific Railroad* – Highway 43 culvert project
- *Oregon Department of Justice* – Highway 43 culvert project
- *REI* – Series of outdoor skills classes
- Potential or Future Partnerships
- *Intertwine* – Green space and park connections and outreach for trail projects, possible grants for restoration projects
- *TriMet* – Bus service to the main entrance to the park
- *Southwest Neighborhoods Inc.* – Potential for future awareness of programs, trails and events
- *Lewis & Clark College* – Currently classes use state property for outdoor sessions, possible future joint coordination on invasive control

OPRD and Tryon Creek SNA operations staff will strive to:

- Employ constant, timely, accurate communications.
- Pursue partnerships with public, private, government and nonprofit organizations.

The above goals will enable the local community and interested parties outside of the region to actively participate in the management choices at Tryon Creek SNA. Through this section, general standards and goals for communications and partnerships are described to guide the development of a relationship between the park and its constituents and neighbors. Regardless of these guidelines, OPRD staff should always seize opportunities that fulfill the basic purpose and goals of the park outlined in previous sections.

Communications can refer to a variety of methods and media, and for this case shall refer to usual business practices of: personal meetings; news releases; written and electronic correspondence; newsletters; and Internet technologies.

These communications will be used to:

- Attract visitors to and inform visitors about park features and services in a way that leads to highly satisfying experiences.
- Maintain community trust and involvement in park development and operations.
- Build financial and social support for park development and operations.
- Respond to local and regional concerns regarding emergency response and visitor behavior.

Partnerships can be formed on a formal or informal basis and can be comprised of local or extra regional interests.

Generally, partnerships will be created to:

- Achieve actions related to the natural, cultural, recreational or scenic goals of the park (Chapter 3).
- Increase operational effectiveness through a reduction of expenditures or staff time required to operate the park.
- Through highest and best use of park resources help other organizations and agencies achieve community goals that compliment park goals and staff effectiveness.

Measures for Successful Communications

OPRD maintains standard communication policies for communication between Tryon Creek SNA operations staff and other department employees.

The agency will know communications are successful when:

- Few or no neighbors and visitors are surprised by decisions made at the park, or by the conditions of park facilities and features.
- Visitors and neighbors generally support management decisions, and management decisions are amended early in their development thanks to constructive feedback from people outside OPRD.
- Contacts increase from people interested in deeper engagement with the park.
- Day-use visits gradually increase at a rate greater than the population's growth.
- Emergency response is immediate, appropriately scaled for the severity of the event, and successfully resolves or controls the emergency.

Public communication will also follow current policies and procedures, and potentially include the following actions:

Description of Potential Public Communication	Priority	Reviews/Approvals
Timely news releases by fax and email to formal and informal media outlets on issues related to park development, opening or closure of public opportunities, and important advances in natural or cultural resource protection	1	Operations, OPRD IT, Public Services
Website presence that promotes and encourages safe, neighbor-friendly use the park and mass public engagement in park stewardship	1	Operations, OPRD IT, Public Services
Integration with local emergency response communication system	2	Operations, Forestry, Local Emergency Managers, OPRD contracting
An always-on phone or computerized system conveying status information on key park features	2	Operations, Public Services, RNW, IT

Community Partnership and Communication Strategies

6.1 Community Interaction

Resource Management Partners – Extensive assessment and restoration work has been initiated in cooperation with partners and the park manager should place much emphasis on continuing to build positive, mutually beneficial relations with them.

6.2 Neighbors

OPRD conducts outreach to the community during park development or planning, but a number of factors have led project staff to an elevated level for Tryon Creek SNA. Some of the factors include the historical neighborhood relationship with Tryon Creek, reducing sedimentation in the watershed, weeds and land stewardship. The outreach efforts included additional public meetings during the planning process, formation of specific subcommittees to deal with specific issues and even creation of a park specific website with the ability to constantly receive public input via blogs or email. It will be of the utmost importance for the park manager to continue these outreach efforts fostering positive neighbor relations, ensuring the parks continued integration into the community .

6.3 Intergovernmental

The following agencies have interests in the park and specific efforts have been made to develop positive relations with them: City of Portland, City of Lake Oswego, Clackamas County, Multnomah County. The park manager should continue these efforts and be aware of other potential similar partners with mutual interests.



6.4 Education

Tryon Creek SNA is mandated to serve as an outdoor education school for the community and Oregon in general and it has a remarkable precedent of maintaining this mission. The capability to suit additional educational needs, such as outdoor education is encouraged. Partnerships with local schools and colleges are established and will likely continue to develop.

6.5 Measures for Successful Partnerships

OPRD has sought to engage the public in the development of Tryon Creek SNA. Partnerships and partnership opportunities are an integral element of an active and robust community engagement strategy. Partnerships have improved public service and resource stewardship. Formal partnerships will conform to department policies and procedures related to signed agreements. Informal partnerships with established nonprofits, government agencies and unaffiliated groups are also encouraged.

OPRD will know successful partnerships are occurring when:

- Key natural, recreational and cultural park projects are completed with ever-increasing involvement by organized and informal volunteers.
- Partners originate new projects that support park values and goals.
- Grants dollars increase each biennium as a proportion of the park budget.
- Partners generally support management decision, and management decisions are amended early in their development thanks to constructive feedback from outside organizations.
- Partners rise to appropriately defend the park and its management decisions.

7. Environmental Sustainability Management Strategies

Understanding OPRD's Environmental Policy

As a natural resource and recreation agency, OPRD has a special and unique role in preserving and protecting the natural and cultural resources of Oregon. The Oregon State Parks Commission has affirmed this responsibility by adopting an Environmental Policy. The Natural Resource and Environmental Policy (COM 20-0 Adopted August 2004) is a statement of the importance of OPRD's role in resource protection.

The environmental policy provides the staff and volunteers of OPRD with a broad understanding of the agency's interaction with the environment. The understanding is essential to the recognition of process or service improvement. The environmental policy is meant to be a living document that recognizes the progress of the agency toward achieving the policy guidelines, and responding to new challenges that may face the department. The policy and policy guidelines will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis as part of the improvement process built into the Environmental Management System (EMS).

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Environmental Policy

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will plan, design, and implement its operations, business systems, and resource management practices consistent with the principles of conservation, energy efficiency, and sustainability.

- 7.1** Manage OPRD properties to preserve and protect Oregon's natural landscape; manage park properties to enhance the natural ecological processes that sustain natural resources in balance with current and future outdoor recreation interests.
- 7.2** Manage natural resources in a manner emphasizing ecosystem-based approaches that protect the integrity of the natural environment and promote ecosystems that favor biodiversity, reduce ecological fragmentation, and promote native species.
- 7.3** Comply with all applicable federal, state, and local rules and regulations, and seek ways to avoid or minimize ecological impacts that may occur as part of the implementation of operations and business systems. Where such impacts are unavoidable, OPRD will mitigate for such impacts.
- 7.4** Develop and maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to conserve resources, reduce impacts to the environment, and implement sustainable operational policies and procedures.
- 7.5** Implement energy conservation and efficiency measures in all aspects of agency operations including; facility design and maintenance, fleet and transportation systems, and department administration.
- 7.6** Incorporate sustainable practices into all facets of the department's mission, particularly: facility and site planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance; grant programs; contracting and procurement, and visitor programs and services.
- 7.7** Reduce, and where possible eliminate, hazardous chemicals and toxic materials in construction, operations and maintenance activities.
- 7.8** Reduce the department's contribution to atmospheric carbon dioxide and other pollutants.
- 7.9** Create systems to eliminate waste in department operations.
- 7.10** Train staff and volunteers to reinforce the agency's commitment to resource stewardship and conservation and to gain compliance with adopted practices.

7.11 Conduct educational and interpretive activities to inform and inspire visitors and local communities to reduce their impact on the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

7.12 Support sustainable practices that strengthen local economies.

7.13 Promote these guidelines to others for their adoption and use and, when working with others as partners in joint activities.

Creating an Environmental Management Plan

All State Parks are required to create an Environmental Management Plan. The Environmental Management System standards set out in ISO 14001 require the development of programs to ensure that the organization address the issues identified in the aspects and impacts analysis, legal and other requirements, and the objectives and targets. The intent of these programs is to ensure that the organization is systematizing the actions necessary to ensure environmental performance. In most cases, this is where the majority of the EMS work will take place.

The environmental management plan is comprised of seven specific elements:

- Communication
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Training
- Operational Controls
- Document / Record Control
- Emergency Response
- Monitoring and Measurement

Some forms of these seven elements already exist in the organization. Using existing policies, programs, or systems to help facilitate the development of an environmental management plan is a good way to help staff and volunteers understand the plan and decrease resistance to change.

An environmental management plan specific to Tryon Creek SNA will need to be established by Park Management. As a resource, a sample environmental management plan is available. The plan should not be seen as an extra requirement or additional work. Instead, the plan organizes work that is, in most cases, already being done. For detailed information about the OPRD's Environmental Policy, please see the *Environmental Management Plan: Sustainability Toolbox*.



10

Management Zones

Chapter Ten Highlights

***Tryon Creek State Natural Area
Management Zones:***

- 1. Day Use***
- 2. Trailheads***
- 3. Trails***
- 4. Forest***
- 5. Reserve***
- 6. Creek***



Photo 10.1 Terry Riley Bridge

Managing Our Parks

Our State Park system represents an extremely diverse set of landscapes, cultural artifacts, and natural resources. The variety of experiences found in Oregon State Parks are what compels visitors to them over and over again since the department was established in 1921. Therefore it is easy to understand why universal park management strategies are complicated to establish across the state. Yet there is a practical need for universal management strategies in operating a statewide agency.

Through investigating the resources that State Parks are mandated to protect within its mission, a parkwide management strategy that is similar across the state, but flexible to the conditions we find on the ground has been developed. Assessments are made across the entire park based on historical, geographical, biological, and cultural surveys to establish the values of a park. As a result, four categories of resources — natural (plants, animals, soils and water), scenic, cultural and recreational — are prioritized in the planning process.

Management Zones within each park are established from these assessments and this chapter describes the priorities for each. Within each management zone, information on strategies, concepts and guidelines are described and management actions are then listed for that portion of the park. Using management zones as a guide, staff can make more informed decisions about how best to assign their time and budget to achieve park goals and realize values. Management zones guide the work to be completed in each area.

The zones described in this chapter were created to preserve and improve the park's most important natural, scenic, recreational and cultural resources. Management zones serve as a tool for park staff to determine which resources are in need of extra consideration. Since natural resource restoration and protection is crucial to delivering quality recreational and scenic experiences, it is present to some degree in every management zone. Even so, there are places particularly well-suited to recreation — especially where human use is already well established. Recreation and natural resource management potentially share priority in those cases. Cultural resources — present in many locations throughout the park — often overlay natural and recreational features and require special attention to integrate their preservation and management into park operations.

Park management zones are the next logical step, following the foundation created in Chapter 7 with identifying Opportunities and Constraints, Values and Goals for Park Management in Chapter 8, and Chapter 9 Park Strategies and Operations. The assessments made in the Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA) comprehensive plan represent the efforts of the first complete natural resource assessment made for any park planning process.

Eight opportunity areas were described in Chapter 7, and each describes natural and recreation priorities in one of three ways: primarily natural, primarily recreational or a mixture of the two. The management zones are based on identifying similar assessment values and recreation opportunity settings across the opportunity areas.

Resource and Visitor Experience Management Focus

The management zones that make up the park define natural resource conservation strategies, recreation intensity, scenic character protection, cultural resource preservation, and operations management. The intent of the park is predominantly focused on natural resources with a recreation component that must lay lightly on the land. For each zone, it is possible to understand the focus for that area in terms of either natural resources or recreation, or a combination there of. Even though the intent for a zone is predominantly focusing on natural resources or recreation, scenic and cultural resources are still always taken into consideration. The table below shows a high to low level of intensity for natural, scenic, cultural and recreation intent for each zone.

OPPORTUNITY AREAS TO MANAGEMENT ZONES



Table 10.1 Combining Opportunity Areas into Management Zones

1. Day Use Management Zone

The Day Use Management Zone is the entrance to the park for the majority of visitors arriving by car. Thus, the Trillium Nature Center serves at the gateway to the park. New enhancements to the day use area include a natural play area, eating and seating areas, stretching areas with benches, and a treehouse. Development in the Day Use area is designed to minimally impact the natural conditions that define Tryon Creek SNA, preserving and celebrating the natural condition of the park.

Parking Lot

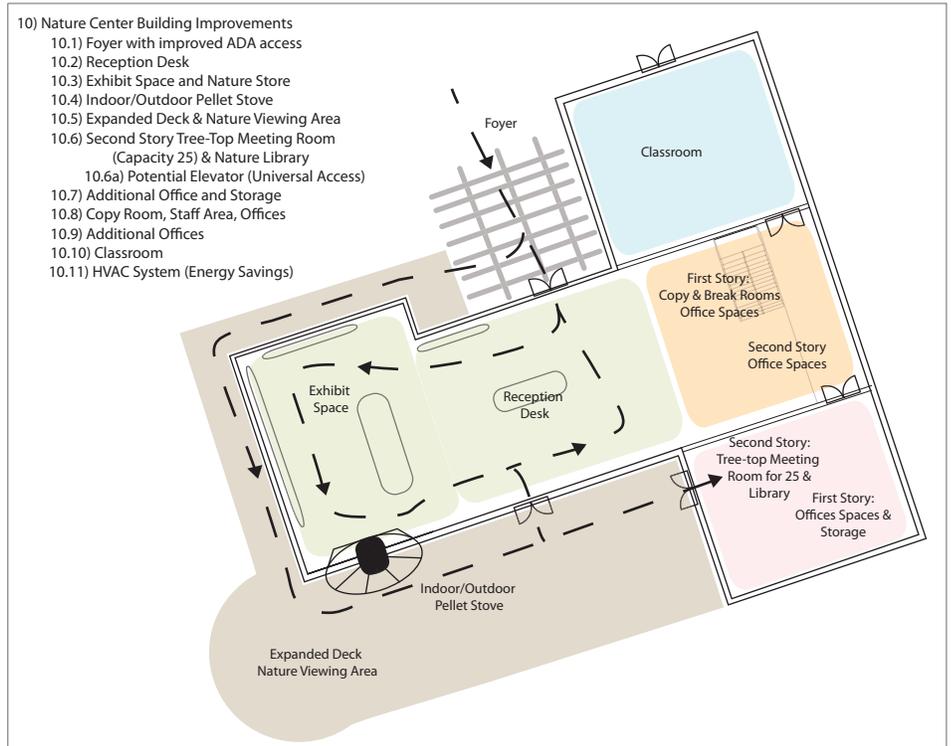
Parking lot improvements are needed to clearly define parking spaces and lanes. Sidewalks and curbs will provide safer access for pedestrians. Designated ADA and bus drop-off areas allow room for cars passing through. The parking area preserves existing trees and maintains the forested character of the day use area. Native plantings throughout the parking area and permeable materials in parking spaces will reduce stormwater runoff into the creek. These plantings are designed as native demonstration gardens, showcasing native planting design to visitors. Small seating areas create a place for runners to stretch in private before heading out on the trails. Separate equestrian parking and loading is retained, and includes the option of making the area open to small vehicle parking during peak park events. Monitoring will occur in the next two years to determine the exact need for equestrian trailer spaces. before final parking lot design. The new ADA equestrian loading should be designed similar to the ramp at Milo McIver State Park and gravel is preferred by equestrians in the parking and loading area. Lighting in the entire parking area and Trillium Trail will improve wayfinding and safety during evening events. Dark-sky compliant lighting will minimize light pollution effects on wildlife and habitat.

Day Use Area

The day use area around the Trillium Nature Center provides many new experiences for visitors, while retaining the existing features that have defined Tryon Creek SNA for decades. In addition to improved trailheads (better orienting people to the trail system) with interpretive elements telling the story of the park, picnic and covered seating areas are provided as well. A larger seating circle accommodates school groups and functions as an outdoor classroom. A new restroom is located within easy walking distance. In the forested area adjacent to the Nature Center a restoration planting demonstrates forest management strategies.

Nature Play Loop

The decision to include a natural play area near the Nature Center was a popular idea supported at public meetings, especially as it decreases foot traffic in highly prioritized off-trail restoration areas. Inspired by unscripted moments on the current trail system – uprooted trees and branches that provide climbing structure and places to explore, gnarls that offer increased exploration and lessons on the natural forest cycle – the proposal creates a series of varied natural play elements as opposed to one larger area that has the potential to disrupt neighboring activities in the day use area. This loop is located to the north of the nature center instead of the south, where it might block scenic forest views from the Trillium Nature Center and Glen Jackson picnic shelter. Themes for the nature play elements could include animals found in the park. For example the northeastern-most station provides an opportunity to educate children about horses and how best to approach when they see them in the park. A treehouse on this trail would provide an unencumbered view of the valley below.



Map 10.3 Nature Center Improvements

Trillium Trail

Slight modifications to the Trillium Trail include kiosks providing opportunities for nature-based art in the park and environmental literacy projects allowing visitors to understand the park and its natural elements in imaginative ways.

Trillium Nature Center and The Friends of Tryon Creek

The Trillium Nature Center will see a number of improvements to the entrance and wayfinding elements to orient visitors to the park. Improved circulation inside the building allows people to more easily find the Nature Store, library, or exhibits. The addition of a pellet stove warms the center in winter and enhancements to the outside deck area allows people to view the forest and wildlife below. Office spaces in the building are reorganized and a second story expansion includes a truly unique tree-top meeting space with extraordinary views of the forested valley, ideal for event rentals. While an elevator allowing ADA access to the room, may not be necessary according to current codes describing the existing with of the stairway the option should be explored to provide universal access.

Maintenance Yard and Staff Housing

Existing facilities will be rehabilitated to provide more storage space and additional bays for maintaining equipment.

1.0 Day Use Management Zone - Resource and Visitor Assessment Values					
Zone	Natural Resources	Cultural & Scenic	Visitor Experiences	Programs	Facilities
1. Day Use	Medium	Low	High	High	High

1.1 Natural Resources

Most visitors first view the natural beauty present at Tryon Creek SNA when entering the park in the Day Use Management Zone. Like the Northern Opportunity Zone, nearly all invasives have been removed from this zone through volunteer efforts. Continued monitoring and careful attention during future development projects will be crucial to continued ecological health for this zone.

1.1 Day Use Management Zone - Natural Resources (For Locations See Map 10.2)			
Forest Restoration Projects			
Map Code	Desired Future Condition	Size / Quantity	Actions
2	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	9 ac	Remove weeds
Development Projects			
Map Code	Desired Future Condition	Size / Quantity	Actions
6	Developed	21 ac	Remove weeds

1.2 Cultural Resources

The potential for archaeological sites to be found across Tryon Creek SNA is low based on archaeological surveys described in Chapter 3. Given that the park is located near Tryon Creek, it is possible that additional Native American archaeological resources are present. Please reference the Archeological Probability Map in Chapter 3 (Map 3.3), for locations of high probability.

1.3 Visitor Experiences

Additional needs for visitor experiences are recognized in this plan, based on the popularity of current interpretive programs operating out of the Trillium Nature Center and emerging advances in environmental education. Youth Field Trips, Let's Go Birding, and Story and Stroll events have all proven to be extremely popular activities that operate from the Nature Center. Park user surveys, Ranger program summaries, and public comments have shaped programs in a way that represents opportunities for additional recreation activities specific to the Tryon Creek community while also fulfilling State Park goals and objectives.

Top 10 Day Use Management Zone Activities:

1. Trillium Festival
2. Youth Field Trips
3. Trailhead access to running, dog walking, biking, horseback riding, and hiking
4. Outdoor Skills Program
5. Youth Summer Day Camps
6. Story and Stroll
7. Guided Bird Walks /Let's Go Birding
8. Natural Play Area
9. Boy Scout Trail Day
10. Backyard Habitats Program

1.3 Day Use Management Zone - Visitor Experiences	
Description	Status
Outdoor Recreation	
Biking	Retain
Bird or Wildlife Watching	Retain
Dog Walking	Retain
Hiking/Walking	Retain
Horseback Riding	Retain
Native Plant Observation	Retain
Picnicking/BBQ	Retain
Photography	Retain
Outdoor Skills	
Guided Hikes (Including Lets Go Birding, Guided Bird Walks, Saturday Guided Hikes, Twilight Hikes, etc.)	Retain
Outdoor Skills Program	Retain
Environmental Education	
Adult/Family Classes (Incl. Backyard Habitats Program, Landscaping for Conservation, Family Campfire Adventure, Classroom Discovery Days, etc.)	Retain

Junior Rangers	Retain
Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan	Retain
Portland State University Capstone Program	Retain
Youth Field Trips	Retain
Youth Summer Day Camps	Retain
Interpretation	
Ranger Led Programs (Incl. Kids in Nature, Behind the Seasonal Curtain, Story and Stroll)	Retain
Self-Guided Activities (Wildlife Checklists, Plant Detective, etc.)	Retain
Nature Store	Retain
Nature Play Area	New
Panels	New
Displays	New
Exhibits	New
Volunteers/Partners	
Adopt-A-Plot	Retain
Nature Store	Retain
Environmental Literacy Program	Retain
Volunteer Invasive Plant & Ivy removal	Retain
Volunteer Trail Host Program	Retain
Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Retain
Wildlife Sighting Program	New
Bird Nesting Enhancement	New
Events	
Trillium Festival	Retain
First Day Hike	Retain
Owl Fest	Retain
Scenic Resources	
Wooded Creek Valley to west of Nature Center	State Scenic Review, Possible Federal Wild and Scenic review
Tributary below Trillium Trail overlooks	State Scenic Review, Possible Federal Wild and Scenic review

1.4 Administrative Programs

Characteristics of the Trillium Management Zone will influence and dictate administrative program functions, include Recreational Opportunity Setting category Class 3: Rural setting designation. Operations will include:

1.4 Day Use Management Zone - Administrative Programs	
Focus	Description
Natural Resource	Manage weeds as prescribed in Natural Resource Management Plan, including manual and chemical treatments followed by planting of native or interim species, especially along trails. Continue implementing natural restoration strategies focusing on riparian areas and sites impacted by invasive species and stormwater. Manage partnerships with volunteers including FOTC and the Tryon Creek Watershed Council.
Cultural Resource	Protect known cultural and archaeological resources. Participate in agency provided training. Ensure all projects adhere to cultural clearance request process. Facilitate further professional monitoring and surveying of park land for better identification and inventorying of resources. Conduct park activities and interpretation in a manner that furthers these goals and prevents adverse impacts.
Visitor Experiences	While occasional, interpretation will be used by staff when encountering visitors in this management zone to educate on safety and reducing impacts on the land.
Scenic Resources	Preserve viewsheds (from the Nature Center, Glen Jackson Picnic Shelter and Trillium Trail Overlooks) and additional viewing opportunities for viewing access.
Facilities	Maintain park amenities to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department standards, using a park specific Maintenance Management Plan and HUB. Amenities include but are not limited to day use area, picnic facilities, restrooms, landscaping, fence, signs, trails, potable water system, septic system.

Description	Status	Size/ Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
4.6) Core Paths - 4' wide (Sidewalk around lot and paved paths around Nature Center)	New	1,488 lf	City of Portland DEQ
4.7) Asphalt road from entry to parking lot/ trailhead - 20' wide	Maintenance: Major	500 lf	City of Portland Road/street jurisdiction & DEQ
4.8) Signs: Parking lot signage, markings	New	1 ea	n/a
4.9) Signs: Wayfinding signage	New	6 ea	n/a
5) Native-scape Demonstration Garden	New	1,500 sf	City of Portland DEQ
6) Bike Parking with personal storage	New	15 spaces	n/a
7) Nature Center Entrance	Maintenance: Major	5,000 sf	City of Portland DEQ
8) Friend's Circle Trailhead	New	1,000 sf	City of Portland DEQ
9) North Trailhead	New	900 sf	City of Portland DEQ
10) Nature Center Building Improvements (See Map 10.4)	(See Below)	6,000 sf	City of Portland
10.1) Foyer with improved ADA access	Maintenance: Major	1,500 sf	City of Portland
10.2) Reception Desk	New	1 ea	City of Portland
10.3) Exhibit Space and Nature Store	Maintenance: Major	1,000 sf	City of Portland
10.4) Indoor/Outdoor Pellet Stove	New	1 ea	City of Portland
10.5) Expanded Deck & Nature Viewing Area	Maintenance: Major	2,000 sf	City of Portland
10.6) Second Story Tree-Top Meeting Room (Capacity 25) & Nature Library	New	600 sf	City of Portland
10.6a) Elevator (ADA)	New	1 ea	City of Portland
10.7) Additional Office and Storage	New	600 sf	City of Portland
10.8) Copy Room, Staff Area, Offices	Maintenance: Major	600 sf	City of Portland
10.9) Additional Offices	New	600 sf	City of Portland
10.10) Classroom	Maintenance: Major	800 sf	City of Portland
10.11) HVAC System	New	1 ea	City of Portland DEQ
11) Seating Areas	New	5 ea	City of Portland DEQ
12) Day-Use Area Fee machine	New	2 ea	Public Review, Committee Approval. Legislative Approval
13) Restoration with Native Planting	New	15,000 sf	n/a
14) Glenn Jackson Picnic Shelter	Maintenance: Cyclical	1258 sf	n/a
15) Additional Restroom	New	1 ea	City of Portland DEQ
16) Natural Play Area Stations	New	5,000 sf	City of Portland DEQ
17) Environmental Education Seating Circle	New	1,000 sf	City of Portland DEQ
18) 5 Picnic Structures and 8 Picnic Tables	New	8 ea	City of Portland DEQ
16.1) Core Paths - 3' wide: dirt (to Structures / Tables)	New	150 lf	City of Portland DEQ
19) Tree House	New	1 ea	City of Portland
20) Ruth Pennington Trillium Trail & Educational Loop (All-Abilities 0.35 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	1,921 lf	n/a
20.1) Art in the Park Kiosks & Environmental Literacy Stations	New	300 sf	City of Portland DEQ
20.2) Signs: Art in the Park Kiosks	New	6 ea	n/a

Description	Status	Size/ Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
20.3) Viewing Platforms Trillium Trail	Maintenance: Cyclical	950 sf	n/a
21) Bike Trail	New	880 lf	City of Portland DEQ
22) Maintenance Yard	(See below)		n/a
22.1) Maintenance Yard Surfacing	Maintenance: Major	15,000 sf	City of Portland DEQ
22.2) New Maintenance Bays	New	650 sf	City of Portland DEQ
22.3) Maintenance Shop	New	1,000 sf	City of Portland DEQ
22.4) Landscape Storage Bins	Maintenance: Major	1,000 sf	City of Portland DEQ
22.5) Landscaping: Screening around edges of maintenance and staff area	New	14,375 sf	n/a
22.6) Access Road to Yard: 12 ' wide	Maintenance: Major	300 lf	City of Portland DEQ
23) Manager's Residence 2011-2013	Maintenance: Major	1,339 sf	City of Portland
23.1) Road from Staff Housing to Terwilliger	Maintenance: Major	100 lf	City of Portland DEQ
Utilities			
Security System for Nature Center	New		n/a
Nature Center Fire Protection System	Maintenance: Major		City of Portland
Amenities			
Benches (Natural Material)	New	12 ea	n/a
Bollards	New	6 ea	n/a
Fencing: Wood	New	1,060 lf	n/a
Fencing: Security (Maintenance Yard)	New	25 lf	n/a
Drinking Fountains	New	2 ea	n/a
Lighting - Dark Sky Approved (Parking Area and Trillium Trail)	New	22 ea	n/a
Shoebrush	New	1 ea	n/a
Trillium Management Zone Maintenance			
Utilities			
Internet/phone service to Nature Center	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	City of Portland
Utilities - General Nature Center (Electrical/Water)	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	City of Portland
Internet/phone service to Residence / Maintenance Yard	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	City of Portland
Utilities - General Residence / Maintenance Yard (Electrical/Water)	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	City of Portland



Photo 10.3 Ducks in Tryon Creek

2.0 Trailheads Management Zone

In order to meet the park strategy of dispersing visitors throughout Tryon Creek SNA, additional trailheads and parking areas are needed. The development of the new trailheads support visitors who may choose to avoid crowds at the day use area during peak times. The Arnold-Park cabin parking lot is sited on a wide clearing of blackberry bramble with low natural resource value, directly adjacent to Boones Ferry Road, and accommodates people visiting the park from the west. The Iron Mountain Trailhead provides a similar opportunity.

Resource and Visitor Assessment Values					
Zone	Natural Resources	Cultural & Scenic	Visitor Experiences	Programs	Facilities
2. Trailheads	Medium	High	High	High	High

2.1 Natural Resources

In areas, ecological health of the management zone is degraded. Blackberry vines are predominant in some areas, while clearings of trees exist in others. These areas have been prioritized for development, as opposed to older forested sections of the zone. This is true especially close to the stream in the Arnold-Park cabins area. Trails, roads, and other developed areas are designed in accordance with natural resource goals for the zone.

2.1 Trailheads Management Zone - Natural Resources (For Locations See Map 10.2)					
Development Projects					
Map Code	Desired Future Condition	Size / Quantity	Actions		
1	Developed	4 ac	Monitor		
Forest Restoration Projects					
Map Code	Desired Future Condition	Size / Quantity	Actions		
2	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	6 ac	Remove Weeds		
14	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	5 ac	Monitor; Underplant mesic and upland hardwood-dominated areas with shade tolerant conifers such as western red cedar, western hemlock, and grand fir		

2.2 Cultural Resources

Given that the park is located near Tryon Creek, it is possible that additional Native American archaeological resources are present. Please reference the *Archeological Probability Map* in Chapter 3 (Map 3.3), for locations of high probability.

The presence of the Arnold-Park cabins, which were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, makes this area highly culturally significant. The site speaks to the idea of escaping urbanity, living off the grid, and returning to nature. The houses were built in response to crowded city living, and were occupied by a family that chose a relatively rustic lifestyle, the site today provides a rustic setting where Tryon Creek SNA educational programs and training events can take place.

Considerations for cultural use of the Arnold-Park Cabins:

Protect:

- Keep clean
- Post Rules

Interpret:

- Retain "oasis" of natural refuge within urban surroundings
- Place signs with information
- Include site plan and architectural plans
- Include history

Promote:

- Expand Tryon Creek SNA educational events
- Involve Friends of Tryon Creek

Rehabilitate:

- Repair roof and porch
- Meet building and access codes (dependent upon use)

2.2 Trailheads Management Zone - Cultural Resources		
Description	Size / Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
Arnold-Park Cabins	2 ea	City of Portland BDS Review, Possible County review

2.3 Visitor Experiences

Trails connecting visitors to the rest of the park from these two trailheads provide experiences to ‘jump’ right into nature at Tryon Creek SNA. At Arnold-Park, there is a unique opportunity to expand interpretation and educational experiences at the historic cabin property. The site of an old barn near the cabins can be used to expand on the story of the families who inhabited the area and their way of life.

Arnold-Park Trailhead

Repairing the cabins and opening them up to the public provides a wealth and variety of opportunities to expand visitor experiences in Tryon Creek SNA. Restoring these cabins highlight the experience of living with nature that shaped the Arts and Craft movement at the beginning of the twentieth century. An ecologist or artist-in-residence devoted to interpretation of Tryon Creek is encouraged as one use for the cabins. Developing historic and thematic interpretive elements that describe the stories of the families that once took up residence in the park is another priority. Complimentary curriculums to those provided at the Trillium Nature Center should be developed with a focus on describing the natural conditions of the park. The smaller cabin will be used as a studio, workspace, or gallery hosting a variety of special park events.

Iron Mountain Trailhead

The Iron Mountain trail is situated along a road used in the collection of wood for charcoal in the Lake Oswego Iron Smelter. Interpretive aspects and materiality of this trailhead will celebrate this local history.

2.3 Trailheads Management Zone - Visitor Experiences	
Description	Status
Outdoor Recreation	
Bird or Wildlife Watching	New
Dog Walking	New
Hiking/Walking	New
Native Plant Observation	New
Sightseeing	New
Photography	New
Outdoor Skills	
Guided Hikes (Including Lets Go Birding, Guided Bird Walks, Saturday Guided Hikes, Twilight Hikes, etc.)	New
Outdoor Skills Program	New
Environmental Education	
Junior Rangers	New
Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan	New
Youth Field Trips	New
Youth Summer Day Camps	New
Ecologist/Artist in Residence	New
Interpretation	
Ranger Led Programs (Incl. Kids in Nature, Behind the Seasonal Curtain, Story and Stroll)	New
Self-Guided Activities (Wildlife Checklists, Plant Detective, etc.)	New
Panels	New
Displays	New
Exhibits	New
Tribal	New
Historic Arnold-Park Cabins	New

Description	Status
Volunteers/Partners	
Adopt-A-Plot	New
Environmental Literacy Program	New
Volunteer Invasive Plant & Ivy removal	New
Volunteer Trail Host Program	New
Volunteer Trail Maintenance	New
Wildlife Sighting Program	New
Bird Nesting Enhancement	New

2.4 Administrative Programs

Characteristics of the Trailheads Management Zone will influence and dictate administrative program functions, include Recreational Opportunity Setting category Class 3: Rural setting designation. Operations will include:

2.4 Trailheads Management Zone - Administrative Programs	
Focus	Description
Natural Resources	Manage weeds as prescribed in Natural Resource Management Plan, including manual and chemical treatments followed by planting of native or interim species, especially along trails. Continue implementing natural restoration strategies focusing on riparian areas and sites impacted by invasive species and stormwater. Manage partnerships with volunteers including FOTC and the Tryon Creek Watershed Council.
Cultural Resources	Protect known cultural and archaeological resources. Participate in agency provided training. Ensure all projects adhere to cultural clearance request process. Facilitate further professional monitoring and surveying of park land for better identification and inventorying of resources. Conduct park activities and interpretation in a manner that furthers these goals and prevents adverse impacts.
Visitor Experience	While occasional, interpretation will be used by staff when encountering visitors in this management zone to educate on safety and reducing impacts on the land.
Facilities	Maintain park amenities to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department standards, using a park specific Maintenance Management Plan and HUB. Amenities include but are not limited to day use area, picnic facilities, restrooms, landscaping, fence, signs, trails, potable water system, septic system.
Facilities	Develop trails to protect natural resources from visitor impacts while providing trail connectivity and scenic viewing opportunities.
Facilities	Maintain trails to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department standards to ensure safety and prevent erosion.
Facilities	Develop roads to provide safe visitor access while protecting natural resources and complying with scenic requirements.
Facilities	Maintain roads to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department standards to ensure safety and prevent erosion
Manage.	Operate potable water and septic systems, including required testing, in compliance with state law and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department standards and policies. Provide necessary services while ensuring visitor safety and legal compliance.
Manage.	Periodically patrol for rule enforcement and safety including boundary monitoring for encroachment.
Manage.	Reduce wildfire risk by seasonally restricting open fires, establishing fire breaks, training staff and cooperating with local fire, law enforcement and search and rescue agencies. Staff training should include fire prevention, visitor education, fire fighting, evacuation procedures and thorough familiarity with the park emergency plan.
Manage.	Coordinate with public utilities that execute maintenance projects within the management zone boundary.

2.5 Facilities

Arnold-Park Trailhead

The facilities in this zone support the Arnold-Park log homes and its surrounding features. The parking area has been planned away from the curve on adjacent Boones Ferry Road in order to provide a safer entry and exit for vehicles. Additional amenities for the trailhead and parking areas have been suggested, making this an area one could park and visit the rest of the park from, without needing to visit the Nature Center. Low maintenance material and elements is a priority in planning for expanded facilities, especially with limited staff time.

Opening access to these cabins requires additional parking and trails for accessing this remote area of the park, however these elements have been designed to preserve the natural character of the area and the creek that traverses the management zone. Trail design values the natural setting of the zone by bringing people slowly away from the parking area and through the woods as opposed to a more direct route to the cabin.

For information about specific trails that start from trailheads in this zone, please see section 3 of this chapter, Trails Management Zone.

2.5 Trailheads Management Zone - Facilities - Arnold-Park Trailhead (For Locations See Map 10.5)			
Description	Status	Size/ Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
Arnold-Park Trailhead Enhancements			
1) Entrance Sign	New	1 ea	City of Portland; ROW jurisdiction
2) Improved Turning Lane	New	600 sf	City of Portland Road/street jurisdiction & DEQ
3) Permeable Parking Area with Trees Retained and additional Native Planting for 18 vehicles - 2 ADA	New	10,000 sf	City of Portland Road/street jurisdiction & DEQ
3.1 Parking lot landscaping and bio swales,	New	2,050 sf	City of Portland DEQ
3.2 Signs: Parking lot signage, markings	New	1 ea	n/a
4) Trailhead	New	300 sf	City of Portland DEQ
4.1 Interpretive Sign Kiosk	New	1 ea	
5) Arnold-Park Cabin Spur Trail	New	2,246 lf	City of Portland DEQ
6) Roadway to Cabin	Maintenance: Major	384 lf	City of Portland Road/street jurisdiction & DEQ
7) Gates	New	2 ea	n/a
8) Arnold-Park Cabins	Maintenance: Major	3,000 sf	City of Portland
8.1) Park Host in Smaller Cabin	New	1 ea	City of Portland
8.2) Preventative Maintenance to Stabilize Cabins	Maintenance: Preventative	3,000 sf	City of Portland
9) Homestead Kitchen Gardens	New	1,000 sf	n/a
10) Improved Cabin Grounds to Accommodate Potential Events, Art Shows, Demonstration Gardens/Master Gardener/Artist or Ecologist in Residence Facilities	New	2,500 sf	City of Portland
10.1) 2 ADA Accessible Parking Spaces	New	2,000 sf	City of Portland Road/street jurisdiction & DEQ
10.2) Restroom	New	1 ea	City of Portland DEQ
10.3) Picnic Shelter and Benches	New	1 sum	City of Portland
11) Rebuild Barn in Historic Site (Size and Quality of Glen Jackson Picnic Shelter)	New	1,200 sf	City of Portland
12) Old Barn Trail Loop	New	1200 lf	City of Portland DEQ
Utilities			
Utilities - General (Water/Internet/Phone)	Maintenance: Major		City of Portland
Arnold-Park Cabins (Both) Electrical Safety Upgrades	Maintenance: Major		City of Portland
Signage			
Signs: Wayfinding signage	New	2 ea	n/a
Amenities			
Benches	New	12 ea	n/a
Bollards	New	6 ea	n/a
Fencing: Wood	New	500 lf	n/a
Lighting (Parking Area and Cabin) Dark Sky Approved	New	3 ea	n/a
Shoebush	New	1 ea	n/a

Iron Mountain Trailhead

The Iron Mountain trailhead currently facilitates only three vehicles and the adjacent clearing in the woods is an opportunity to expand parking, allowing more visitors to access the park and reducing strain on the Trillium Nature Center. An additional short all-abilities loop is proposed. Low maintenance material and elements are a priority in planning for expanded facilities, especially with limited staff time.

For information about specific trails that start from trailheads in this zone, please see section 3 of this chapter, Trails Management Zone.

2.5 Trailheads Management Zone - Facilities - Iron Mountain Trailhead (For Locations See Map 10.6)			
Description	Status	Size/ Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
Iron Mountain Trailhead Enhancements			
1) Entrance Sign	New	1 ea	City of Lake Oswego; ROW jurisdiction
2) Improved Turning Lane	New	600 sf	City of Lake Oswego Road/street jurisdiction & DEQ
3) Bike Trail Realignment for Safety	Maintenance: Major	200 lf	City of Lake Oswego DEQ
4) Gate	New	1 ea	n/a
5) Permeable Parking Area with Trees Retained and additional Native Planting for 26 vehicles (2 ADA)	New	20,000 sf	City of Lake Oswego Road/street jurisdiction & DEQ
5.1) Parking lot landscaping and bio swales,	New	3,000 sf	City of Lake Oswego DEQ
5.2) Signs: Parking lot signage, markings	New	1 ea	n/a
5.3) Roadway			
6) Trailhead	New	300 sf	City of Lake Oswego DEQ
6.1) Signage	New	1 ea	
7) Bike Parking with personal storage	New	15 spaces	n/a
8) Planted Understory Buffer	New	6,500 sf	n/a
9) South All-Abilities Loop Trail	New	2,059 lf	City of Lake Oswego DEQ
10) Restroom	New	1 ea	City of Lake Oswego DEQ
10.1) Connect to Terwilliger Utilities (Electrical/ Water Sewer)	New	1 ea	City of Lake Oswego DEQ
Signage			
Signs: Interpretive signage kiosks regarding historic iron smelter road. Materials should be considerate of iron smelter history.	New	1 ea	n/a
Signs: Wayfinding signage	New	2 ea	n/a
Site Amenities			
Benches	New	1 ea	n/a
Bollards	New	6 ea	n/a
Fencing: Wood	New	20 lf	n/a
Lighting (Parking Area) Dark Sky Approved	New	2 ea	n/a
Shoebrush	New	1 ea	n/a



Photo 10.4 Vintage Tryon Creek Trail Map

3.0 Trails Management Zone

The Trails management zone is made up of all trails within the park, where a consistent management strategy is needed. The trail system at Tryon Creek SNA has historic roots in lumber roads and horseback and pedestrian trails. Based on day use surveys, input from public meetings, and park staff, it is understood that there is very little for additional trails in the park. The enhanced trails designated in this plan are designed with specific purpose to increase recreation opportunities throughout the park. Regional connections to existing trail networks outside the park, especially the southern end of the Terwilliger Bike Trail in Lake Oswego, should be absolutely prioritized as they arise. Please see the Trail Concepts Map (Map 10.7) for locations.

New Trail Opportunities

1) Arnold-Park Cabin Spur Trail

This trail would provide access from Tryon Creek SNA to the Arnold-Park cabins, while also opening access to additional parking relieving current strains on the nature center. Limiting access to the spur allows it to easily be closed off by the park manager if the need arises.

2) Paget Creek Loop

A recent land acquisition increased park area in the Core zone, near the Englewood Equestrian trail. As part of the transaction a trail was requested in the area that would provide an opportunity to open access to a highly scenic older

growth portion of the park. This trail will allow park visitors to wander off the existing horse route and enter one of the highest quality examples of forest in the park.

3) *South Loop*

The small proposed increase in parking to the Iron Mountain trailhead relieves current strains on the Nature Center and the trails near it. With the flat terrain, near the trailhead a short trail has been proposed that could be an ideal option for an additional all-abilities trail with alternate conditions than the Trillium Trail, as well as a shorter trail for families who want a shorter, less strenuous hike than Iron Mountain.

4) *Marshall Park Trail*

A potential connection to Marshall Park to the north, including a proposed underpass crossing at Boones Ferry Road.

5) *Creek Viewing Platforms*

Platforms can reduce foot traffic off-trail into natural areas and the creek banks, especially as small groups of children collect on the thin trail. Working with a natural resource specialist, specific spots on the Middle Creek Trail (or others as necessary) can be chosen that are under the heaviest impact to the stream, and provide ample opportunity for education. These platforms have the potential to alleviate erosion on the trail and minimize potential trail closures close to the creek.

Trail Rehabilitation Priorities

In addition to these trail additions, it was decided during the planning process that given the concern about natural resource health, especially in areas where there is a concentration of trails, the trail system should be reviewed every two years by teams comprised of the Park Manager, Natural Resource, and Planning staff in order to assess potential erosion, degradation of re-vegetation efforts, areas of increased off-trail activity and other issues surrounding visitor safety and natural resource health. As opposed to incurring the cost, time and additional management needed to close trails, they should be re-routed or closed only if absolutely necessary. Given the history of volunteer efforts, especially in recent years to rehabilitate problem sections of trail, this method of trail management has proved sufficient to solving problems as they arise. Monitoring of trail rehabilitation projects should be prioritized and recorded using GIS. Areas of immediate rehabilitation needs requiring further study identified during the planning process include:

- A) Lewis and Clark Trail
- B) North Creek Trail
- C) Terwilliger Bike Path
Intermittent areas of sliding and erosion, as well as bulges from tree roots (6-8) are current safety hazards to bikers. Rehabilitate trail surfacing.
- D) Intersection Improvements (Middle Creek Trail)
An awkward intersection of five trail segments and creek crossing is an opportunity for simplified alignment and restoration.
- E) Old Main Trail: Grade, Drainage & Bridge Improvements
Sections of reinforcement material should be removed, sewer access lines in the center of the trail could require realignment of the trail, and the Red Fox bridge has been slated for realignment. Erosion and slope issues need to be monitored.
- F) Cedar Trail
- G) South Creek Trail
- H) Terwilliger Bike Path: Re-location
The current Terwilliger Bike Path connection to the nature center should be realigned concurrent with parking improvements.

- I) Red Fox Bridge Major Maintenance
- J) Iron Mountain Bridge Replacement
- K) Stone Bridge Major Maintenance

Please see the Trail Concepts Map (Map 10.7) for locations.

3.0 Trails Management Zone - Resource and Visitor Assessment Values					
Zone	Natural Resources	Cultural & Scenic	Visitor Experiences	Programs	Facilities
3. Trails	High	Low	High	High	Low

3.1 Natural Resources

Trail management practices should aim to protect adjacent natural resources from erosion and increased sediment, as well as visitor impact.

3.2 Cultural Resources

The potential for archaeological sites to be found across Tryon Creek SNA is low based on archaeological surveys described in Chapter 3. Given that the park is located near Tryon Creek, it is possible that additional Native American archaeological resources are present. Please reference the *Archeological Probability Map* in Chapter 3 (Map 3.3), for locations of high probability.

3.3 Visitor Experiences

Because this management zone handles a majority of park visitor experiences nearly all visitor experience activities are facilitated by this zone. Almost all other recreation, interpretation, and other visitor experiences have been described in either the Trillium or Arnold-Park zones, given the large role they currently and potentially play in hosting recreation opportunities. Considering this, the primary visitor experiences that define the trail system are hiking, biking, dog walking, equestrian riding, and running. Additionally, most park programs and environmental education efforts make use of the trails.

3.3 Trails Management Zone - Visitor Experiences (For Locations See Map 10.2)	
Description	Status
Outdoor Recreation	
Biking	Retain
Bird or Wildlife Watching	Retain
Dog Walking	Retain
Hiking/Walking	Retain
Horseback Riding	Retain
Native Plant Observation	Retain
Photography	Retain
Outdoor Skills	
Guided Hikes (Including Lets Go Birding, Guided Bird Walks, Saturday Guided Hikes, Twilight Hikes, Natural History Guided Walks etc.)	Retain
Outdoor Skills Program	Retain
Environmental Education	
Junior Rangers	New
Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan	New
Youth Field Trips	New
Youth Summer Day Camps	New
Interpretation	
Panels	New/Retain

Description	Status
Exhibits	New
New Media	New
Volunteers/Partners	
Environmental Literacy Program	Retain
Volunteer Invasive Plant & Ivy removal	Retain
Volunteer Trail Host Program	Retain
Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Retain
Wildlife Sighting Program	New
Bird Nesting Enhancement	New
Scenic Resources	
Tryon Creek	State Scenic Review, Possible Federal Wild and Scenic review

3.4 Administrative Programs

Characteristics of the Trails Management Zone will influence and dictate administrative program functions, include Recreational Opportunity Setting category Class 2 Natural setting designation, which focuses on preservation of historic ecological conditions found in forested areas of the Willamette Valley. Operations will include:

3.4 Trail Management Zone - Administrative Programs	
Focus	Description
Natural Resources	Manage weeds as prescribed in Natural Resource Management Plan, including manual and chemical treatments followed by planting of native or interim species, especially along trails. Continue implementing natural restoration strategies focusing on riparian areas and sites impacted by invasive species and stormwater. Manage partnerships with volunteers including FOTC and the Tryon Creek Watershed Council.
Cultural Resources	Protect known cultural and archaeological resources. Participate in agency provided training. Ensure all projects adhere to cultural clearance request process. Facilitate further professional monitoring and surveying of park land for better identification and inventorying of resources. Conduct park activities and interpretation in a manner that furthers these goals and prevents adverse impacts.
Visitor Experience	While occasional, interpretation will be used by staff when encountering visitors in this management zone to educate on safety and reducing impacts on the land.
Scenic Res.	Preserve viewsheds (of the creek) and additional viewing opportunities for viewing access.
Facilities	Maintain park amenities to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department standards, using a park specific Maintenance Management Plan and HUB. Amenities include but are not limited to day use area, picnic facilities, restrooms, landscaping, fence, signs, trails, potable water system, septic system, wayside stops, interpretive panels, stairs, bridges and bridge railings.
Facilities	Develop trails to protect natural resources from visitor impacts while providing trail connectivity and scenic viewing opportunities.
Facilities	Maintain trails to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department standards to ensure safety and prevent erosion.
Manage.	Periodically patrol for rule enforcement and safety including boundary monitoring for encroachment.
Manage.	Work with government partners to establish a park emergency plan. Staff training should include fire prevention, visitor education, evacuation procedures and thorough familiarity with the park emergency plan.
Manage.	Coordinate with public utilities that execute maintenance projects within the management zone boundary.



Photo 10.5 Trail Sign

3.5 Facilities

The facilities listed below all support the trail network, whether it be a bridge, signage, or the trails themselves. Detailed information on trail lengths and rehabilitation efforts is listed below.

3.5 Trails Management Zone - Facilities (For Locations See Map 10.7)			
Description	Status	Size/ Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
Trails Management Zone Enhancements			
Trails			
1) Arnold-Park Cabin Spur Trail (Equestrian/Pedestrian 0.91 mile)	New	2,246 lf	City of Portland DEQ
2) Paget Creek Trail (Pedestrian 0.56 mile)	New	1,039 lf	City of Portland DEQ
3) South Loop (Pedestrian/All-ability 0.39 mile)	New	2,059 lf	City of Portland DEQ
4) Marshall Park Trail (Pedestrian 0.56 mile)	New	4,277 lf	City of Portland DEQ
Marshall Park Trail (Boones Ferry Underpass)	New	150 lf	City of Portland DEQ
Signage			
Signs: Interpretive signage kiosks	New	7 sum	n/a
Signs: Wayfinding signage (at junctions)	New	25 ea	n/a
Site Amenities			
Benches	New	10 ea	n/a
Creek Viewing Platform	New	2 ea	n/a
Trail Management Zone Maintenance			
a) Lewis and Clark Trail	Maintenance: Preventative	200 lf	City of Portland DEQ
b) North Creek Trail	Maintenance: Preventative	200 lf	City of Portland DEQ
c) Terwilliger Bike Path Trail Surfacing Rehabilitation	Maintenance: Preventative	Intermittent	City of Portland DEQ
d) Middle Creek Trail Intersection Improvements	Maintenance: Preventative	250 lf	City of Portland DEQ
Middle Creek Trail Landscaping	Maintenance: Preventative	1,000 sf	City of Portland DEQ
e) Old Main Trail (Grade, Drainage, and aesthetic improvements)	Maintenance: Preventative	161 lf	City of Portland DEQ
f) Cedar Trail	Maintenance: Preventative	200 lf	City of Portland DEQ
g) South Creek Trail	Maintenance: Preventative	200 lf	City of Portland DEQ
h) Terwilliger Bike Path (Pedestrian 2.6 miles) Realignment	Maintenance: Major	880 lf	City of Lake Oswego DEQ
i) Red Fox Bridge	Maintenance: Preventative	1 ea	City of Portland DEQ
j) Iron Mountain Bridge Replacement (City of Lake Oswego Design)	New	1 ea	City of Lake Oswego DEQ
k) Stone Bridge (Tryon Nettle Creek Stream Passage)	Maintenance: Preventative	1 ea	City of Lake Oswego DEQ
Bridges			
Bunk Bridge	Maintenance: Cyclical	1 ea	n/a
Terry Riley Bridge	Maintenance: Cyclical	1 ea	n/a
Beaver Bridge	Maintenance: Cyclical	1 ea	n/a
Obie's Bridge	Maintenance: Cyclical	1 ea	n/a
Arch Glulam Bridge	Maintenance: Cyclical	1 ea	n/a
High Bridge	Maintenance: Cyclical	1 ea	n/a
Trails			
Big Fir Loop Trail (Pedestrian 0.69 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	3,115 lf	n/a
Boones Ferry Trail (Equestrian 0.35 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	1,848 lf	n/a
Cedar Trail (Pedestrian 1.11 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	3,864 lf	n/a
Center Trail Loop Trail (Pedestrian 0.49 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	2,587 lf	n/a
Englewood Trail (Equestrian 0.47 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	2,482 lf	n/a

Description	Status	Size/ Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
Fourth Avenue Trail (Pedestrian 0.12 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	634 lf	n/a
Hemlock Trail (Pedestrian 0.33 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	1742 lf	n/a
Iron Mountain Trail (Pedestrian 1.03 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	5,438 lf	n/a
Lewis & Clark Trail (Pedestrian 0.97 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	2571 lf	n/a
Maple Ridge Loop Trail (Pedestrian 0.62 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	3,273 lf	n/a
Middle Creek Trail (Pedestrian 0.19 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	1,022 lf	n/a
North Creek Trail (Pedestrian 0.56 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	1,752 lf	n/a
North Horse Loop (Equestrian 2.06 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	10,877 lf	n/a
Old Main Trail (Pedestrian 0.42 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	2,230 lf	n/a
Red Fox Trail (Pedestrian 0.41 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	2,003 lf	n/a
Terwilliger Bike Path (Bike/Pedestrian 2.6 miles)	Maintenance: Cyclical	13,644 lf	n/a
West Horse Loop Trail (Equestrian 1.04 mile)	Maintenance: Cyclical	5,491 lf	n/a



Photo 10.6 Restoration Project

4.0 Forest Management Zone

The focus for this management zone is on continued conservation and restoration of the forest. The management zone contains several scenic trails that have been enhanced by recent stream restoration projects and invasive species removal projects. Management practices for this zone are focused on preservation of natural resources, around the stream and in the forest. Efforts to reduce invasive species have already been completed in much of the north-eastern part of this zone.

Included in this zone is the Core Opportunity Area located in the center of the park that facilitates the heaviest recreational trail usage in the park as the confluence of several trails close to Tryon Creek. Portions of trail allow some of the closest opportunities to view the creek and a majority of the bridges that cross the creek are found in this zone. The opportunity for education within this area is high due to its proximity to the Trillium Nature Center and the creek, however the ecological health of the park does not necessarily have to suffer in order to provide learning opportunities. Although sections of bank along this waterway are in various stages of degradation as a result of increased sediment loads and off-trail human activity, considerations for allowing people to continue to access the creek have been made in this plan.

Because of their linear shape and similar management practices, specific suggestions for creek and trail management strategies in regard to this zone can be found in each of those respective sections, later in this chapter (See Sections 3 and 6).

4.0 Forest Management Zone - Resource and Visitor Assessment Values					
Zone	Natural Resources	Cultural & Scenic	Visitor Experiences	Programs	Facilities
4. Forest	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Low

4.1 Natural Resources

This area includes is the largest, mostly-forested section of the park. In recent years large portions of this zone were cleared of invasives (ground ivy, blackberry, holly, laurel and hawthorn). Yearly monitoring is necessary to maintain the condition over time. Tracking the removal effort using GIS can lead to increased efficiency in future efforts and the data will help with budgeting and management of future invasive removal projects.

The management of this zone is almost completely focused on restoration of the delicate natural resources found in this management zone and it is among the highest priority for natural resource restoration, behind the Creek Management Zone. The zone directly borders neighborhoods on nearly all sides making the potential for invasive species to continue to establish is high. In addition to invasive species removal, plantings are suggested to reinforce an established native community.

4.1 Forest Management Zone - Natural Resources (For Locations See Map 10.2)			
Forest Restoration Projects			
Map Code	Desired Future Condition	Size / Quantity	Actions
2	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	123 ac	Remove weeds
3	Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest	1 ac	Remove weeds
4	Oregon Ash Swale	2 ac	Remove weeds
5	Sitka Willow Swamp	1 ac	Remove weeds
7	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	4 ac	Monitor
8	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	1 ac	Remove non-native vegetation; Plant bigleaf maple, douglas fir, western redcedar, western hemlock, grand fir, indian plum, california beaked hazelnut, salmonberry

Map Code	Desired Future Condition	Size / Quantity	Actions
10	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	3 ac	Remove weeds; Plant Douglas fir, western hemlock, grand fir, western redcedar, and big leaf maple
11	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	1 ac	Remove Weeds; Plant with trees: western redcedar, western hemlock, grand fir, and Douglas fir. Shrubs: indian plum, california beaked hazelnut.
12	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	1 ac	Remove weeds; Remove non-native trees and plant with Douglas fir, western hemlock, grand fir, and western redcedar.
13	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	4 ac	Remove weeds; Underplant hardwood-dominated areas with western redcedar and lesser quantities of western hemlock and grand fir
14	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	250 ac	Remove weeds; Underplant mesic and upland hardwood-dominated areas with shade tolerant conifers such as western redcedar, western hemlock, and grand fir
16	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	1 ac	Remove weeds; Underplant with western redcedar, and possibly some western hemlock, and grand fir
17	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	1 ac	Monitor; Underplant mesic and upland hardwood-dominated areas with shade tolerant conifers such as western redcedar, western hemlock, and grand fir
20	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	1 ac	Remove weeds; Underplant mesic and upland hardwood-dominated areas with shade tolerant conifers such as western redcedar, western hemlock, and grand fir
21	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood riparian forest	3 ac	Remove weeds; Underplant hardwood-dominated areas with western redcedar and lesser quantities of western hemlock and grand fir
22	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	2 ac	Monitor; Underplant hardwood-dominated areas with western redcedar and lesser quantities of western hemlock and grand fir

4.2 Cultural Resources

The potential for archaeological sites to be found across Tryon Creek SNA is low based on archaeological surveys described in Chapter 3. Given that the park is located near Tryon Creek, it is possible that additional Native American archaeological resources are present. Please reference the *Archeological Probability Map* in Chapter 3 (Map 3.3), for locations of high probability.

4.3 Visitor Experiences

Because this area remains undeveloped, with the exception of a few trails, all current visitor experiences include volunteer invasive plant species removal. Increased programs to survey wildlife and increase habitat have been suggested, including an increase in partnerships with local specialists and Let's Go Birding data collection applications (ie via mobile devices).

For information about specific trails that start from trailheads in this zone, please see section 3 of this chapter, Trails Management Zone, but primary recreation will continue to be hiking and scenic viewing.

4.3 Forest Management Zone - Visitor Experiences	
Description	Status
Volunteers/Partners	
Volunteer invasive plant & ivy removal	Retain
Wildlife sighting program	New
Let's Go Birding	New
Bird nesting enhancement program	New

4.4 Administrative Programs

Characteristics of the Forest Management Zone will influence and dictate administrative program functions, include Recreational Opportunity Setting category Class 2 Natural setting designation, which focuses on preservation of historic ecological conditions found in forested areas of the Willamette Valley. Operations will include:

4.4 Forest Management Zone - Administrative Programs	
Focus	Description
Natural Resources	Manage weeds as prescribed in Natural Resource Management Plan, including manual and chemical treatments followed by planting of native or interim species, especially along trails. Continue implementing natural restoration strategies focusing on riparian areas and sites impacted by invasive species and stormwater. Manage partnerships with volunteers including FOTC and the Tryon Creek Watershed Council.
Cultural Resources	Protect known cultural and archaeological resources. Participate in agency provided training. Ensure all projects adhere to cultural clearance request process. Facilitate further professional monitoring and surveying of park land for better identification and inventorying of resources. Conduct park activities and interpretation in a manner that furthers these goals and prevents adverse impacts.
Visitor Experience	While occasional, interpretation will be used by staff when encountering visitors in this management zone to educate on safety and reducing impacts on the land.
Facilities	Maintain park amenities to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department standards, using a park specific Maintenance Management Plan and HUB. Amenities include but are not limited to day use area, picnic facilities, restrooms, landscaping, fence, signs, trails, potable water system, septic system.
Manage.	Periodically patrol for rule enforcement and safety including boundary monitoring for encroachment.
Manage.	Work with government partners to establish a park emergency plan. Staff training should include fire prevention, visitor education, evacuation procedures and thorough familiarity with the park emergency plan.
Manage.	Coordinate with public utilities that execute maintenance projects within the management zone boundary.

4.5 Facilities

Two easements, especially in the 4th Avenue area exist for this zone and are listed below. In addition to these easements, development is limited to trails in this zone. For information about specific trails that start from trailheads in this zone, please see section 3 of this chapter, Trails Management Zone.

4.5 Forest Management Zone - Facilities			
Description	Status	Size/ Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
Easements			
Conservation Easement granted to Metro, City of Portland and OPRD. It covers the easterly 104 feet of the OSALT property.	Retain	n/a	n/a
Permit-OSALT 4/15/2009 Residential Driveway from Boones Ferry Road	Retain	n/a	n/a

5.0 Reserve Management Zone

The absence of development in this management zone allows it to be designated as a preserve for wildlife habitat. This area is currently traversed by the Terwilliger Bike Path and a portion of the Iron Mountain Trail which makes it the most suitable area in the park to promote increased habitat for wildlife.

5.0 Reserve Management Zone - Resource and Visitor Assessment Values					
Zone	Natural Resources	Cultural & Scenic	Visitor Experiences	Programs	Facilities
5. Reserve	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low

5.1 Natural Resources

The natural resources in this area are of high priority, second only to the Core Opportunity Area and the Creek Management Zone. Little of this area is currently managed for invasive species by volunteers so precedents in the Northern Opportunity Area should be referenced in continued efforts. Additional plantings of native species, as described below should be made throughout the zone to fortify the prescribed condition of this zone.

5.1 Reserve Management Zone - Natural Resources (For Locations See Map 10.2)

Forest Restoration Projects			
Map Code	Desired Future Condition	Size / Quantity	Actions
2	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	25 ac	Remove Weeds
3	Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest	1 ac	Remove Weeds
9	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	3 ac	Remove Weeds; Plant Douglas fir, bigleaf maple, grand fir, red alder, western redcedar, western hemlock, indian plum, California beaked hazel
13	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	10 ac	Remove Weeds; Underplant hardwood-dominated areas with western redcedar and lesser quantities of western hemlock and grand fir
14	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	64 ac	Remove Weeds; Underplant mesic and upland hardwood-dominated areas with shade tolerant conifers such as western redcedar, western hemlock, and grand fir
15	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	1 ac	Remove Weeds; Underplant mesic and upland hardwood-dominated areas with shade tolerant conifers such as western redcedar, western hemlock, and grand fir
21	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	3 ac	Remove Weeds; Underplant hardwood-dominated areas with western redcedar and lesser quantities of western hemlock and grand fir

5.2 Cultural Resources

The potential for archaeological sites to be found across Tryon Creek SNA is low based on archaeological surveys described in Chapter 3. Given that the park is located near Tryon Creek, it is possible that additional Native American archaeological resources are present. Please reference the *Archeological Probability Map* in Chapter 3 (Map 3.3), for locations of high probability.

5.3 Visitor Experiences

Because this area remains undeveloped, with the exception of the trail network all visitor experiences involve maintaining habitat for plant and wildlife species. Additional programs to survey wildlife and increase habitat are recommended, including an increase in partnerships with local specialists and citizen science data collection applications (ie via mobile devices). Given the higher level of focus on natural resources, there are opportunities for interpretive elements in this zone to relate the story of natural resource protection within the park and outside the park.

For information about specific trails that start from trailheads in this zone, please see section 3 of this chapter, Trails Management Zone.

5.3 Reserve Management Zone - Visitor Experiences

Description	Status
Volunteers/Partners	
Adopt-A-Plot	Retain
Volunteer Invasive Plant & Ivy removal	Retain
Wildlife Sighting Program	New
Bird Nesting Enhancement	New

5.4 Administrative Programs

Characteristics of the Reserve Management Zone will influence and dictate administrative program functions, include Recreational Opportunity Setting category Class 2 Natural setting designation. This involves preservation of the historic ecological conditions found in forested areas of the Willamette Valley. Operations will include:

5.4 Reserve Management Zone - Administrative Programs	
Focus	Description
Natural Resources	Manage weeds as prescribed in Natural Resource Management Plan, including manual and chemical treatments followed by planting of native or interim species, especially along trails. Continue implementing natural restoration strategies focusing on riparian areas and sites impacted by invasive species and stormwater. Manage partnerships with volunteers including FOTC and the Tryon Creek Watershed Council.
Cultural Resources	Protect known cultural and archaeological resources. Participate in agency provided training. Ensure all projects adhere to cultural clearance request process. Facilitate further professional monitoring and surveying of park land for better identification and inventorying of resources. Conduct park activities and interpretation in a manner that furthers these goals and prevents adverse impacts.
Visitor Experience	While occasional, interpretation will be used by staff when encountering visitors in this management zone to educate on safety and reducing impacts on the land.
Facility	Maintain park amenities to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department standards, using a park specific Maintenance Management Plan and HUB. Amenities include but are not limited to day use area, picnic facilities, restrooms, landscaping, fence, signs, trails, potable water system, septic system.
Manage.	Periodically patrol for rule enforcement and safety including boundary monitoring for encroachment.
Manage.	Work with government partners to establish a park emergency plan. Staff training should include fire prevention, visitor education, evacuation procedures and thorough familiarity with the park emergency plan.
Manage.	Coordinate with public utilities that execute maintenance projects within the management zone boundary.

5.5 Facilities

Because this zone is completely made up of vegetation, with the exception of two trails, there are no traditional facilities in this zone. For information about specific trails that start from trailheads in this zone, please see section 3 of this chapter, Trails Management Zone.



Photo 10.7 Historic Orchard on Red Fox Trail

6.0 Creeks Management Zone

This management zone encompasses Tryon Creek and its banks, as well as all the tributaries, streams, creeks and waterways that feed it (officially designated as a 150-foot offset from the centerline of the creek on either side). The waterways are seen as one linear management zone requiring a consistent management strategy. OPRD will continue to work with local agencies including the Tryon Creek Watershed Council to better the entire watershed.

6.0 Creek Management Zone - Resource and Visitor Assessment Values					
Zone	Natural Resources	Cultural & Scenic	Visitor Experiences	Programs	Facilities
6. Creek	High	Low	Low	Low	Low

6.1 Natural Resources

The riparian nature of the Creek management zone require different natural resource strategies than those applied in other zones in the park. In this zone natural resource restoration is focused on stabilizing the banks of the creek through additional plantings that re-establish root systems and hold soil in place. As water pressure increases through the creek from larger, more intense flows of storm water enter the creek downstream during rain events (as a result of paved development in the areas around the park and watershed). This causes erosion of the banks and reduces habitat for aquatic wildlife. The prescribed strategies below seek to reverse this trend, although actions throughout the entire Tryon Creek watershed (such as reductions in pervious surfaces, construction of curbside stormwater retention gardens, and disconnecting roof gutter downspouts) are necessary to truly improve the nature of the creek.

6.1 Creek Management Zone - Natural Resources (For Locations See Map 10.2)			
Forest Restoration Projects			
Map Code	Desired Future Condition	Size / Quantity	Actions
16	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	8 ac	Remove Weeds; Underplant with western redcedar, and possibly some western hemlock, and grand fir
18	Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest	1 ac	Remove Weeds;
19	Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest	54 ac	Remove Weeds; Underplant hardwood-dominated areas with western redcedar and lesser quantities of western hemlock and grand fir
21	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	35 ac	Remove Weeds; Underplant hardwood-dominated areas with western redcedar and lesser quantities of western hemlock and grand fir
22	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	2 ac	Monitor; Underplant hardwood-dominated areas with western redcedar and lesser quantities of western hemlock and grand fir
23	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	1 ac	Monitor; Underplant mesic and upland hardwood-dominated areas with shade tolerant conifers such as western redcedar, western hemlock, and grand fir
24	Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest	2 ac	Monitor; Underplant with western redcedar, and possibly some western hemlock and grand fir

6.2 Cultural Resources

The potential for archaeological sites to be found across Tryon Creek SNA is low based on archaeological surveys described in Chapter 3. Given that the park is located near Tryon Creek, it is possible that additional Native American archaeological resources are present. Please reference the Archeological Probability Map in Chapter 3 (Map 3.3), for locations of high probability.

6.3 Visitor Experiences

Visitor Experiences in this area all focus on the ecological health of the creek and a deeper understanding of its functions, although access to the creek and its bank are only allowed for restoration projects and approved construction.

Given the high level of focus on natural resources and the watershed in this zone, there are ample opportunities for interpretive elements along the trails at the edge of the creek to tell the story of natural resource protection within the park and outside the park.

6.3 Creek Management Zone - Visitor Experiences	
Description	Status
Volunteers/Partners	
Adopt-A-Plot	Retain
Volunteer Invasive Plant & Ivy removal	Retain
Wildlife Sighting Program	New
Bird Nesting Enhancement	New
Streamside viewing deck construction and maintenance	New

6.4 Administrative Programs

Characteristics of the Creek Management Zone will influence and dictate administrative program functions, include Recreational Opportunity Setting category Class 2 Natural setting designation, which focuses on preservation of historic ecological conditions found in forested areas of the Willamette Valley. Operations will include:

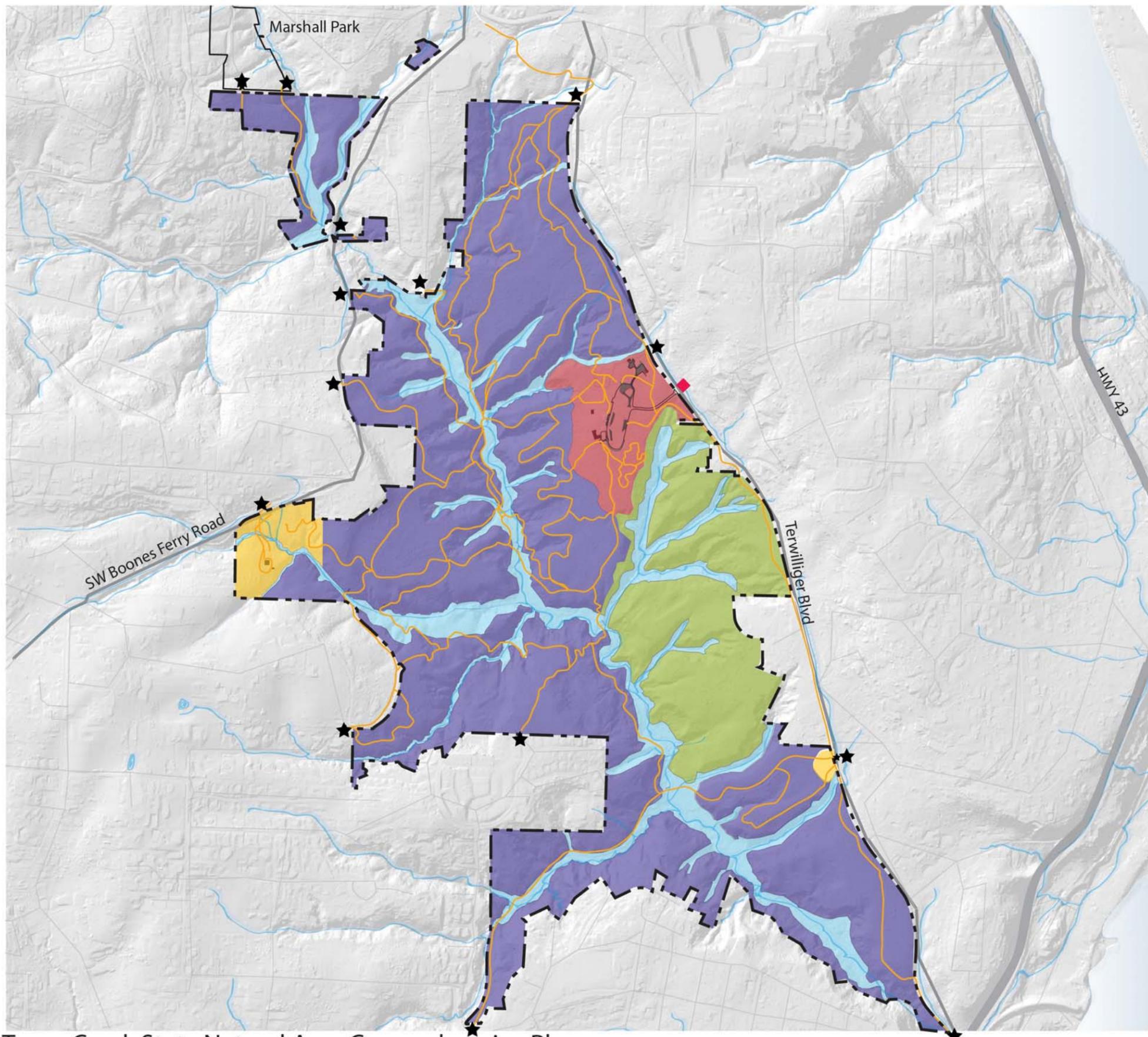
6.4 Creek Management Zone - Administrative Programs	
Focus	Description
Natural Resources	Manage weeds as prescribed in Natural Resource Management Plan, including manual and chemical treatments followed by planting of native or interim species, especially along trails. Continue implementing natural restoration strategies focusing on riparian areas and sites impacted by invasive species and stormwater. Manage partnerships with volunteers including FOTC and the Tryon Creek Watershed Council.
Manage.	Periodically patrol for rule enforcement and safety including monitoring for people, horses, and dogs from entering the creek including its banks.
Manage.	Coordinate with public utilities that execute maintenance projects within the management zone boundary.

6.5 Facilities

Because this zone is completely made up of the park’s waterways, there are no traditional facilities in this zone. Given the importance of buried sewer lines on the health of streams, all park sewer easements and culverts have been listed here.

6.5 Day Use Management Zone - Facilities			
Description	Status	Size/Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
Easements			
Permit-Webb 6/12/1972 - 8" San. Sewer N of Boones Ferry Road & SW Arnold	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Portland 10/13/1975 - 8" San. Sewer N of Boones Ferry Road Cedar Crest Addition	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Portland 7/27/1978 - 8" San. Sewer SW Boones Ferry Road & SW 4th	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Portland 4/4/1984 - Sewer Monitoring pipe N of Boones Ferry Road & SW 4th	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Portland 6/2/1985 - 8" San. Sewer SW Boones Ferry Road & SW 4th	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Portland 9/27/1979 - 8" San. Sewer SW Boones Ferry Road & SW Arnold Street	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Portland 9/27/1985 - 2 Creek Trash Basins SW Boones Ferry Road & Arnold Creek	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a

Description	Status	Size/ Quantity	Reviews / Approvals
Permit-City of Portland 3/13/1978; 8" sanitary sewer line 25' West of Terwilliger	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-Robinson 6/15/1977; 10' of sewer line	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Lake Oswego 10/15/1973 - Iron Mountain Blvd. 8-10" Sewer Line	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Lake Oswego 2/14/1978 - Cumberland Blvd. 8-10" Sewer Line	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Lake Oswego 5/21/1975 - 30" Manhole & Storm Sewer Terwilliger & Oswego Hwy	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Lake Oswego 5/25/1978 - S. End Iron Mountain Trail. 8-10" Sewer Line	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Lake Oswego 8/21/1989 - Briercliff Lane 12' Storm Drain	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-City of Lake Oswego 8/5/1976 - Cumberland Place. 8-10" Sewer Line	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a
Permit-Limberatos & Ettinger 4/4/1984 - State (Hwy 43) and Terwilliger 8-10" Sewer Line	Maintenance: Cyclical	n/a	n/a

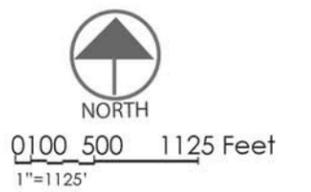


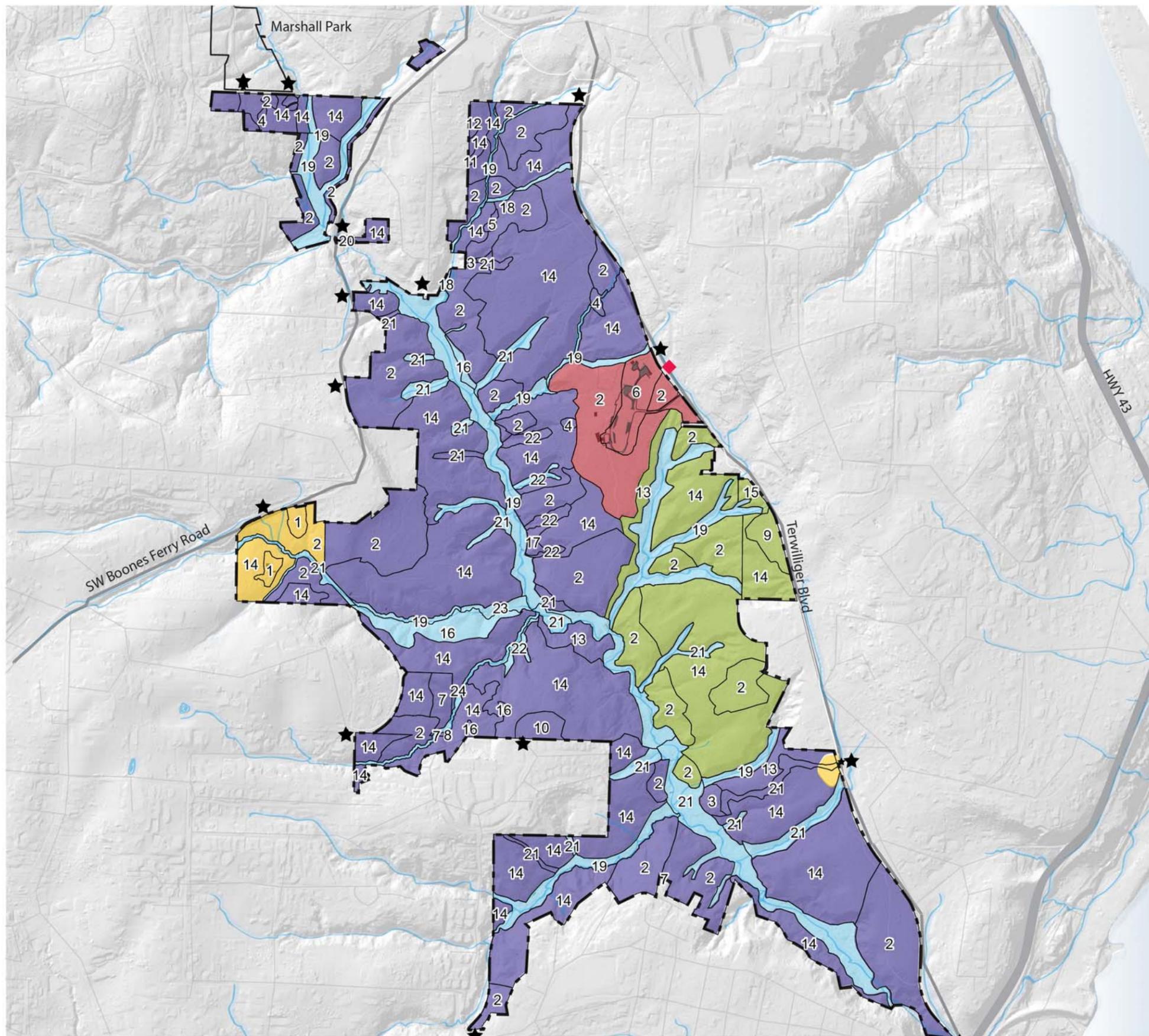
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- Park Boundary
- City Roads
- Trailhead
- Day-use Area Entrance

Management Zones

- 1. Day Use
- 2. Trailheads
- 3. Trails
- 4. Forest
- 5. Reserve
- 6. Creeks





Legend

Map Code : Desired Future Condition

- 1: Developed
- 2: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 3: Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest
- 4: Oregon ash swale
- 5: Sitka willow swamp
- 6: Developed
- 7: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 8: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 9: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 10: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 11: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 12: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 13: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 14: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 15: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 16: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 17: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 18: Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest
- 19: Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest
- 20: Late seral mixed conifer-hardwood forest
- 21: Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest
- 22: Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest
- 23: Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest
- 24: Late seral mixed hardwood-conifer riparian forest

Park Boundary

City Roads

Trailhead

Day-use Area Entrance

Management Zones:

1. Day Use

2. Trailheads

3. Trails

4. Forest

5. Reserve

6. Creeks



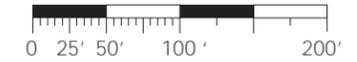
0 100 500 1125 Feet
1"=1125'

Composite Natural Resource Restoration Prescriptions



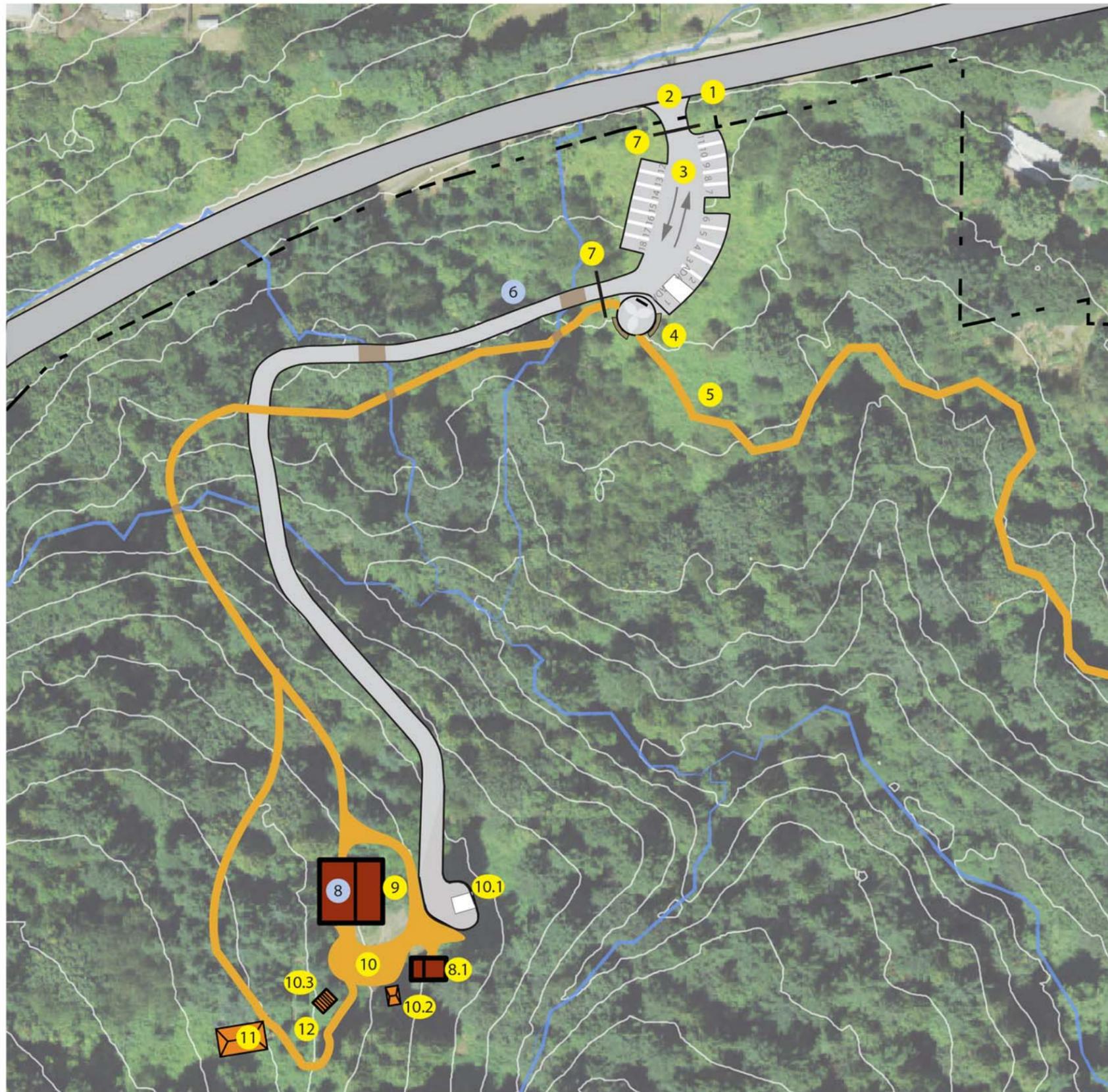
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- OPRD Park Boundary
- Existing Hardwood Forest
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Existing Structure
- New Structure
- New (Enhancement)
- Maintenance: Major
- Maintenance: Cyclical



Nature Center Enhancements

- 1 Park Entrance Monument
- 2 Entrance Gate
- 3 Potential Tri-met Bus Stop & Additional Bus Parking
- 4 Permeable Parking Area with Trees Retained and additional Native Planting for 122 Vehicles (peak)
- 4.1 7 ADA Accessible Parking Spaces
- 4.2 Equestrian Loading Ramp with ADA Accessibility
- 4.3 Dedicated Equestrian Trailer Parking for 3-5 trailers (with option to use adjacent vehicle parking at peak periods. Final equestrian parking count to be determined after monitoring use over the next year.)
- 4.4 Bus Loading Area
- 4.5 Bus Parking Area
- 4.6 4' Sidewalk around lot and paved paths to Nature Center)
- 4.7 Asphalt road from entry to parking lot/trailhead - 20' wide
- 4.8 Signs: Parking lot signage, markings
- 4.9 Signs: Wayfinding signage
- 5 Native-scape Demonstration Garden
- 6 Bike Parking with personal storage
- 7 Nature Center Entrance
- 8 Friend's Circle Trailhead
- 9 North Trailhead
- 10 Nature Center Building Improvements (See Figure 10.3)
- 11 Seating Areas
- 12 Day Use Area Fee Machine
- 13 Restoration with Native Planting
- 14 Glenn Jackson Picnic Shelter
- 15 Additional Restroom
- 16 Natural Play Area Stations
- 17 Environmental Education Seating Circle
- 18 5 Picnic Structures and 8 Picnic Tables
- 18.1 3' Wide Dirt Paths (to Structures / Tables)
- 19 Tree House
- 20 Trillium Trail Art in the Park Kiosks & Environmental Literacy Stations Sitework
- 20.1 Signs: Art in the Park Kiosks
- 20.2 Viewing Platforms Trillium Trail
- 21 Bike Trail
- 22 Maintenance Yard
- 22.1 Maintenance Yard Surfacing
- 22.2 New Maintenance Bays
- 22.3 Maintenance Shop
- 22.4 Storage Bays
- 22.5 Landscaping: Screening around edges of maintenance and staff area
- 22.6 Access Road to Yard: 12' wide
- 23 Manager's Residence 2011-2013
- 23.1 Road from Staff Housing to Terwilliger

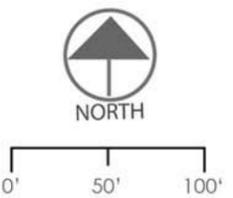
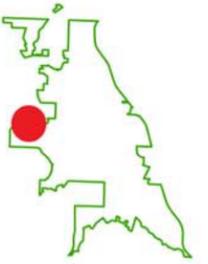


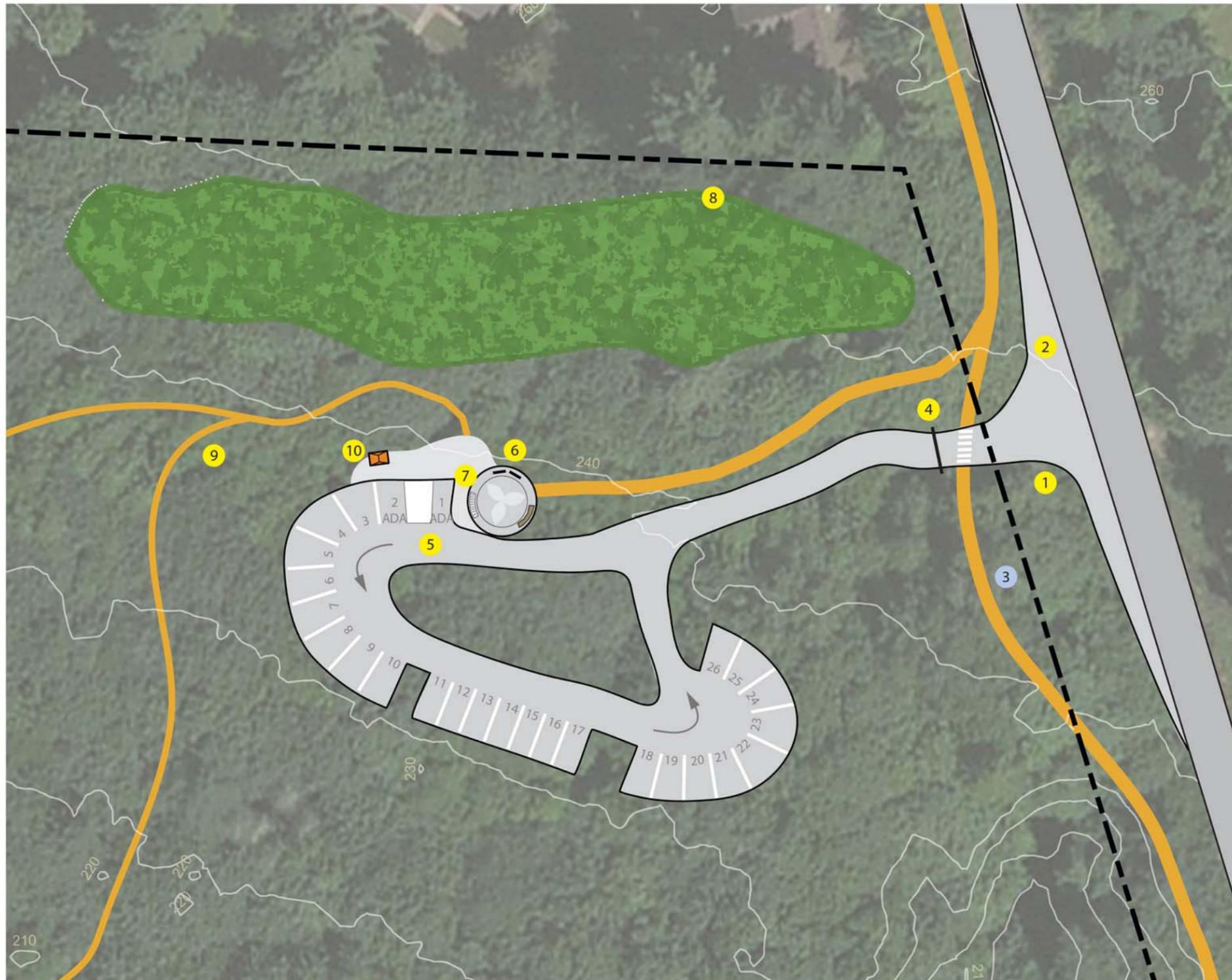
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- Park Boundary
- Existing Hardwood Forest
- New Trails
- Streams
- Existing Structure
- New Structure
- New (Enhancement)
- Maintenance: Major
- Maintenance: Cyclical
- Parking Space Count

Arnold-Park Cabin Enhancements

- Entrance Sign
- Improved Turning Lane
- Permeable Parking Area with Trees Retained & additional Native Planting for 18 vehicles (2 ADA)
- Trailhead with Signage and Bench
- Arnold-Park Cabin Spur Trail
- Roadway to Cabin
- Gates (2)
- Arnold-Park Cabins
 - Potential Park Host in Small Cabin
 - Preventative Maintenance to Stabilize Cabins
- Homestead Kitchen Gardens
- Improved Cabin Grounds to Accommodate Potential:
 - Events
 - Art Shows
 - Demonstration Gardens/Master Gardener
 - Artist or Ecologist in Residence Facilities
 - 2 ADA Accessible Parking Spaces
 - Restroom
 - Picnic Shelter and Benches
- Rebuild Barn in Historic Site
- Old Barn Trail Loop





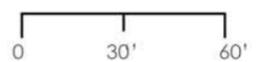
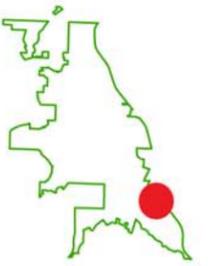
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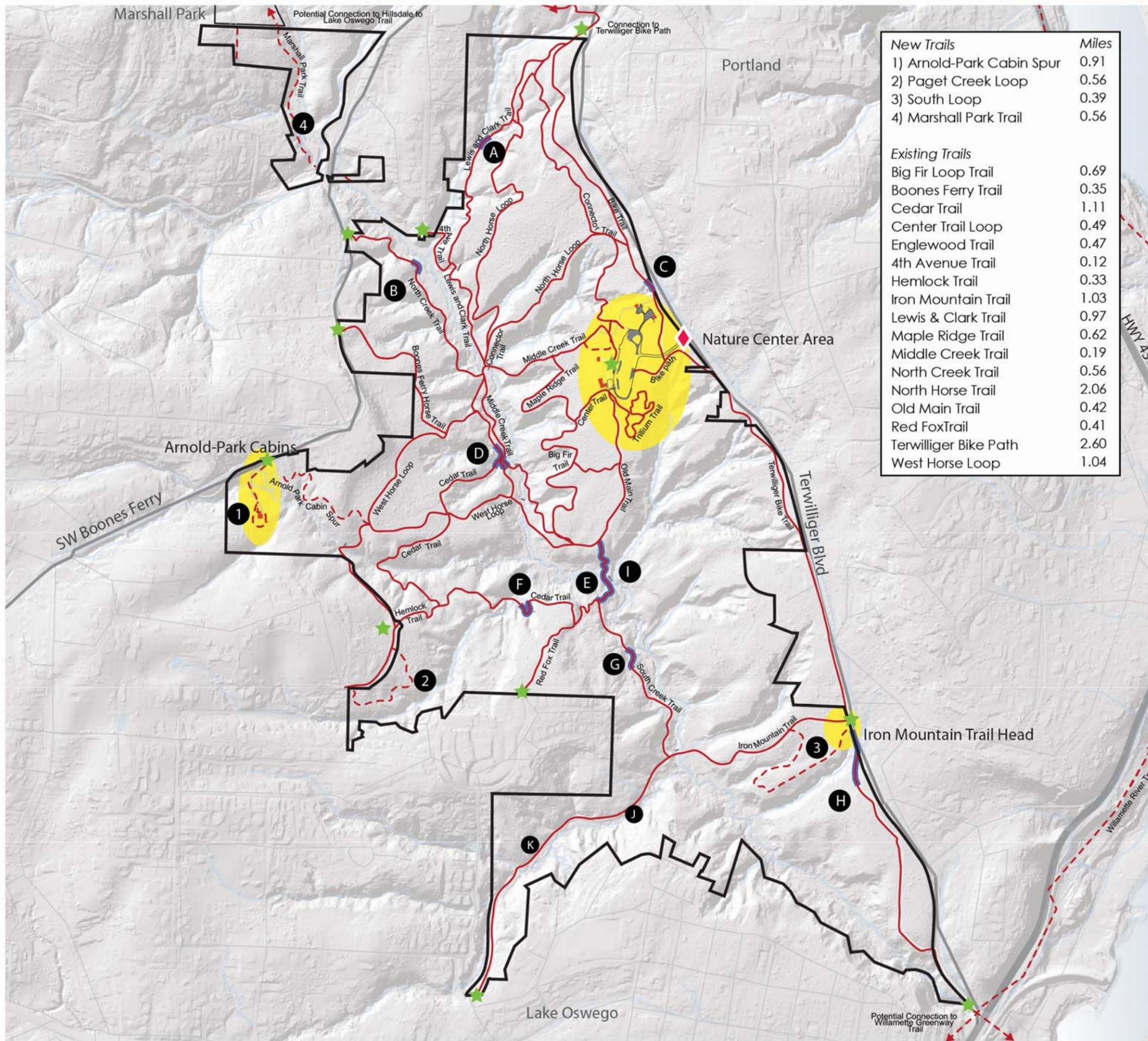
- Park Boundary
- Existing Hardwood Forest
- Trails
- 5 Parking Space Count

- New (Enhancement)
- Maintenance: Major
- Maintenance: Cyclical

Iron Mountain Trailhead Enhancements

- Entrance Sign
- Improved Turning Lane
- Bike Trail Realigned for Safety
- Gate
- Permeable Parking Area with Trees Retained and additional Native Planting for 26 vehicles (2 ADA)
- Trailhead with Signage and Bench)
- Bike Parking with personal storage
- Planted Understory Buffer
- South All-Abilities Loop Trail
- Restroom





New Trails	
1) Arnold-Park Cabin Spur	0.91
2) Paget Creek Loop	0.56
3) South Loop	0.39
4) Marshall Park Trail	0.56

Existing Trails	
Big Fir Loop Trail	0.69
Boones Ferry Trail	0.35
Cedar Trail	1.11
Center Trail Loop	0.49
Englewood Trail	0.47
4th Avenue Trail	0.12
Hemlock Trail	0.33
Iron Mountain Trail	1.03
Lewis & Clark Trail	0.97
Maple Ridge Trail	0.62
Middle Creek Trail	0.19
North Creek Trail	0.56
North Horse Trail	2.06
Old Main Trail	0.42
Red Fox Trail	0.41
Terwilliger Bike Path	2.60
West Horse Loop	1.04

legend

Infrastructure

- Park Boundary
- City Roads
- Waterways
- Trailhead
- Day-use Area Entrance
- Concept Enlargement Plans

Trail Areas

- Existing Trails
- New Trail Opportunities
 - ① Arnold-Park Cabin Spur Trail
 - ② Paget Creek Loop
 - ③ South Loop
 - ④ Marshall Park Trail (incl Boones Ferry underpass)
- Trail Rehabilitation Projects
 - Trail areas to monitor for condition assessment
 - A Lewis & Clark Trail
 - B North Creek Trail
 - C Terwilliger Bike Path Surfacing Rehabilitation
 - D Middle Creek Trail Intersection
 - E Old Main Trail
 - F Cedar Trail
 - G South Creek Trail
 - H Terwilliger Bike Path Realignment
 - I Red Fox Bridge
 - J Iron Mountain Bridge Replacement
 - K Stone Bridge Replacement



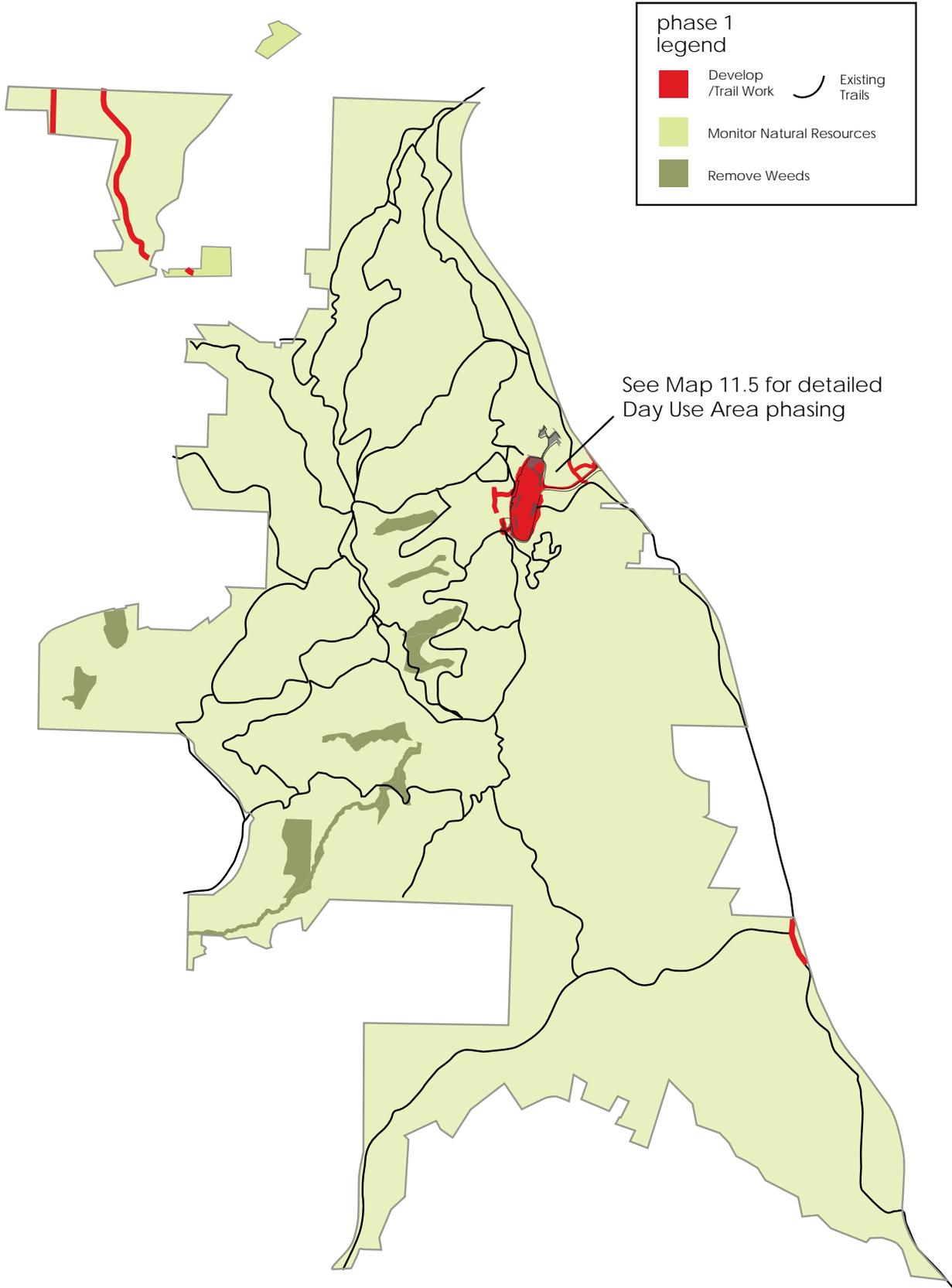


11

Enhancement Projects Phasing

Chapter Eleven Highlights

Major facilities enhancements are phased based on need, costs, and the logical order of implementation.

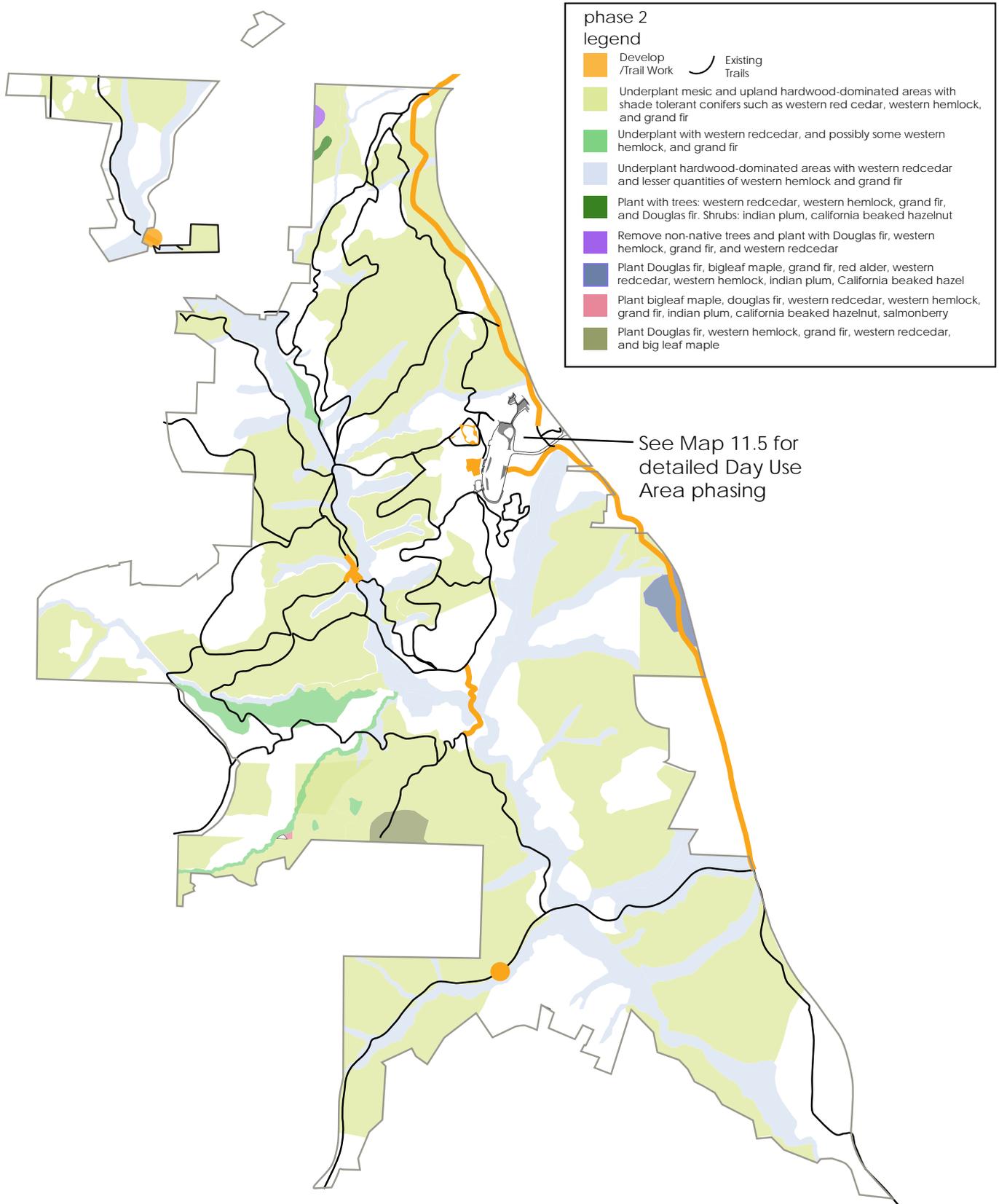


phase 1
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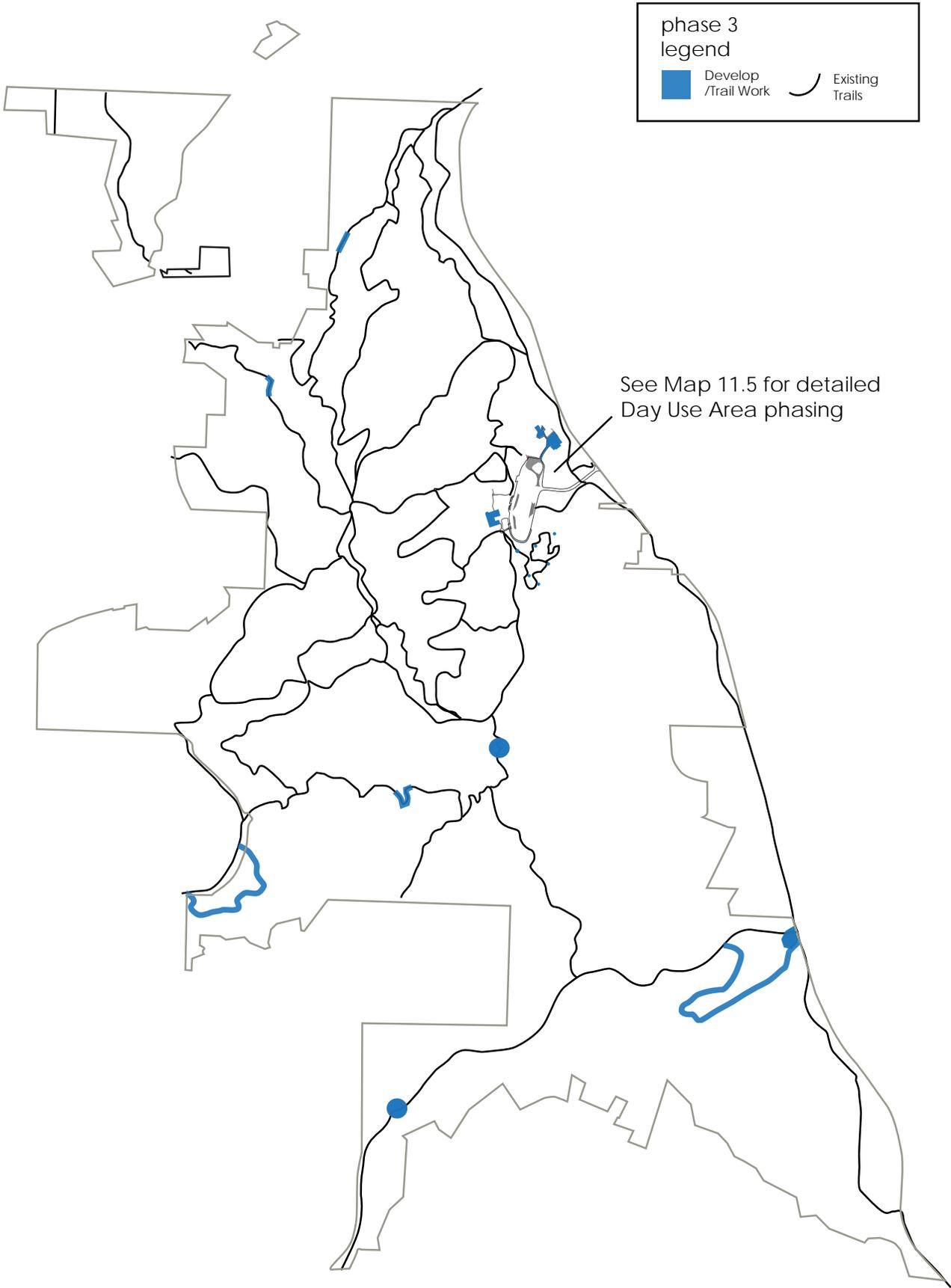
- Develop /Trail Work
- Monitor Natural Resources
- Remove Weeds
- Existing Trails

See Map 11.5 for detailed Day Use Area phasing

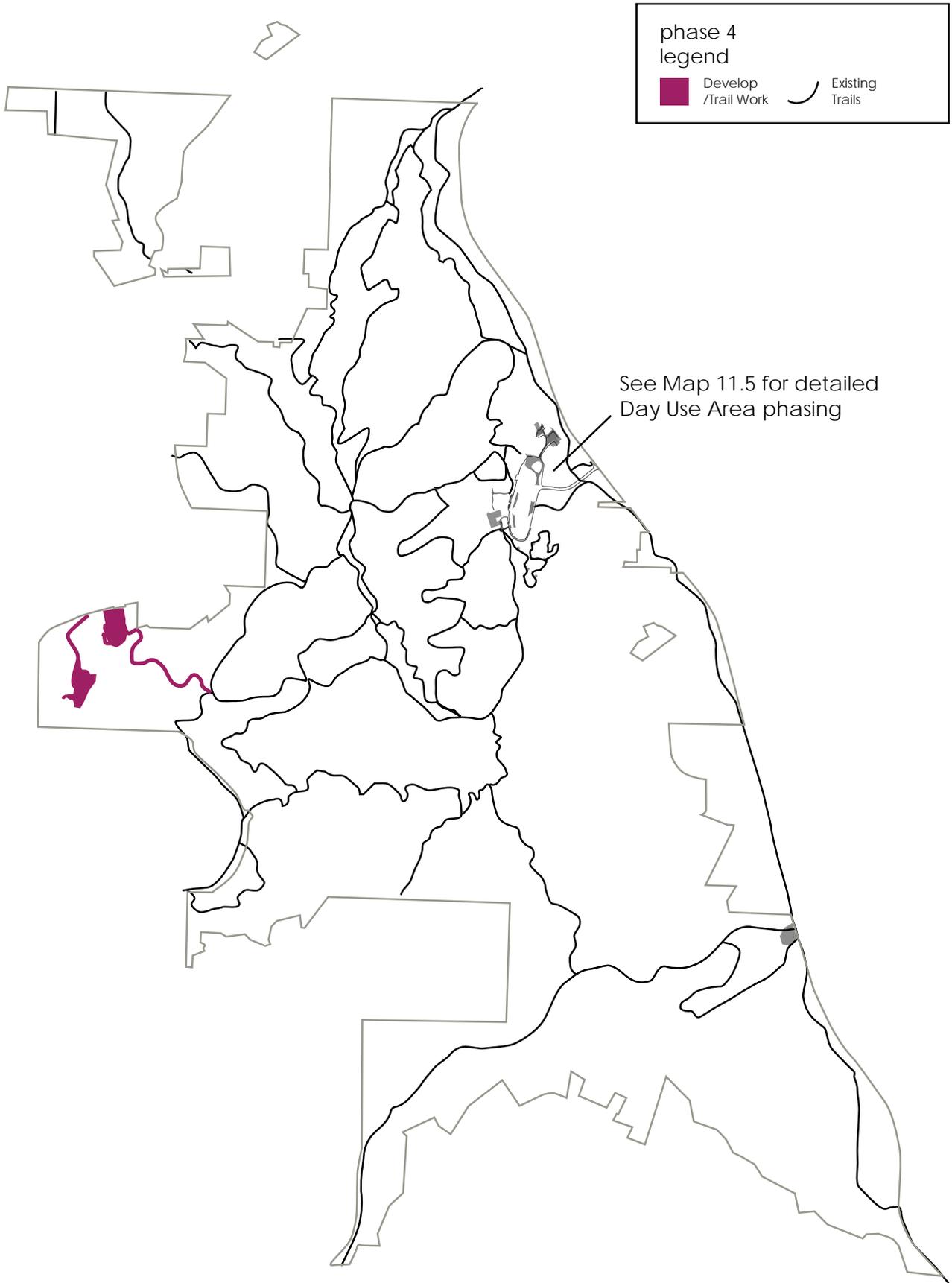
Map 11.1 Facilities and Natural Condition Phase 1 Diagram (Not to Scale)



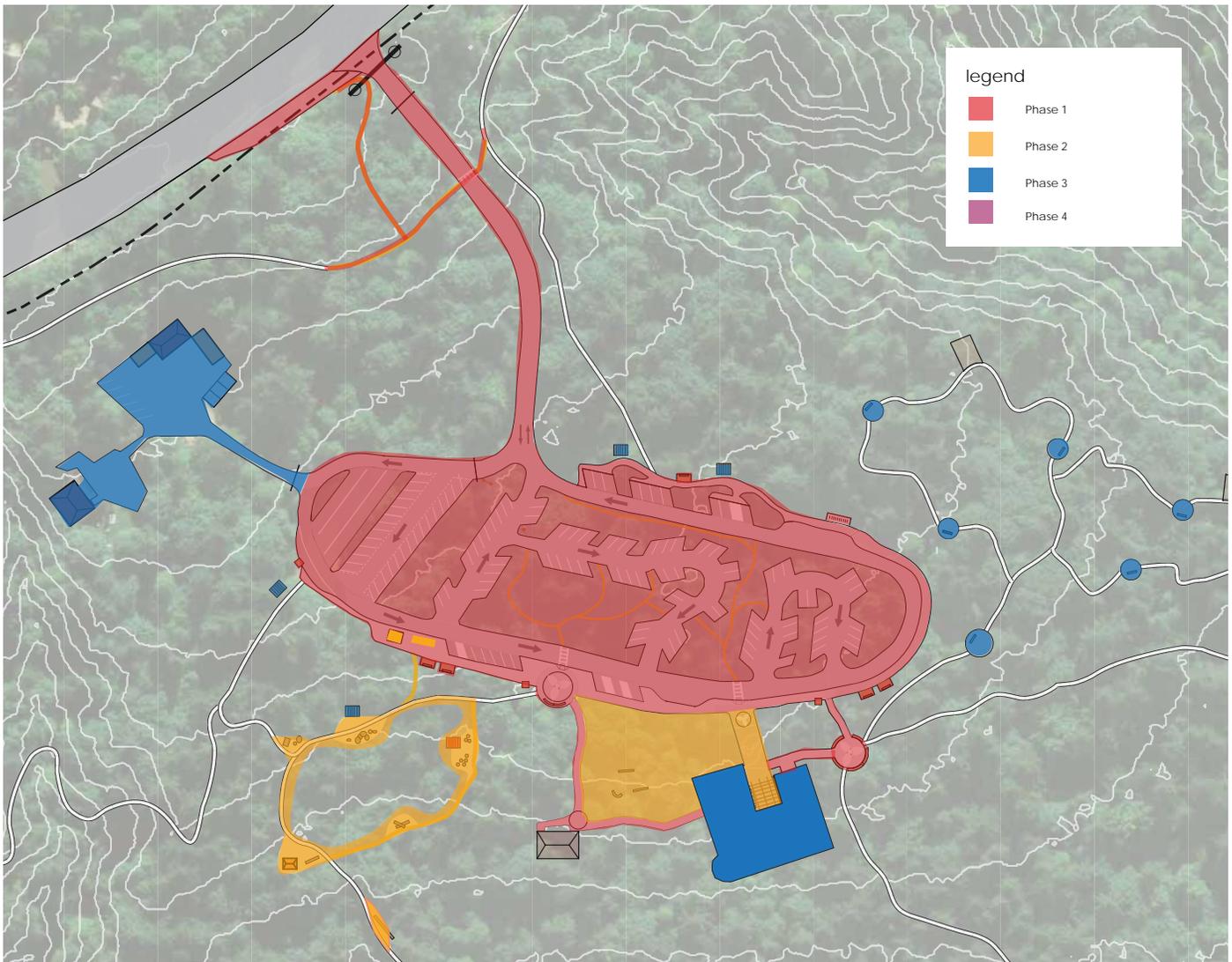
Map 11.2 Facilities and Natural Condition Phase 2 Diagram (Not to Scale)



Map 11.3 Facilities and Natural Condition
Phase 3 Diagram (Not to Scale)



Map 11.4 Facilities and Natural Condition
Phase 4 Diagram (Not to Scale)



Map 11.5 Day Use Area Phasing Diagram (Not to Scale)

1 Day Use Management Zone - Facilities Phasing (For Locations See Map 10.3)				
Description	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Day Use Area Enhancements				
1) Park Entrance Monument and Sign	x			
2) Entrance Gate	x			
3) Potential Tri-met Bus Stop & Additional Bus Parking	x			
4) Permeable Parking Area with Trees Retained and additional Native Planting for 118 vehicles (peak)	x			
4.1) 6 ADA Accessible Parking Spaces	x			
4.2) Equestrian Loading Ramp with ADA Accessibility	x			
4.3) Dedicated Equestrian Trailer Parking for 3-5 trailers (with option to use for vehicle parking at peak periods)	x			
4.4) Bus Loading Area	x			
4.5) Bus Parking Area	x			
4.6) Core Paths - 4' wide (Sidewalk around lot and paved paths around Nature Center)	x			
4.7) Asphalt road from entry to parking lot/trailhead - 20' wide	x			
4.8) Signs: Parking lot signage, markings	x			
4.9) Signs: Wayfinding signage	x			

Description	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
5) Native-scape Demonstration Garden	x			
6) Bike Parking with personal storage		x		
7) Nature Center Entrance		x		
8) Friend's Circle Trailhead	x			
8.1) Signs: Interpretive signage kiosks	x			
9) North Trailhead	x			
10) Nature Center Building Improvements (See Figure 10.4)			x	
10.1) Foyer with improved ADA access			x	
10.2) Reception Desk			x	
10.3) Exhibit Space and Nature Store			x	
10.4) Indoor/Outdoor Pellet Stove			x	
10.5) Expanded Deck & Nature Viewing Area			x	
10.6) Second Story Tree-Top Meeting Room (Capacity 25)/Nature Library			x	
10.6a) Elevator (ADA)			x	
10.7) Additional Office and Storage			x	
10.8) Copy Room, Staff Area, Offices			x	
10.9) Additional Offices			x	
10.10) Classroom			x	
10.11) HVAC System			x	
11) Seating Areas	x			
12) Day-Use Area Fee Machine	x			
13) Restoration with Native Planting		x		
14) Glenn Jackson Picnic Shelter				
15) Additional Restroom		x		
15) Natural Play Area Stations		x		
16) Environmental Education Seating Circle		x		
17) 2 Picnic Structures and 8 Picnic Tables			x	
17.1) Core Paths - 3' wide: dirt (to Structures / Tables)			x	
18) Tree House		x		
19) Ruth Pennington Trillium Trail & Educational Loop (All-Abilities 0.35 mile)			x	
19.1) Art in the Park Kiosks & Environmental Literacy Stations			x	
19.2) Signs: Art in the Park Kiosks			x	
19.3) Viewing Platforms Trillium Trail				
20) Bike Trail	x			
21) Maintenance Yard			x	
21.1) Maintenance Yard Surfacing			x	
21.2) New Maintenance Bays			x	
21.3) Maintenance Shop			x	
21.4) Landscape Storage Bins			x	
21.5) Landscaping: Screening around edges of maintenance & staff area			x	
21.6) Access Road to Yard: 12' wide			x	
22) Manager's Residence 2011-2013			x	
22.1) Road from Staff Housing to Terwilliger			x	
Utilities				
Security System for Nature Center	x			
Nature Center Fire Protection System	x			

2 Trailheads Management Zone - Facilities Phasing - Arnold-Park Trailhead

(For Locations See Map 10.5)

Description	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Arnold-Park Trailhead Enhancements				
1) Entrance Sign				x
2) Improved Turning Lane				x
3) Permeable Parking Area with Trees Retained and additional Native Planting for 18 vehicles & 2 ADA				x
3.1 Parking lot landscaping and bio swales,				x
3.2 Signs: Parking lot signage, markings				x
4) Trailhead				x
4.1 Interpretive Sign Kiosk				x
5) Arnold-Park Cabin Spur Trail				x
6) Roadway to Cabin				x
7) Gate				x
8) Arnold-Park Cabins				x
8.1) Park Host in Smaller Cabin				x
8.1) Preventative Maintenance to Stabilize Cabins				x
9) Homestead Kitchen Gardens				x
10) Improved Cabin Grounds to Accommodate Events, Art Shows, Demonstration Gardens/ Master Gardener/Artist or Ecologist in Residence Facilities				x
10.1) 2 ADA Accessible Parking Spaces				x
10.2) Restroom				x
10.3) Signs: Interpretive signage kiosks				x
11) Rebuild Barn in Historic Site (Size and Quality of Glen Jackson Picnic Shelter)				x
12) Old Barn Trail Loop				x
Utilities				
Utilities - General (Water/Internet/Phone)				x
Arnold-Park Cabins (Both) Electrical Safety Upgrades				x

2.5 Trailheads Management Zone - Facilities Phasing - Iron Mountain Trailhead

(For Locations See Map 10.6)

Description	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Iron Mountain Trailhead Enhancements				
1) Entrance Sign			x	
2) Improved Turning Lane			x	
3) Bike Trail Realignment for Safety			x	
4) Gate			x	
5) Permeable Parking Area with Trees Retained and additional Native Planting for 26 vehicles (2 ADA)			x	
5.1) Parking lot landscaping and bio swales,			x	
5.2) Signs: Parking lot signage, markings			x	
5.3) Roadway			x	
6) Trailhead			x	
6.1) Signage			x	
7) Bike Parking with personal storage			x	
8) Planted Buffer			x	
9) South All-Abilities Loop Trail			x	
10) Restroom			x	
10.1) Connect to Terwilliger Utilities (Electrical/Water Sewer)			x	
Signage				
Signs: Interpretive signage kiosks regarding historic iron smelter road. Materials should be considerate of iron smelter history.			x	
Signs: Wayfinding signage			x	

3.5 Trails Management Zone - Facilities (For Locations See Map 10.7)

Description	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Trails Management Zone Enhancements				
Trails				
1) Arnold-Park Cabin Spur Trail (Equestrian/Pedestrian 0.91 mile)				x
2) Padget Creek Trail (Pedestrian 0.56 mile)			x	
3) South Loop (Pedestrian/All-ability 0.39 mile)			x	
4) Marshall Park Trail (Pedestrian 0.56 mile)	x			
Marshall Park Trail (Boones Ferry Underpass)		x		
Signage				
Signs: Interpretive signage kiosks	x	x		
Signs: Wayfinding signage (at junctions)	x	x		
Site Amenities				
Benches	x	x		
Creek Viewing Platform	x	x		
Trail Management Zone Maintenance				
a) Lewis and Clark Trail			x	
b) North Creek Trail			x	
c) Terwilliger Bike Path Trail Surfacing Rehabilitation		x		
d) Middle Creek Trail Intersection Improvements		x		
Middle Creek Trail Landscaping				
e) Old Main Trail (Grade, Drainage, and aesthetic improvements)		x		
f) Cedar Trail			x	
g) South Creek Trail			x	
h) Terwilliger Bike Path (Pedestrian 2.6 miles) Realignment	x			
i) Red Fox Bridge			x	
j) Iron Mountain Bridge Replacement (City of Lake Oswego Design)		x		
k) Stone Bridge (Tryon Nettle Creek Stream Passage)			x	



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Reviews and Approvals

Chapter Twelve Highlights

Development described in this plan for Tryon Creek State Natural Area is governed by the Cities of Portland and Lake Oswego

A conflict in Portland land use zoning near the Day Use Area will require a boundary adjustment before development occurs

Land-Use Authority

Development of the park uses and facilities described in this plan for Tryon Creek State Natural Area (SNA) is governed by the Cities of Portland and Lake Oswego within their respective jurisdictions under the provisions of their Comprehensive Land-Use Plans. The Cities' plans are acknowledged by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) pursuant to the statewide land-use goals, statutes and related administrative rules.

This plan for the state park has been formulated through the planning process described under OAR 736 Division 18 and OAR 660 Division 34. The planning process includes procedures for coordinating with affected local governments to assure that planned park uses and facilities are compatible with local government comprehensive plans.

Land-Use Compatibility Review

Prior to OPRD's adoption of a plan for a state park, review of the park plan for compatibility with affected local government comprehensive plans is required. When a draft park plan is ready for OPRD's adoption, OPRD requests that the local planning official provide written confirmation that the draft park plan is compatible with the local comprehensive plan. "Compatible" means that development permits may be approved for all of the planned park projects without first amending the local

government's comprehensive plan, or that the plan for the park specifically states that a local plan amendment will be needed prior to construction of any project that is not compatible. Alternatively, if the draft park plan is determined to be incompatible, the park plan may need to be changed to achieve compatibility before it is adopted. The plan for Tryon Creek SNA will be reviewed for local land-use compatibility by Portland and Lake Oswego planning officials.

As discussed below, some of the planned improvements for Tryon Creek SNA are not entirely compatible with Portland's overlay zoning. An amendment to Portland's overlay zone boundaries will be required before development permits for the affected park improvements may be approved.

Portland Zoning

Within City of Portland jurisdiction, Tryon Creek SNA falls entirely within the Open Space (OS) Zone. Additionally, there are two environmental overlay zones that also apply to various areas of the park in Portland jurisdiction, the Environmental Protection (EP) and Environmental Conservation (EC) Zones. Most of the park in Portland jurisdiction is within the EP Overlay. A portion of the park's core facilities, including the existing manager's residence, maintenance yard and equine parking lot, are within the EC Overlay. Other core facilities, including the Nature Center and associated parking and day use area, are within the EP Overlay. The Arnold-Park cabin area is



also within the EP Overlay, along with the rest of the park in Portland jurisdiction.

Requirement for Overlay Zone Boundary Adjustment

Portland's mapping of the EC and EP Overlays in the park's core area was apparently erroneous. All of the core facilities predated the overlay zoning. Yet, the core facilities are divided by the boundary between EP and EC, placing the Nature Center and associated parking within the more restrictive EP Overlay while placing high-quality habitat along a nearby drainage in the less restrictive EC Overlay. Improvements planned for the Nature Center and associated parking exceed what may be allowed under the EP Overlay. Prior to obtaining development permits for planned improvements to the Nature Center and parking, City approval of an overlay boundary adjustment, to bring these facilities into the EC Overlay, will be required.

A change from EP to EC will also be required for planned improvements at the Arnold-Park cabin area.

Lake Oswego Zoning

The portion of Tryon Creek SNA within Lake Oswego jurisdiction is entirely zoned Park and Natural Area (PNA). In addition there are two overlay zones (Sensitive Lands Overlay Districts) that together cover this part of the park, the Resource Protection (RP) Overlay and the Resource Conservation (RC) Overlay. The RP Overlay covers stream corridors and includes generous stream buffers. The RC Overlay covers other areas identified as significant forest groves. Planned parking improvements and a new restroom at the Iron Mountain trailhead are within the RC Overlay. Development of a proposed all-abilities trail reaches into the RP Overlay.

Development Permits for State Park Projects

Development permits will be required for most of the development projects described in the plan for the park. Prior to beginning construction of any project, the project manager is responsible for consulting with the affected local government planning department and obtaining the necessary development permits. The specific requirements for obtaining development permits for a project, and the kind of local permitting process required will vary from one project to another. The time required for completing the development permitting process will also vary, so the project manager will consult with the local government planning department to assure the permitting process

is completed prior to the target date for beginning construction. Prior to issuance of development permits the local government will review the project plans and specifications to assure the project proposed for construction is consistent with the description of the project in the park plan and with any applicable development standards in the local government's ordinances.

Variations from the Master Plan

Under the provisions of OAR 736-018-0040, OPRD may pursue development permits for a state park project that varies from a state park plan without first amending the park plan provided that the variation is minor, unless the park plan language specifically precludes such variation. Any specific project design elements that cannot be changed by applying the "Minor Variation" rule are indicated in the design standards for the projects in the plan.

The OPRD Director must determine that a proposed variation from the master plan is "minor" using the criteria in OAR 736-018-0040. A minor variation from the master plan, which is approved by the Director, is considered to be consistent with the master plan, contingent upon the concurrence of the affected local government.

Rehabilitation of Existing State Park Uses

State laws allow OPRD to continue any state park use or facility that existed on July 25, 1997. (See ORS 195.125 and OAR 660-034-0030(8).) The laws allow the repair and renovation of facilities, the replacement of facilities including minor location changes, and the minor expansion of uses and facilities. Rehabilitation projects are allowed whether or not they are described in a state park plan. These projects are subject to any clear and objective siting standards required by the affected local government, provided that such standards do not preclude the projects.

Prior to applying for development permits for a project involving a minor location change of an existing facility or minor expansion of an existing use or facility, the OPRD Director must determine that the location change or expansion is "minor" using the criteria in OAR 736-018-0043. A determination by the Director that a proposed location change or expansion is minor is contingent upon the concurrence of the affected local government.

Natural Resource Review and Approvals

OPRD staff in consultation and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies and partners has determined the need for natural resource stabilization and restoration. Under the authority of OPRD Commission Policy 20-0 Natural Resource, and OP 50-09 Invasive Species Management, natural resource projects will be undertaken to manage and restore the landscape to benefit the local resources of the Tryon Creek Watershed. OPRD staff work with local partners such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and surrounding land owners to implement specific resource projects. Projects are developed and implemented by park management, as budget and staff allow.

Cultural Resource Review and Approvals

OPRD recognizes that the preservation and protection of cultural resources is an important aspect of land management. Management of historic and archeological resources is in accordance with OPRD Commission Policy 20-02. OPRD has worked with tribal interests and local heritage organizations to identify how proposed park development may affect cultural resources. Where possible the potential impacts to known cultural resources have been minimized or mitigated. OPRD works with the State Historic Preservation Office to secure approval for any project that may have impacts on cultural resources. OPRD will continue to work with tribal and local interests to ensure the cultural resources of Tryon Creek SNA are preserved and protected.

Emergency Management

OPRD strives to provide a recreation experience that is safe for staff, visitors, and the surrounding community. The life-safety aspects of facility and infrastructure development are reviewed during the local government land-use permitting process. OPRD has additional responsibility beyond the local planning jurisdictions. Park management is responsible for the development of an emergency management plan under OPRD policy 70-04. The development of this emergency management plan will occur after land-use review of the park plan has been completed. Development of the emergency management plan is done through consultation and coordination with affected emergency service providers.



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Appendices

Appendix A: Supporting Documents and Reports

OPRD Background Reports and Documents:

- Oregon Natural Areas Plan, OPRD, Salem, 2010
- State Park System Plan, OPRD, Salem, 2012
- Vegetation Inventory and Mapping: Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Amended by Oregon State Parks, Salem, 2007
- Trail Inventory and Assessment Tryon Creek Management Unit, OPRD, Salem, 2012
- Tryon Creek Management Unit Master Plan Cultural Resources Overview, OPRD, Salem, 2011
- Arnold-Park Log Home Site Historic Preservation Evaluation Report, OPRD, Salem, 2011
- Interpretive Plan for Tryon Creek State Natural Area. BUCY Associates, Cascade Interpretive Consulting, One Plus Two Design, Sharp Point Writing and Editing, Inside Outside, Inc., revised by OPRD, Salem, 2007
- Tryon Creek State Natural Area Interpretive Assessment. Cascade Interpretive Consulting, revised by OPRD, Salem, 2013
- Visitor Survey of Day-use Visitors at Tryon Creek State Natural Area, OPRD, Salem, 2011
- Environmental Management System Sustainability Toolbox: A Guide to Implementing Sustainable Principles and the Environmental Management System at Park and Office locations, OPRD, Salem, 2005
- SCORP Regional Recreation Survey, OPRD, Salem, 2012
- Centennial Horizon Vision, OPRD, Salem, 2009
- OPRD HUB Database, 2013
- The IMAP Potential Natural Vegetation model;
- Natural vegetation associations reported in Natural Resources Conservation Service's NASIS soils data.
- Tryon Creek State Park Master Plan, OPRD, Salem, 1971

The above documents are available for viewing at:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
North Mall Office Building
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Supporting Plans

2012 City of Portland, Portland Comprehensive Plan
<http://www.portlandonline.com/portlandplan/>

1994 Lake Oswego Comprehensive Plan
<http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/planning/comprehensive-plan>

2007 Oregon Metro Tryon Creek Linkages, Goals and Objectives

Oregon Metro has acquired 59.34 acres in the area, including Marshall Park in an attempt to provide recreation and habitat connectivity, as well as increased water quality, to the area.
<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=24625>

Friends of Tryon Creek -- <http://www.tryonfriends.org/>

Tryon Creek Watershed Council --
<http://tcwc.tryonfriends.org/>

Appendix B: OPRD Statewide Natural Resources Policies & Objectives

OPRD Natural Resource Policy

As stewards of the natural resources entrusted to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, it shall be the policy of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to:

- Proactively manage the natural resource base for its contribution to the regional landscape, as well as, its function within a site specific planned landscape.
- Actively cooperate and communicate with our public and private neighbors to promote compatible programs and practices.
- Inform, involve and educate the public in significant planned management actions, including the scientific and practical aspects of current management techniques and strategies.
- Consider the significant ecological, recreational and aesthetic qualities of our resources to be the highest priority.
- Develop and follow management programs and action plans which exemplify excellence in resource stewardship, fulfill the agency mission, are guided by the management intent of our property classification system and meet or exceed federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Statewide Natural Resource Management Objectives

OPRD's natural resource management guidelines for state parks are based on system-wide objectives, on the mapping of natural resource conditions in the park, and on ecosystem patterns. A summary of the natural resource conditions in the planning area is included in Chapter 3, Park Resource Assessments. Detailed resource maps for the park are available for viewing at the OPRD Salem headquarters office and the Regional State Park office in Bend.

The following objectives have been established by OPRD to guide natural resource management decisions for OPRD's properties statewide. These statewide objectives were considered in combination with the particular resource conditions at Cottonwood Canyon State Park to determine specific objectives for the park. The statewide objectives are listed below:

1. Protect all existing high value, healthy, Native Oregon ecosystems found within OPRD-managed properties. (Based on Oregon Natural Heritage ecosystem types and OPRD definition of high quality.)
 - a. Allow successional processes to proceed without intervention except as may be needed in particular circumstances.
 - b. Identify and monitor existing high quality ecosystems for the presence of threats to desired ecosystem types or conditions. Determine whether there are changes desired in ecosystem types or conditions based on consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, the Oregon Department of Agriculture Protected Plants section, natural resource interest groups and any affected federal resource management agencies.
 - c. Manage the resources to eliminate any unacceptable threats or to attain desired ecosystem conditions and types.
 - d. Following a natural or human-caused catastrophic event, such as a major fire, wind throw, landslide or flooding; determine what Management actions are needed, if any, to attain a desired ecosystem condition or type.
2. Where appropriate, restore or enhance existing low quality resource areas to a higher quality or desired ecosystem types or conditions based on consultation with natural resource agencies as to what a desired ecosystem should be for the planning area and for the region. Identify areas of low resource significance to consider for future recreational use and development, as identified in the park master plan.
3. Manage all OPRD properties to protect existing occurrences of state or federally listed or candidate species to the approval of jurisdictional agencies:
 - a. Integrate species management plans into ecosystem management plans that include the monitoring and management of indicator species.
 - b. For selected lands, in consultation with natural resource regulatory agencies, determine how best to manage for protected species recovery and related desired ecosystem types and conditions.

4. Manage all OPRD lands and uses to minimize erosion, sedimentation, and other impacts on important resources.
5. Identify and acquire additional lands from willing landowners, or enter into management partnerships with landowners, to provide long term viability for important natural resources within OPRD-managed properties, as needed. Consider connectivity of resources across properties.
6. In areas of high quality ecosystems or habitats, endeavor to provide opportunities for the public to experience the following:
 - a. Sights, sounds, smells and feeling of ecosystems representative of Oregon and the region;
 - b. Understanding of the ecosystem structure, composition and function;
 - c. Larger views of the landscape of which the ecosystem is a part.
7. In selected areas of low quality natural resources, manage for:
 - a. Popular or attractive native plants or animals that are appropriate to the local ecosystem;
 - b. Desired views or settings;
 - c. Desired cultural landscape restorations for interpretation.
8. Locate, design and construct facilities that provide public access to high quality ecosystems or habitats in a manner that avoids significant impacts on the ecosystems.
9. For those OPRD properties or sites which are historically significant and which have been identified by the Department as priority sites for emphasizing cultural resource protection, management and interpretation, manage the natural resources in the cultural resource areas to support cultural resource interpretation, unless this would result in unacceptable conflicts with protected species or areas of special natural resource concern.
10. Manage OPRD natural resources to protect visitors, staff, facilities and neighboring properties from harm.
11. Manage OPRD natural resources to protect them from threats from adjacent or nearby properties or their use.

12. Limit the use of non-native plants to developed facility areas or intensive use areas, and as is needed to withstand intensive use and to provide desired amenities such as shade, wind breaks, etc. Wherever possible, use native species in landscaping developed sites.

Appendix C: Master Plan Variations and Amendments

Once the park master plan is adopted as a state rule, any development in the park must be consistent with the master plan. Minor variations from the adopted master plan may be allowed if such variations are determined by the OPRD Director and the affected local government to be consistent with the master plan in accordance with OAR 736-018-0040. Any use that is not consistent with the master plan requires a master plan amendment. Master plan amendments must follow the same process used to adopt the master plan, which includes re-adoption as a state rule and a determination of compatibility with local government comprehensive plans.

Park master plans are amended when changes in circumstances are significant enough to warrant plan changes. The OPRD Director considers the recommendations of OPRD staff and outside interests in prioritizing the park master plans to be adopted or amended each biennium. The director's decisions are based on considerations of various factors, such as:

- Recreation demands that affect the park, and opportunities in the park to help meet the demands;
- The need for significant changes in park uses or facilities to improve park functions;
- Significant changes in the conditions of, or threats to, natural, cultural or scenic resources within or surrounding that park where a master plan amendment is needed to address the changed conditions or threats;
- Conflicts or potential conflicts between park uses and neighboring land uses where a master plan amendment is needed to address the conflicts;
- Opportunities to establish partnerships to implement previously unplanned projects that fit the park setting; or
- Alternatives to amending the master plan that would adequately address needed changes, such as interagency management agreements, partnerships, and so forth.

Appendix D: Historic Vegetation Models and Sources

Historic vegetation information or modeling available for Cottonwood Canyon:

- The 2008 GAP analysis project;
- The IMAP Potential Natural Vegetation model;
- Natural vegetation associations reported in Natural Resources Conservation Service's NASIS soils data.

Appendix E: References

Chapter 2:

Bishop, Ellen Morris. In Search of Ancient Oregon: A Geological and Natural History. Portland, Or.: Timber, 2003. Print.

Chapter 3:

Bowman, J., N. Cappuccino, and L. Fahrig. 2002. Patch size and population density: the effect of immigration behavior. *Conservation Ecology* 6(1): 9. [online] URL: <http://www.consecol.org/vol6/iss1/art9/>

Tasa, Guy L., Julia A. Knowles, Marissa A. Guenther, and Christopher L. Ruiz 2007 Archaeological Resource Evaluation of Area 2, Oregon State Parks, 2006 Surveys. University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, OSMA Report 2007-050. On file at the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. Salem, Oregon.



OPRD: Integrated Park Services Division

Tryon Creek State Natural Area

Draft Comprehensive Plan Addendum, July 2013

Additional edits to be included in the final draft.

p. 10. Remove sentence "Two Mountains within this range, Mount Sylvania, and Cooke's Butte, are located within the Tryon Creek watershed."

p. 11. Remove "and has acquired properties as recently as 1988."

P. 25. Change "Picnic shelter" to "Jackson Shelter".

P. 72. In Strategy nine of "Top 10 Primary Park wide Strategies," change the sentence from "Create GIS Trail management database." to "Create Stewardship and Trail management GIS database."

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

July 17, 2013

Agenda Item: 12b

Action

Topic: Park System Plan - Service Realignment

Presented by: John Potter

The Oregon State Park System Plan, approved by the Commission in November 2012, was discussed with park staff over the winter. Three primary strategies were the focus:

1. Do really well at what we do best;
2. Create way more value than we capture; and
3. Improve profitability everywhere.

These organizing points served, in part, as a guide for the Department's budget presentations at the Oregon Legislature during the 2013 session. They have also been incorporated into most park investment and management decisions. For example, they underlie the 13-15 priorities for land acquisition and park construction recommended to the Commission at this meeting. The plan's strategies will additionally serve as the basis for detailed 13-15 budgeting and for a reconfigured performance measurement system that is currently under development.

The primary driver for these strategies is the escalating gap between projected revenues and the expenditures necessary to maintain current levels of service in the state park system. Over the next ten years, expenditures are projected to increase by 8-10% per biennium, while revenues are only projected to increase by 2-5%. If the Governor's budget had been fully adopted by the Legislature for the 13-15 biennium, it would have been necessary to find the equivalent of a 2.1-5.1% reduction in maintenance and service levels. The expected Legislatively Adopted Budget for the 13-15 biennium is 3.6-6.6% below the expenditure level projected to maintain this service baseline described in the Park System Plan. This agenda item is a further refinement and a proposal for service realignment that gives staff additional guidance for addressing these financial challenges.

Prior Action by Commission: Approval of the Oregon State Park System Plan (November 2012)

Action Requested: Approval of the attached 13-15 Service Realignment Proposal.

Attachments: 13-15 Service Realignment Proposal

Prepared by: John Potter

13-15 Service Realignment Proposal

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
John Potter, Assistant Director, Operations
July 17, 2013

The Problem...

Costs to maintain and operate the state park system are increasing at a faster rate (8-10%) than revenues (2-5%). Because the budget must be balanced each biennium, this means that some amount of maintenance or service reduction is necessary, absent additional growth in revenues. The Park System Plan developed preliminary strategies to help close this gap while simultaneously seeking ways to update the services offered to stay relevant and meet the changing needs of Oregonians.

The following is the expected financial challenge for the Park System in the 13-15 biennium:

Projected Annual Cost of 09-11 Service Levels in the 13-15 Biennium ¹	\$75.3 - 77.7 million
Governor's Budget (Annual) in 13-15 Biennium for Park System	\$73.7 million
Expected Legislatively Approved Budget (Annual) in 13-15 Biennium	\$72.6 million
Estimated Annual Funding Gap to Maintain 09-11 Service Levels	\$2.7 - 5.1 million
Estimated Reduction Necessary (%)	3.6 - 6.6%

The problem is one of determining where and how to find as much as \$5.1 million in reduced annual maintenance and service levels for the upcoming biennium.

The Choices...

At a conceptual level, there are two primary choices for addressing the current gap. These are:

- (a) Implement Proportional Reductions System-wide, Reduction (A); or
- (b) Target Reductions Strategically, Reduction (B).

Each approach has its drawbacks which are important to fully consider. With the first approach, Reduction (A), staff would apply a consistent percentage reduction across all functional units contributing to the Park System (or as many of these units as possible). This would translate to the following types of reductions at all park management units:

¹ based on the "moderate" and "pessimistic" scenarios presented in the Park System Plan.

- less supplies for cleaning and maintenance;
- fewer gallons of fuel purchased;
- vehicle and radio count reductions;
- reduced hours of seasonal ranger time;
- less law enforcement coverage;
- deferring stewardship projects such as stream restorations;
- postponing major facility maintenance projects; and
- doing less trail maintenance work and mowing.

Reduction (A) could be described as a “watering down” of park service levels system-wide because it would put all cost and profit centers on equal rations. No single reduction may cause serious disappointment for visitors in and of itself, but cumulative impacts of this approach over the next several biennia would decrease visitor satisfaction and contribute to declining attendance. Declining attendance would in turn erode long-term revenues and local economic activity, compounding the financial challenges to the agency and dependent businesses. Park management units vary considerably, but for discussion purposes, the following table shows a hypothetical approach using Reduction (A):

Park Type	Current Cost	Reduction (A)	Notes
Anchor Campground	\$1,800,000	\$118,000	reduce season and maintenance
Small Campground	\$475,000	\$31,000	reduce season and maintenance
Medium Day Use	\$160,000	\$11,000	reduce season and maintenance
Remote Wayside	\$35,000	\$2,000	less cleaning and minor repairs
Remote Wayside	\$30,000	\$2,000	less cleaning and minor repairs
Remote Wayside	\$20,000	\$1,000	less cleaning and minor repairs
<i>Management Unit Total</i>	<i>\$2,520,000</i>	<i>\$165,000</i>	

Since the baseline level of service described in the Park System Plan was already at 40% of the industry standard in terms of hours necessary for routine maintenance, preventive maintenance,

and customer service, additional reductions of hours will have increasingly noticeable impacts. Further declines, whether they are in staff hours or supplies, will appear to visitors in the form of later opening dates; earlier closing dates; less clean restrooms; longer grass in the lawns; vandalism not cleaned up right away; diminished perceptions of safety; facilities out-of-service longer; and worse pavement, among other things.

The second approach, Reduction (B), would selectively apply reductions to certain park properties, facilities, or functions that have the least mission impact, lowest profitability, and poorest alignment with the Park System Plan strategies. A lesser-used property that does not truly say “State Park” would, for example, take a greater reduction than an iconic park like Cape Lookout or Heceta Head where there is a significant statewide attraction. Similarly, a park with little revenue and relatively high costs would be reduced at a greater level than a park where visitors cover a good proportion of their costs. In this approach, reductions at the lower-performing parks will be noticeable and may generate concerns and complaints sooner than the alternative.

A hypothetical example of how this could be applied in a representative park management unit is as follows:

Park Type	Current Cost	Reduction (B)	Notes
Anchor Campground	\$1,800,000	\$5,000	less cleaning and minor repairs
Small Campground	\$475,000	\$15,000	less cleaning and minor repairs
Medium Day Use	\$160,000	\$70,000	remove potable water
Remote Wayside	\$35,000	\$30,000	convert to natural area
Remote Wayside	\$30,000	\$25,000	convert to natural area
Remote Wayside	\$20,000	\$20,000	transfer out
<i>Management Unit Total</i>	<i>\$2,520,000</i>	<i>\$165,000</i>	

While Reduction (B) has advantages from the standpoint of protecting the long-term position of the Department, there are drawbacks. For one, every park has someone who loves it dearly and is opposed to change or loss of service. This has been evident in recent conversations that the Commission has had about Illinois River Forks State Park. If there were unlimited resources, it would be possible to maintain service levels everywhere, but this will be increasingly difficult to accomplish.

A second issue of concern about the strategic approach is the potential for a net reduction in economic impact to local communities. Using the most recent data from visitor surveys in the Columbia River Gorge, it is possible to estimate that service reductions resulting in the loss of 10,000 overnight visitors has about the same negative economic impact to local businesses as

the loss of 33,000 day use visitors (White, Eric M. and Darren Goodding, 2013 unpublished draft data, Oregon State University). On the face of it, this argues for service realignments that favor an emphasis on overnight instead of day use, which Reduction (B) does. However, it is possible to go too far and exceed this ratio by diminishing day use visitation excessively. The strong advantage of Reduction (B) is that it protects Department revenue generation while maintaining quality at the most well-known state parks in the system. This means that the funding gap is not exacerbated in the future beyond the already significant challenge of escalating costs.

Preliminary work by OPRD Planner Terry Bergerson to develop the 2013-17 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identified an Oregon Parkland Classification System that is useful for considering the types of parks that a Reduction (B) approach might apply to (see http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/Pages/planning_SCORP.aspx). This classification system identified eleven parkland types described generally as follows:

Parkland Type	Space	Service Radius	Features
Destination Parks	wide range of acreage	1+ hours driving time with region, state, or national draw	outstanding natural, historic, scenic, or recreational attractions
Linear Parks	depends on corridor length	typical community to region draw	support trail-oriented activities and amenities, but are more than just a trail
Regional Sports Parks	25-80 acres	typical community to region draw	consolidate heavily programmed athletic activities
Trails and Bikeways	variable	typical community to region draw	more related to just a trail
Special Use Parks	depends on the special use	variable	water access points, historic sites, and waysides with a significant feature
Nature Parks	10-200+ acres	typical community to region draw	greenways, natural areas, and preserves
Regional Parks	100+ acres	45 minutes driving	multiple activities and event space with support facilities including parking
Community Parks	15-100 acres	15 minutes driving	smaller and more local with multiple activities and play areas
Neighborhood Parks	2-20 acres	5-10 minutes walking	playgrounds, outdoor courts, picnic tables, open grass areas, trails for neighborhood use
Urban Plazas	0.25-3 acres	5-10 minutes walking or	intense development, hardscapes, urban feel and part

Parkland Type	Space	Service Radius	Features
		shopping/tourist draw related	of mixed use development
Pocket Parks	0.25-2 acres	5-10 minutes walking	limited amenities and no off-street parking

The **bolded parkland types** above are generally the types that would be protected in a Reduction (B) approach, especially those where the service radius is of state or nation-wide draw. Investments would be made disproportionately in their favor and generally away from the other types. There are many parks in the state park system that fall into the regional, community, and even neighborhood categories that were acquired in a different day. While there is an important component of variety and diversity of parkland types that makes the Oregon state park system unique, some realignment is critical to long-term sustainability due to the current and anticipated funding gaps.

The Proposal...

The proposal is to accept the limitations of the long-term financial challenges by targeting reductions in accordance with the Oregon State Park System Plan strategies - Reduction (B). While this would result in an immediate disinvestment in certain types of parks, it would be balanced by a continued commitment and investment in other, more mission-critical types of parks - those that best fulfill the statewide mission of the Department. Staff would be asked to look for opportunities to disinvest in certain types of parks and facilities but to protect and invest in others.

Disinvestment could come in the form of reduced hours, less maintenance, fewer supplies, or deferring a major maintenance or stewardship project. It could involve a conversion to a natural area, a land sale, exchange, or transfer to another provider who is better positioned to take advantage of the property. It could involve elimination or demolition of a facility; removing an expensive part of the service such as provision of potable water; replacing a high maintenance facility with a low maintenance one; reducing the days and hours the property is open; cutting back on nighttime patrols; converting lawns to meadows; and so forth. In general, it would require staff to find the courage to be poor performers at those things that visitors value the least, at the properties of least relative interest to visitors.

These properties are not the iconic state parks. They are not the destination parks. They are the other ones, the ones that are not drawing visitors in from outside the local area. Initial criteria for determining which parks to consider for disinvestment include:

- **likely to perform less well over the next ten years than most parks;**
- **few or no resources of statewide significance;**

- relatively low visitation, especially from distant travelers;
- not on anyone's "bucket list;"
- more like a local park or rest area than a state park;
- relatively little local support as a state park;
- visitor and employee safety issues are present;
- lack of adequate law enforcement coverage available;
- **little potential as a profit center;**
- limiting degree of seasonality;
- relatively high deferred maintenance levels (high asset condition index);
- existing need for major maintenance with low likely return on investment;
- distant from an anchor park; and
- relatively high costs to operate.

Frontline managers and staff are in the best position to determine this in consultation with district and region managers. Examples of these types of parks are: Holman Wayside, Washburne Wayside, Alderwood Wayside, Battle Mountain, and Chandler Wayside.

Alternatively, the parks where **investment** would occur are those that are most important to the state park system. They are the iconic parks that are important and attractive to Oregonians from across the state and to those from other states and countries. Initial criteria for determining which parks to invest in include:

- **likely to perform better over the next ten years than most other parks;**
- many or important resources of statewide significance;
- **relatively high visitation, especially from distant travelers;**
- this is a "bucket list" park;
- a destination park of statewide interest;
- local communities depend on visitation to these parks;
- **high potential as a profit center;**

- relatively low costs per visitor;
- commitment from local volunteers is strong; and
- control of key resources is secure.

Since the overall budget picture is declining, it is extremely important to invest wisely. This service realignment proposal depends on some investment to help drive value creation and future potential earnings in order to reduce the funding gap at least partially from the revenue side.² Parks and portions of parks (facilities) that have these characteristics are the best candidates for investment. Examples of these types of parks include Silver Falls State Park, Fort Stevens State Park, Nehalem Bay State Park, Vista House, Champoeg State Park, Smith Rock, and The Cove Palisades.

The three central strategies of the Park System Plan create a framework for making up the gap between expenditures and revenues. This framework can be used by managers to answer all sorts of questions about what to emphasize and what to ignore as the 13-15 biennium budget becomes available. For instance, consider the implications within each strategy:

1. Do Really Well at What We Do Best

This speaks directly to the choices for which properties to focus on. Those indicated above for investment are the types of parks and facilities that the Department does best. This proposal suggests that they need to come first, and they need to be continuously assessed and improved.

Another aspect of this strategy is a consideration of quality standards. Quality around what we do best, and lower quality at what we choose to cut back on, is a core component of this proposal. For instance, the development and communication of performance standards to staff (and the public) is a way to help ensure that adequate resources are allocated and available to important components of the service offering. That means that staff would excel in the attributes that are most important to visitors and cut back in others that are not. An example of how this might be organized is explained in the following table:

	Relative Performance of State Parks		
Attribute	<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>

² the revenue enhancement direction could also be supplemented by an expansion of the day use rate program to these parks where investment is maintained or increased.

cleanliness of facilities	X		
courteous and professional staff	X		
remarkable experiences offered	X		
responsiveness	X		
safety / staff presence		X	
connections to community		X	
interpretive services		X	
range of services offered		X	
low rates		X	
updated facilities			X
ease of reservations			X
availability without planning ahead			X
number of free experiences			X
handling peak capacity			X

This proposal would be to try to absorb reductions by protecting what we do really well and, if any alienation of visitors has to occur, have it be around less important attributes.

2. Create Way More Value Than We Capture

There are two main parts to implementing this strategy. One has to do with creating a great value for visitors over and above what they pay in use rates. The other has to do with economic impact in local communities.

The Park System Plan estimated that the average visit generated up to \$106 in visitor intrinsic value with only \$0.47 of that value was captured in campground and day use rates. The expected Legislatively Approved Budget for 13-15 contains an estimated 4% rate increase to bring current park charges at the high end better in alignment with market rates.³ While this helps the gap from increasing even more, it needs to be balanced with a staff focus on improving value. The strategy is to find creative ways to increase the value of a visitor experience well beyond what is spent on the rate. Frontline managers would, under this proposed realignment, continue to focus on expanding this value on the investment properties, but relatively neglect it on the disinvestment properties. This ultimately will mean shifting staff hours to provide higher levels of customer service in the higher performing parks and lower levels in the others.

³ for the overall revenue picture, a 4% increase in rates equates to about a 1.3% increase in revenues.

The second consideration is value creation through local economic impacts. The Park System Plan calculated that every dollar of public support funding to the state park system yields on average \$17 of visitor spending in businesses within 30 miles of the park. This \$735 million in annual economic activity generates the equivalent of 11,600 full-time jobs across the state. A reduction of public support funding system-wide by 3-7% would in theory reduce this value generation by \$22-50 million annually. Under the proposal, this potential economic impact reduction would have to be concentrated in the communities with disinvestment parks in the hopes that the overall visitor attendance, and related spending, could be sustained or increased in communities near investment parks.

3. Improve Profitability Everywhere

Improving profitability is about increasing revenues and decreasing costs. Revenue enhancement has been referred to above. The best opportunities are an expansion of the day use rate program at investment parks where the sustained or increased value of the park experience at these parks could be translated into higher value capture by the Department. A project is underway to develop a specific proposal around this concept for the Commission to consider at an upcoming meeting. Otherwise, frontline managers would be encouraged to innovate around revenue generation. This would primarily be in the form of attractors and marketing to keep or improve occupancy. The recently enhanced website and decentralized ability of the frontline staff to communicate events and other information about parks is one tool that could be used to help accomplish this goal. Other tools available to support this effort include the expanded Let's Go program and the augmented Arts in the Parks program.

The other side of improving profitability is reducing expenses. The driver under this proposed realignment is park and facility reductions which in turn require lower maintenance levels and customer service. The Park System Plan suggested a 2% net asset reduction target as a way to keep declining preventive and major maintenance funding from driving up the overall asset condition index for the park system.⁴ This proposed service realignment would create a pathway for frontline managers to find this level of asset reduction in a considered and strategic way.

If the Commission adopts this service realignment approach, staff will have a clearer framework for applying the coming reductions in maintenance and service levels. It will help keep the concentration on what we excel at overall, while giving the support to do somewhat worse at what is of relatively lower value. Because state parks matter to people and help give meaning to their lives, this approach may generate some disappointment. Getting the balance right on where and to what extent to keep the park system operating within its means will need the dedication and good thinking of staff and will need the support and backing of the Commission, Director, and Executive Team.

⁴ Staff is currently developing a decommission process that would be used as a checklist for implementing any necessary reductions. This process will include a step for Commission approval for properties or major facilities.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

July 17, 2013

Agenda Item: 12c

Action

Topic: 2013-2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Presented by: Terry Bergerson

To remain qualified for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants, each state must prepare a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years. In Oregon, the plan not only guides this grant program, but also serves as the foundation for criteria in other grants administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), including Local Government, County Opportunity, Recreational Trails, and All-Terrain Vehicle programs. It also informs Oregon State Park System operations, administration, planning, development, and recreation programs. Finally, the plan helps governments, as well as the private sector, deliver quality outdoor recreational opportunities to Oregonians and out-of-state visitors.

Early in the planning effort, OPRD established a 20-member SCORP Advisory Committee to assist the department with the planning process. Members of the group represented various organizations including local, state, and federal recreation providers, recreational user groups, and universities. Two full committee meetings were held during the planning effort. In addition, a number of subcommittee meetings were held to review survey questionnaires, develop the chapter on sustainability, and to develop a set of Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) criteria for evaluating LWCF grant proposals. Public input for the plan was accomplished through participation in general population surveys and review of the draft plan.

Besides satisfying grant program requirements, a primary intent of this plan is to provide up-to-date, high-quality information to assist recreation providers with park system planning in Oregon. As a result, a substantial investment was made to conduct a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about parks and recreation management. The sample was designed to derive information at the county level, providing close-to-home survey results for local recreation planners to use in Oregon's 36 counties. A total of 8,860 randomly selected Oregonians completed a survey questionnaire. This is the first SCORP plan in the U.S. to provide statistically reliable survey results at the county level.

Since 1950, Oregon's population has increased at a faster pace than the U.S. population as a whole. In the coming years, Oregon's growth rate is expected to be higher than the national growth rate and its population is expected to reach 4.3 million by the year 2020. As populations grow, available parklands also need to increase to accommodate greater outdoor recreation demand. To assist with park system planning, a chapter includes recommended Level of Service (LOS) Standards for each of 11 parkland classification types along with specific park facility types. A SCORP planning support document entitled *A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning for Oregon Communities* provides instructions for developing LOS guidelines for individual jurisdictions by using county-level SCORP planning information.

A chapter on sustainable park systems creates a vision for development of sustainable federal, state, local, and private park systems in Oregon through policy and planning decisions. Sustainability recommendations are also included for applicants to consider for grant project proposals. A SCORP planning support document entitled *Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon* provides specific recommendations for local agencies to establish and monitor their own sustainable performance improvement systems and incorporate sustainable practices in design, construction and maintenance of park projects.

The planning effort also identified five top statewide issues effecting outdoor recreation provision in the state of Oregon. Those issues include:

- Provide adequate funds for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities.
- Fund major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.
- Add more recreational trails and better trail connectivity between parks and communities.
- Recognize and strengthen park and recreation's role in increasing physical activity in Oregon's population.
- Recommend a standard set of sustainable park practices for outdoor recreation providers.

The plan includes a number of strategic actions for addressing these statewide issues.

To allocate LWCF funds in an objective manner, a set of OPSP criteria were developed for evaluating stateside LWCF grant proposals. Sixty-five percent of the total points available are tied directly to findings from this SCORP planning effort.

A draft of the SCORP planning document entitled *Ensuring Oregon's Outdoor Legacy* has been available for public review and comment during a period from May 1, 2013 to June 1, 2013. Following Commission approval, the final plan will be submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) for approval. Following NPS approval, printing and statewide distribution will occur in August 2013.

The final plan, including support documents (in a cd on the back inside cover), is attached.

Prior Action by Commission: Approval for Oregon State University survey work expenditure.

Action Requested: OPRD staff requests Commission approval of the 2013-2017 SCORP for submittal to the NPS.

Prepared by: Terry Bergerson