



AGENDA For Parks & Open Space Map Update Subcommittee Meeting

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, May 1, 2023

Lithia Park Admin Office

340 S. Pioneer Street – 9:30 a.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of minutes for September 27, 2022
- III. Additions or Deletions to Agenda
- IV. Public Forum
- V. Review Open Parks & Open Space Map Recommendations
- VI. Subcommittee Recommendations to Parks Commission
- VII. Adjournment

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**MINUTES FOR
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Parks & Open Space Map Update Subcommittee
September 27, 2022
340 S. Pioneer Street – 2 P.M.**

Present: Commissioners Landt, Eldridge; Director Black, Analyst Kiewel, Eric Hansen, JoAnne Eggers, Katie Larsen
Torsten Heycke,

I. CALL TO ORDER

Landt called the meeting to order at 2 PM.

II. Approval of minutes for July 1, 2022, and July 7, 2022 meetings

Heycke motioned to approve the July 1, 2022 minutes with changes to name spellings. Landt seconded. All approved

Landt motioned to approve the July 7, 2022 minutes with changes to name spellings. Eggers seconded. All approved

Landt suspended the agenda. Eggers asked what the process for public input for the draft map would be. Landt explained that the subcommittee will review and approve the draft map. The next step is that the draft map will be presented to the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) at a study session meeting. APRC may ask for changes to the draft map that will be implemented then presented at an APRC business meeting for a vote on approval. Then the draft map will go to the City to begin the process for adoption. The public is invited to comment at any of public meetings.

Black stated we could do a public Open House after the APRC study session meeting to get public feedback.

Landt resumed the meeting agenda.

III. Review Parks & Open Space Map Recommendations

Subcommittee reviewed draft the map and legend. Eldridge liked the draft map and complemented the visual changes.

The group discussed the property around the Wastewater Treatment Plant and recommend highlighting in orange and do differentiate from other properties with a narrative. The riparian area should be retained.

The group would like to have GIS label the large properties.

Landt let the subcommittee know that per staff recommendation the property on Wightman and East Main will not be divested.

Landt suggested adding the Tuttle property as a possible purchase. There is land agreement for use with the current owner for trails use. The subcommittee agreed.

Heycke asked about expansion of the Fairy Ponds area. This area is outside the current urban growth boundary.

The group discussed the city yards above Lithia Park as possible parking. The subcommittee discussed this as being a goal to work toward but not to add on the plan because it is City property.

Eldridge moved to approve the draft map with the additions discussed today. Larsen seconded.

Discussion

Eggers stated that each of these properties that will serve the community. She asked when a property that is on the map becomes available would each be evaluated. Black explained that this map is guidance, and everything would be further evaluated through a public process.

Vote
All voted yes.

- IV. Compare Trails Master Plan map with Parks & Open Space Map recommendations.**
This item will be moved to a future agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Kiewel, Administrative Analyst

DRAFT

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Landt
Leslie Eldridge
Justin Adams
Jim Bachman
Jim Lewis



Michael A. Black, AICP
Director

541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

Parks Subcommittee Staff Report

TO: Parks and Open Space Map Update Subcommittee
DATE: April 27, 2023
FROM: Tara Kiewel, Administrative Analyst
SUBJECT: Open Space Plan Summary

Below is a draft summary of the plan for the Parks and Open Space Map Update that was submitted by Commissioner Landt for the Subcommittees review.

Note: Language used is for final version, so it states recommendations and approvals that have not yet occurred. Rest assured that this is still a draft awaiting your review. This Summary would be included on the updated Plan map

Draft Open Space Plan Summary

A goal of the Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC). Board of Commissioners' (the "Commissioners") is to update the Parks, Trails & Open Space Plan (the "Plan") every ten years. Although a "Light Update" was done by APRC in 2012, it was not reviewed and approved by City Council. The last official update of the Plan was done in 2002.

In preparation for the 2002 update, APRC held a series of community meetings to gather input from citizens on updating the 1991 plan. Following the meetings, Commissioners developed an updated Plan map that included changing the name of the program to the "Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan". For the 2023 update, a Parks, Trails and Open Space Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee") was formed by the Commissioners to review the Plan and make recommendations. the Subcommittee has prepared the 2023 update and that body has recommended the 2023 Plan for approval by the Commissioners and City Council. There have been XXXX APRC meetings where public input was solicited. This Plan was approved by Commissioners XXXX and by City Council XXXX .

The current situation with Ashland's park land is very different than in 1991 when the Comprehensive Plan was first developed and approved by City Council. In 1991, Ashland had less park land per capita than Roseburg, Medford and Klamath Falls. Now, after 30-plus years of effort, Ashland's per capita park land ranks it among the State's leaders. Commissioners have determined that procurement of land for

developed parks is no longer a high priority. Additionally, because City legislation accompanying the Plan specifically mandated that no land would be obtained by condemnation, originally more property than needed was on the Plan to ensure sufficient land could be acquired from willing sellers. For the reasons stated and after careful review by the Subcommittee and approval by APRC Commissioners, XXX acres of property projected for purchase from the 2005 Plan map has been removed from this updated 2023 Plan.

One of the goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan is to have a neighborhood park located within a 1/4 mile of every resident living inside the current city limits. With the exceptions of the Mistletoe (Croman) neighborhood, fully developed sections of the City where no open lands exist, and areas in the urban-forest interface characterized by large lots where Commissioners have deemed that the benefits are not great enough to justify the costs, sufficient property has been obtained to meet this goal. If the City's boundaries are expanded, additional property may need to be identified and acquired to meet the neighborhood goal.

The majority of properties left on the Plan for future purchase provide protection of significant natural areas like streams and riparian areas and/or are land and easements that provide trail connectivity. The connectivity goal is to secure land, through outright purchase, donation, grants, or easements, on which to develop a trail system that would provide connecting links to neighborhoods and additional trails throughout the City and surrounding area for non-motorized, recreational use. Efforts to accomplish this goal will be advanced through collaboration with other organizations, such as the Ashland Woodland and Trails Association, Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy.

Properties Designated for Purchase or Easements and Projected Use (I think we should create a matrix for this section instead of a list. I can do that)

- (#5) Bear Creek riparian/floodplain corridor from NMP to I-5 crossing. Significant wildlife habit, natural area that is potentially part of the Greenway extension
- (#6) Wright's Creek Corridor. Trail corridor and protection for riparian zone
- (#7) Upper Liberty St—Key trail connectivity and wildfire prevention potential
- (#8 & 16) Bear Creek riparian/floodplain segments from Nevada St to N Mtn Ave – Significant wildlife habit, natural area that is also part of the projected Greenway extension
- #9 The Willow area. Riparian area that could be a future pedestrian connection
- #10 Ashland Creek Corridor – Year-round stream, significant wildlife habitat and potential pedestrian/bicycle connection
- #11 Hamilton Corridor- riparian area, wildlife habitat and potential trail
- #12 – Walker Site E. Main –future athletic fields
- #13 – Bear Creek and Wrights Creek corridors through Billings Property—Trail connectivity and protection of riparian zone/wildlife corridor
- #17 Tolman Creek/Mistle Toe – Neighborhood park needed in this area. Ideally, park would include protection of riparian area
- #19 Grizzly Peak –Conservation easements on the south slopes of Grizzly visible from Ashland would not only protect iconic view visible from most of Ashland, but would also reduce development pressure on rare and sensitive flora and on large mammals like the large resident elk herd
- #20 TID ditch segments – An important virtually level pedestrian trail

- Imperatrice property above the TID ditch—part of City's Grizzly peak viewscape, contains rare and sensitive flora and fauna, potential for a trail system. Currently in City ownership but not designated as park land
- Connection across Ashland Creek between Helman and Oak Streets- easements for trail connectivity (location on 2005 Plan no longer exists)
- 440 GRANITE ST OR WHATEVER ADDRESS IS—ONLY PRIVATE INHOLDING ON EAST SIDE OF GRANITE. SURROUNDED ON THREE SIDES BY LITHIA PARK. UNLIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE IN NEAR FUTURE.
- Lindquist property—On TID ditch between Hart Trail and Strawberry Lane

Note to reviewers: I left existing property numbers on but since some numbered properties have been removed, thus the remaining ones should be renumbered.