

WILLAMETTE PARK ASSESSMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS APPENDICES

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WILLAMETTE PARK ASSESSMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS WORK PLAN



**Portland State University
Masters of Urban & Regional Planning Workshop**

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QUERCUS  **Planning Group**

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1. Project Background

Willamette Park is a 26.85 acre regional park located in Southwest Portland along the western bank of the Willamette River. Acquired in 1926 by the City of Portland, this area is a unique and valuable resource providing residents and visitors of the Portland metropolitan region with a range of recreational and educational opportunities. The recreational amenities within the park include: a boat dock and ramp, multi-use paths, picnic areas, dog off-leash area, two playgrounds, two soccer fields, and four tennis courts. Natural amenities located in the park include: native oak groves, riparian and river habitat, mudflats, and native vegetation.

Willamette Park is a hybrid park, which is a developed park that includes natural areas within the park boundaries. Hybrid parks link people with the natural environment by incorporating more diverse vegetation types and natural settings among developed recreational uses that attract wildlife and serve a larger ecological function. As a hybrid park, Willamette Park's natural amenities are integrated into the park's infrastructure as key assets of the park that provide valuable ecosystem services. Due to the variety of uses as a recreation park, however, managing Willamette Park as a hybrid park is more challenging than other hybrid parks but it is not impossible. Careful planning and consideration of both recreational and natural amenities and the many uses is very important to enhance the user experience and improve the quality of the park for all.

There is currently not a master plan for Willamette Park. Through an assessment of the park amenities and uses, Quercus Planning Group (QPG) aims to provide Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) with recommendations that will help with future planning efforts.

2. Project Scope

The overarching goal of Quercus Planning Group's ('the Consultant') Workshop project is to aid PP&R ('the Client') **in prioritizing projects that balance the long-term viability and sustainability of Willamette Park with growing user demands.** Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) will serve as a consulting partner agency, as the agency is a major stakeholder with a strong interest in natural resource management for the park and the city. Public involvement is a key component of the process and will be essential to creating alternatives and recommendations for the final product.

During initial discussions with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Quercus Planning Group was given a summary of existing features, issues, and future projects identified by PP&R and BES. Based on recommendations from the TAC and the Consultant's project time frame, work and educational experience, and interests of the team members, three major elements were selected for analysis and recommendation development: recreational opportunities, natural resources, and stewardship and education. The final product will provide preliminary recommendations for the future of

the park. The goal of this project is for PP&R to be able to use this document to inform future planning efforts and decision-making processes.

2.1 Recreational Opportunities

Purpose: Assess the recreational usage and values at Willamette Park, and develop recommendations for future park improvements that address the recreational desires of the community and support the hybrid nature of the park. Priorities within this focus area include:

- a. Conducting an assessment of recreational uses to better understand the activities occurring within Willamette Park and ensure all uses are compatible with the hybrid park vision.
- b. Identifying desired recreational uses that will give a better understanding of the value of the park both within the community and within the metropolitan region, and will help develop recommendations for future park use.
- c. PP&R is considering a variety of physical amenities improvements that will be included in the assessment, including constructing new sand volleyball and basketball courts, expanding the boat dock, and constructing a boat cleaning station at the dock.
- d. Maintaining public access to the river, as people's ability to see and be next to the river is an essential component of understanding it and supporting conservation.

2.2 Natural Resources

Purpose: Understand the current ecological conditions of Willamette Park and develop recommendations for future actions that enhance the sustainability of the park. Priorities within this focus area include:

- a. Stormwater management, an essential component of natural resource health improvements. Consider issues related to the boat ramp parking lot, the bioswale near the boat ramp, and drainage issues throughout the park.
- b. Heritage oak trees, a unique asset of Willamette Park. Proper management and enhancement is critical to ensure their continued success.
- c. Riverbank restoration along the Willamette River, a major focus for BES and PP&R to provide critical habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead, which are provided protection under the Endangered Species Act.

2.3 Stewardship & Education

Purpose: Develop recommendations for methods to raise awareness of recreational opportunities as well as natural resource assets and issues within Willamette Park. Priorities within this focus area include:

- a. Research alternatives to signage that will educate the public, reduce the risk of vandalism, and enhance all park users' experiences.
- b. Develop recommendations to encourage environmental education and enhance partnerships for managing natural resources and fostering stewardship.
- c. Provide outreach to dog owners about the dog off leash area.

2.4 Overarching Frameworks

There are many frameworks outside the park that will influence the alternatives and final recommendations of the project. These frameworks include:

1. The larger ecological context, which includes the riparian zone and floodplain of the Willamette River, the California Subwatershed, and the Willamette River Watershed.
2. The larger urban context of the South Portland community and Portland metropolitan region.
3. Transportation improvements, which include the Lake Oswego streetcar, the proposed multi-use bicycle commuting path, construction of the new Sellwood Bridge, and circulation within the boat launch parking lot.
4. The Willamette Greenway Trail, a multi-use path that has both local and regional significance.

An additional consideration is the park's operation and maintenance as a hybrid park. It will require careful consideration when proposing alternatives and recommendations.

3. Major Tasks

In order to provide insightful information and recommendations to the Client around the Consultant's focus areas, the following tasks will be completed over a five month timeframe.

3.1 Task 1: Project Scoping & Problem Assessment

(January to early February, 2010)

Defining the project scope will entail working with the Client to come to an agreement about process, project design and expectations. Assessing the current challenges and opportunities that exist within the park will aid in the development of project scope,

goals and priorities. During this phase, the project schedule and the overarching internal and external expectations will be clarified with the Client.

- **Task 1.1 TAC Meeting #1** - Introduce Quercus Planning Group members to TAC; QPG learns from TAC about current issues in park.
- **Task 1.2 Develop Schedule for TAC Meetings** - Schedule monthly meetings between QPG and TAC to provide updates and seek feedback throughout the project.
- **Task 1.3 Develop MOU** - Create an agreement between the Client and the Consultant to ensure that expectations and objectives for the project are clear to all parties.
- **Task 1.4 Develop Work Plan** - Provide a framework for the Consultant to follow through the life of the project.
- **Task 1.5 Develop Project Schedule** - Provide a clear outline of the appropriate start times and duration of tasks and project benchmarks.
- **Task 1.6 TAC Meeting #2** - QPG provides the TAC with an outline of major focus areas, tasks and seeks feedback.
- **Task 1.7 Public Involvement Plan** - Develop plan to define public's role and appropriate opportunities for involving the public in the planning process. Consult the Client to determine the appropriate times throughout the project for the public to be involved in the decision making process.

3.2 Task 2: Information Gathering

(Mid-January to early April, 2010)

The purpose of collecting information for the project is to aid in a better understanding of the social and ecological characteristics of the park in the context of its past, current and future uses. Information will be collected both on- and off-site.

- **Task 2.1 First Impressions Site Visit** - Visit site to explore the park and gain an introductory understanding through team discussion and visual documentation.
- **Task 2.2 Identify Major Stakeholders** - Work with the Client to identify parties that have a vested interest in this planning process.
- **Task 2.3 Guided Site Visit** - Tour the site with various Client representatives to gain further insight into the opportunities and challenges of the site. The Consultant will conduct between two to three site visits with Client representatives.
- **Task 2.4 Historic Research** - Review a variety of historic documentation (ie. previous plans, maps, websites and newspapers) to gain a deeper understanding of the site.
- **Task 2.5 Client Interviews** - Interview Client representatives to gain further insight into the opportunities and challenges of the site. This task may be conducted in coordination with item 2.3.

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- **Task 2.6 Park Observation #1** - Visit the site two different times to document visitor uses within the park. The site visits will occur during different times of day and during at least one week day and one weekend day. This is the first of such visits.
 - **Task 2.7 Site Inventory** - Conduct an inventory of the various biophysical characteristics of the park, including vegetation, hydrology, slope, geology, solar exposure, and wind.
 - **Task 2.8 Rainy Day Visit** - Visit the site on a day when it is raining. QPG will attempt to visit the site on a day when it has rained for multiple days preceding the visit to ensure that the soil is saturated and can document the paths of stormwater runoff. This is one of the three park observations.
 - **Task 2.9 Develop Maps** - Maps will be developed throughout this phase of the project to assist and document information gathering.
 - **Task 2.10 Research Park Practices** - Identify successful methods used in other parks for managing natural resources, balancing varied user demands and conflicting uses and educating the public about recreational and ecological assets in the park.
 - **Task 2.11 Stakeholder Interviews** - Identify key stakeholder concerns regarding recreational opportunities, natural resources, and stewardship and education in the park. The Consultant will conduct up to 10 stakeholder interviews.
 - **Task 2.12 Visit SWNI and Neighborhood Associations** - Notify the surrounding community of the project and build relationships with community leaders.
 - **Task 2.13 Intercept Survey** - Ask visitors randomly within the park and individuals that visit QPG's website about their values and desires for the park. As the park has regional significance, this step will ensure that the values and desires of visitors from all communities, not solely the immediately surrounding neighborhoods, are incorporated into the assessment.
 - **Task 2.14 Stop & Talk #1** - Host an informal meeting within the park on a weekend afternoon. This meeting will be advertised within the park and to the community through neighborhood association and community leaders, to help get the word out. Park visitors will be encouraged to speak with QPG members to discuss their opinions about the park. QPG will provide copies of the intercept survey and the link to the online survey tool to ensure that park users are reflected in the survey results.
 - **Task 2.15 Park Observation #2** - Visit the site at three different times to document visitor uses within the park. The site visits will occur during different times of day and during at least one week day and one weekend day. This series of site visits will occur later in the spring to ensure that peak-season activities are documented in the study. One visit will be conducted in coordination with the Stop & Talk. This will be the third of such visits.

3.3 Task 3: Vision & Goals

(Late January to early April, 2010)

This task assesses the data gathered in the previous phase and identifies common values from the community and the Client. This understanding will help QPG to evaluate the alternatives developed in subsequent phases and provide meaningful and relevant recommendations.

- **Task 3.1 Identify Patterns and Themes from Information Gathering and Public Involvement** - Use information gathered through various client and stakeholder interviews, and public involvement procedures identified in the Information Gathering phase, to identify frequently highlighted challenges, desires and values for the park.

3.4 Task 4: Alternatives Development & Evaluation

(Mid-March to early May, 2010)

The intention of developing a variety of alternatives is to explore different methods for addressing challenges and opportunities within a space. The alternatives are then evaluated against the vision and goals identified in the previous phase to identify the most appropriate solutions and improvements. QPG will synthesize the data collected in the Information Gathering and Public Involvement phase to develop the alternatives.

- **Task 4.1 Develop Alternatives** - Develop an array of alternatives that address the issues identified related to recreational opportunities, natural resources, and stewardship and education in the park.
- **Task 4.2 Develop Evaluation Criteria** - Use patterns and themes identified in the Vision and Goals phase of the project to develop criteria to evaluate the alternatives.
- **Task 4.3 Evaluate Identified Alternatives** - Apply the criteria to the alternatives to identify the most appropriate methods to address the challenges and opportunities identified in the park.
- **Task 4.4 Conduct Community Meeting and Stop & Talk #2 to Review Alternatives** - Review proposed alternatives with the public to determine that information collected is correct and if additional alternatives should be integrated into the planning process. Community members will be requested to evaluate proposed alternatives to assist QPG with the development of the final recommendations.

3.5 Task 5: Recommendation Development & Evaluation

(Mid-April to early May, 2010)

Final recommendations will be developed with consultation from the community, the Client, and the Technical Advisory Committee. The final recommendations will develop priorities for the park which balance environmental and social uses.

- **Task 5.1 Develop Draft Recommendations** - Develop recommendations based on the alternatives evaluation process. Incorporate them into the draft assessment and recommendations document for review by the Client, TAC, and Workshop professors.
- **Task 5.2 Develop Final Recommendations** - Consider the comments received from the review process to develop final recommendations for the final assessment and recommendation document.

3.6 Task 7: Final Products

(April to early June, 2010)

Quercus Planning Group will provide the Client with a final written assessment of the park and recommendations. The document will include a short executive summary, a current inventory of park resources (both recreational and natural), conflicts and management issues, and desired uses, features, and amenities that PP&R, BES and the community identified. This assessment will be accompanied by various maps as agreed upon between the Client and QPG. Final recommendations will include strategies for balancing the recreational and ecological uses of the park. The final product will be titled *Willamette Park Assessment and Recommendations*. As requested by the Client, QPG will also present the final product to various groups at the City. The final product will be posted on the website for the community to view.

Elements of the final product (as identified by PP&R):

- History of the park/background
- Park characteristics
- Regional significance of natural resources and recreation activities
- Pressures on the park/limitations/opportunities
- Interactions within the park, including people, recreation and natural resources
- Issues identification and alternatives
- Recommendations and next steps

Tasks included in the development of the final product:

- **Task 7.1 Develop Final Report Template** - This will ensure that a professional product is assembled for the Client.

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- **Task 7.2 Develop Maps for Final Report** - Create various maps to identify features, challenges and opportunities throughout the park, and to highlight the alternatives and recommendations.
 - **Task 7.3 Develop Draft Report** - Submit draft report to the TAC at least one week in advance.
 - **Task 7.5 Class Presentation** - Present findings from the planning process to classmates and the Client, including alternatives and recommendations for the future of the park.
 - **Task 7.5 Public Presentation** - Present findings from the planning process to the Client and various stakeholders, including alternatives and recommendations for the future of the park.
 - **Task 7.7 Final Report** - Include revisions developed during the draft report review and presentations phases.

3.7 Task 8: Project Management

(January to June, 2010)

Effective project management will ensure that the Willamette Park Assessment and Recommendations project is completed in a timely manner while following an inclusive and efficient planning process and compiling a quality product. Each member of Quercus Planning Group is responsible for overseeing a major component of the process and for developing major elements of the final product.

- **Task 8.1 Develop Promotional Products** - Logos, information sheets, flyers, business cards and other materials will be created to advertise the project and increase stakeholder interest.
- **Task 8.2 Develop Website** - Create website to inform the Client, stakeholders and interested parties of updates and milestones in the project planning process.
- **Task 8.3 TAC Meetings** - Receive guidance from the Client and major stakeholders.
- **Task 8.4 Work Plan Assessment #1** - At a set mid-project milestone, review the Work Plan to make changes based on unforeseen challenges experienced by QPG and gathered information discovered during the planning process. This is an opportunity for QPG to grow as planning practitioners.
- **Task 8.5 Work Plan Assessment #2** - At the conclusion of the project, conduct a final review of the Work Plan to once again to learn from the planning process. Similar themes, such as unforeseen challenges, may be explored during this assessment process.
- **Task 8.6 Schedule Maintenance** - Ensure that tasks are completed on time and team members are notified of upcoming deadlines. Also to modify the schedule as needed based on the project's progress.

4. Consultant, Client & Advisory Roles

Quercus Planning Group identified the following specific roles for each of the consultants.

- Maren Murphy will be the Client Liaison between Quercus Planning Group, PP&R, and BES. She will coordinate meetings, conducting communications, and responding to client questions through e-mail and phone. She will communicate client direction to the group and help ensure that Quercus Planning Group is meeting the goals of the Client.
- Bernadette Le will be the Project Manager. She will maintain the schedule for all project tasks and tracking the budget (time and monetary). She will coordinate the schedule and tasks to ensure that Quercus Planning Group is meeting deadlines and accomplishing tasks outlined in the Work Plan in a timely and efficient manner.
- Julia Babcock will be the Public Involvement Coordinator. She will work with the Client's Public Involvement Coordinator to identify stakeholders to interview and involve, as well as coordinate the public outreach process. She will ensure that our public involvement process meets the Client's standards while being inclusive to all interested stakeholders.
- Amy Rossa will be the Logistics Coordinator. She will be responsible for coordinating tasks related to producing memos, reports and documents throughout the project as well as the content of the final products. She will create project templates and promotion products, while providing the final review to ensure format consistency of all documents.

The Client is committed to the success of the project and will sign a Memorandum of Understanding outlining their roles.

- Portland Parks & Recreation is the Client. Bryan Aptekar is PP&R's Project Coordinator for this project.
- Portland Bureau of Environmental Services is a partner and major stakeholder in this process. Mary Bushman is BES' Project Coordinator for this project.

The Technical Advisory Committee has agreed to meet monthly (at a minimum) to guide the Client and Consultant through the products associated with the project.

- Bryan Aptekar, West Service Zone Coordinator, PP&R
- Mary Bushman, Environmental Specialist, BES
- Terri Davis, West Service Zone Manager, PP&R
- Marissa Dorais, Stewardship Coordinator, PP&R
- Nancy Gronowski, Senior Planner, PP&R
- Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Public Involvement Specialist, PP&R
- Don McTaggart, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, PP&R
- Emily Roth, Natural Resource Planner, PP&R
- Mark Wilson, Restoration Ecologist, PP&R

5. Timeline & Budget

Quercus Planning Group developed a schedule and hour budget to assist in project management. The timeline will guide the team members of when activities are to begin and end, and to ensure that tasks are completed in the correct order. The budget tracks tasks identified in Section 3 of this document. The timeline and budget are provided in Appendix 1 and 2.

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1: Timeline

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Major Tasks						
1. Project Scoping & Problem Assessment						
1.1 TAC Meeting #1						
1.2 Develop Schedule for TAC Meeting						
1.3 Develop MOU						
1.4 Develop Work Plan						
1.5 Develop Schedule						
1.6 TAC Mtg #2						
3.1 Public Involvement Plan						
2. Information Gathering						
2.1 First Impressions Site Visit						
2.2 Identify Major Stakeholders						
2.3 Guided Site Visit						
2.4 Historical Research						
2.5 Client Interviews						
2.6 Park Observation #1						
2.7 Site Inventory						
2.8 Rainy Day Visit						
2.9 Develop Maps						
2.10 Research Park Practices						
2.11 Stakeholder Interviews						
2.12 Introduce to SWNI and Neighborhood Associations						
2.13 Intercept Survey						
2.14 Stop & Talk						
2.15 Park Observation #2						
3. Vision & Goals						
3.1 Identify Patterns and Themes from IG and PI						
4. Alternatives Development & Evaluation						
4.1 Develop Alternatives						

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Major Tasks						
4.2 Develop Criteria				↑		
4.3 Evaluate Identified Alternatives				↑		
4.4 Conduct Community Meeting to Review Alternatives				↑		
5. Recommendation Development & Evaluation				↑		
5.1 Develop Draft Recommendations				↑		
5.2 Develop Final Recommendations				↑		
6. Final Products				↑		↑
6.1 Develop Report Template				↑		
6.2 Develop Maps for Final Report				↑		
6.3 Develop Draft Report				↑		
6.4 Submit Draft Report to TAC				↑	↑	
6.5 Class Presentations					↑	
6.6 Public Presentation					↑	
6.7 Final Report					↑	↑
7. Project Management	↑	↑			↑	↑
7.1 Develop Promotional Products	↑					
7.2 Develop Website	↑					
7.3 TAC Meetings			★	★	★	
7.4 Work Plan Assessment #1		↑				
7.5 Work Plan Assessment #2						↑
7.6 Schedule Maintenance						↑

Legend
↑ Activity Duration
★ Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

6.2 Appendix 2: Budget

Willamette Park Workshop Project Budget Quercus Planning Group

Phase-Task	Description	Lead Team Member	Maren	Bernadette	Julia	Amy	Total
1. Project Scoping & Problem Assessment							
1.1	TAC Meeting #1	Maren	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	6.5
1.2	Develop Schedule for TAC Meeting	Maren	1	0	0	0	1
1.3	Develop MOU	Amy	0	2.5	0	4	6.5
1.4	Develop Work Plan	Amy	5	5	5	8	23
1.5	Develop Schedule	Bernadette	0	10	0	0	10
1.6	TAC Mtg #2	Maren	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	6.5
1.7	Develop Public Involvement Plan	Julia	1	1	3	1	6
2. Information Gathering							
2.1	First Impressions Site Visit	Amy	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6
2.2	Identify major stakeholders	Julia	0	0	4	0	4
2.3.1	Schedule guided site tours	Maren	2	0	0	0	2
2.3.2	Attend guided site visit	Maren	6	6	6	6	24
2.4	Historical Research	Amy	4	4	4	7	19
2.5.1	Identify appropriate interviewees - Client Interviews	Maren	2	0	0	0	2
2.5.2	Develop format/questions	Julia	3	2	4	2	11
2.5.3	Set-up Interviews	Maren	2	0	0	0	2
2.5.4	Conduct Interviews	Maren	5	5	5	5	20
2.5.5	Develop Technical Memo Template	Amy	0	0	0	1	1
2.5.6	Write Technical Memo #1	Maren	3	1	1	1	6
2.6	Park Observation #1	Bernadette	3	3	3	3	12
2.7	Site Inventory	Bernadette	4	4	0	0	8
2.8	Rainy Day Visit	Amy	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6
2.9	Develop Maps throughout the process	Maren	20	10	0	0	30
2.10	Research Park Practices	Bernadette	4	7	4	4	19
2.11.1	Identify appropriate interviewees - Stakeholder Interviews	Julia	0	0	1	0	1
2.11.2	Develop format/questions	Julia	2	2	2	2	8
2.11.3	Set-up Interviews	Julia	0	0	4	0	4
2.11.4	Conduct Interviews	Julia	5	5	5	5	20
2.11.5	Write Technical Memo	Julia	1	1	3	1	6
2.12	Introduce to SWNI and Neighborhood Assoc.	Julia	3.5	3	2.5	3	12

Phase-Task	Description	Lead Team Member	Maren	Bernadette	Julia	Amy	Total
2.13.1	Develop questions for Intercept Survey	Julia	2	2	4	2	10
2.13.2	Develop Online Survey	Julia	2	0	0	0	2
2.13.3	Conduct Survey	Julia	2	2	2	2	8
2.13.4	Write Technical Memo #3	Amy	1	1	1	3	6
2.14.1	Prepare for Stop & Talk	Julia	2	2	2	2	8
2.14.2	Conduct Stop & Talk Event	Julia	4	4	4	4	16
2.14.3	Write Technical Memo	Julia	1	3	1	1	6
2.15	Parks Observation #2	Bernadette	2	2	2	2	8
4. Vision & Goals							
3.1	Identify Patterns and Themes from IG and PI	Bernadette	4	4	4	4	16
5. Alternatives Development & Evaluation							
4.1	Develop Alternatives	Amy	6	6	6	6	24
4.2	Develop Criteria	Amy	1	1	1	1	4
4.3	Evaluate Identified Alternatives	Amy	2	2	2	2	8
4.4	Conduct Community Meeting to Review Alts	Julia	5	5	7	5	22
6. Recommendation Development & Evaluation							
5.1	Develop Draft Recommendations	Maren	4	4	4	4	16
5.2	Develop Final Recommendations	Maren	3	3	3	3	12
7. Final Products							
6.1	Develop Report Template	Amy	0	0	0	3	3
6.2	Develop Maps for Final Product	Maren	10	6	0	0	16
6.3	Develop Draft Report	Julia	10	10	10	10	40
6.4	Submit Draft Report to TAC	Maren	1	0	0	0	1
6.5	Class Presentations	Julia	3	3	3	3	12
6.6	Public Presentation	Julia	3	3	3	3	12
6.7	Final Report	Amy	10	10	10	12	42
8. Project Management							
7.1	Develop Promotional Products	Amy	2	1	1	8	12
7.2	Maintain Website	Maren	20	0	0	0	20
7.3	TAC Meetings	Maren	6	4.5	4.5	4.5	19.5
7.4	Work Plan Assessment #1	Amy	1	1	1	1	4
7.5	Work Plan Assessment #2	Bernadette	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6
7.6	Schedule Maintenance	Bernadette	0	18	0	0	18
TOTAL HOURS:							654

6.3 Appendix 3: Memorandum of Understanding

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
Portland Parks & Recreation and
Quercus Planning Group
for the
"Willamette Park Assessment & Recommendations"**

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

Whereas Portland Parks & Recreation ('the Client'), Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (major stakeholder) and Quercus Planning Group ('the Consultant') have a common goal for the "Willamette Park Assessment & Recommendations" to assist Portland Parks & Recreation and the Bureau of Environmental Services to describe a balance between the long-term viability and sustainability of the park with growing user demands. The Assessment & Recommendations will focus on the following elements:

- Natural resource management;
- Recreation; and
- Education.

II. BACKGROUND

Quercus Planning Group consists of four Portland State University Masters of Urban and Regional Planning students. The Consultant is entering into this MOU with the intent of gaining insight into the planning process through an independent Workshop project focused on Willamette Park. The students are entering into this agreement with Portland Parks & Recreation as they are the owner of Willamette Park and responsible for its operation, maintenance and long-term success as a public park and natural resource. Portland Bureau of Environmental Services will serve as a consulting partner to Portland Parks & Recreation, throughout this project, as they are a major public agency stakeholder. This partnership has been established as both agencies have a vested interest in improving stormwater management and enhancing the natural resources in Willamette Park and the adjacent Willamette River.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

Each party will appoint a person to serve as the official contact and coordinate the activities of each organization in carrying out this MOU. The initial appointees of each organization include:

Quercus Planning Group
Maren Murphy
quercus.planning@gmail.com

Portland Parks & Recreation

Bryan Aptekar
bryan.apterkar@ci.portland.or.us

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Mary Bushman
mary.bushman@bes.ci.portland.or.us

The organizations agree to the following tasks under this MOU:

Quercus Planning Group will:

1. Collect information and provide a summary of current park stakeholder trends, desires and uses;
2. Work collaboratively to identify project staffing needs and resource requirements;
3. Provide all documents for review at least one week prior to the feedback deadline;
4. Develop a final document with alternatives, recommendations and maps to assist the Client to best achieve the balance previously mentioned; and
5. Provide presentations to the public and the Client at key points in the process.

Portland Parks & Recreation will:

1. Review documents and provide feedback as requested by the Consultant within the agreed upon timeline;
2. Provide assistance in coordinating and implementing public outreach;
3. Provide financial support and resources for project materials (paper and electronic) and public outreach; and
4. Provide a desk, computer log-in and website space for the Consultant to use as needed.

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services will:

1. Review documents and provide feedback as requested by the Consultant within the agreed upon timeline;
2. Provide assistance in coordinating and implementing public outreach;
3. Provide technical assistance in assessment and development of alternatives related to stormwater issues and natural resource.

Now Therefore Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services and Quercus Planning Group agree to the following **joint responsibilities**:

1. Collaborate, where appropriate, on public outreach, information gathering, development of alternatives and consultation;
2. Identify stakeholders and partners; and
3. At a minimum, conduct monthly meetings between the Client and the Consultant.

IV. FUNDING

This MOU does not include the reimbursement of funds for work carried out by the Consultant. The Consultant may request funds for outreach or other project-related material which shall be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE & SIGNATURE

This MOU shall be effective upon the signature of authorized official representing the Client and the Consultant. It shall be enforced from February 1, 2010 to June 9, 2010. The Client and the Consultant indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures.

Quercus Planning Group


Julia Babcock

2/1/2010
Date


Bernadette Le

02/01/2010
Date


Maren Murphy

02/01/2010
Date


Amy Rossa

02/01/2010
Date

Portland Parks & Recreation


Bryan Aptekar

2/3/2010
Date

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services


Mary Bushman

2/1/2010
Date

6.4 Appendix 4: Internal Statement of Understanding

Internal Statement of Understanding for Quercus Planning Group

The members of Quercus Planning Group (Julia Babcock, Bernadette Le, Maren Murphy, and Amy Rossa) agree to the following:

- Our group will always provide agendas for our meetings and we will only meet when our meetings can be productive.
- The work from this project will be divided equally between group members and that each member will be responsible for their work.
- Each member will also record how many hours they spend on a task and if needed should ask for assistance.
- As a group, we will also be purposeful in addressing issues that arise quickly and directly with the individual whom the issue(s) is related to.
- We will be respectful of other group members' feelings.

This Statement of Understanding shall be effective upon the signatures of all Quercus Planning Group members. It shall be enforced from January 22, 2010 to June 9, 2010. The group members indicate agreement with this Statement by their signatures.

Quercus Planning Group

Julia Babcock
Julia Babcock

2/1/2010
Date

B Le
Bernadette Le

02/01/2010
Date

M Murphy
Maren Murphy

02/01/2010
Date

Amy Rossa
Amy Rossa

02/01/2010
Date



Memorandum

To: Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee
From: Quercus Planning Group
Date: March 10, 2010 (Updated June 4, 2010)
Subject: Historic, Park Planning, Recreational & Ecological Context of Willamette Park

1. Background

Willamette Park is a 26.85 acre regional park located in Southwest Portland along the western bank of the Willamette River. Quercus Planning Group (QPG) is working with Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) to prioritize projects that balance the long-term viability and sustainability of Willamette Park with growing user demands. As an initial research task for this project, QPG researched the historic, park planning, recreational, and ecological context in which this park resides. The purpose of this task was to give QPG an understanding of the park's context and to identify questions to ask in future information gathering tasks.

2. Historical Context

The historical context of Willamette Park impacts the current uses and will inform QPG of how the site fits into Portland's story. For these reasons, previous land uses and actions taken to alter the physical form of the park will be discussed in the following section.

Very few permanent structures have been built within the boundaries of Willamette Park since European settlement but the landscape surrounding the park has been a flourishing commercial and industrial landscape for over 100 years. The most notable buildings constructed within the current park boundaries are the Southern Pacific Railroad Fulton Waiting Room and the Portland Ship Building Company. The Southern Pacific Railroad Fulton Waiting Room was built some time between 1901 and 1908. This building was used by passengers traveling on the interurban train and was the first permanent structure noted on the Sanborn Maps, which are



Willamette Park 1941

insurance maps that show buildings and their owners in Portland from 1889-1950. At some point between 1908 and 1924, an industrial site for the Portland Ship Building Company was constructed that covered the majority of the northern portion the park between Nebraska and Idaho Avenues. Army Corps of Engineers aerial photos show that the Portland Ship Building Company no longer existed in the park by the 1970s. (Sanborn Maps, 1901, 1908, 1924; Army Corps of Engineers)

The neighborhood surrounding the park also began to develop between 1901 and 1924. In 1901 only a few buildings were present adjacent to the park, including a tannery, but by 1924 the area was very developed. The businesses in 1924 included a wood working shop, a laundry, auto wrecking companies, Rodda Paint Company, and a rubber mill. The historic uses within the park and in the adjacent neighborhood are important as they denote the character of the neighborhood and historic land-use constraints of the park. The history of the land characteristics and ship building company could be integrated into educational outreach materials or design of future elements in the park in order to build a deeper historical appreciation for the park's past. (Sanborn Maps, 1901, 1908, 1924)

Historically, the area that the park is located in was part of the Willamette River floodplain and was thus prone to flooding. In 1894, the area flooded beaching a number of local houseboats and resulting in a small residential community just south of Willamette Park. Mid Barbour, a lifelong Portlander, also noted that the park used to be called "Carp Flats" because of the access to carp in this area during springtime flooding. In the 1960s, the Park was used as a relocation site for fill from the demolition of the Journal Building, the removal of Front Avenue, and the excavation of the Vista Ridge Tunnel. This fill increased the elevation of the park to its current level and allowed for sports fields to be constructed above the river elevation. It also altered the slope and shape of the stream bank. This fill can still be seen from the river's edge and is a major challenge for streambank restoration. (Bushman and Wilson, 2010; Harvey, 2009; Wright, 2010)



Willamette Park 1956

On the western border of the Park lies a set of tracks that are currently owned by the Willamette Shore Line Consortium and seasonally used by the Willamette Short Trolley. These tracks were built in the mid-1880s by the Portland and Willamette Valley Railroad Company and were open for service on July 4th, 1887. From the late 19th century to early 20th century, this line was used to transport iron products between the two growing cities. As previously stated, between 1901 and 1908, the Southern Pacific Railroad constructed a passenger waiting room in the northern portion of the park. A second waiting room was also constructed just south of the park. In 1914 the use of the railroad tracks transitioned from freight movement to interurban transportation as more people began to live south of Portland. The use once again transitioned in 1929 back to freight until the 1980s when service ceased. These tracks were purchased by the Willamette Shore Line Consortium at that time for future passenger transit service. The railroad development is of importance to the ongoing use of the park because the tracks continue to be used by the Trolley and this use is noted by park users, the right-of-way may be used for the future development of the Portland to Lake Oswego streetcar, and the construction of the waiting room is the first documented permanent structure within the park's boundary. (Metro, 2010; Sanborn Maps, 1908; Wright, 2010; Willamette Shore Trolley, 2009)

3. Park Planning Context

As Willamette Park is under the management of Portland Parks & Recreation, QPG felt that it was important to be knowledgeable about previous park planning within Portland to better understand the planning context and different influences on the park. This section will provide an overview of three plans that QPG felt shaped the development of Willamette Park or will shape alternatives or recommendations produced through this planning effort.

Portland Park Plan

In 1903 John Charles Olmsted was brought to Portland to develop a comprehensive park plan for the new Portland Park Board. In this plan, presented to the Park Board in 1904, a system of parks was laid out throughout the city, including parks along the Willamette River, on the buttes in East Portland, and in the West Hills. The area that is now Willamette Park was recommended as a location to create a future park. In the plan Olmsted states that this area "...is a beautiful stretch of low but undulating grassy land, well furnished with broad-spreading deciduous trees, among them the oak (which is decidedly rare elsewhere in the city) which would be a most desirable site for a local park and play ground." This plan was very influential in the development of parks throughout the city as the city set forth to follow the plan throughout the 20th century. (Unknown, 1904; Orloff, 2008-2010; Orloff, 2010)

Willamette Park Site Study

In 1986, a site analysis and design was conducted for Willamette Park. During the site analysis, the planners looked at circulation, physical conditions, and existing uses in the park and developed, along with the community, a set of goals and objectives to guide the planning of the park. The goals identified for the park through this planning process were: encourage diversity of uses and users; make park safer; improve and optimize existing facilities; and make park more visually appealing. The final concept plan identified many updates to the park, including a boardwalk with pedestrian overlook, beach access, enhanced wildlife habitat area, additional picnic units, a textured crosswalk, and additional parking.

Willamette Greenway Plan

On November 5, 1987 the Willamette Greenway Plan was adopted by Portland City Council. The goal of the Plan is to protect, conserve, maintain, and enhance the scenic, natural, historical, economic, and recreational qualities of lands along the Willamette River. The Plan identified a series of objectives that will be important to consider while developing recommendations for Willamette Park in this project and any future projects, as the park is within the boundaries of the Willamette Greenway Plan. These objectives include:

1. Restore Willamette River and its banks
 - Maximize public use and appreciation of the waterway
2. Increase public access to and along Willamette River
 - Develop a recreational trail extending full length on river
3. Conserve and enhance remaining natural riverbanks and riparian habitat
 - Use of natural bank treatments

- Develop native plants pallets for landscape plans. The plan includes a hierarchy of native plants to use in this area.
- 4. Provide an attractive quality environment along the river
- 5. Maintain the economic viability of maritime shipping
- 6. Reserve land within the Greenway for river-related recreational uses
- 7. Meet statutory requirements of Goal 15 Willamette River Greenway

In this Plan, Willamette Park was identified as a recreation focus area with multiple points of public access to the river. One very important element for all recommendations along the river bank in Willamette Park is the Greenway Setback. The intent of the setback is to provide a buffer along the river's edge to conserve and enhance the river bank's natural vegetation and to provide the opportunity for public access along the Willamette River. The Greenway Setback is a minimum of 25 feet landward from the top of the bank. No buildings, structures, parking lots, or fills are to be located within the setback unless it can be shown to be necessary for the functioning of a river-dependent or river-related use. If we are interested in recommending anything within 25 feet of the top of the bank, it will be important that we consult the correct staff to ensure that it is not prohibited. (City of Portland, 1987)

Parks 2020 Vision

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Portland Parks & Recreation worked with the community to develop a vision for Portland's extensive park system. The visioning process identified aspects of the system that were important to the community and developed strategies to continue the success of the system and improve it, where necessary. The five objectives of the vision are to:

1. Ensure Portland's park and recreation legacy for future generations
2. Provide a wide variety of high quality park and recreation services and opportunities for all residents.
3. Preserve, protect and restore Portland's natural resources to provide "nature in the city".
4. Create an interconnected regional and local system of trails, paths and walks to make Portland "the walking city of the West".
5. Develop parks, recreation facilities and programs that promote community in the city.

A number of strategies were identified for each of the listed objectives. For example, developing locations to access major natural resource areas was identified as a strategy to improve the walkability of the park system, objective four. (City of Portland, 2001)

Portland Parks & Recreation Sustainability Plan

Each city bureau was asked to develop a sustainability plan that aligned with the City's larger sustainability goals and policies. Portland Parks & Recreation developed their sustainability plan in 2007. This plan identifies goals and objectives, ongoing projects, future short- and long-term projects, and performance measures. The five goals of the Sustainability Plan are:

1. Park owned and managed natural resources are protected and enhanced for future generations.
2. Sustainable communities enjoy equitable access to diverse recreation programs and park facilities.
3. Green Building and new technology options are applied to capital building, major park maintenance landscape projects and bureau work practices.

4. Toxic and fuel consumptive practices will be minimize for public safety and environmental health.
5. Resource conservation – energy, water, stormwater, and recycling practices are prioritized and improved throughout the Parks system.

Within each of the objectives specific actions or projects were identified by the Portland Parks & Recreation team. For the fiscal year directly following the development of the plan, 2008-2009, three projects were prioritized for implementation (sustainable office practices, improved aquatic facilities, recycling). (City of Portland, 2007)

Park System Plan

A draft of the Portland Parks & Recreation Park Systems Plan was released in May of 2009. This plan identifies that recreation, landscape architecture and natural resources were traditionally planned for separately within the park setting. This Plan calls for a more holistic view of park planning that focuses primarily on the experience of users. This Plan states that experience is comprised of the people, the activities and the setting. Depending on the experience a user is having it may be more of a nature or people focus, or it may be a combination of nature and people. Some elements in a park may be designed to enhance the people, nature, or nature/people experience depending on the needs and desires of the park users (see Image 1). The type of experience may also change as the level of use in a park changes between seasons, time of day, and weather, although some settings may be more conducive to one type of experience over others. (City of Portland, May 2009; Gronowski, 2010) In following with this framework, it will be important for QPG to acknowledge that people visit parks for a variety of experiences and attempt to identify the prominent experiences desired at Willamette Park. This understanding will help QPG to develop alternatives and recommendations that are sensitive to the park users' desires.

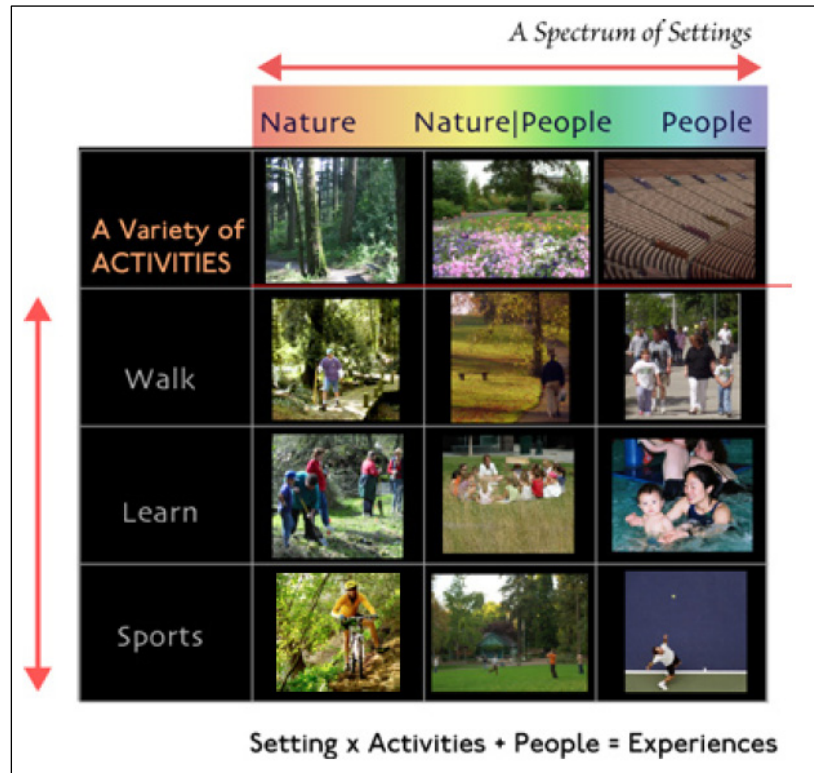


Image 1: Spectrum of Experiences at Parks
Source: *Portland Park Systems Plan, May 2009*

4. Recreational Context

The recreational context of this park is also very important for QPG to understand. Limited information about the recreational context was obtained during this phase of our project. An article was found from 1988 that stated that Willamette Park had a cooking facility, horseshoe pit, picnic shelter, picnic tables, playground equipment, restrooms, soccer field, tennis courts and some accessibility features (Pitts, 1988). We also found a number of articles that identified Willamette Park as an important running spot, a great location for family recreation, location for outside concerts, and a destination place for paddle boaters. (Johnson, 20 January 2009; Trails.com, 1990-2010; Portland Family Adventures, 19 April 2008; Turnquist, 17 May 2009) Both the recreational history and the ongoing uses provide an understanding that there is a longstanding and perpetual need and desire for recreational space by the community. Throughout this planning process we will interview city staff and community stakeholders to gain a greater understanding of the recreational context of this park. The findings from this task will be described in a separate technical memorandum.

5. Ecological Context

Since Willamette Park is located along the Willamette River and supports a complex ecosystem, QPG felt that it was important for the ecological context of the park to be explored in this stage of information gathering. This section will provide an overview of two regulatory actions that pertain to the Willamette River and two planning efforts that have been conducted that have relevance to planning within Willamette Park.

Clean Water Act

In 1972, the United States Congress passed the Clean Water Act which requires all discharges into waters of the United States to obtain a permit. In 1990, this permit requirement was extended to include large cities and required that cities develop a comprehensive program for stormwater management. In 1999, the City of Portland developed a regulatory program that works toward reducing water pollution due to storm events. The Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) has identified the parking lot within Willamette Park as a major contributor to river pollution after storm events and has, along with individuals from other agencies, identified a number of projects in the California Subwatershed Improvement Strategy Report that could improve the subwatershed health. As Portland is required by the federal government to improve water quality, it will be important that we consider the effects of the recommendations on watershed health. (Bushman and Wilson, 2010; City of Portland, 2008)

Endangered Species Act

In the late 1990's the National Marine Fisheries Service listed the Columbia River Steelhead Trout and the Chinook Salmon as threatened species. The Willamette River is listed as critical habitat for the recovery of both species and for that reason the City of Portland is required to take steps to protect the species and their habitat. This regulatory requirement will be an important condition to consider while developing any alternatives or recommendations along the riverbank. (City of Portland, 1999; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2007)

Westside Wildlife Corridor

The goal of the Westside Wildlife Corridor is "to protect remaining natural habitat, protect headwater streams, and create a continuous wildlife migration corridor from Forest Park south along the West Hills". Although Willamette Park is not located within this target area, Oak woodlands were identified as Special Status Habitats. As Willamette Park has Oak woodlands these areas' ecological significance should be considered during the alternatives and recommendation development phases. (City of Portland, 2010)

Salmon-Safe Certification

In 2003, Salmon-Safe partnered with PP&R to create the nation's first urban park and natural area certification program focused on the protection of water quality and fish habitat to help preserve the Willamette River and its tributaries. The certification is applied to the entire PP&R system to ensure landscape level protection and conservation of salmonid species and their habitat requirements. The certification focuses on water quality and quantity, instream habitat, riparian habitat, and fish passage. As Willamette Park is located adjacent to the Willamette River, it is important that improvements to the park align with this certification process.

California Subwatershed Improvement Strategy Report

In 2009, the California Subwatershed Improvement Strategies Report was produced by a cross-bureau team at the City of Portland. The report identified and prioritized opportunities to protect and improve watershed conditions in the subwatershed, based on goals of improving hydrology, water quality, physical habitat, and biological communities. Willamette Park is located at an important place within the watershed as it covers the entire extent of the

watershed's riverbank. The report identifies six important habitat features within the park: the floodplain, wetlands, heritage oaks, bottomland hardwood forest, mud flats, and rock outcrop islands. (City of Portland, 2009)

The report identifies strategies, opportunities, and projects that, if implemented, would improve the health of the subwatershed. Table 1 provides an overview of the six overarching strategies and a number of opportunities that will assist in framing our work in Willamette Park. In addition to opportunities, the report also includes a ranking of actual projects that will improve subwatershed health. Thirteen of the 31 recommended subwatershed projects are located within Willamette Park. The report provides a guide for city staff as well as other interested stakeholders such as local agencies, non-profits, and volunteer citizen groups, to focus resources and efforts on actions that will best benefit the California subwatershed health. QPG will consider this document while developing recommendations for natural resource management for the park. (City of Portland, 2009)

Table 1: Strategies and Opportunities				
Strategy	Opportunity 1	Opportunity 2	Opportunity 3	Opportunity 4
Stormwater	Treat parking lot and roadway stormwater runoff before it reaches the river	Treat water from DOLA before it enters bioswale and river		
Revegetation	Increase canopy cover with a mosaic of native trees and shrubs	Enhance oak habitat understory habitat	Enhance tree canopy at south end of park	Expand bioswale at boat launch & oak habitat
Aquatic & Terrestrial Enhancement	Enhance beaches to improve habitat for Chinook and coho salmon	Revegetate stream banks in the upland natural areas of subwatershed	Restore habitat connectivity and access with expanded canopy	Install boat washing station with information kiosk
Protection & Policy	Protect remaining forested areas, streams, riparian areas	Protect existing strands of Oregon oaks in DOLA		
Operations & Maintenance	Coordinate adoption of BMPs in the interest of watershed health	Conduct maintenance of existing facilities		
Education, Involvement, & Stewardship	Conduct outreach to improve riverbank maintenance practices	Support pet waste education throughout park and install signs, bag stations, and trash bins in natural areas	Provide education to orgs and general public on watershed health	Provide education to landowners at headwaters or along riverbanks

6. Conclusion

The research documented in this memorandum has provided a context for QPG to understand the historic, park planning, recreational and ecological context in which Willamette Park exists. Throughout the information gathering stage we will work to better refine our understanding of these contexts and how they relate to the future goals and vision for Willamette Park.

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Quick Facts

- In the early 20th century, the Southern Pacific Railroad Fulton Waiting Room was built where Nebraska Street crosses the tracks. This building was used by interurban train passengers and was the first permanent building recorded on local insurance maps.
- The building yard for the Portland Ship Building Company covered the majority of the northern portion of the park between Nebraska and Idaho Avenues. Maps show that the facilities were constructed at some point between 1908 and 1924 and the facilities no longer existed in the park when photos were taken in 1972.
- Willamette Park was acquired by the City of Portland in 1926.
- Willamette Park was also known as Carp Flats. The area received this name because in the spring the high water and flooding would result in good fishing grounds for carp.
- The Willamette River is critical habitat for Steelhead Trout and Chinook Salmon.



Trees in the south portion of Willamette Park 1946

Recent History

In the second half of the 20th century many recreational updates were made to Willamette Park. The recreational opportunities contained in the park today include:

- a boat ramp
- two soccer fields
- four lit tennis courts
- a sheltered group picnic area
- a number of unsheltered picnic tables and benches
- the Willamette Greenway Trail
- a dog off-leash area

Over the last few years, the South Portland Riverbank Project has also worked within the southern portion of the park to restore riverbank habitat. They have worked towards this goal by planting native plants, removing ivy, and constructing a fence around a sensitive area.

More Information

If you would like to learn more about the history of Willamette Park or other work Quercus Planning Group is conducting for Portland Parks & Recreation, visit quercusplanning.wordpress.com or email quercus.planning@gmail.com.

Quercus Planning Group is a group of four Masters of Urban and Regional Planning students aiding Portland Parks & Recreation in prioritizing projects that balance the long-term viability and sustainability of Willamette Park with growing user demands.

Produced: 3/2010

A History of Willamette Park



Army Corps of
Engineers, 1943

QUERCUS
Planning Group

The 1903 Portland Park Plan

In 1903, John Charles Olmsted, a nationally renowned landscape architect, developed a comprehensive plan for parks in Portland. The area that is now Willamette Park was recommended as a location for a future park. Olmsted called the park, North Fulton Park. In this plan, the area is identified as a

"... beautiful stretch of low but undulating grassy land, well furnished with broad-spreading deciduous trees, among them the oak (which is decidedly rare elsewhere in the city) which would be a most desirable site for a local park and play ground"



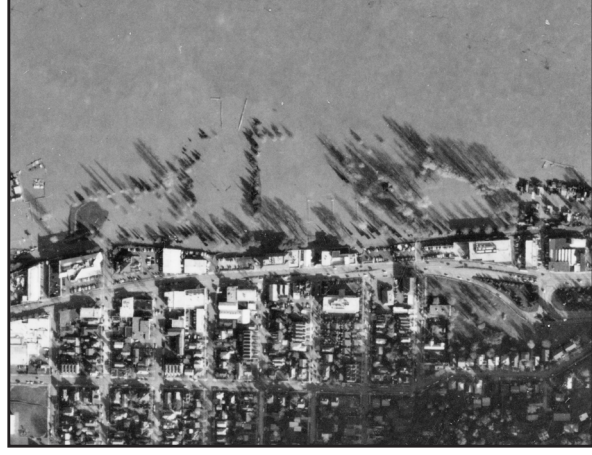
The Park System Map from the 1903 Park Plan identifying North Fulton Park

Historic Oaks

Willamette Park has many beautiful trees, including many old Oaks (*Quercus*). These trees are located along the western border and southern portion of the park. In 1998, Portland City Council designated an Oak tree in the southern portion of the park a Portland Heritage Tree. This means that the tree has special importance in Portland! This tree can be identified by the plaque that is placed on it.

Flooding

The park is located in the Willamette River floodplain and has a history of flooding. In 1894, the area flooded beaching a number of local houseboats and resulting in a small residential community just south of Willamette Park. The park was also flooded in 1996.



Willamette Park - Flood of 1996
Source: Army Corp of Engineers

The Railroad

On the western border of the park lies a set of tracks that are currently used for the Willamette Shore Trolley. These tracks were built in the mid-1880s by the Portland and Willamette Valley Railroad Company and were open for service on July 4th, 1887.

Between 1887 and the 1980s, the use of these tracks transitioned from freight, to passenger travel, and then back to freight. In the 1980s freight service ceased along the tracks. The tracks are now used by the Willamette Shore Trolley, a local attraction.



Up to 30 feet of fill can be seen from the riverbank

Filling Willamette Park

In the 1960s, the park was used as a relocation site for fill from the demolition of the Journal Building, the removal of Front Avenue, and the excavation of the Vista Ridge Tunnel. This fill increased the elevation of the park to its current level and allowed for sports fields to be constructed above the river elevation. It also altered the slope and shape of the stream bank. This fill can still be seen from the river's edge.



Memorandum

To: Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee
From: Quercus Planning Group
Date: April 7, 2010 (Updated June 5, 2010)
Subject: Client Stakeholder Interview Technical Memo - Major Themes & Recommendations

I. Introduction

Quercus Planning Group (QPG) is conducting an assessment of Willamette Park and proposing recommendations that will balance the long-term viability and sustainability of the park with growing user demands. Willamette Park is a hybrid park, which is a developed park that includes natural areas within park boundaries. This creates a variety of opportunities and challenges when it comes to assessing the park and identifying a vision for the future. To assist in this process, QPG conducted a number of client interviews with staff from Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), who are referred to as client stakeholders throughout this memo. The intent was to learn about the experiences, assets, and challenges of working in Willamette Park from the staff directly, and any visions and suggestions for how to better develop and manage the park for both current and future users.

QPG conducted interviews over the course of two weeks in February 2010. Each interview had two QPG members and either individuals or a group of client stakeholders, depending on what was appropriate for the interview. In some cases, the interviews were conducted as guided site visits in Willamette Park. QPG interviewed the following client stakeholders from PP&R and BES:

- Andre Ashley, Sports Management Supervisor, PP&R
- Mary Bushman, Environmental Specialist, BES
- Terri Davis, West Service Zone Manager, PP&R
- Marissa Dorais, Stewardship Coordinator, PP&R
- Nancy Gronowski, Senior Planner, PP&R
- Dave Kahler, Urban Forester, PP&R
- Don McTaggart, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, PP&R
- Dean Nelson, Horticulturist, PP&R
- Shawn Rogers, Customer Service Manager, PP&R
- Emily Roth, Natural Resources Planner, PP&R
- Sue Thomas, Environmental Educator, PP&R
- Kathleen Wadden, Senior Management Analyst, PP&R
- Mark Wilson, Restoration Ecologist, PP&R
- Cindy Wright, Horticulturist, PP&R

QPG provided the following questions during the interviews:

1. What type of work do you do in Willamette Park? Is your work focused on recreation, natural resources, or stewardship and education?
2. What assets are there in Willamette Park? What new uses/amenities do you think are needed in Willamette Park?
3. Can you identify any constraints in Willamette Park (i.e. user conflicts, management issues, etc)?
4. Being that Willamette Park is a hybrid park, how do you envision recreational activities and natural resource management interacting within this project?
5. What types of stewardship and educational programming are you aware of currently in the park? What types of programming do you think would be appropriate for the future?

This memo will discuss the predominant themes that emerged in these interviews. It will assist in the preparation of alternatives and recommendations for the future of Willamette Park.

II. Themes in Willamette Park

Recreational Opportunities

When people refer to Willamette Park, they often think of the recreational opportunities and amenities that the park provides to users. The recreational amenities within the park include: a boat dock and ramp, multi-use paths, picnic areas, dog off-leash area, two playgrounds, two soccer fields, and four tennis courts. During client interviews, PP&R and BES staff highlighted numerous activities that take place in Willamette Park, including: boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, active recreation (soccer, tennis, biking, running), passive recreation (walking, picnicking, birding), and events (concerts, movies, group activities). A majority of the recreational uses are focused on the sports fields, the playgrounds, and the boat launch. These spaces are where most activities occur and where people recreate in Willamette Park.

Geographic Attributes & Location

Geographically, Willamette Park's low elevation and location along the Willamette River create opportunities for recreation. In Southwest Portland, there is very limited undeveloped flat area because of the West Hills separating the Willamette River from the Willamette Valley. Willamette Park offers some of the only park flat land in this part of Portland and is thus very important recreationally for the community. The playgrounds are also one of the only public playgrounds in the neighborhood and a large portion of park users come to use the playground. In the north end of the park, there is unprogrammed field space that allows users freedom in their selection of activities, an area that client stakeholders called out as important for the heavily programmed park. There are also a number of viewpoints along the western edge of the park overlooking the Willamette River that provides scenic views of the river and downtown Portland. Overall, there was a wide agreement in the interviews that Willamette Park is a great park for both passive and active recreation, for families and groups, and for all different kinds of activities.

Sports Fields & Picnic Shelters

There are two sports fields and one picnic shelter in Willamette Park, but these facilities handle most of the spring and summer activities. The permitting center for PP&R provided QPG with

data on the park permits issued during 2009. Starting at the beginning of mid-February and going to mid-October, the sports fields and picnic shelter are booked for a majority of the time, adding up to approximately 2,500 of permitted time over the eight months. During client stakeholder interviews, a few themes were brought up in regards to the use of these facilities. First, the picnic shelter is very busy, but it best accommodates larger groups because of its size and setup. Smaller groups that would like to book it often pay for more than they need. Additionally, water and electricity, although available for the shelter, are difficult to access because they are located across the road near the restrooms.

Second, while the sports fields are important because of the limited open space available on the west side, there is concern that they are being overused. A few client stakeholders discussed the poor conditions of the fields and the intensive use they receive nearly year-round. Currently, the fields are not given enough time to reestablish grass each year, and the continuous use tears up the fields. Additionally, use of the fields during the rainy season causes further damage and turns the fields into mud pits. One client stakeholder stated that the sport fields are not an efficient use of resources, are difficult to maintain in the long-term, and are not great quality, suggesting that PP&R should consider relocating them off-site when the opportunity arises to do so. The stakeholder also suggested that the park is better used for passive recreation because of its important natural resource value and proximity to the Willamette River.

Boating & Water Access

Boating and the access to water were two of the most commonly referenced recreational amenities in the client interviews. Being able to get close to and access the river at Willamette Park is a major asset of the park, and one of the most common reasons people visit the park. The boat ramp is one of three public boat launches in Portland, and the only public boat ramp on the west side of the Willamette River. It serves a variety of user groups, including fisherman, paddlers, and motor boaters. It also is an important launch for the Coast Guard and Portland Fire Department. Access to water is a large part of Portland tourism and serves as a regional destination. In contrast to the popularity of the boat launch, pedestrian access to the river is currently limited, as there is no formal pedestrian access point or trail to get down to the water. Access was a major theme that reoccurred throughout the interviews.

Natural Resources

PP&R and BES client stakeholders identified Willamette Park as having a fair amount of natural resources and habitat value within the park's natural areas. Particularly, stakeholders discussed three major natural resource amenities that are important aspects of Willamette Park: oak habitat, riparian habitat, and mud flat.

Oak Habitat

The oak habitat consists mainly of native Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) and is a unique habitat that was once widespread in the Willamette Valley. There are a number of oak trees in the park that are over 200 years old. The oak habitat is clustered on the western side of the park between the road and the trolley tracks. The oaks are important assets in Willamette Park because they provide habitat for birds, small animals, and insects, as well as fungi, moss, and ferns. Also, many people find oaks to be aesthetically pleasing and enjoy their large canopies during the hot summer months. Oaks are more adaptive to climate change than conifers, and are important aspects of Portland's urban forest canopy.

Some client stakeholders from PP&R and BES expressed concern that current management of the oak habitat may be potentially impacting the oaks. Mowing close to the base of the oak trees could be reducing the vigor of the oak tree regeneration. Also, there lacks a young oak tree canopy in the park, which may also impact the longevity of the tree canopy, as the current oaks are slowly starting to die. There was strong interest from client stakeholders in restoring and enhancing the oak habitat as part of the long-term vision for the park. One challenge to this is that the dog off-leash area is currently located in the oak habitat, creating a conflict between a desired vision and the current use.

Riparian Habitat

Since Willamette Park is situated along the riverbanks of the Willamette River, it is recognized as having high potential natural resource value. The park could provide needed riparian habitat that would shade and provide nutrients for threatened Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Trout, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act. PP&R and BES are actively working to restore the riparian area to better support the salmon and steelhead as they travel up the Willamette River. To ensure this, the southeastern portion of the park has been established as a natural resource area managed by City Nature. A number of PP&R staff work with the South Portland Riverbank Project to remove invasive plants, restore native vegetation like Columbia River willow, ash, Pacific willow, and cottonwood, and place large wood clusters along the Willamette River bank. Client stakeholders suggested that the Ross Island Natural Area could be an appropriate model for future riparian habitat in this area of the park because it has similar low vegetation, mid-level shrubs, and trees. In addition to restoring the riparian area, the PP&R and BES staff are also interested in ways to improve pedestrian access to the river.

Mud Flat

A mud flat is located off the Willamette River shoreline just north of the boat launch. The mud flat is established and important for biodiversity because it provides a shallow, sheltered cove near the shoreline but away from large prey on and in the Willamette River. They are particularly important for migratory birds, giving them a resting place along their migratory paths. There are fewer options available for riverbank restoration in the north, but the mud flat is one area that provides high natural resource habitat because it is less accessible and more protected than other areas in the park.

Stormwater Management

In addition to the major natural resource areas in Willamette Park, many of the client stakeholders identified the stormwater management as a major theme in their interviews. Willamette Park is the lowest elevation in the California Subwatershed, and collects stormwater from immediately surrounding impervious surfaces, like the boat launch parking lot, the road through the park, and the Willamette Greenway Trail. There are a number of stormwater issues identified by stakeholders, including the impervious parking lot for the boat launch, the inlet in the oak habitat /dog off-leash area that drains directly to the river, and the stormwater swale near the boat launch. These were identified as requiring additional research to determine the best management strategy, and further discussions between PP&R and BES.

Stewardship & Education

Restoration & Enhancement

Stewardship and education in Willamette Park has primarily been focused on restoration and enhancement. The intention of the stewardship programs in Willamette Park is to help people realize the importance of natural habitat by actively participating in restoration encouraging them to become advocates for Willamette Park. The South Portland Riverbank Project actively works in the natural area in the south of the park, but there are also a number of other stewardship groups that do work in the park including the SW Charter Group, DEQ Volunteers in Action, El Program Hispano, REI, churches, schools, and other groups. PP&R has a stewardship coordinator that focuses on stewardship activities along the Willamette River and helps bring volunteers to Willamette Park. The variety of amenities in Willamette Park makes it a good place for stewardship and education programs and can accommodate different activities, from removing invasive plants to planting native vegetation to testing water quality. Also, Willamette Park is very accessible, has adequate parking, and restrooms, all of which are important factors for volunteer groups.

Boating

In addition to the more formal stewardship groups, numerous client stakeholders identified the need for education related to boating. Zebra and quagga mussels are an invasive species that is transported on the hulls of boats. Providing education about how to stop the spread of mussels through proper boat cleaning is an important education theme that stakeholders discussed in the interviews. Many felt a community board near the boat launch would be beneficial in disseminating this and other important educational information.

Natural Areas

Other educational opportunities exist around the natural areas to educate park users about their function and their status in Willamette Park. Many client stakeholders expressed a desire to come up with better interpretative education than just putting up signs throughout the park, such as art, natural features, podcasts, cell phone tours, and trails.

Role of Stewardship & Education

It should be noted that a few client stakeholders had differing opinions on stewardship and education in Willamette Park and felt that educational programming was not a priority. These viewpoints were that Willamette Park is an active space that is best served to relieve pressure from other natural areas like Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and Ross Island Natural Area, and not a park that should be overwhelmed with educational signage and programming. By keeping Willamette Park focused on recreation, natural areas like Oaks Bottom would be able to keep a natural resources focus and provide passive recreation for walkers and bird watchers.

Maintenance

Another major discussion point in the client stakeholder interviews was maintenance challenges in Willamette Park. A limited maintenance budget is a constant challenge for maintaining facilities, vegetation, and overall park appearance. The fill underlying the park makes maintaining vegetation even more of a challenge on certain sections of the park. Additionally, the fields are prone to flooding and can become very muddy during the rainy seasons, making them difficult to maintain.

Boat Launch

In the boat launch area, maintenance of the parking lot has been a challenge because the lot was not designed for trailers with wide turning radii. Often, trailers hit the curbs, resulting in broken curbs and damage to the irrigation system, which can be costly to maintain.

Stormwater Swale

The stormwater swale near the boat launch is another maintenance challenge. Currently it does not correctly divert stormwater runoff from the boat launch parking lot, and has become overgrown. Maintenance is needed to make it safer for pedestrians while also trying to ensure that it is performing properly.

Maintenance Strategies

Another maintenance challenge that emerged during the client stakeholder interviews was related to the different perspectives on appropriate maintenance strategies. Several stakeholders were concerned with the intensive use of herbicides to keep grasses away from the trees, because herbicides are particularly harmful to oaks. Some stakeholders felt that more consideration towards efficiency should be a part of the maintenance strategy, where time and energy would be focused on mowing the sports fields and picnic areas instead of the entire park, which would create more opportunities for native revegetation. Different perceptions of what constitutes hazards in the park were another challenge. The Willamette Greenway Trail runs along the natural area in the south, and maintenance has been strong in removing “hazard” trees for public safety, while the natural area managers feel the trees are not a hazard but instead an important resource for plants and wildlife as the trees decay.

Overall, stakeholders working in maintenance caution that any improvements in the park should be carefully considered in relation to the maintenance level and maintenance responsibility of those improvements.

Assets in Willamette Park

In summary, there were several amenities in Willamette Park that repeatedly came up as major themes, signifying major assets of the park that make it unique, well-loved, and well-used. These assets include:

- Water – along Willamette River, good opportunity for people to interact with the river
- Location – one of the only flat, undeveloped open spaces in the area; receives ample sunlight during the warm months; scenic views of Willamette River upstream and downstream, Ross Island, and downtown Portland
- Boat launch – largest public boat launch in Portland and the only public launch on the West side of the Willamette River
- Playground – family-oriented; great for kids
- Group-oriented – large open spaces good for small to medium group gatherings like the Senior Recreation programs, Green Walks, Movies in the Park, picnics, events, etc.
- Sports fields – major destination for intramural games, school teams, and other sports-related events
- Activities – opportunity to participate in passive and active recreation
- Native oak habitat – unique habitat in Portland and great opportunity to experience a mature tree canopy
- Riparian habitat – potential enhancement habitat for salmon and steelhead; native vegetation habitat; opportunities for restoration

Challenges in Willamette Park

In addition to assets, client stakeholders identified a number of challenges in Willamette Park, including:

- Stormwater – stormwater nearby roads and buildings drain to Willamette Park creating a stormwater management issue that is currently not being adequately addressed; runoff from the parking lot, standing water in oak habitat is harmful
- Dog Off-Leash Area – encroaching on oak habitat; fecal waste drains directly to river through inlet, adding to stormwater issues
- Boat launch – overcrowding; competing user groups between motor boats and canoes and kayaks; safety issues
- Goose fecal matter – major issue for all park users; potential E. coli and salmonella hazard
- Programming – multiple users and activities creates challenges due to limited space in park; summer months are particularly challenging with boating, picnics, soccer games, events, etc.; parking overflows during summer months
- Facilities - no easy access to electricity, water at picnic shelter; restrooms not open year-round
- Parking – parking overflows in the summer; new payment requirements negatively impacts stewardship activities
- Willamette Greenway Trail – narrow trail creates challenges for multiple users, including bike commuters, recreational cyclists, runners, pedestrians, groups, etc.
- Vegetation management – current management of oak habitat perceived by some as harmful; others perceive natural areas to be overplanted and overgrown
- Land use impacts – Lake Oswego streetcar will be a visual intrusion into the park that could take away from natural areas; increase in usage from streetcar and Sellwood Bridge improvements; issues related to the pump station siting

III. Themes Related to Willamette Park

Regional Significance

One theme that almost all client stakeholders identified is the regional significance of Willamette Park. Willamette Park is one of three parks in Portland with river access, and a major part of Portland's tourism. The boat launch accommodates boating year-round, from the fishing season in March to the summer recreational boating months. This is a major asset and attracts people from all over to launch at Willamette Park throughout the year. The park is designated a regional park, which signifies its place within the larger Portland metropolitan region. In addition to the river access, Willamette Park also has great sun exposure that attracts people from the more shady West Hills and surrounding neighborhoods. It is open towards the Willamette River, providing sunlight for the majority of the day.

Larger Ecological & Urban Context

Willamette Park offers beautiful scenic views of the Willamette River that highlight the larger context that the park is part of a larger ecosystem. Willamette Park is part of a mosaic of natural areas that includes Ross Island Natural Area, Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, Butterfly Park, Willamette Moorage, and Powers Marine Park. It provides connectivity for the park system on the West side and along the Willamette River. At the same time, Willamette Park is also situated in the urban context of the West Hills, and is an important destination for sports and

recreation, and a major thoroughfare for transportation with the Willamette Greenway Trail, the proposed streetcar line, and Macadam Avenue. Willamette Park operates at a variety of scales and serves a varied user base, from neighbors to the larger regional community. Several client stakeholders expressed the importance of highlighting these connections through a means of educational programming in the park.

Vision for a Hybrid Park

The intent of these interviews was to shed light on the experiences, values, and perspectives of client stakeholders regarding Willamette Park. This process will help create a vision for Willamette Park that will be useful in QPG's development of alternatives and recommendations. In reviewing the interviews, it was apparent that Willamette Park is a well-loved and well-used park, however ideas for the vision of the park seemed to differ among the stakeholders.

Since Willamette Park is a hybrid park, it is managed for both recreational and natural resource amenities. Yet, what this actually looks like on the ground was not as clear in the client stakeholder interviews. There were conflicting visions around if Willamette Park should be a people-people park focused on recreation, or whether there is enough room and a responsibility to manage the park with natural areas. This conflict manifested throughout the interviews, with some stakeholders suggesting that because of its unique location along the Willamette River and its potentially high value riparian habitat, there is a great opportunity to restore and enhance certain areas of the park to more natural conditions. By enhancing the natural areas, some stakeholders envision more educational opportunities to increase the stewardship of the park users, enhance the user experience and connection to the larger landscape. Conversely, other stakeholders envision Willamette Park as recreation focused park that caters to intensive activities and keeps people out of more sensitive natural areas like Oaks Bottom and Powers Marine Park.

It seems this discussion is a larger one in PP&R that is more than just about Willamette Park, but it is certainly visible in Willamette Park. Willamette Park could provide the opportunity for PP&R to create a model for what exactly a hybrid park means and how this designation shapes the vision of the park and others like it around Portland. As one stakeholder identified, all managers need to be aware of the impact of decisions on all user groups, and keep the best current and future uses in mind for Willamette Park; *we are all stewards of the park and need to strategically work together to determine the best uses and best future vision of the park.*

Communication

A theme that emerged during the client stakeholder interviews is communication between the various divisions in PP&R. The City Nature and the Service Zone divisions bring different approaches to managing Willamette Park, and in some instances those approaches were in direct conflict with one another. Management responsibility for natural areas was divided from recreational areas about five or six years ago, and since then, it appears the two divisions have gone on separate paths. Communication between the two groups regarding management of their sections of the park and maintenance of facilities, particularly at the boundaries of the natural areas and recreational areas, seemed limited. Some stakeholders perceive plantings in natural areas near paths to be overgrown and not maintained. Natural area managers, however, are trying to move towards more natural vegetation in these areas and away from trimmed grass, while, on the other hand service managers are trying to provide a well-maintained park. Communication regarding the ideal condition of these areas could be improved

between the groups. Stakeholders expressed concern about “stepping on each others toes” regarding responsibilities, and sometimes this can result in ambiguity, confusion, and even frustration resulting in a breakdown in communication.

IV. Recommendations

As part of the interviews, Quercus Planning Group asked client stakeholders for recommendations to enhance the experience at Willamette Park and guide their vision for the park into the future. These recommendations include the following:

Recreational Opportunities

- Improve boat launch and dock system with dredging and expansion
- Install low float for paddlers to launch away from motor boats
- Improve pedestrian access to river with formal access point
- Widen and improve Willamette Greenway Trail

Natural Resource Management

- Remove fill and replace with appropriate material that better supports vegetation
- Propose Oak Habitat Study Area
- Relocate dog off-leash area from the oak habitat to north end of the park and install fence
- Add infiltration or catch basin around the storm drain in the oak habitat to help with stormwater management
- Plant native vegetation around oaks to provide a buffer and improve infiltration
- Expand native vegetation throughout park where appropriate
- Add vegetation buffer along Willamette river to benefit water quality and wildlife

Education

- Add information kiosk at boat launch
- Develop interactive educational programming, such as podcast tours, cell phone tours, and walking tours
- Create opportunities to enhance connection to larger landscape
- Develop interpretive signage for education throughout the park, including signage that mimics natural areas, signage regarding oak habitat, art sculptures, and paintings along the trails
- Make parking passes available for volunteers during stewardship activities

Facilities

- Upgrade sign at the park entrance
- Upgrade the picnic shelter with better access to running water and electrical outlets
- Improve current restrooms
- Add bicycle racks throughout the park for bike parking
- Install community board for announcements at picnic shelter or park entrance
- Install information kiosk at boat launch
- Build small covered picnic shelters to extend picnic use year-round, accommodate smaller groups, and provide more options during busy summer months
- Research pervious pavement for boat launch parking lot for any future upgrades

City of Portland Terrestrial Ecology Enhancement Strategy (TEES) Site Report

Site Name: Willamette Park

Date of Site Visit: 03/03/2010

Report Date: 04/09/2010

Site Assessors: Bernadette Le, Maren Murphy, Julia Babcock, Amy Rossa/Quercus Planning Group; Mary Bushman/Environmental Specialist (BES); Sarah McLellan/Urban Ecology Coordinator (BES)

Report Authors: Bernadette Le and Maren Murphy/Quercus Planning Group

Watershed: Willamette



Introduction

In 1903, John Charles Olmsted, a nationally renowned landscape architect, developed a comprehensive plan for parks in Portland. Willamette Park, which he called North Fulton Park, was identified in this plan as an ideal location for a neighborhood park and playground. He noted that this area was:

“...a beautiful stretch of low but undulating grassy land, well furnished with broad-spreading deciduous trees, among them the oak (which is decidedly rare elsewhere in the city) which would be a most desirable site for a local park and playground.”

Willamette Park is a hybrid park that includes areas that have been developed for recreational activities as well as natural areas that are managed for fish and wildlife habitats. The City of Portland acquired the land in 1926 and over time has introduced a variety of recreational opportunities in the park. The site includes restroom facilities, roads, two playgrounds, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, outfalls, four tennis courts, two soccer fields, a boat launch, parking lots, multi-use paths, and a dog off-leash area. Since the construction of the parking lot/boat launch vegetated swale and the formation of the South Portland Riverbank Stewards in 2005, efforts have been made to restore natural resource habitats in Willamette Park. The natural areas in the park include: native oak habitat, riparian and river habitat (including mudflats) and a water quality vegetated swale and naturescaped garden.

This park is part of a larger ecological and urban context that includes Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, Ross Island Natural Area, Butterfly Park, Willamette Moorage and Powers Marine (see Map 1). It is important to understand the connection between these parks and enhance habitat where possible. Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) has identified areas within the park that should be managed for natural resource functions and values.

Quercus Planning Group (QPG) is working with PP&R to identify projects in the park that will enhance the sustainability and vitality of the park with the growing user demands. The purpose of this TEES Report is to evaluate the natural resources in the park to identify actions that support the enhancement of habitat and natural resources.

Map 1:
Willamette Park Ecological Context



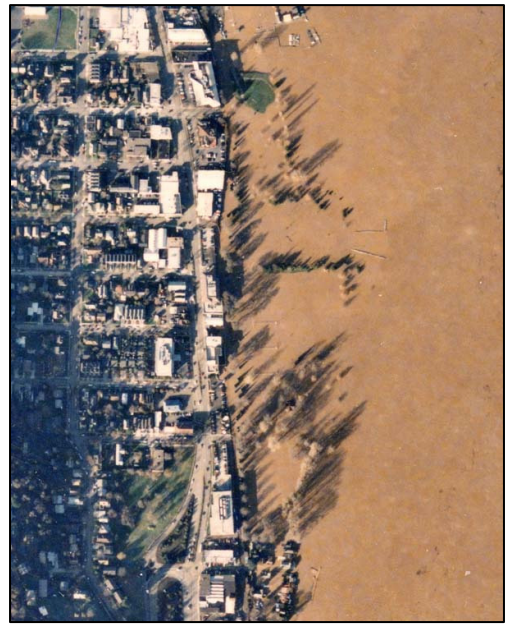
Physical Characteristics

Willamette Park is located on the west side of the Willamette River. The size of the park is 26.85-acres. In the 1960s, the park was used as a relocation site for fill from the demolition of the Oregon Journal Building, the removal of Front Avenue, and the excavation of the Vista Ridge Tunnel. This fill raised the elevation of the park to its current level and allowed for sports fields to be constructed above the river elevation. When the fill was added, it was capped, and soil and grass were planted on top of it. The placement of fill also altered the slope and shape of the river bank. This fill can still be seen from the river's edge in the form of concrete blocks and debris.

Although the elevation of the park was increased in the 1960s from the fill, flooding from the river occasionally occurs. The most recent substantial flooding occurred in 1996. During storm events, water pools throughout the park as the water cannot infiltrate through the capped fill. This causes challenges in maintaining the sports fields and using the pathways.

The riverbank in Willamette Park is the eastern boundary of the California Subwatershed. This means that all of the stormwater from the watershed that is not diverted through the sewer system passes through Willamette Park, making it an important site for stormwater mitigation efforts.

With Willamette Park adjacent to the river, its riverbank is considered critical habitat for two endangered species: the Chinook Salmon and the Steelhead Trout. Under the Endangered Species Act, the City is working towards improving the habitat of these species by identifying, restoring and enhancing the riparian area along the river. Willamette Park has been identified as a possible site for riverbank enhancement.



Willamette Park 1996 Flood

Habitats in Willamette Park

Current Conditions

Willamette Park includes a variety of terrestrial habitats that make the park rich in floral and faunal species. Table 1 provides a list of the habitats identified in the site visit, and Map 2 provides context as to where these habitats are located.

Table 1: Habitats in Willamette Park

Herbaceous emergent wetland
Shrub/scrub wetland
Forest riparian habitat
Open Fields
Oak woodland
Mud flat
Rocky Outcrop

The emergent wetland habitat occurs in two areas of the park that are seasonally inundated and influenced by daily tidal fluctuations. Only herbaceous plants establish themselves in the emergent wetland habitat at the river’s edge north of the boat launch and at the SE corner of the park.

The shrub-scrub wetland habitat is also located in the north and south portions of the park at slightly higher elevations than the herbaceous emergent wetland (a few inches to a few feet). Woody plants under 20 feet tall establish themselves in the shrub/scrub wetland but full sized trees are not present. This habitat area is located in the northern and southern portions of the park.

Larger trees and underbrush exist in the forest riparian habitat. This habitat type exists at higher elevations along the riverbank than the shrub/scrub wetland habitat. The majority of the riverbank in the park, excluding places that have been developed, has forest riparian habitat. Himalayan Blackberry bushes are present along the riverbank in the central portion of the park; English ivy is present in the southern portion of the riverbank.



*Shrub/Scrub Wetland
North Willamette Park*

Three sports field areas exist in the park. These fields are planted with non-native grasses and are used for recreational activities such as soccer, football, frisbee, and other sports. Canadian

Geese, American Crows, and Gulls are the primary wildlife observed in this habitat. Dog owners also use this space to exercise their dogs, even though it is outside of the designated dog off-leash area.

Oak woodlands once covered 400,000 acres in the Willamette Valley. It is estimated that they now cover less than 10% of their original area. Willamette Park has an area along the western and southern border that is oak woodland. This area is seeded with lawn and includes some evergreen trees. In 1993, Portland City Council designated the native Oregon White Oak tree (*Quercus garryana*) at the southern end of the park a City Heritage Oak. Protections have been established for all City Heritage trees requiring a permit from the City Forester to "remove, destroy, cut, prune, break or injure" the tree. To remove a City Heritage Tree permission must be granted from the Urban Forestry Commission and the Portland City Council. The 17 other white oaks are designated City Trees of Merit in the park. Trees of Merit are trees that have been nominated for heritage tree status but for some reason were not granted status. The Heritage Tree Commission provides a web listing of these trees as they feel that they are still worthy of the public's attention.

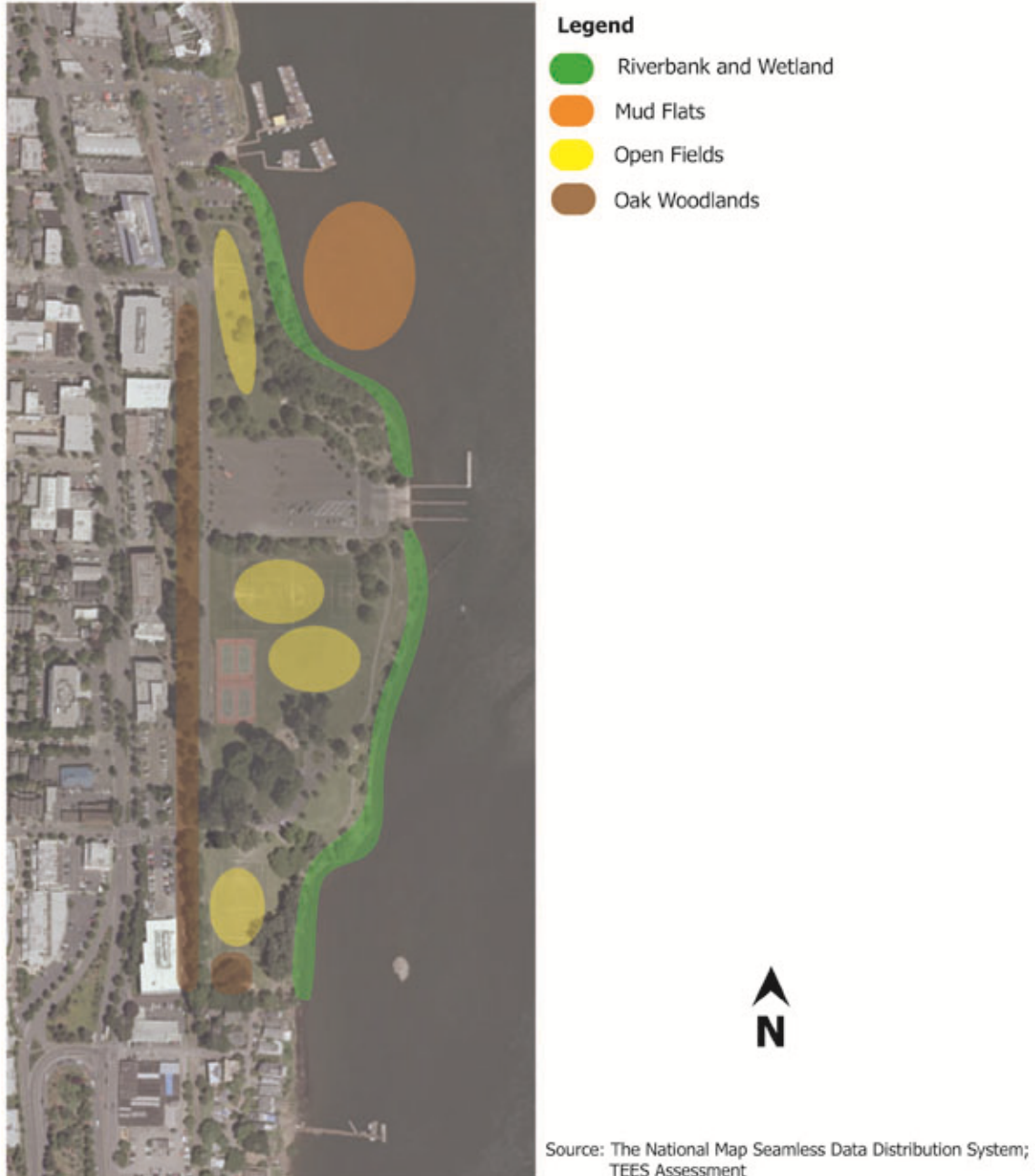
A mud flat exists in the northern portion of the park. In some areas the mud grazes the surface of the river and provides space for birds to congregate away from the river bank. The mudflat is very intact and important for biodiversity.

A rock outcrop exists in the Willamette River adjacent to the south portion of the park. This outcrop provides space for wildlife to rest. Although this outcrop is not located directly within the park, its close proximity to the park is worth mentioning.

TEES Special Status Habitat Types

The riparian area in the park has been identified as a possible location to enhance habitat for the endangered Chinook Salmon and the Steelhead Trout.

Map 2:
Habitats Present in Willamette Park



Native and Non-Invasive Plants on Site

Table 2 provides an account of the native and non-native plants identified at Willamette Park. The majority of the native plants were found on the western boarder of the park, along the riverbank, and in the northern natural area. Some native flowering plants were found in the planted beds. The majority of the plants in the recreation-focused areas were non-native, included large fields planted with non-native grasses.

Table 2: Native and Non-Native Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Native	Non-Native
Alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>	X	
Dune tansy	<i>Tanacetum camphoratum</i>	X	
White oaks	<i>Quercus garryana</i>	X	
Cottonwood	<i>Populus fremontii</i>	X	
Flowering current	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	X	
Aster	<i>Aster</i>	X	
Pacific willow	<i>Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra</i>	X	
Columbia River willow	<i>Salix fluviatilis</i>	X	
Birch	<i>Betula</i>	X	
Crabapple	<i>Malus</i>	X	
Himalayan blackberry	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>		X
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>		X
Pine	<i>Pinus</i>		X
Maple	<i>Acer</i>		X
Queene Anne's lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>		X
Western Red cedars	<i>Thuja plicata</i>		X
Grass			X

Invasive-Non Native Plants

Invasive plants often colonize in areas where there has been disturbance. Himalayan blackberry and English ivy grow along much of the riverbank, less than 10% coverage of the entire park. Holly was identified along the south border of the park near Miles Place residences, less than 1% coverage of the entire park. The South Portland Riverbank Project has been working to remove invasive species in the south portion of the park. Other invasive non-native plants include: St Johns wort, cattails, and Lesser celandine. The percent coverage of these plants was not recorded.

Stormwater Impacts and Management Issues

Increased paved area results in more water entering the Willamette River at a quicker rate and with increased levels of pollutants. These pollutants are from a variety of sources such as vehicles and landscaping of adjacent vegetated areas. In Willamette Park, the main challenge for stormwater retention and treatment is the large boat parking lot located in the central

portion of the park. This is also a major feature that affects the water quality entering the river as pollutants from the vehicles are washed into the river. Fecal waste from dogs and geese are also deposited into the river through stormwater runoff.

PP&R and the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) have worked towards retaining water on site by developing a stormwater swale directly north of the boat launch. In the upcoming months, the BES will be developing a plan to assess the swale to ensure that it is working optimally, as well as develop a new stormwater swale around an exposed drainage inlet in the oak woodland area.

Habitat Features Potentially Useful to Wildlife

Wildlife in urban areas often take advantage of both natural and man made features as elements of their habitat. At Willamette Park, wildlife benefit from the native oak habitat, riverbank and riparian habitat, snags, natural areas, mudflats, rocky outcrop, and pilings near the boat launch.

In general, plants are the primary source of energy which provides the building blocks of wildlife habitat. The living trees in the park provide food sources and habitat for birds and small mammals. The native oaks provide important habitat when the branches break and the tree begins to decompose, creating cavities for birds, animals, and insects in the park.



Snag along south portion of riverbank

Areas that contain the greatest diversity of native plants - such as ground cover, small and tall shrubs, understory trees, and overstory trees - provide the site characteristics needed to meet food and habitat requirements of wildlife. It should be noted, that although the Himalayan blackberry is invasive it provides good cover for ground-nesting birds along the riverbank, and also provides a buffer for the riparian area.

Wildlife Use of the Site

Onsite Birds

Table 3 provides an account of the birds and animals that were seen or the assessors were informed of their presence at Willamette Park during our assessment. An asterisk (*) indicates that the wildlife was not seen, but evidence of their presence was observed or the team was told of their existence by credible sources. Appendix C contains a bird species list collected in Willamette Park during the winter of 2001 through early spring 2001.

Table 3: Wildlife at Willamette Park

Birds	Mammals
Song sparrow	Chipmunk
Mallard	Moles*
Scrub Jay	Nutria*
Cormorant	Grey Squirrel
Chickadee	Otters
Spotted towhee	Seals
Junco	Beavers*
Anna's Hummingbird	
California Gull	
American Robin	
Crow	
Widgeon	
Great Blue Heron	
European Starlings	
Red Tail Hawk	
Canadian Goose	
Cackling Goose	
Swallow	

Wildlife with Negative Ecological Effects

Both species of geese present in the park were identified to have negative ecological effects on the surrounding area. Their fecal waste is significant in the north soccer field and in the grassy area between the riverbank and the Willamette Greenway Trail. According to a 2006 Department of Environmental Quality report, geese fecal matter is a major contributor to e-coli in the Willamette River.

Although dogs can cause minimal negative ecological impacts to the natural environment if cleaned up after, fecal matter from visiting dogs was witnessed in the park during the TEES assessment and during other visits. This fecal matter can be transferred into the river causing bacterial pollution to the river. The bacteria found in dog fecal matter can also be harmful to humans and wildlife.

Relevant Watershed-Specific Objectives and Future Recommendations

In 2006, the City of Portland City Council adopted the 2005 Portland Watershed Management Plan. This plan outlined a process for long-term adaptive management to increase the health of the watersheds in Portland. A series of objectives for improving watershed health are outlined in this plan. These objectives are relevant to terrestrial habitat in the park:

- Implement Watershed Actions to Restore Populations of Terrestrial Organisms to healthy, self-sustaining levels.
- Protect and Restore the Composition and Structure of Native Vegetation Communities.
- Reduce Populations of Non-Native Plants and Organisms to Levels that Do Not Compete with Native Species.

Table 4 provides a list of preliminary recommendations identified during the TEES process to enhance the terrestrial habitat within Willamette Park. As part of the development of our final report, we will analyze these recommendations and provide a final list of recommendations that incorporate the findings in this document as well as our other technical memoranda.

Table 4: Recommendations

Habitat Area	Recommendation
Forest Riparian and Oak Woodlands	Consider installing bird boxes or gourds along riverbank (chickadees-sized) and in oaks (swallow-sized).
Oak Woodlands	Consider planting vegetated buffer in area directly surrounding the trees. Activities that disturb the ground within the root zone may harm the trees. The current mowing of the area around the trees may impact the vigor of tree regeneration. Enhancing the habitat by creating a vegetated buffer of plants that naturally grow together will create a more complex habitat for the animals and may increase the health of the trees. Level sites, such as the area in Willamette Park, best support <i>Oregon white oak/mazzard cherry/snowberry</i> communities.
Oak Woodlands	Consider planting native grasses in oak woodland habitat. The three native grasses that occur most often in this habitat are Blue wildrye (<i>Elymus glaucus</i>), California fescue (<i>Festuca californica</i>), and Alaska oniongrass (<i>Melica subulata</i>).
Throughout Park	Consider planting native trees likely to grow well in upland areas of the park, such as oaks, cottonwoods, alder, and ash, when trees need to be replaced. Overtime this will result in a habitat for wildlife that is closer to what was historically present.

Table 4: Recommendations

Habitat Area	Recommendation
Open Fields	The current open field habitat is appealing to the Canadian Geese and ducks. Consider methods for reducing the appeal. During our alternatives development stage, we will research various successful methods for reducing their population in the park.
Open Fields	Consider posting signs at eye-level indicating that dogs should remain on-leash in areas outside of the dog off-leash area. This should reduce the amount of feces on the fields and should reduce the number of encounters between dogs, people and wildlife.
Central and North Riparian Areas	Consider laying back the bank to facilitate the growth of native plants and provide habitat for native wildlife. This will provide shade and nutrients for endangered Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Trout.
Throughout Park	Consider planting native flowers, trees, and bushes throughout the park. This should be a priority in the areas managed by City Nature staff.
South Riverbank Area	PP&R staff should continue to facilitate riverbank restoration efforts along the riverbank in the south portion of the park.
Riparian Areas	As recommended in the California Subwatershed Strategies Report, consider moving the Greenway Trail, 20 feet from the top of the riverbank to allow adequate space for riverbank wildlife and vegetation to grow.
Throughout Park	Consider retaining (from dead plants) or creating additional large snags along the riverbank and other areas of the park. Snags provide great habitat for wildlife.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Oak Savanna and Woodland Species List

Native oak savanna and woodland species reported from the Portland area by Gorman (1916-1917). Christy, J.A., A. Kimpo, V. Marttala, P.K. Gaddis & N.L. Christy. 2009. Urbanizing flora of Portland, Oregon, 1806-2008. Native Plant Society of Oregon, Occasional Paper 3: Portland, Oregon.

Oak Savannah and Woodland Species

Adenocaulon bicolor	Epilobium brachycarpum	Piperia elegans
Agoseris grandiflora	Epilobium torreyi	Poa howellii
Agrostis microphylla	Eriophyllum lanatum	Poa nervosa
Amelanchier alnifolia	Erythronium oreganum	Potentilla glandulosa
Anemone oregana	Eschscholzia californica	Potentilla gracilis
Aquilegia formosa	Eurybia radulina	Prunus emarginata
Arbutus menziesii	Euthamia occidentalis	Prunus virginiana
Arctostaphylos columbiana	Fragaria vesca	Pteridium aquilinum
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Fritillaria affinis	Quercus garryana
Aruncus dioicus var. acuminatus	Geum macrophyllum	Rosa gymnocarpa
Brodiaea coronaria	Heracleum lanatum	Rubus leucodermis
Bromus vulgaris	Hieracium albiflorum	Rubus parviflorus
Calochortus tolmei	Hierochloe occidentalis	Salix scouleriana
Calypso bulbosa	Holodiscus discolor	Sambucus nigra ssp. cerulea
Camassia quamash	Hypericum formosum	Sanicula bipinnatifida
Cardamine nuttallii var. nuttallii	Lathyrus nevadensis	Scrophularia lanceolata
Carex stipata	Lathyrus torreyi	Senecio macounii
Castilleja tenuis	Ligusticum apiifolium	Sidalcea campestris
Ceanothus sanguineus	Lilium columbianum	Spiraea betulifolia var. lucida
Ceanothus velutinus	Lomatium nudicaule	Symphoricarpos albus
Cephalanthera austiniae	Lotus nevadensis	Symphoricarpos mollis
Chamaesyce serpyllifolia	Lupinus latifolius	Synthyris reniformis
Chamerion angustifolium ssp. circumvagum	Lupinus polyphyllus	Tonella tenella
Cinna latifolia	Luzula campestris	Toxicodendron diversilobum
Cirsium edule	Luzula parviflora	Trientalis borealis ssp. latifolia
Clarkia epilobioides	Madia exigua	Trifolium ciliolatum
Clarkia purpurea	Madia madioides	Trifolium wormskioldii
Clarkia purpurea ssp. quadrivulnera	Mahonia aquifolium	Triodanis perfoliata
Clarkia rhomboidea	Maianthemum racemosum ssp. amplexicaule	Triteleia hyacinthina
Claytonia sibirica	Malus fusca	Vaccinium caespitosum
Clinopodium douglasii	Marah oreganus	Vaccinium ovatum
Collinsia grandiflora	Melica subulata	Viburnum ellipticum
Collomia grandiflora	Nemophila parviflora	Vicia americana
Collomia heterophylla	Nemophila pedunculata	Vicia nigricans ssp. gigantea
Comandra umbellata	Oemleria cerasiformis	Viola adunca
Corallorrhiza maculata	Osmorhiza berteroi	Viola howellii
Corylus cornuta	Oxalis suksdorfii	Viola sempervirens
Deschampsia caespitosa	Phacelia linearis	Vulpia octoflora
Disporum hookeri	Physocarpus capitatus	
Dodecatheon hendersonii	Romanzoffia sitchensis	

Appendix B: TEES - Special Status Species Plants List

The list is informational and was developed to assist land managers and planners in identifying actions that will protect, restore and enhance Portland Special Status Habitats and associated wildlife species.

Special Status Plant Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Heritage Status - Rank	ORNHIC List
<i>Agrostis howellii</i>	Howell's bentgrass	S-2	1
<i>Cimicifuga elata</i> var. <i>elata</i>	Tall bugbane	S-3	1
<i>Delphinium leucophaeum</i>	White rock larkspur	S-2	1
<i>Delphinium pavonaceum</i>	Peacock larkspur	S-1	1
<i>Howellia aquatilis</i>	Howellia	S-1	1
<i>Rorippa columbiae</i>	Columbia cress	S-3	1
<i>Sericocarpus rigidus</i> (syn <i>Aster curtus</i>)	White-topped aster	S-2	1
<i>Sullivantia oregana</i>	Oregon sullivantia	S-2	1
<i>Castilleja levisecta</i>	Golden paintbrush	S-H	1-extirpated
<i>Artemisia campestris</i> var. <i>wormskioldii</i>	Northern wormwood	S-X	1-extirpated
<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly sedge	S-1	2
<i>Carex retrorsa</i>	Retorse sedge	S-1	2
<i>Delphinium nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's larkspur	S-1	2
<i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i>	Indian rice / black lilly	S-1	2
<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	Salt heliotrope	S-2	2
<i>Rotala ramosior</i>	Toothcup	S-2	2
<i>Wolffia columbiana</i>	Columbia water-meal	S-1	2
<i>Sedella pumila</i>	Sierra mock-stonecrop	S-H	2-extirpated
<i>Ammannia robusta</i>	Grand redstem (loosestrife family)	S-NR	3
<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's waterweed	S-NR	3
<i>Hierochloa odorata</i>	Holy grass	S-NR	3
<i>Polygonum punctatum</i>	Dotted smartweed	S-NR	3
<i>Scirpus pallidus</i>	Pale bulrush	S-3	3
<i>Zizia aptera</i>	Golden alexanders	S-NR	3
<i>Bergia texana</i>	Texas bergia	S-3?	4
<i>Bolandra oregana</i>	Oregon bolandra	S-3	4
<i>Cypripedium montanum</i>	Mountain lady's-slipper	S-3, S-4	4
<i>Euonymus occidentalis</i>	Western wahoo	S-3	4
<i>Montia howellii</i>	Howell's montia	S-3, S-4	4
<i>Poa laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered bluegrass	S-3	4
<i>Poa marcida</i>	Weak bluegrass	S-4	4
<i>Sidalcea campestris</i>	Meadow checker-mallow	S-4	4

NR = Not yet ranked (2007 report)

H = Historical Occurrence, formerly part of the native biota with the implied expectation that it may be rediscovered.

X = Presumed extirpated or extinct.

Appendix C: Willamette Park Bird List from 2000-2001

This list was collected by individuals from December 2000 to April 2001. Although it does not provide an account of migrations throughout the year, it does capture the spring migration of some species.

Bird List - Willamette Park (12/2000 - 04/2001)

Red-wing Blackbird	Steller's Jay
Bushtit	Dark-eyed Junco
Bi-capped Chickadee	American Kestrel
Black-capped Chickadees	Killdeer
American Coot	Belted Kingfisher
Dbl-breasted Cormarant	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Crow	Golden-crowned Kinglets
Mourning Dove	Mallard
Bald Eagle	Common Mergansers
House Finch	American Robin
Red-shafted Flicker	Robin
American Goldfinch	Spotted Sandpiper
Canada Goose	English Sparrow
Western Grebe	Fox Sparrows
California Gull	Golden-crowned Sparrows
Glaucous-winged Gull	House Sparrow
Herring Gull	Song Sparrow
Mew Gull	European Starling
Ring-billed Gull	Starling
Western Gull	Violet-green swallow
Western-Glaucous winged hybrid Gulls	Green-winged Teal
Red-tailed Hawk	American Widgeon
Great-blue Heron	Eurasian Widgeon
Anna's Hummingbird	Downy Woodpecker
Scrub Jay	Beewick's Wren



Memorandum

To: Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee
From: Quercus Planning Group
Date: May 6, 2010
Subject: Willamette Park Observation Results

Introduction

As part of the information gathering phase of the Willamette Park Assessment & Recommendations, Quercus Planning Group (QPG) conducted park user observations in Willamette Park between February and April 2010. Willamette Park is 26.85 acres, and has a diverse range of amenities for park users to enjoy. Park observations were conducted to gain a better understanding of use patterns and frequencies on various days and times of the week.

Methodology

To assist with data collection, QPG divided the park into six zones that would each be manageable to observe from one central location (Appendix A). Observations of park users were collected by one team member on February 20 and 22, 2010. Two team members completed observations on April 18 and 21, 2010. Each team member spent 20 minutes in each zone and recorded the activities they observed during that time, totaling two hours in the park during each observation. An observation form was created to collect and organize details of park users based on location in the park, type of activities, number of visitors to each zone, and descriptions of the physical environment and uses.

Limitations

It is important to note that the results from the observations represent only one point in time and should not be interpreted to represent all park users or the general public. When observations were completed with two team members at one time, a single park user could have been counted in more than one zone. For this reason the total number of park users cannot be calculated by adding the number of park users in each zone as it could result in double-counting of park users. Another limitation is the fact that these observations occurred during the winter and spring seasons, due to the timing of the project and the information gathering phase. QPG was not able to observe the park during its peak season over the summer months, and thus the observations do not reflect those primarily summer uses like picnicking, playing sports, or sunbathing. Nonetheless, the observation results provide important information about park use and user patterns and preferences, which QPG will incorporate into their final assessment and recommendations document.

Discussion

The following is a discussion of the main observations QPG team members recorded during the observations in each zone. Appendix B includes a detailed table of the observations for further information.

Zone 1 – North Area

Landmarks include: North non-motorized park entrance, Willamette Greenway Trail, north parking lot, and an open grassy area.

Of the total observations completed, Zone 1 received the most visitors on Sunday, April 18, 2010. The weather was sunny and warm, which was likely the result of increased visitors. The activity most visitors were engaged in on this day was walking, closely followed by cycling. This zone also had the second highest total number of visitors of all the observations recorded.

Zone 2 – Boat Launch

Landmarks include: Boat launch and parking lot.

Due to numerous activities occurring at the same time, and the challenging layout of the boat launch zone, observations were not collected on all days for this zone. Of the days that observations were collected, Saturday, February 20, 2010 had the highest number of visitors. Approximately 95% of the boat trailer parking lot was full on this day, as well as approximately 75% of the vehicle parking in the boat launch lot.

Zone 3 – Dog-off Leash Area

Landmarks include: Dog off-leash area, historic oaks, roadway and motorized park entrance.

The highest number of visitors to Zone 3 was recorded on Sunday, April 18, 2010. As this zone includes the main roadway through the park, which many people use as a commuter route, it is not surprising that the most frequent activity visitors were engaged in was running.

Zone 4 – Central Area

Landmarks include: Tennis courts, central soccer field, playground, and restrooms near boat launch.

The highest number of visitors to Zone 4 was also recorded on Sunday, April 18, 2010, with most visitors playing either in the playground or tennis.

Zone 5 – Willamette Greenway Trail

Landmarks include: Riverbank, Willamette Greenway Trail, benches/picnic tables, and historic oaks.

Zone 5 had the highest total number of visitors recorded during all observations completed, which reflects the popularity of its landmark amenity, the Willamette Greenway Trail. On Saturday, February 20, 2010, over 150 visitors were recorded in a 20-minute time period. This includes 35 people participating in a riverbank stewardship activity. The most frequent activity in Zone 5 on this day was walking.

Zone 6 – South Area

Landmarks include: South parking lot, picnic shelter, south soccer field, south playground, and historic oaks.

Zone 6 includes a trail loop around the south soccer field that most visitors used as an extension of the Willamette Greenway Trail, if they did not exit the park through Miles Place. Saturday, February 20, 2010, had the highest number of visitors, and most visitors were walking.

Conclusion

Although the park observations identified by QPG this memo are not representative of all park users, they do provide insight into the ways that park users engage in activities throughout the park. Observers consistently found that weekends attract the most park users, especially on Saturdays when the weather is sunny; while on weekdays the park is often frequented by employees of neighboring businesses during their lunch breaks. Park users were engaged in many activities during observations, yet walking was recorded as the most frequent activity. Cycling and running were the next most frequently recorded activities. QPG will consider the various park uses identified as they move forward with their *Willamette Park Assessment & Recommendations* document. This document will also identifying recommendations on how to balance the long-term viability and sustainability of Willamette Park with growing user demands.

Appendix A: Map of Willamette Park Zones



Appendix B: Park Observations

Zone	Zone Characteristics	Observation Description	Walking	Walking with Dog(s)	Running	Cycling	Sitting/ Standing	Playing	Total Number of Visitors	Comments
1	Landmarks: North non-motorized park entrance, Willamette Greenway Trail, north parking lot, and open grassy area	Date: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 Time: 11:35-11:55 am Weather: sunny, slight wind from the shore Description: Varied terrain, winding path, loud birds, geese on field, high traffic area by north entrance, view of downtown Portland	31	N/A	14	7	3	N/A	55	9 dogs
1		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 12:35-12:55 pm Weather: sunny, warm and a light breeze	27	2	5	25	5	N/A	64	2 people walking with kayaks included in total count 8 cars parked in north lot 6 children in strollers included in total count
1		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 10:55-11:15 am Weather: sunny and warm	31	10	12	18	3	N/A	74	10 dogs
1		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 10:55-11:15 am Weather: Cool and windy	6	2	1	3	2	0	14	2 dogs 2 people working on installing the new bench Senior Center bus full of seniors left the park

Zone	Zone Characteristics	Observation Description	Walking	Walking with Dog(s)	Running	Cycling	Sitting/ Standing	Playing	Total Number of Visitors	Comments
1		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 11:55 am-12:15 pm Weather: Cold, cloudy with little sun	21	3	10	9	0	0	43	3 dogs Many lunch time exercisers
2	Landmarks: Boat launch and parking lot	Date: Monday, Feb. 22, 2010 Time: 1:50-2:10 pm Weather: sunny with a slight breeze	14	3	2	7	4	N/A	34	12 cars were in the lot, 15 trucks with trailers and 1 motorcycle 1 boat put in river, 3 boats being taken out
2		Date: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 Time: 10:45-11:05 am Weather: sunny with a slight breeze Description: Car oriented, busy and people crossing paths	11	4	28	9	4	N/A	73	5 boat put in river, 5 boat being taken out of river and 7 people taking kayaks/ canoes out of river are included in the total count
2		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 11:40 am-12:00 pm	15	13	10	9	8	N/A	55	75% of car parking full 95% of boat trailer parking full 5 boats being taken out of river 6 boats being put into river

Zone	Zone Characteristics	Observation Description	Walking	Walking with Dog(s)	Running	Cycling	Sitting/ Standing	Playing	Total Number of Visitors	Comments
3	Landmarks: Dog off-leash area, historic oaks, boarders train tracks, roadway, and motorized park entrance	Date: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 Time: 11:45 am-12:05 pm Weather: sunny, slight wind from the shore Description: Lots of trees, low elevation, dangerous to walk along road, view of Mt. Hood in distance, loud a/c from buildings	0	6	0	0	0	N/A	6	2 dogs off-leash and 3 dogs on-leash
3		Date: Monday, Feb. 22, 2010 Time: 1:50-2:10 pm Weather: sunny with a slight breeze	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	
3		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 12:15-12:35 pm Weather: sunny, warm and a light breeze Description: Most people walked along social trail or the roadway and not in the DOLA	4	6	0	5	0	0	15	4 dogs on-leash 3 dogs off-leash
3		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 11:18-11:38 am Weather: sunny, warm and a slight breeze	6	1	9	8	0	N/A	24	1 dog off-leash

Zone	Zone Characteristics	Observation Description	Walking	Walking with Dog(s)	Running	Cycling	Sitting/ Standing	Playing	Total Number of Visitors	Comments
3		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 11:15-11:35 am	0	2	0	3	0	0	5	2 dogs off-leash 1 person spent time in the DOLA then took the dog off-leash to play in the soccer field
3		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 12:20-12:40 pm Weather: Cold, cloudy with little sun	4	1	1	1	0	0	7	1 dog off-leash
4	Landmarks: Tennis courts, central soccer field, playground, and restrooms near boat launch	Date: Monday, Feb. 22, 2010 Time: 1:50-2:10 pm Weather: sunny with a slight breeze	2	0	0	2	0	8	12	5 adults and 3 kids in the playground
4		Date: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 Time: 10:35-10:55 am Weather: sunny, slight wind from the shore. Description: Muddy field, noisy from Macadam.	7	N/A	3	1	N/A	14	25	10 kids, 2 tennis players and 2 football players were playing
4		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 11:42 am-12:02 pm Weather: sunny, warm and a light breeze	0	0	0	5	1	18	24	1 person playing with do off-leash in open field

Zone	Zone Characteristics	Observation Description	Walking	Walking with Dog(s)	Running	Cycling	Sitting/ Standing	Playing	Total Number of Visitors	Comments
4		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 12:19-12:39 pm Weather: sunny, warm and a light breeze	3	3	1	0	4	36	47	22 people playing on the playground 11 people playing tennis 4 dogs
4		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 1135-11:55 am	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2 dogs 7 geese Dogs off-leash on field
4		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 11:35-11:55 am Weather: Cold, cloudy with little sun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5	Landmarks: Riverbank, Willamette Greenway Trail, benches/picnic tables, and historic oaks	Date: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 Time: 9:35-9:55 am Weather: sunny, slight wind from the shore Description: View of Mt. St Helens, open space, good sun exposure Path was clear Benches/picnic tables were clean People are using the space well Most people would either not stop or stop for a short time to look at the river	52	N/A	34	27	35	8	156	17 dogs 8 kids playing 35 people standing/sitting includes a stewardship group doing planting of the riverbank

Zone	Zone Characteristics	Observation Description	Walking	Walking with Dog(s)	Running	Cycling	Sitting/ Standing	Playing	Total Number of Visitors	Comments
5		Date: Monday, Feb. 22, 2010 Time: 1-1:20 pm Weather: sunny with a slight breeze All benches/picnic tables were being used Many people were using the path Most people stayed in zone for entire observation	10	4	4	6	8	N/A	31	Two men with lawn chairs went to sit by the river
5		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 11:20-11:40 am Weather: sunny, warm and a light breeze	23	10	20	18	5	N/A	76	
5		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 12:20-12:40 pm	13	5	4	14	20	N/A	56	6 dogs
5		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 12:18-12:28 pm	8	2	2	0	2	0	14	2 dogs
5		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 11:15-11:55 am	6	2	7	1	1	0	17	2 dogs

Zone	Zone Characteristics	Observation Description	Walking	Walking with Dog(s)	Running	Cycling	Sitting/ Standing	Playing	Total Number of Visitors	Comments
6	Landmarks: South parking lot, picnic shelter, south soccer field, south playground, and historic oaks	Date: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 Time: 10:15-10:35 am Weather: sunny, slight wind from the shore. Description: Goose poop on field Most people come and go through Miles Place Street traffic coming from Macadam Cars from parking lot need to be more cautious	16	N/A	10	10	N/A	2	38	2 kids playing
6		Date: Monday, Feb. 22, 2010 Time: 1:30-1:50 pm Weather: sunny with a slight breeze. Description: Most people entered this zone from near the pump station Most people pass through this zone to access the trail	8	1	0	2	0		11	

Zone	Zone Characteristics	Observation Description	Walking	Walking with Dog(s)	Running	Cycling	Sitting/ Standing	Playing	Total Number of Visitors	Comments
6		Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 Time: 10:55-11:15 am Weather: sunny, warm and a light breeze Most cyclists either entered from Miles Place or west entrance neat pump station	6	2	2	15	0	3	28	1 person was cycling with a dog
6		Date: Saturday, April 18, 2010 Time: 12:40-1 pm	9	2	2	9	3	6	31	3 dogs
6		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 11:55 am-12:15 pm	8	1	2	4	6	0	21	1 dog 15 geese
6		Date: Wed., April 21, 2010 Time: 11:15-11:35 am Weather: Cold, cloudy, breezy, little breaks of sun	2	4	0	6	0	0	12	4 dogs 15 geese on field

WILLAMETTE PARK ASSESSMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

**Portland State University
Masters of Urban & Regional Planning Workshop**

Julia Babcock | Bernadette Le | Maren Murphy | Amy Rossa

03.01.2010

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1. Project Scope

The overarching goal of the project is to aid Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) in prioritizing projects that balance the long-term viability and sustainability of Willamette Park with growing user demands.

2. Project Background

2.1 History of Project/Site/Surrounding Area

Willamette Park is a 26.85 acre regional park located in Southwest Portland along the western bank of the Willamette River. Acquired in 1926 by the City of Portland, the park features natural and recreational amenities but currently lacks a master plan and long-term vision. Natural amenities include: historic oak habitat, river habitat, and native vegetation. Recreational amenities include: a boat dock and ramp, multi-use paths, picnic areas, dog off-leash area, two playgrounds, two soccer fields, and four tennis courts. The use characteristics for Willamette Park are not currently fully understood. Some of the amenities, such as the boat launch and the paved trail, draw users from around the region. Information from parking meters and park permits will provide some data about park use. Public involvement will be conducted to gather further information about user characteristics and preferences. This project will focus on an assessment of current uses and natural features in order to balance growing user demands with the preservation and restoration of natural habitat in the park. The assessment will be synthesized into a set of alternatives and recommendations for future park improvements, titled *Willamette Park Assessment and Recommendations*.

2.2 Community Role to Date

Generally, the community has played a role in other public involvement processes related to Willamette Park including (most recently) the Fulton Pump Station Project.

2.3 Funding

This project is being conducted by Quercus Planning Group (QPG), which is made up of four Masters of Urban and Regional Planning students from Portland State University. This project does not include the reimbursement of funds for work carried out by QPG. QPG may request funds for outreach or other project-related material which will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

2.4 Political Support

This project is a preliminary assessment that will end with a set of recommendations to better inform the management of Willamette Park. Because there are not major decisions being made during the project, it is not anticipated that there will be a high level of political scrutiny.

3. Project Direction

How will the project be developed? The project is being developed by Quercus Planning Group and consists of the following six phases:

1. Project Scoping & Problem Assessment *(January to early February, 2010)*
2. Information Gathering *(Mid-January to early April, 2010)*
3. Vision & Goals *(Late January to early April, 2010)*
4. Alternatives Development & Evaluation *(Mid-March to early May, 2010)*
5. Recommendation Development & Evaluation *(Mid-April to early May, 2010)*
6. Final Products *(April to early June, 2010)*

4. Project Designer

Quercus Planning Group will be designing the project in conjunction with Portland Parks & Recreation and in partnership with Portland Bureau of Environmental Services.

Timeline: January 2010 - early June 2010

Budget: Quercus Planning Group will not be seeking money, but 654 hours have been budgeted for the completion of this project.

5. Public Involvement Overview

What is the public role in this process?

Quercus Planning Group will be working with the public to gain an understanding about their use and vision of the park, in order to develop alternatives and recommendations.

How will they achieve this role?

The public will support QPG by completing intercept surveys in the park, online surveys and by attending Stop & Talk's in the park, and community meetings.

How will the public be notified?

The public will be notified of opportunities to be involved in this process through the project website: <http://quercusplanning.wordpress.com>, publications in the SW Neighborhood News monthly newsletter, fliers at neighborhood businesses and community buildings (including park and neighborhood association facilities) and through Portland Parks & Recreation.

How will they be engaged?

The public will be engaged in this process by Quercus Planning Group requesting input and opinions in the information gathering phase of the project (through surveys, events, and personal contact) and Quercus Planning Group requesting comments in the alternative phase at two public events.

6. Stakeholder Outreach

Who has a vested interest in this project?

Park users (formal and informal users, park stewardship groups, recreational users, dog owners, boaters, etc.) surrounding neighborhoods, surrounding property and business owners, surrounding schools all have a vested interest in this project. In addition, several city bureaus are involved with activities and facilities in the park including but not limited to the Portland Water Bureau, the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

Who needs to care about this project?

Participation in the process is voluntary. However, anyone or any entity that has a stake in the future of the park should be encouraged to become involved as these recommendations could shape future decisions about the park.

Who is responsible for contacting these individuals/groups?

Quercus Planning Group is responsible for providing public outreach to identified stakeholders.

7. Publications/Notification

Meeting/Event Notices/Fliers: Quercus Planning Group will develop fliers in conjunction with the Stop & Talk, and public meeting events.

Website: Quercus Planning Group will keep a website up to date with information about public involvement opportunities and ways to get involved. The website is: <http://quercusplanning.wordpress.com>.

Media: Quercus Planning Group will work with South West Neighborhood News to advertise public events.

Public Meetings: Quercus Planning Group plans to hold a public meeting during the Alternatives Development & Evaluation phase.

Displays: Quercus Planning Group will develop maps and station signs for the Stop & Talk, and public meeting events.

8. Public Involvement Schedule

Date	Event
February 4 February 15 February 20-28 February 20-22	Parks Committee Meeting (introduction to project) Start Stakeholder Interviews Online Survey Intercept Survey
March 1-31 March 5	Online Survey End Stakeholder Interviews
April 3 April 1-4 April 7	Stop & Talk #1- Information Gathering and Intercept Survey Online Survey South Portland Neighborhood Association Meeting
May 2 May 3	Stop & Talk #2 - Alternatives Community Meeting - Alternatives

8.1 Information Gathering Phase

The information gathering phase consists of different activities scheduled between Quercus Planning Group and the public to gather feedback from the public about they use to the park and what their vision is for the park's future. The timeline below shows the activities that will be conducted in the Information Gathering Phase and the timeline in which Quercus Planning Group will prepare and execute the task.

Activity	Timeline
Public Involvement Plan	1/25-2/12
Stakeholder Interviews	2/12-3/5
Intercept Survey	2/20-4/3
Stop & Talk #1	2/17-4/3
Online Survey	2/22-4/4

8.2 Alternative Development & Evaluation Phase

The alternative development phase will be the result of synthesizing all of the comments and qualitative data collected in the information gathering phase. Alternatives will be presented to the public for comments to shape the final recommendations. The timeline below shows the activities that will be conducted in the Alternative Development & Evaluation Phase and the timeline in which Quercus Planning Group will prepare and execute the task.

Activity	Timeline
Stop & Talk #2	4/25-5/2
Community Meeting	4/25-5/3

8.3 Activity Descriptions

- **Public Involvement Plan** - Develop plan to define public's role and appropriate methods for involving the public in the planning process.
- **Stakeholder Interviews** - Learn from key stakeholder concerns regarding natural resources, recreational opportunities, and stewardship and education in the park. The Consultant will conduct up to 10 stakeholder interviews.
- **Introduce to SWNI and Neighborhood Associations** - Notify the surrounding community of the project and build relationships with community leaders.

- **Intercept Survey** - Ask visitors in the park about their values and desires for the park. As the park has regional significance, this step will ensure that the values and desires of visitors from all communities, not solely the immediately surrounding neighborhoods, are incorporated into the assessment.
- **Online Survey** - Ask individuals that visit QPG's website about their values and desires for the park. This survey will be very similar to the Intercept Survey.
- **Stop & Talk** - Host two informal meetings within the park. The first will be during the information gathering phase, the second will provide an opportunity for feedback on alternatives development. These meetings will be advertised through local neighborhood associations, business associations and community leaders and within the park. Park visitors will be encouraged to speak with QPG members to discuss their opinions about the park. QPG will provide copies of the Intercept Survey and the link to the online survey tool to ensure that park users are reflected in the survey results.
- **Conduct Community Meeting to Review Alternatives** - Review proposed alternatives with the public to determine that information collected is correct and if additional alternatives should be integrated into the planning process. Community members will be requested to evaluate proposed alternatives to assist QPG with the development of the final recommendations.

Willamette Park

Assessment & Recommendations



Quercus Planning Group (QPG) is working as a consultant to aid Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) in prioritizing projects that balance the long-term viability and sustainability of Willamette Park with growing user demands. Portland Bureau of Environmental Services will be serving as a partnering agency because of their interest in natural resource management and expertise in stormwater management. The three areas that Quercus Planning Group will be focusing efforts on are:

1. Recreation
2. Natural Resources
3. Stewardship & Education

Public involvement is a key component of the process and will be essential to creating alternatives and recommendations for the final output.

QUERCUS Planning Group

Quercus Planning Group is a team of four graduate students from the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program at Portland State University.

- Julia Babcock, Public Involvement Coordinator
- Bernadette Le, Project Manager
- Maren Murphy, Client Liaison
- Amy Rossa, Logistics Coordinator

As part of the final requirements of the MURP program, students work in small groups to develop a project for a community client of their choice. The Planning Workshop gives students the opportunity to explore specific interests and interact with real planning challenges to produce a final product that gives back to the community and prepares students for their planning careers.

Please visit our website to take the Willamette Park User Survey!



Website: <http://quercusplanning.wordpress.com>
E-mail: quercus.planning@gmail.com



Stop & Talk in Willamette Park

What makes Willamette Park unique?

Why do you visit Willamette Park?

Please join Quercus Planning Group at our **Stop & Talk** to discuss these topics and more! You will have an opportunity to share with us your **experiences**, **opinions**, and **suggestions** about the future of Willamette Park.

When: Saturday, April 3, 2010
3:00 – 6:00 pm

Where: Willamette Park Picnic Shelter
SW Macadam Ave & Nebraska St

Quercus Planning Group is a team of four Portland State Univ. graduate students aiding Portland Parks & Recreation in prioritizing projects that balance the long-term viability and sustainability of Willamette Park with growing user demands.

w: <http://quercusplanning.wordpress.com>

e: quercus.planning@gmail.com

Robert Gray students share their family stories at multi-cultural fair



The gym at Robert Gray Middle School was packed the evening of March 18 with students, teachers, parents, and community members. Students used project display boards to help tell the life stories of ancestors.



Will Fuller, chair of the SWNI Schools Committee, with two Robert Gray students who have just shared their family stories


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**Friday, April 9, 2010
6-10 pm**

Location: Tualatin Country Club

Tickets \$65: Includes dinner, silent auction, author signings & books available for sale

Reservations required: call 503.293.4038 or www.cpahinc.org

AN EVENT TO BENEFIT Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Brian's Corner



Shaken and Stirred

by Brian Russell, Southwest Neighborhoods Chair
barusse@hotmail.com

By now the earthquakes in both Haiti and Chile are old news. The Chilean quake was over a month ago and the Haitian one, about three months ago. Through the influence of television and due to our short attention spans, I believe we have lost the ability to remember unbelievable tragedies like these for longer than a few new cycles.

Keep in mind, reader, that I'm not blaming you or faulting you. As I mentioned in last month's column, I am subject to the same tendencies as you are. What I do want to point out is that it is very easy to fall back in our old habits and routines while our fellow humans are struggling to find food, water and shelter.

And please don't feel guilty. You can't feel bad because your life is stable. You have a job to do, children to raise, friends to meet and a life to live. It's okay to get on with our lives after news of a natural (or manmade) disaster. After all, that's what the victims will be trying to accomplish as they assess the situation.

What I hope to instill in you is an extended sense of caring for the people who are suffering and struggling. It will be quite a while before their lives have returned to "normal." I'd love to see you give, when it's almost off your radar. It's so easy to turn off the TV, throw the newspaper in the recycling bin and click your way to another webpage once the sensationalism has worn off. It's a lot harder to stick with the story and con-

tinue to look for ways to help weeks and months later.

Experts say that the Pacific Northwest is overdue for a large (9.0+ magnitude) subduction zone earthquake. A quake of this caliber will flatten our buildings, fell our bridges and send a tsunami into our coast. If (when?) we are the victims of this future calamity, you can bet we'll need help for longer than a month or two.

When was the last time you thought about emergency preparedness? Do you have a disaster plan for your family? Is your 72-hour kit ready for the time when you won't have access to food or water? Disasters are always tragic, but we can use them as a reminder to be prepared.

A wealth of resources are available at the Oregon Red Cross website, oregon-pacific.redcross.org, (they do more than just blood collection!) Additionally, the Portland Office of Emergency Management, www.portlandonline.com/oem, has links for Neighborhood Emergency Team training, as well as other emergency resources and information.

And if you're looking for a way to engage in rebuilding efforts in Chile through a local organization, Multnomah Village's own Riversgate Church, is starting a campaign "8.8 in 2010" to raise funds which will be used to assist in that work. Contact Pastor Jeff Golden 503-244-3224 for more details.

The message is this: Be prepared, but also be prepared to help others.

Stop and Talk event at Willamette Park on April 3

Quercus Planning Group, a team of four PSU graduate students, is working as a consultant to Portland Parks & Recreation. The team members are helping with public involvement in an effort to prioritize projects at Willamette Park. The focus is on natural resource management, recreation, and education.

In addition to stakeholder interviews and surveys, team members are holding a "stop and talk" event at Willamette Park on Saturday, April 3, from 3 to 6 pm. They'll be at Willamette Park Picnic Shelter. Park visitors can stop and



talk to team members about any issue related to Willamette Park.

Hillsdale Transportation Education Series:

The first in a series of the Hillsdale Transportation Education series will be held **March 31, 7 PM at the Watershed, 6388 Capitol Highway**, enter from the patio, south side of the northern most building. Everyone is welcome.

Steve Dotterer with the Portland Office of Planning and Sustainability will present a History of Transportation and Development in Portland Oregon in the past century.

Learn how Portland grew, and the role transportation, especially the streetcar, played in the growth of our city. Discussion will follow the presentation.

The Southwest Neighborhood News is distributed free, published monthly, by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. All submissions are due by the 15th of each month. Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., (SWNI) is a nonprofit coalition that provides services to promote citizen participation and crime prevention in 17 Southwest Portland neighborhood associations and four business associations.

Our mission statement reads: "SWNI empowers citizen action to improve and maintain the livability of Southwest neighborhoods." Partial funding is from the City of Portland through an annual grant.

Our office is located in the Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. We are open 8:30AM to 5PM, Monday through Friday. To reach us call 503-823-4592, email ginny@swni.org.

SWNI staff: Sylvia Bogert, Executive Director; Leonard Gard, Program Manager; Ginny Stromer, Operations Manager; Payal Razdan, Outreach Coordinator, and Jennifer Seamans, WRC Coordinator.

The 2008-2009 SW Neighborhoods, Inc., Board Officers are Brian Russell, President; Ken Love, 1st Vice-President; Alexander Ben Israel, 2nd Vice President; Susan Egnor, Secretary; and Tom Schaper, Treasurer.

We collected your ideas...

Now come help us develop alternatives to guide the future planning of Willamette Park



You are invited to attend one of the following alternative discussions:

Sunday, May 2, 2010 from 3-6 pm

Stop & Talk at Willamette Park Picnic Shelter
SW Macadam Avenue & Nebraska Street

Monday, May 3, 2010 from 7-9 pm

Community Meeting at Portland French School
6318 SW Corbett Avenue

Quercus Planning Group is a team of four Portland State University graduate students aiding Portland Parks & Recreation in prioritizing projects that balance the long-term viability and sustainability of Willamette Park with growing user demands. Visit us online at <http://quercusplanning.wordpress.com> or by email at quercus.planning@gmail.com.



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2010

Contact: Beth Sorensen, Public Information Officer
503.823.5300; 503.823.6634 (cell)

Portland Parks & Recreation seeks public input on potential future improvements at Willamette Park

Two public meetings on May 2 and May 3 provide opportunity to view options and offer feedback

(Portland, OR) - Join Portland State University graduate student group, Quercus Planning Group (QPG), to review and discuss their findings about the various challenges faced in managing Willamette Park and to share your thoughts on priorities for potential improvements over time.

There are two public meeting opportunities planned, both free and open to the public:

What: Stop & Talk
Where: Willamette Park picnic shelter (enter park at SW Macadam and SW Nebraska)
When: Sunday, May 2 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

What: Drop-in Public Meeting
Where: Portland French School (6318 Southwest Corbett Avenue, Portland)
When: Monday, May 3 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Background:

For the past number of months QPG has been working with Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) to learn about Willamette Park, understand the various demands on this regional park, and assess some of the challenges it faces. They have been talking to park users, user groups, and various city staff involved in the management of the park. A combination of stakeholder interviews, surveys of users in the park, and a public Stop & Talk in early April has helped them better understand people's dreams for the park's future and some of the challenges they see the park facing.

Based on all they have heard, QPG has developed a range of suggestions for ways to address existing challenges, improve some facilities, and benefit those who treasure and use this busy park. Ranging from stormwater management to improved interpretive and wayfinding signs, there are a host of possible improvements that QPG is seeking feedback on. While there is no funding currently allocated for any improvements to the park at this time, this project will be used to inform future decision-making by park managers.

For more information, please contact Bryan Aptekar, PP&R's West Service Zone Coordinator, via email at Bryan.Aptekar@portlandoregon.gov or Quercus Planning Group via email at quercus.planning@gmail.com, or online at <http://quercusplanning.wordpress.com>.

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INSIDE:
 A history of Portland
 from a transportation
 planner's perspective
 - Page 8

Volume No. 18, Issue No. 7

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Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

May 2010

Jackson Middle School historical exhibit reflects America's diversity

By Polina Olsen
 The Southwest Portland Post

The Oregon Historical Society's main lobby gleamed with color as room-sized windows let in dark light from the chilly, rain-soaked day. Four generations snaked around rows of story boards covered with photographs from around the world. Each told the family history of a Jackson Middle School eighth-grader. The diversity and depth of the American experience was on display.

Each year, Jackson students show how their family history reflected events in the broader society. They research one family member and a secondary topic that relates to the person's life. Using original sources like diaries, photographs, letters, and genealogies, they create a display board and essay. OHS brought 40 completed projects to the museum between March 25 and April 4. On Saturday, April 3, students gave a presentation.

Stories around the room spanned generations and continents. Mercer Hanau talked about her grandmother's

(Continued on Page 7)



Goshi Meman's family emigrated from Kurdistan when she was three months old. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

PSU urban planning students interview users of Willamette Park

PARKS AND RECREATION

By Lee Perlman
 The Southwest Portland Post

A quartet of students from Portland State University's graduate school of urban planning has been studying the

use and management of Willamette Park.

Team member Amy Rossa told the South Portland Neighborhood Association that the four had interviewed a total of 56 park users during three visits. Team leader Julia Babcock said they had also talked to identified "stakeholders."

Among those interviewed, 29 percent said they came primarily for exercise, a like number came to "enjoy nature and the outdoors," 13 percent walked their dogs there, 10 percent came to "reduce stress," eight percent engaged in "stewardship activities." The survey found 53 percent arrived by car, 40 percent walked, and seven percent arrived by bike.

Conspicuous by its absence was any mention of boat launching in one of only two Portland parks that have facilities for this. The students said it was hard to find someone engaged in this activity and willing to talk to them.

Asked for their feedback, some people mentioned that since last year Willamette is the only Portland park that charges for parking. Asked if this was positive or negative, one resident said, "For those of us who have people park in front of our homes (to avoid paying the fee), it's a big fat negative."

South Portland's Bill Danneman complained that Park Bureau representatives had promised to report back to the neighborhood on the parking charge, and never did so.

Others complained that the park's dog off-leash area is poorly positioned adjacent to busy Southwest Macadam Avenue. Board member Kerry Chipman, who said he uses the park "rain or shine," said pathways are poorly designed and regularly fill with water.

In response to a suggestion by the student team, several people said they'd like to see plaques or other educational material that discussed the park's history and environment.

The PSU team will have another "stop and talk" at the park from 3 to 6 p.m. May 2, a community meeting at 7 p.m.

May 3 at the Portland French School, 6318 S.W. Corbett Ave., and a Brown Bag discussion of their recommendations from noon to 1 p.m. June 1 at the Portland Building, 1120 S.W. Fifth Ave. They can be reached at quercus.planning@gmail.com.

Park bureau cancels \$200 million bond measure

The Portland Bureau of Parks and Commissioner Nick Fish have decided not to seek a proposed \$200 million bond measure at the November election.

Bureau spokespeople have visited neighborhood associations and other community groups over the past two months to discuss the proposed measure and how they would use the funds if approved.

However, in an April 14 letter, Fish and Parks Executive Director Zari Santner wrote, "The economic climate makes it too difficult to successfully move forward with a bond measure at this time."

The proposed measure would have allocated almost \$8 million to the Multnomah Center for upgrading its electrical, heating and plumbing systems and seismic stability.

Center director Michael Walsh said that none of the needed repairs constituted an immediate health and safety hazard. Contributions to ongoing operations by supporters and user groups allowed the Center to supplement funds allocated for building maintenance, he told *The Post*.

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Parks Committee Chair Kirky Doble (Continued on Page 4)



Portland State University Urban Design graduate students (left to right) Amy Rossa, Maren Murphy, Julia Babcock and Bernadette Le at last month's South Portland Neighborhood Association meeting. (Post photo by Lee Perlman)

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Willamette Park

Assessment & Recommendations

Brown Bag Presentation

Date: June 1, 2010
Time: 12pm – 1pm
Place: 2nd Floor Room C
Portland Building

Join Quercus Planning Group as we share findings from our PSU planning capstone project that balances the long-term viability and sustainability of Willamette Park with growing user demands.



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

QUERCUS  Planning Group



Memorandum

To: Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee
From: Quercus Planning Group
Date: April 15, 2010
Subject: Willamette Park Intercept Survey Results

Introduction

As part of the information gathering phase of the Willamette Park Assessment & Recommendations, Quercus Planning Group (QPG) conducted intercept surveys between February and April 2010. QPG worked with Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) to tailor the intercept survey originally designed by PP&R and PSU's Survey Research Lab, for a series of park intercept surveys conducted in 2008 and 2009 in four other parks in Portland. The original format was preserved, but some survey questions were updated to better fit the needs of QPG, as well as to better compare to US Census data, as recommended by PP&R staff. Specifically, options were added to question 7 and question 8. Question 9 and question 10 were revised as a result of communication with PP&R staff. QPG also updated these questions to include answer choices excluded from the original survey. Refer to Appendix A for a copy of the intercept survey conducted by QPG.

Methodology

A total of 56 people responded to the surveys. Fifty intercept surveys were completed in the park, and six surveys were completed online. The online survey responses were incorporated into the results, as the online survey questions collected the same information as the paper intercept survey. Three QPG team members conducted the in-person intercept survey on February 20 from 9 am-12 pm, and two team members on February 22 from 12:30-2:30 pm. QPG also conducted the in-person intercept survey from 3-6 pm on April 3, 2010 while at their Stop & Talk event in the park.

When conducting the intercept surveys, interviewers moved throughout the park to ensure that a variety of locations and activities were represented. QPG did not target a specific age range or user type. If large groups were encountered, interviewers randomly selected a portion of the people in the groups to participate in the survey. Respondents were offered free passes to the SW Community Center & Pool as an incentive to complete a survey.

Limitations

The results from the intercept surveys represent only the perceptions of those who participated and should not be interpreted to represent all park users or the general public. Without having reliable data related to the number of people visiting parks it is nearly impossible to design a scientific intercept survey that can be generalized to all users. Nonetheless, the methodologies used in these surveys are sound and provide important information about park use patterns and preferences.

Since interviewers were trained only to remain in one area of the park for twenty minutes, survey respondents do not include people engaged in all activities at Willamette Park. It is important to consider that people engaged in active sports were often less willing to stop their activity and complete a survey. QPG found it challenging to complete surveys with cyclists, runners and boaters. Regardless of the limitations with the intercept survey, they do provide valuable information about park use, preferences and motivations, which QPG will incorporate into their final assessment and recommendations document.

Demographics

The demographic characteristics of the 56 survey respondents are included in Appendix B. Demographics from all survey respondents were compared to the Portland 2008 US Census American Community Survey three-year estimates. Of the total survey respondents there was a higher percentage in the 55-64 year old age group compared to the average Portland population, while there was a lower percentage in the 20-24 age group.

When comparing 2009 total household income of survey respondents to Portland, respondents reported a lower percentage in the \$10,000-14,999 and \$15,000-24,999 categories, while all other income categories were more similar to the city average.

For educational attainment, survey respondents were a higher percentage of college graduates, a lower percentage of high school graduates, and a lower percentage who have completed technical/vocational school or some college.

Survey respondents had a higher percentage of people who spoke more than one language at home when compared to the Portland population.

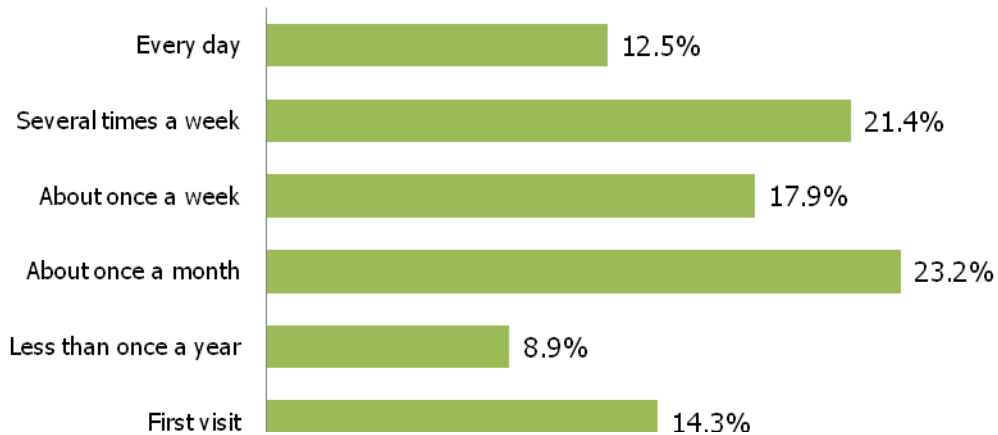
Zip Code

Appendix B also includes a list of zip codes that identify the percentage of park visits based on survey respondent's home zip code. The analysis uses zip code in order to provide an accurate representation for how far people are traveling to visit the park. Park users came from 26 different zip codes, which confirms the regional nature of Willamette Park.

Frequency of Park Visit

Figure 1 shows the frequency that park users visit Willamette Park. Results are based on the 56 survey respondents, where 23.2% visit the park at least once a month, 17.9% indicated that they visit the park at least once a week, and 21.4% several times a week.

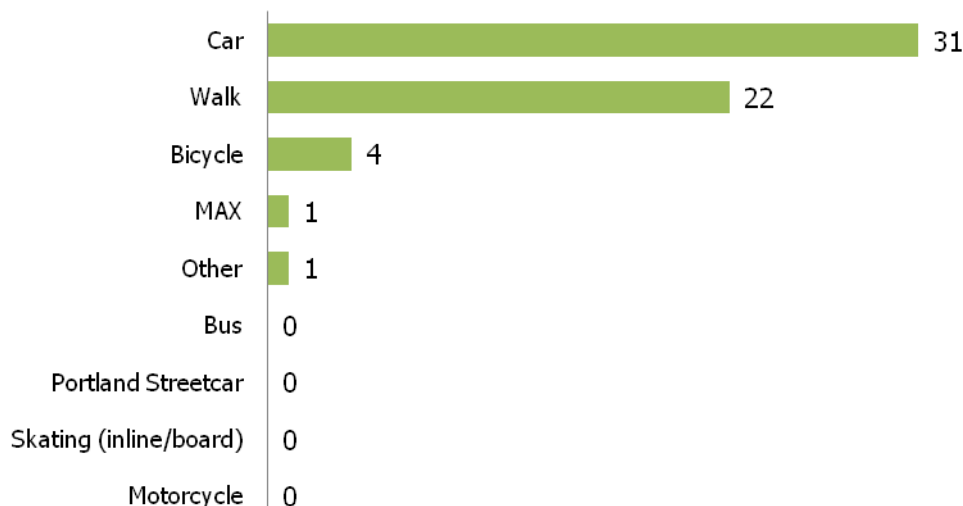
Figure 1: Frequency of Park Visit



Transportation to the Park

Survey respondents were asked to select all of the modes of travel they used to get to Willamette Park. In addition to the eight options listed, respondents were also able to indicate other modes of travel. Since survey respondents were asked to select all modes that applied, the results do not total the 56 survey respondents. The most common mode of transportation identified by the survey respondents was car (31 responses), followed by walking (22 responses).

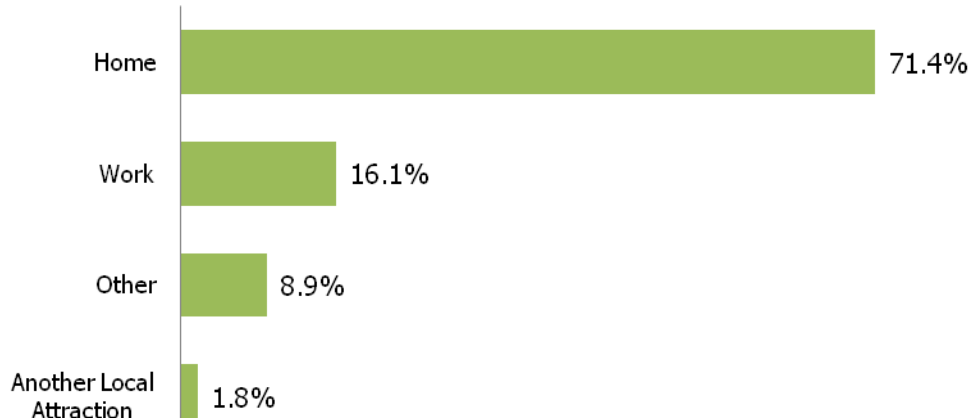
Figure 2: Transportation to the Park



Location Before Coming to the Park

Respondents were asked to identify where they were before coming to the park. Of the 56 survey respondents, 71.4% came from home, followed by 16.1% who came from work. Willamette Park is located in an area that is surrounded by businesses therefore employees tend to use the park during their breaks. Other responses included coming from the gym at Lloyd Center, wife's business, friend's condo and a bridge.

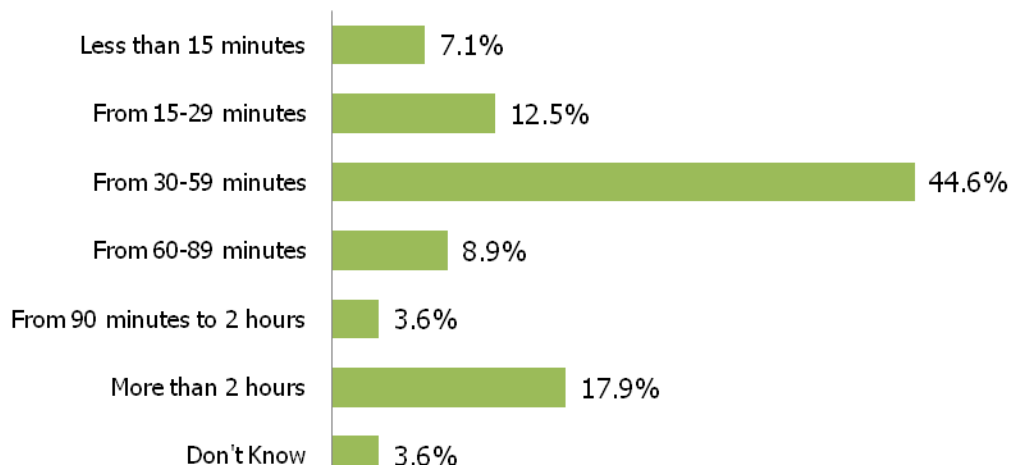
Figure 3: Location Before Coming to the Park



Length of Visit in the Park

Respondents were asked to estimate the length of time they were planning to stay in the park that day. As illustrated in Figure 4, the largest proportion (44.6%) of the 56 respondents planned to visit the park for 30 to 59 minutes, followed by 17.9% of respondents who planned to stay for more than two hours.

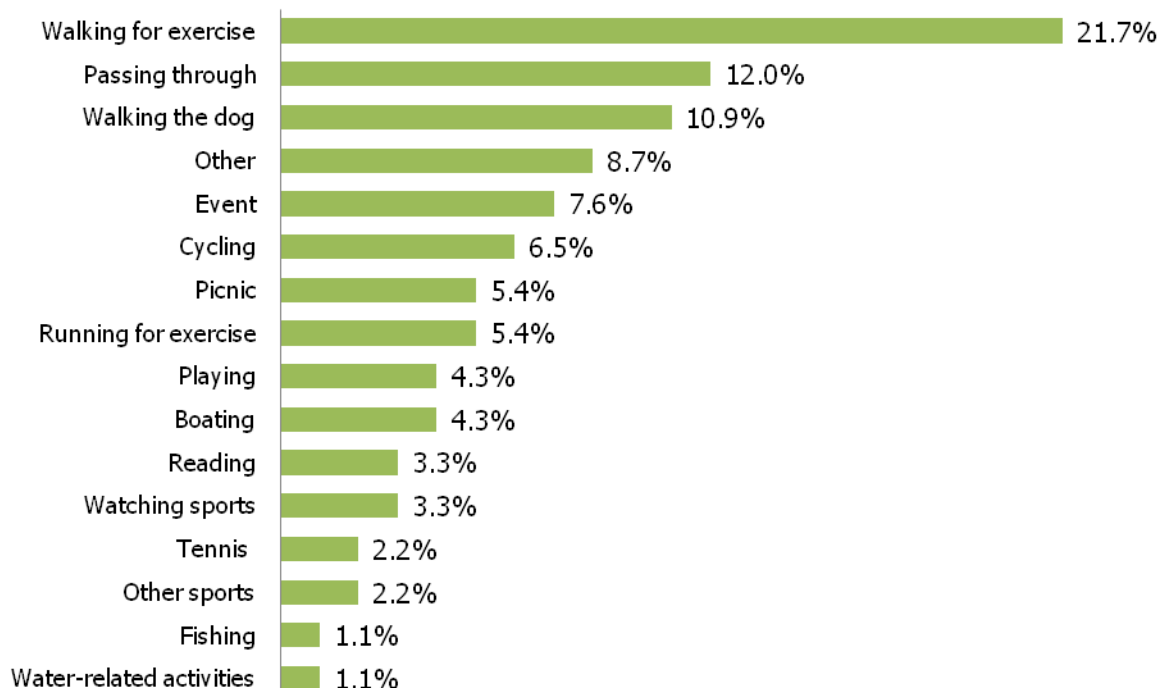
Figure 4: Length of Visit



Activities Engaged in During Park Visit

Respondents were asked to identify up to three activities they were planning to do or had already done in the park (Figure 5). Sixteen response choices were offered including three other categories. The most common activity was walking for exercise with 21.7% respondents indicating this activity, followed by 12% of respondents who were passing through the park. Since Willamette Park is located along the Willamette River in Southwest Portland, many park users tend to use the park's trails as a route to get to another destination. Of the 8.7% of respondents who indicated Other, these activities included native area maintenance, completing a fish report, kayaking, having lunch at work, picking up trash, planting and prayer.

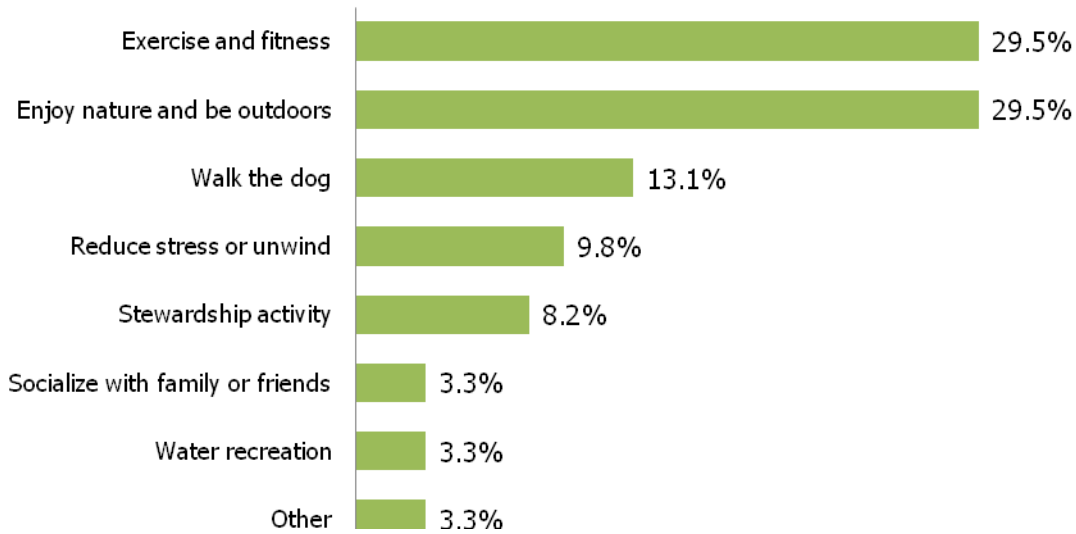
Figure 5: Activities Engaged in During Park Visit



Reason for Visiting the Park

Respondents were asked to identify the main reason for their park visit. The respondents were given eight options as identified in Figure 6. Although the survey asked respondents to select only one option to represent their primary reason for visiting the park, some respondents selected more than one. Exercise and fitness, and to enjoy nature and be outdoors were both identified as being the primary motivation for visiting the park by 29.5% of the respondents. 13.1% of the respondents indicated that visiting the park to walk the dog was their primary motivation.

Figure 6: Reason for Visiting the Park

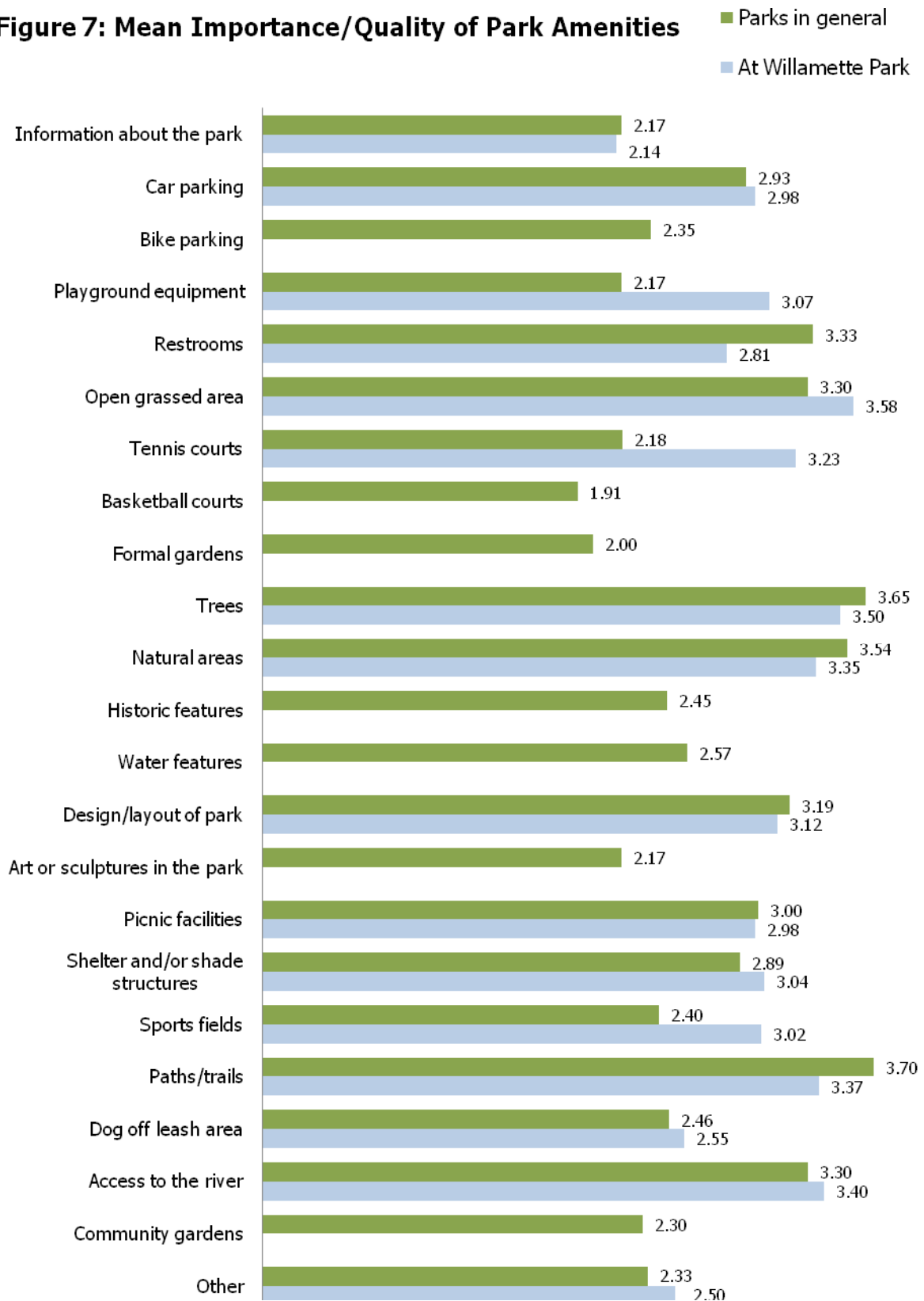


Importance/Quality of Park Amenities

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of common park amenities on a four point scale (1 = Not Important and 4 = Very Important). This question differed slightly from other questions in that it asked respondents to rate these features for all parks in general, not just Willamette Park, as indicated by the green bars in Figure 7. Among the 56 respondents, paths/trails had the highest average score at 3.70. This was followed by the average score for trees being 3.65, and natural areas with an average score of 3.54. The lowest average score was 1.91 for basketball courts, which indicates that this is the least important amenity in a park for the 56 survey respondents. This was followed by formal gardens at 2.00, and art or sculptures in the park at 2.17.

Respondents were also asked to rate the quality of each amenity identified in the previous question according to its presence at Willamette Park. A four point scale was used again (1 = Very Poor and 4 = Very Good) and the average values are indicated by the blue bars in Figure 7. Since Willamette Park does not have bike parking, basketball courts, formal gardens, historic features, water features, art or sculptures, or community gardens, respondents were not asked to rate these amenities. Among the 56 respondents, open grassed area had the highest average score at 3.58, followed by trees at 3.50, and access to the river at 3.40. High scores indicate that respondents are generally satisfied with the quality of these amenities at the park. Respondents identified information about the park as the lowest quality amenity at Willamette Park with an average score of 2.14, followed by amenities indicated in the Other category (including adequate lighting and quietness) at 2.50, and the dog off-leash area at 2.55.

Figure 7: Mean Importance/Quality of Park Amenities



Preferred Park Improvements

Respondents were asked to identify improvements they would like to see in Willamette Park. The question was an open ended write-in format. Responses have been grouped into broad categories for analysis, as indicated below.

Signage

- Signage for boat access.
- Clearer information on which restrooms are open in the off season - perhaps a sign at the parking meter, or a sign near the entrance.

Dog Off-leash Area

- Do not install an off-leash area for dogs unless it is very large. Otherwise, the area tends to become a nasty, muddy, and overused morass.
- Fence in dog off-leash area (x 3).
- Less soggy off leash area - it's pretty slippery in the rain.
- More dog controls.

Facilities

- Restrooms improved.
- Bathrooms would be wonderful.
- Year round bathroom facility (x 2).
- Improved picnic area.
- Picnic table maintenance.
- Put two places for picnic tables in the north area.
- More picnic tables near river view.
- It would be nice to have more seating facing the river.
- Garbage closer to path, currently have to walk through mud in the rain (south end).
- More shady areas.
- Geese droppings.
- Fill in the two spaces on end of park.
- Really likes the concert in the park.
- Shelters like Wilsonville.
- Tennis courts need resurfacing.

Parking

- Free parking (x 2).
- Free parking if you are here for less than an hour.
- Boat spaces are too small.
- Bike parking.
- Parking for cars without boats especially during events at the park.
- Pay parking is not good - only charge boaters or on weekends/summer.

Trails/Paths

- Address mud on path - bikers fall.
- Continue trail along waterfront (to the north of the park).
- Bike path through connection.
- Greater focus on trails.

- Improved paths (both dirt, paved, or something else other than just dirt). Love to ride bikes on the paths, so more bike features would be nice.
- Repave the trail, there are lots of root bumps, and it's narrow when passing people.
- Some of the paths need to be drained.
- Moving oval to the south end was not a good idea - can't walk, too close to road and uncomfortable.

Access to River

- Kayak access.
- Kayak loading zone.
- Easier access to river to help keep the river bank freer of trash.
- Greater focus on non-boat access to river.
- Other connections to the river as the park could be offering spectacular views in more areas.
- More waterfront activities.

Natural Resources

- Community gardens would be great.
- Greater focus on natural areas.
- Nature, animals, water.
- More color (flowers).
- Expand natural area (to replace grassy areas).
- Better runoff.

Miscellaneous

- It's a great park and a real asset to the community.
- More communal activities.
- Great park - keep improving.
- Like it as is.
- More improvements if possible; love the park and would like to see more of it!
- Never been here before but loved it. Will come back.

Conclusion

Findings from the Willamette Park intercept surveys offer a level of detailed information related to park use, preferences, and motivations. As the two primary motivations for visiting the park, as indicated by the survey respondents, were exercise and fitness, and enjoy nature and be outdoors, this supports Willamette Park's administration of being a hybrid park. The quality of the amenities in the park will assist QPG to prioritize needs, as identified by park users. The list of preferred park improvements will also provide QPG with strategies to address the desires of the park users. Many of the findings are consistent with what has been identified in other information gathering tasks completed by QPG, and will add further depth to the assessment and recommendations document.

Appendix A: Willamette Park User Survey

Willamette Park User Survey



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION
Healthy Parks. Healthy Portland

1. How often do you visit this park? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

- ☐1 Every day
☐2 Several times a week
☐3 About once a week
☐4 About once a month
☐5 Less than once a year
☐6 First visit
☐7 Don't know

2. During the past two months, when have you typically visited this park? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

- ☐1 Weekdays (morning / afternoon / evening) [CIRCLE TIME OF DAY]
☐2 Weekends (morning / afternoon / evening) [CIRCLE TIME OF DAY]
☐3 Special events (morning / afternoon / evening) [CIRCLE TIME OF DAY]
☐4 Other: _____
☐5 Don't know (Irregular)

3. How did you get to the park today? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

- ☐1 Walk ☐5 MAX
☐2 Car ☐6 Portland Streetcar
☐3 Bicycle ☐7 Skating (inline/board)
☐4 Bus ☐8 Motorcycle
☐9 Other: _____

4. Where did you come from before you were at the park? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

- ☐1 Home ☐3 School
☐2 Work ☐4 Hotel / motel
☐5 Another local attraction (e.g. Zoo, OMSI, Museum)
☐6 Other: _____

5. If you are not visiting the park alone today, including yourself, how many people are in your group? _____ People

6. How long are you planning to stay in the park today? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

- ☐1 Less than 15 minutes ☐2 15 - 29 minutes
☐3 30 - 59 minutes ☐4 60 - 89 minutes
☐5 90 minutes to 2 hours ☐6 More than 2 hours
☐7 Don't know

7. What are the primary activities you are planning to do or have done in the park today? [SELECT UP TO 3]

- ☐1 Passing through ☐6 Playing
☐7 Picnic ☐2 Walking for exercise
☐16 Wildlife viewing ☐15 Fishing
☐8 Reading ☐3 Walking the dog
☐18 Boating ☐17 Bird watching
☐9 Sunbathing ☐19 Running for exercise
☐5 Tennis ☐11 Watching sports
☐4 Cycling ☐20 Water-related activities
☐12 Other sports (specify): _____
☐13 Event (specify): _____
☐14 Other (specify): _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Survey date: _____ Park zone: _____ Time: _____ : am/pm

8. What was your primary motivation for visiting the park today? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

- ☐1 Exercise and fitness
☐2 Socialize with family or friends
☐3 Enjoy nature and be outdoors
☐4 Reduce stress or unwind
☐5 Walk the dog
☐7 Stewardship activity
☐8 Water recreation
☐6 Other: _____

9. The following is a list of amenities that you generally find in parks. Please rate how important they are to you when you visit a park, using a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 means "Not at all Important" and 4 means "Very Important." NOTE: This is about parks in general, not just this one.

Items Found In a Park	How important is this to you?			
a. Information about the park	Not	1	2	3 Very
b. Car parking	Not	1	2	3 Very
c. Bike parking	Not	1	2	3 Very
d. Playground equipment	Not	1	2	3 Very
e. Restrooms	Not	1	2	3 Very
f. Open grassed areas	Not	1	2	3 Very
g. Tennis courts	Not	1	2	3 Very
h. Basketball courts	Not	1	2	3 Very
i. Formal gardens	Not	1	2	3 Very
j. Trees	Not	1	2	3 Very
k. Natural areas	Not	1	2	3 Very
l. Historic features	Not	1	2	3 Very
m. Water features	Not	1	2	3 Very
n. Design/layout of park	Not	1	2	3 Very
o. Art or sculptures in the park	Not	1	2	3 Very
p. Picnic facilities	Not	1	2	3 Very
q. Shelter and/or shade structures	Not	1	2	3 Very
r. Sports fields	Not	1	2	3 Very
s. Paths/trails	Not	1	2	3 Very
t. Dog off leash area	Not	1	2	3 Very
u. Access to the river	Not	1	2	3 Very
v. Community gardens	Not	1	2	3 Very
w. Other ²³ (please describe):	Not	1	2	3 Very

Please turn over...

10. Now, looking at the same list of amenities, please rate the quality of each at this park, using a scale of 1 to 4 where 1 means "Very Poor" and 4 means "Very Good". Rows have been grayed out in cases where the feature does not currently exist in this park.

How do you think <u>this park</u> rate on...	Rating of Quality			
	Very Poor			Very Good
a. Information about the park	1	2	3	4
b. Car parking	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
c. Bike parking	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
d. Playground equipment	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
e. Restrooms	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
f. Open grassed areas	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
g. Tennis courts	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
h. Basketball courts	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
i. Formal gardens	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
j. Trees	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
k. Natural areas	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
l. Historic features	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
m. Water features	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
n. Design/layout of park	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
o. Art or sculptures in the park	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
p. Picnic facilities	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
q. Shelter and/or shade structures	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
r. Sports fields	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
s. Paths/trails	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
t. Dog off leash area	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
u. Access to the river	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
v. Community gardens	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4
w. Other ²³ (please describe):	Very Poor			Very Good
	1	2	3	4

11. How did you first find out about this park? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

- ☐ ₁ Local knowledge or live nearby
☐ ₂ Friend or relative
☐ ₃ Seen from the road while passing
☐ ₄ Directional signs
☐ ₅ Portland Parks & Recreation Website
☐ ₆ Brochure
☐ ₇ Television, radio, newspaper
☐ ₈ Other: _____
☐ ₉ Don't Know

12. What improvements would you like to see in Willamette Park?

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!

.....
 Please tell us a little bit about yourself. We will combine this with the information we get from everyone who filled out the survey to describe the group of people who participated.

13. What is your gender?

- ☐ ₁ Male ☐ ₂ Female

14. What is the zip code of your residence?

15. What is your age group?

- ☐ ₁ Under 15 ☐ ₅ 35 - 44 ☐ ₉ 75 - 84
☐ ₂ 15 - 19 ☐ ₆ 45 - 54 ☐ ₁₀ 85 or over
☐ ₃ 20 - 24 ☐ ₇ 55 - 64
☐ ₄ 25 - 34 ☐ ₈ 65 - 74

16. How many children under 18 years live in your household?
 _____ Children

17. (IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN) What are the ages of these children living in your household? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

- ☐ ₁ 0 - 4 years ☐ ₃ 10 - 14 years
☐ ₂ 5 - 9 years ☐ ₄ 15 - 17 years

18. Which of the following best describes your present employment status? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

- ☐ ₁ Unemployed ☐ ₄ Employed Part-Time
☐ ₂ Homemaker ☐ ₅ Employed Full-Time
☐ ₃ Student ☐ ₆ Retired

19. Which of the following best describes your household's total annual income for 2009? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

- ☐ ₁ Less than \$10,000 ☐ ₅ \$35,000 - \$49,999
☐ ₂ \$10,000 - \$14,999 ☐ ₆ \$50,000 - \$74,999
☐ ₃ \$15,000 - \$24,999 ☐ ₇ \$75,000 - \$99,999
☐ ₄ \$25,000 - \$34,999 ☐ ₈ \$100,000 or more

20. What languages other than English are spoken in your home?

- ☐ ₁ Spanish ☐ ₈ Italian
☐ ₂ German ☐ ₉ Hindi
☐ ₃ Arabic ☐ ₁₀ Japanese
☐ ₄ Russian ☐ ₁₁ Vietnamese
☐ ₅ Chinese ☐ ₁₂ Other: _____
☐ ₆ Korean ☐ ₁₃ None (Only English)
☐ ₇ French

21. Which of the following best describes your highest level of education? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

- ☐ ₁ Grade School or Some High School
☐ ₂ High School Graduate
☐ ₃ Technical/Vocational School/Some College (2 yr degree)
☐ ₄ College Graduate (4 yr degree)
☐ ₅ Some Graduate School
☐ ₆ Graduate/Professional Degree

Appendix B: Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents

Demographic	Percent	Count
Gender		
Male	53.6%	30
Female	44.6%	25
Missing/Refused	1.8%	1
Age		
Under 15	1.8%	1
15-19	1.8%	1
20-24	1.8%	1
25-34	21.4%	12
35-44	21.4%	12
45-54	17.9%	10
55-64	26.8%	15
65-74	3.6%	2
75-84	1.8%	1
85 or over	1.8%	1
Missing/Refused	1.8%	1
Number of Children in Household		
0	75.0%	42
1	5.4%	3
2	10.7%	6
3	1.8%	1
Missing/Refused	3.6%	2

Demographic	Percent	Count
Employment Status		
Unemployed	8.9%	5
Homemaker	3.6%	2
Student	3.6%	2
Part-time	8.9%	5
Full-time	60.7%	34
Retired	12.5%	7
Missing/Refused	1.8%	1
2009 Annual Household Income		
Less than \$10,000	5.4%	3
\$10,000 - \$14,999	1.8%	1
\$15,000 - \$24,999	3.6%	2
\$25,000 - \$34,999	10.7%	6
\$35,000 - \$49,999	10.7%	6
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17.9%	10
\$75,000 - \$99,999	10.7%	6
\$100,000 or more	26.8%	15
Missing/Refused	12.5%	7
English Only Language		
No	51.8%	29
Yes	46.4%	26
Missing/Refused	1.8%	1
Education		
Grade School or Some High School	5.4%	3
High School Graduate	3.6%	2
Technical/Vocational School/Some College	10.7%	6
College Graduate	37.5%	21
Some Graduate School	8.9%	5
Graduate/Professional Degree	32.1%	18
Missing/Refused	1.8%	1

Residence of Survey Respondent (Zip Code)	Percent	Count
96006	1.8%	1
97007	1.8%	1
97008	3.6%	2
97035	7.1%	4
97042	1.8%	1
97202	1.8%	1
97207	1.8%	1
97209	3.6%	2
97211	1.8%	1
97213	5.4%	3
97214	1.8%	1
97217	1.8%	1
97219	17.9%	10
97221	1.8%	1
97222	1.8%	1
97223	1.8%	1
97225	1.8%	1
97227	1.8%	1
97229	3.6%	2
97232	1.8%	1
97233	1.8%	1
97239	12.5%	7
97267	1.8%	1
97367	1.8%	1
97370	1.8%	1
98660	1.8%	1
Missing/Refused	12.5%	7



Memorandum

To: Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee
From: Quercus Planning Group
Date: April 7, 2010
Subject: Community Stakeholder Interview Technical Memo – Major Themes & Recommendations

Introduction

Quercus Planning Group (QPG) designed opportunities for public involvement in the information gathering phase of the Willamette Park Assessment and Recommendations Project to ensure that we were engaging community members from the beginning. Subsequently, QPG reached out to key community stakeholders through a series of interviews. The goal of these interviews was to better understand how, when, and why community members use the park, if there are any conflicts between uses, and how community members envision the park in the future. Although QPG recognizes that the community stakeholders we interviewed do not represent all of Willamette Park users, we feel that the stakeholder interviews, in combination with our intercept survey and other community events, should give us provide valuable insight regarding the uses and users of Willamette Park.

Community stakeholder interviews were conducted over two weeks from late February to early April, 2010. During the interviews we asked a preselected set of questions in the same order. Questions were added as specific topics, pertinent to the interviewees, were identified. A few interviews were conducted over email or phone, to accommodate the interviewees, but most were conducted in person with one or two of our group members present.

QPG interviewed the following community stakeholders:

- Kirky Doblé (SWNI Parks Committee)
- Chris Thomas (St. Mary's Academy Tennis)
- Milan Marsic (Portland French School)
- Tim Copeland (Portland City United)
- Dan Raya (Fishing and Boating)
- John Pilles (Portland Kayak Company)
- David Livengood and Gil Wistar (Department of Environmental Quality)
- Ken Love (Neighboring Property Owner, South Portland Neighborhood President)
- Mitchell Orelanna (Portland Police Department)
- Bret Lort (Multnomah County River Patrol)
- Trevor Frank (South Portland Business Association)

QPG provided the following questions during the interviews:

1. How do you use Willamette Park? What type of activities do you do in Willamette Park?
2. Why do you use Willamette Park? What supports or deters your use of the park?
3. Is Willamette Park the primary park you use, if not, why? Why do you visit other parks in or outside of Portland? And what other parks do you visit often?
4. What are your interactions with other user groups? What are the challenges/opportunities around interactions between user groups?
5. How do you envision the park in the future? If you could change one thing, what would it be? Are there other improvements you would like to see?
6. How should natural resources and recreation interact in this space?
7. Are there any other community stakeholders, formal or informal park user groups that you think we should talk to?
8. Is there anything else that you would like to say about the park?

I. Stakeholder Uses and Activities

Recreational Uses and Activities

Willamette Park serves as a recreational hub in Southwest Portland because of its mix of recreational amenities, which include: a boat dock and ramp, two soccer fields, four tennis courts, multi-use trails, river access and picnic areas. The recreational activities that stakeholder interviewees engage in at the park include: fishing, motorized boating, non-motorized boating, tennis, soccer and other general recreation in the fields and in the river. The following is a list of quotes or anecdotes from our interviews that provide context about how the stakeholders recreate at Willamette Park.

Fishing/Motorized Boating

The fisherman we interviewed had been a guide on the Willamette River for about five to six years and continues to use Willamette Park for fishing and boating. The interviewee stated that, "Willamette Park is the primary place to launch my boat for fishing." Willamette Park provides one of three public boat launch areas for the Portland area and is a popular place for fishing, waterskiing, wakeboarding and general recreational boating.

Non-motorized Boating

The Willamette River serves as a scenic spot for non-motorized boating. Non-motorized boaters currently share the boat ramp and dock with motorized boat users to access the river. Park users may also rent or bring their own kayaks or canoes to take guided tours, classes or venture out on their own.

Tennis

The four tennis courts are open to the general public and are also utilized by public schools for practices and matches.

St. Mary's Academy provided a detailed account of their use of the courts below:

St. Mary's uses the four Willamette Park tennis courts as practice courts and home courts for matches. St. Mary's season runs from the third week in February to the third week in May. During that time, the tennis courts are used Monday through Friday from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm on practice days and from 3:00 pm until dusk on match days (approximately eight days over the course of the season). In addition to using the tennis courts themselves, players use the restrooms near the boat dock. Also, if it rains during practice or a match, the picnic shelter is used for cover until it is determined that the match or practice will be rained out and cancelled. St Mary's also occasionally uses the paths for the players to run as part of their team's conditioning program. On match days, the grassy area immediately adjacent to the courts is used for spectator viewing. Students travel from St. Mary's to the courts by school bus, and the bus parks in the main parking lot during practice and matches. In addition, parents often pick their daughters up at the courts after practice and matches. During matches they also use the main parking lot, the picnic area parking lot, and the parallel parking spaces adjacent to the tennis courts. Player parents with small children also sometimes take the children to play on the play area equipment during matches.

French School General Recreation

The Portland French School is an international bilingual school offering a French language immersion program for students from preschool to middle school. The French School is located at a few blocks west from Willamette Park and uses the park about 10 times during the year, for physical education which includes: orienteering, tennis and kayaking.

Soccer

There are two sports fields that are used for programmed recreation including scheduled soccer and ultimate Frisbee games as well as unprogrammed recreation. We interviewed Portland City United Soccer Club, established in 1983, who informed us that they use soccer fields across the city including both the larger soccer field at the park on the north side and the smaller soccer field on the south side. Portland City United uses the park from May to October, which is around the time that daylight savings occurs.

Stewardship Uses and Activities

The South Portland Riverbank Project works to restore native vegetation and habitat along the Willamette River. On the west side of the Willamette River, within the boundaries of Willamette Park, there is one of only four remaining natural areas along the river in Portland. The river bank restoration work helps promote healthy habitat for salmon and other native species and wildlife. Project activities include:

- Removing invasive plants
- Restoring native vegetation
- Placing large wood complexes
- Enhancing existing stream connections
- Providing opportunities for environmental interpretation and education

The Department of Environmental Quality's Volunteers in Action group also participates in the riverbank restoration project at Willamette Park. This group uses Willamette Park as a meeting place and a place to wrap up their events (at the picnic shelter, which is a known landmark) and they use the restrooms. Activities done in the park include: planting native plants, removing ivy, putting in fence to protect material, launch canoes to look at the river.

General Uses and Activities

Willamette Park has regional significance both from a recreational and ecological context. It serves as a functional space for access to nature and or recreation not only to neighboring property owners, SW Portland residents and Portland community members, but also as a destination for users and visitors from within the region and beyond.

Neighborhood Park Users

Miles Place is a small neighborhood that borders the southern boundary of the park. Along the southern portion of the riverbank, Portland Parks & Recreation owns property that borders the Willamette River and is directly adjacent to waterfront property owners in the neighborhood. Subsequently, some of the riverbank restoration work relies on cooperation from private property owners of this neighborhood. When referring to how one neighboring property owner views Willamette Park, the neighbor told us that he uses the park to walk and exercise his dog, gather with other neighbors, and bike and generally see what others are up to. He described Willamette Park as like having a second backyard.

South Portland Business Association Uses

The South Portland Business Association (SPBA) is one of the 36 business district associations in the Portland Metropolitan Area. The SPBA's boundaries are from the Sellwood Bridge to Ross Island. The SPBA only uses the park for concerts in the summer. Last year's concerts were a success, except that there were parking issues. The SPBA has tried to have other events at the park, including a boat lights event, but the trees along the riverfront block the view of the boats from the park. Sellwood or the gazebo at Lake Oswego are more appropriate locations that could be looked at for comparisons. The interviewee felt that Macadam Avenue acts as a divide between residents and businesses and that overall, the BA does not use the park very much, and they did not have anything negative to say about it.

South Portland Neighborhood Association Uses

The South Portland Neighborhood Association is the City's established neighborhood association for the area, which covers the same geographical area as the SPBA. South Portland Neighborhood Association represents a wide variety of people who use and care about the future of the park. As a user group they specifically use the park for formal events such as their annual picnic (neighborhood night out) and concerts in the park (which draw around 500 to 1000 people). The neighborhood association also raises money for events they host in the park. Some members use the park for access to the river by using the boat ramp to launch boats into the water.

SWNI Parks Committee

South Waterfront Neighborhood Incorporated (SWNI) has been active since 1978 and has a number of committees including a parks committee for the SW area. A representative of SWNI Parks Committee believes Willamette Park is valued in the larger community for the following reasons: it is close to water, its beauty, view of the water, boating, its large size, the athletic fields, its connection to the bike path, its strong history – since it has been there a long time, people know it is there and have been there before, it is quick to get there, and it has picnic areas - used for reunions, etc.

Crime/Safety

There are very few problems in Willamette Park both from the perspective of Portland Police Department and Multnomah County River Patrol. Most problems are dealt with by the city and not River Patrol. During the winter months River Patrol works from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the summer River Patrol works from May to September from 7 a.m. to 12 a.m. and have more people depending on what the budget permits.

II. Stakeholder User Conflicts and Observations

During the stakeholder interviews, we asked interviewees to identify challenges or opportunities they are aware of around user activities. Here are some of the challenges and opportunities identified by interviewees organized by the area of activity they represent.

General Park Observations

Challenges

- Users have complained about paid parking recently when one of the pay stations was broken near the main parking lot. Pay stations in general are an unpopular addition to the park.

Opportunities

- Early mornings the park is less busy and there are not many people.
- Create better warning signs for pedestrians/bikes.
- Concerts in the park have been successful. Between 400 to 500 people typically attend. The concerts bring people into the park, and people in the neighborhood enjoy the event.
- Willamette Park is unique in SW Portland because of its access to the river. Other parks have access to small streams but not the river.

Boating Area Observations

Challenges

- The ramp is sometimes dangerous for pedestrians and bikers because boaters use park as a way to access the river and do not see the other users.
- It can be unpleasant for non-motorized boat users to interact with motorized boat users in the launch area because of the vehicles and trailer movement at the launch. Kayakers move through that area as quickly as possible to avoid danger.
- There is some fishing trash in park, but this is less of a problem than in other parks.

- Boat trailers are dangerous especially for runners and walkers.
- There is not sufficient signage of dangers for pedestrians.
- Boat sales people from neighboring businesses park trucks and trailers near the launch and get in the way of other boat traffic. This is supposed to be remedied soon by a kiosk with signs of park rules.
- The boat ramp can cause damage to boats/trailers when water is low. The area could be dredged out to help the situation. Usually the water is lowest between May and October.
- Pay stations not working in high volume areas.
- Parking is a problem especially in the summer. There are around 50 car spots in the main parking lot and around 22 on the south end. Conflicts arise where cars park in trailer spaces or take up neighboring business parking. Parking is a constraint on adding additional uses to the park as users already find it challenging to find parking when multiple activities are occurring at once.

Opportunities

- Boat launch provides excellent access to river for boaters
- Relocate boat ramp to north part of park

Recreational Area Observations

Challenges

- Scheduling the fields can be difficult. Some high schools use them. This allows them space for games. Others users also need space to recreate (rec soccer v. school soccer).
- Goose poop is unsanitary and unpleasant especially for children's ball games.
- Tennis Courts are reserved for St. Mary's in advance for practice and matches. Occasionally, tennis players are asked to vacate the courts if they are using the courts during our reservation time. To make this easier for St. Mary's staff and for other players, each year before the season begins, they post notices at the courts of their reservation times and match schedule, including days when they will not be using the courts due to our having away matches.
- Soccer fields sometimes share space with Australian Rules Football and less often with volleyball games but neither create major conflicts.
- Soccer fields are used often.
- Water does not drain well off the fields.

Opportunities

- Occasionally park users see tennis practices or matches and ask questions about St. Mary's program.
- User groups identified the possible opportunity to use money from Water Bureau project to fund recreational improvements.
- High Schools have access to fields for lacrosse, soccer and tennis.

Animal Observations

Challenges

- There is a lot of goose poop.
- Some people don't pick up after their dogs (less than in other parks).

- There is a major conflict with the DOLA area and storm water and environmental impacts. Only 2 of the 3 pipes that move the water from the drain to the river are working. One has collapsed and has major concrete rot.
- Dogs off leash have killed baby geese. When dogs are on leash, owners are more responsible for their behavior especially picking up after them.

Opportunities

- Better signage or bags for dogs could be provided.

Crime/Safety Observations

Challenges

- Some criminal activity (from 01/01/2009 to 03/15/2010 there was one car prowling, one hit & run, one park exclusion, and one park warning).

Opportunities

- Crime rate is low. Other city parks have a lot more calls for service.

III. Recommendations

General Park Recommendations

- Improve access to the river.
- Add locking gates at the entrance like Washington Park does. The area is fairly low crime so I don't think foot traffic is a problem. The problem people most likely drive there.
- Improved covered space areas for events. Make more like the gazebo area at Forest Park. The picnic shelter isn't sufficient.
- Any improvement of the goose poop situation would be appreciated.
- Would like to see more playground. Unhappy with the small amount of work done to the south playground.
- Less asphalt and paving and more flowers.
- Provide hiking trails and better access to river.
- Make park more accessible to handicap.
- Separate path for cyclists and everybody else.
- Acquire land to south to extend the park up the bank down Miles.
- Create better division of the park.
 - Make the park more understandable to the users. People need to know where to go for their activities.
 - Signage or tree buffer between uses.
 - More visual clues for the users.

Parking Recommendations

- Create parking permits for major user groups (especially school and recreational sports teams).

Natural Area Recommendations

- Stairway to the river in the south part of the park.
- More trees, more natural areas.
- Wider riparian buffer.

- No motorized craft - only paddle boats.
- Continue to work on invasive species removal.
- More native plants instead of blackberries on riverfront.
- The north natural area should be managed better. Women have stated they don't feel safe in this space although no incidents have been reported.

Recreational Activities Recommendations

- Add electrical outlet that is available at the tennis courts. This outlet could be used for an electrical blower to clear leaves and other tree debris off the courts at the beginning of the season and periodically thereafter. The courts have lights, so this presumably would not be a major expense.

Stewardship and Education Recommendations

- Pump station should be built like a show and tell. Show kids how the pumping works. This is an educational opportunity.

Boating Area Recommendations

- Create separate areas for non-motorized access to water. This should include a dock or something similar not just a footpath to avoid how mucky the area can get during low tide. The new area should be separated by distance so that non-motorized boaters have better access.
- Hose stations to clean boats.
- Fix curbs.
- Fix boat ramp drop off. A concrete addition that made the drop more gradual would be helpful.



Memorandum

To: Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee
From: Quercus Planning Group
Date: April 5, 2010 (Updated June 7, 2010)
Subject: Stop & Talk Summary

1. Introduction

On April 3, 2010 Quercus Planning Group held a Stop & Talk at the picnic shelter in Willamette Park. The event marked the final community stakeholder outreach activity in the information gathering phase of our project. Stations were set up to gather input about the different topic areas: recreation, natural resource management, education and stewardship. Another station was created to collect intercept surveys and general comments.

2. Questions and Topic Areas for Public Comments

QPG prepared the following questions to prompt responses from park users:

Recreational Opportunities

What recreational activities do you like to do when you visit Willamette Park?
What recreational activities do you wish you could do at Willamette Park?
Is there anything in Willamette Park that prevents you from participating in recreational activities?
Are there any recreational improvements that you would like to see?

Natural Resources

Do you use the river? Is the park a door to the river or do you spend time in the park?
In what ways do you like to enjoy nature at Willamette Park?
What natural amenities do you value at Willamette Park?
Are there any improvements you could identify related to natural resources?

Education & Stewardship

What would you like to learn about Willamette Park?
Do you know about the history (insert other topics they identified as important) of Willamette Park?
In what ways would you like to learn about Willamette Park?
Looking at the map, are there places you can identify where education is important?
Are you interested in stewardship in the park (i.e. plantings, invasive species removal)?

Miscellaneous

Why do you visit Willamette Park?

In your opinion, what works well in Willamette Park?

In your opinion, what does not work well in Willamette Park?

If necessary, what would make Willamette Park better?

What could be done in Willamette Park to increase the sustainability of the park?

Are there amenities at other parks that you would like to see in Willamette Park?

3. Advertising

In order to solicit a variety of information and ideas from park users, QPG provided notice about the event in advance through announcements and fliers presented at neighborhood meetings, advertisements posted in local papers (the Oregonian and the SW Neighborhood News), fliers posted at local businesses and community hangouts, and fliers posted in the park.

4. Public Comments

Unfortunately, not very many people attended the event. Weather likely affected turnout to the event as reduced numbers of people visit parks in inclement weather and the weather may have deterred community members who planned on attending the event. Overall, we had about five people stop in at the picnic shelter and were able to engage with a few more throughout the park. The comments and ideas we heard from the people at the park are reflected under the topic areas below.

Recreation

To help engage and gather information from park users about all the amenities available in Willamette Park, a map was created that displayed the park amenities. QPG spoke with park users about recreational amenities to determine how the park was being utilized for recreation and what could be improved.

The day of our Stop & Talk was the start of spring soccer for the Portland Youth Soccer Association, so we were able to observe the fields in use during heavy rains and talk to a few of the caregivers observing the games from the side lines. Some caregivers pointed out the large puddles in the fields. One tennis court user mentioned that the courts were not in top shape and could use resurfacing. Overall, soccer field users and other park users felt that this park had good active recreation opportunities.

Many improvements came up about water issues interfering with recreation and overall enjoyment in the park. For the Greenway Trail, users pointed out small sections of the trail that become unfit for walking after heavy rains because water pools in the trail depressions. In addition to water issues, users felt the cracks in the trail pavement could use improvement over the entire stretch of the park and that mile markers could help trail users to keep track of their exercise activities. One park user, who used the trail to walk the dog, has been coming here for 10 years and stated that this is a great park for dog walking. However, this same user mentioned that the DOLA area was often under water in the spring and was not somewhere suitable to let your dog off leash in until the summer months.

While we were at the picnic shelter, a park user pointed out how important the picnic shelter is and that it should be maintained. This same park user also felt it would be nice to build even more covered spaces. Several users pointed out the poor condition of the roof and stated that it needs some maintenance and possible repairs especially because of the moss growing in areas where water sits. One other person wanted information about how to rent the shelter, as it was not clearly posted on the shelter.

Many park users identified paying for parking as not favorable. However a fisherman we spoke with understood that paid parking was good because it makes people stay for only a limited amount of time. Bike parking was mentioned as something that needs to be added, as soon as possible.

The summer concert series was listed as a great event for the park that users can look forward to year after year.

Natural Resources

In regards to how park users experience or relate to natural resources, QPG created a map that identified important natural resource elements of the park. QPG used the prepared questions to gain an understanding about what users knew or found important about the natural resources in the park and ecological context of the park. QPG also gathered information about how natural resources affected their enjoyment of the park.

In our discussion with park users about natural resources we heard primarily about how park users interact with water in the park, both storm water and access to the river. There was a positive reaction from one park user about the streambank restoration project, which the user recognized as a means to make the park healthier and more pleasant. Poor storm water management prevented one park user from enjoying the Greenway Trail. Others wanted to see improvements to river access. Ideas included enhancing views of the river from the picnic area and to provide better paths for pedestrians. This user reflected that access is best designated for boat users and not pedestrians.

Education and Stewardship

For Education and Stewardship, QPG created a historical brochure to highlight some of the social and natural history events that shaped the development of the park. In interacting with park users, QPG wanted to better understand what people know about the park, what people would like to know about the park and how they would like to learn about those topics. In regards to stewardship, QPG was hoping to learn whether people were interested in learning more about current stewardship activities and how to get involved.

One park user mentioned that SW watershed gives a tour south of Willamette Park that was worthwhile and expressed an interest in extending the tour to this park. Similarly, one park user indicated interest about a tree species tour. Another park user stated that signage about access to river would be a welcomed park improvement. Currently, pedestrian paths to the river are informal trails and it is not clear whether one is allowed to use them. This park user added that the current fence near the riverbank work deters people from encroaching on the river area and wonders if added signage could make clearer where it is appropriate to access the river for pedestrians.



Memorandum

To: Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee
From: Quercus Planning Group
Date: May 11, 2010
Subject: Willamette Park Community Meetings Summary

Introduction

The public involvement activities held in the early stages of the *Willamette Park Assessment & Recommendations Project* sought to gather information from community members about improvements they would like to see in relation to the three focus areas of the project: Recreation, Natural Resources and Stewardship and Education. Quercus Planning Group (QPG) combined the information from the Stop & Talk, other public meetings, a TEES report conducted by QPG, client and community stakeholder interviews and the intercept and online survey results to refine a set of improvement areas and actions.

In early May, 2010 QPG hosted two community events. This second set of meetings were designed to inform the public about emergent themes that arose from the information gathering phase and provide opportunities for them to rate and discuss the improvement area topics and actions. The first event, Stop & Talk #2, occurred on May 2, 2010 from 3-6 pm at the picnic shelter in Willamette Park. On May 3, 2010, QPG hosted a second community event from 7-9 pm at the Portland French School.

Public Involvement Process and Rating Table

For the second set of community events, QPG created a poster for each improvement area with the proposed action(s). Community members that participated in our community events were provided 15 dots to rate actions from 1 to 4 (1 indicated strong opposition to the action and 4 indicated strong support for the action). The following is the tally of ratings from both meetings combined.

Table 1. Public Ratings from Community Meetings						
	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Support	Strongly Support	Total Opposition	Total Support
Improvement Area 1: Park Facilities						
Action 1.1: Add bicycle racks throughout the park	0	1	1	4	1	5
Action 1.2: Provide recycling collection near garbage receptacles	0	0	8	6	0	14
Action 1.3: Upgrade existing picnic shelter with potable water and electricity access	0	2	2	3	2	5
Action 1.4: Build small covered picnic shelter and maintain current shelter and park furniture	0	2	0	3	1	3
Action 1.5: Install seating space at both playgrounds	0	1	1	9	1	10
Action 1.6: Upgrade existing furniture with durable, maintainable furniture throughout park	0	1	2	3	1	5
Improvement Area 2: Trail System						
Action 2.1: Add signage for bicycles to designate commuter/recreational routes at entrances	0	1	2	3	1	5
Action 2.2: Construct elevated crosswalk and curb bulges at pedestrian crossing in boat launch parking lot	3	2	0	2	5	2
Action 2.3: Maintain north natural area for better visibility of trail users	4	0	0	3	4	3
Action 2.4: Complete sidewalk between boat launch parking lot and tennis courts to improve pedestrian connections	2	0	0	5	2	5
Action 2.5: Relocate Willamette Greenway Trail outside of the Willamette Greenway buffer zone	0	0	3	8	0	11
Improvement Area 3: Boating Facilities						
Action 3.1: Install hose station to remove invasive species	0	0	6	3	0	9
Action 3.2: Install separate low-float launch for non-motorized boaters	0	0	0	6	0	6
Improvement Area 4: Sports Fields						
Action 4.1: Improve drainage on fields by installing	0	0	5	6	0	11
Action 4.2: Install temporary fencing and signage to re-seed fields during off-season	2	0	0	0	2	0

Table 1. Public Ratings from Community Meetings						
	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Support	Strongly Support	Total Opposition	Total Support
Action 4.3: Increase open space available for passive (or non-programmed) recreation	0	1	2	7	1	9
Improvement Area 5: Interactive Education						
Action 5.1: Self-guided Podcast Tour	0	0	0	0	0	0
Action 5.2: Self-guided Cell Phone Tour	0	0	0	0	0	0
Action 5.3: Self-guided Walking Tour Map	0	0	1	0	0	1
Action 5.4: Install interpretive signage to enhance connection to larger ecological and regional contexts	0	1	1	2	1	3
Improvement Area 6: Stormwater Management						
Action 6.1: Retrofit existing stormwater swale in boat launch parking lot	0	0	1	3	0	4
Action 6.2: Retrofit existing stormwater inlet in dog off-leash area with vegetated swale	0	0	1	4	0	5
Action 6.3: Replace impervious surfaces with pervious pavement in future parking lot and trail upgrades	0	0	1	8	0	9
Action 6.4: Prepare stormwater management plan for park	0	0	0	7	0	7
Improvement Area 7: Restoration and Enhancement						
Action 7.1: Formalize hybrid planting concept for park to increase native vegetation	0	0	1	8	0	9
Action 7.2: Establish Native Oak Habitat Study Area and protect with vegetative buffers	0	0	0	8	0	8
Action 7.3: Retain large tree snags or create snags along riverbank and at key locations in the park	0	0	3	4	0	7
Action 7.4: Install bird boxes or gourds along riverbank and in trees	0	0	1	8	0	9
Improvement Area 8: Pedestrian Access to Willamette River						
Action 8.1: Enhance viewing opportunities along river with overlook platform	1	0	0	7	1	7
Action 8.2: Construct steps or trail from Willamette Greenway Trail to riverbank	2	0	0	7	2	7

Table 1. Public Ratings from Community Meetings						
	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Support	Strongly Support	Total Opposition	Total Support
Action 8.3: Lay back the riverbank shoreline and provide formal access points	0	0	0	12	0	12
Improvement Area 9: Signage						
Action 9.1: Upgrade existing park sign at entrance	0	0	0	3	0	3
Action 9.2: Install information kiosk for boaters near pay station	0	0	0	2	0	2
Action 9.3: Install community board for announcements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Action 9.4: Replace elevated dog off-leash signage with eye-level signage	0	0	0	4	0	4
Improvement Area 10: Management of Geese						
Action 10.1: Explore potential management options to control geese in the park	0	0	4	4	0	8
Improvement Area 11: Dog Off-Leash Area						
Action 11.1: Improve current DOLA kiosk by installing a pet waste station with signage, bags and garbage receptacle	0	0	1	8	0	9

Additional Comments

At both events, QPG set up the posters by improvement area and provided comment sheets to capture feedback that could not be reflected in the rating exercise. The following comments were collected and recorded at our community events:

Improve Recreation Experiences

- For non motorized boat launch it is not preferred to launch on the beach. It is better to launch from a floating surface. Also, the hose station would be useful for kayakers.
- Trail not up to standards for commuting or mixed uses.
- The soccer nets are helpful, could be replaced/improved more often.
- Look into rails and trails program to improve Greenway Trail connectivity.

Protect and Enhance Natural Resources

- Concern about increased size of mudflat with any new dock.
- Bike racks should be located north of boat ramp.
- There is concern about the loss of park land due to the footprint of the new pump station.
- Remove the north parking lot to offset the loss of park/recreational land.

Improve Park Management and Operations

- Provide geese another source of food (that moves them away from park).
- On boating signage, provide info about the importance of washing boats to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- Reduce boater's footprint (actions boaters take or don't take).
- Need to develop park management plan to better define hybrid concept-blending both recreational uses and natural resource enhancements.
- It was suggested that the majority of activities should occur in the north end of the park.
- Add trashcan for playground near picnic shelter.
- Small picnic shelter should be closer (20 feet) to playground to provide shelter for thunderstorms.
- Add solar powered lights to picnic shelter.
- Replace lighting in park with solar lighting.
- Better maintain picnic shelter, the eaves are rotting.
- Add better signage from major roads (it was difficult to find park coming south on I5).



Memorandum

To: Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee
From: Quercus Planning Group
Date: April 30, 2010 (Updated June 4, 2010)
Subject: Potential Improvements for Willamette Park

Introduction

Quercus Planning Group (QPG) has been working with Portland Parks & Recreation and the Bureau of Environmental Services, since January 2010 to collect information from various park users in regards to balancing the recreational and ecological uses of Willamette Park. QPG will incorporate all information gathered into their final report titled *Willamette Park Assessment & Recommendations*.

This memorandum outlines broad strategies and areas of potential improvement, as well as specific improvement actions, for Willamette Park. These will be considered in consultation with the Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the community. Listed below are the three broad strategies and associated improvement areas.

Strategy 1: Improve recreation experiences

Improvement areas:

- Park Facilities
- Trail System
- Boating Facilities
- Sports Fields
- Interactive Education

Strategy 2: Protect and enhance natural resources

Improvement areas:

- Stormwater Management
- Restoration and Enhancement
- Pedestrian Access to Willamette River

Strategy 3: Improve park management and operations

Improvement areas:

- Signage
- Management of Geese
- Dog Off-Leash Area
- Parking

The memorandum describes each improvement area, identifies the issues or problems to be addressed, suggests an action and describes its benefits and constraints. Where appropriate examples are provided, QPG also identifies an initial lead for each action. Some improvement areas may address more than one strategic direction.

These potential improvements were identified through client stakeholder interviews, community stakeholder interviews, intercept survey results, a Terrestrial Ecology Enhancement Strategy assessment, and subsequent research. The information gathering exercises occurred between February and April 2010. This draft memorandum will be discussed with the TAC on April 26, 2010 and with the community on May 2 and 3, 2010 following input from the TAC.

This document describes the full list of possible improvements that QPG identified and does not attempt to evaluate, prioritize, or make recommendations at this time. It is important to note that QPG acknowledges that implementing any of the potential actions will require upfront capital costs, costs for operation and maintenance and may also represent other fiscal constraints. During the alternative development phase, QPG did not evaluate any fiscal constraints as they relate to implementing any of the actions listed in this document.

Strategy 1: Improve recreation experiences

Improvement Area 1: Park Facilities

Existing Condition: Willamette Park currently has many recreational facilities including: a boat launch, multi-use paths, a covered picnic shelter, picnic tables and benches, a dog off-leash area, two playgrounds, two soccer fields, and four tennis courts.

Problem: Though many facilities exist, some additional facilities that would improve visitor experiences were identified, along with improvements to some existing facilities.

Action 1.1: Add bicycle racks throughout the park

- **Description:** Provide bike parking within Willamette Park to accommodate cyclists using the Willamette Greenway Trail and the bike commuter trail.
- **Benefit:** Parking will provide the cyclists the opportunity to lock their bikes to stop and enjoy the park, use the restroom, or get a drink of water.
- **Constraints:** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts.
- **Example:** Other parks in Portland
- **Lead(s):** Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) Service Zone



Bike parking at Director Park
bikeportland.org

Action 1.2: Provide recycling collection near garbage receptacles

- **Description:** Provide recycling containers near garbage receptacles to divert recyclable materials from the landfill. This action could be implemented as a pilot project to assess the success of recycling at parks with boating facilities.
- **Benefit:** Installing these containers will provide the opportunity for park visitors to dispose of their containers in a more sustainable manner. It will also move PP&R in the direction of the goals stated in the Portland Parks & Recreation 2007 Sustainability Plan.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Success of recycling in the park will depend on the public's interest in recycling. This project would provide PP&R an understanding regarding the potential for recycling in parks with boat launches.
- **Example:** Delta Park or Laurelhurst Park, Portland
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Action 1.3: Upgrade existing picnic shelter with potable water and electricity access

- **Description:** The picnic shelter at Willamette Park is large and is often used for large group functions, such as company picnics or birthday parties. Upgrade the existing shelter to provide access to potable water and electricity.
- **Benefit:** Access to potable water and electricity will allow people to use the picnic shelter more comfortably.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Providing limited access to electricity to only permit holders would increase coordination required for these facilities.
- **Example:** Peninsula Park, Portland
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Action 1.4: Build small covered picnic shelter

- **Description:** Construct a small shelter to increase the picnic capacity of the park and to allow for smaller groups to reserve picnic space that is appropriate for their size and function.
- **Benefit:** An additional smaller shelter will meet the demands of a growing user base while also increasing the range of potential users.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Limited space for additional shelters, limited parking to accommodate additional picnickers.
- **Example:** Overlook Park, Portland or Wallace Park, Portland
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Action 1.5: Install durable, maintainable furniture at both playgrounds

- **Description:** Install durable, maintainable benches or other seating at both playgrounds in the park.
- **Benefit:** Installing seating near both playgrounds for caregivers will allow them to be close to their children. The seating may also encourage people to enjoy the playgrounds longer. Installing furniture that is durable and maintainable will last longer.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Action 1.6: Upgrade existing furniture with durable, maintainable furniture throughout park

- **Description:** Replace picnic tables and benches, on an as needed basis, with durable and maintainable materials. As picnic tables or benches need replacement or repair, replace them with furniture that is more durable and will last longer than wood. Add tables to the empty concrete slabs in the north end of the park. Also ensure that some tables are handicap accessible via paved path in some locations in the park.
- **Benefit:** Although more expensive to purchase than wooden benches, durable benches will last longer and will require less maintenance.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Higher up-front costs.
- **Example:** Nye Beach, Newport Oregon
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Improvement Area 2: Trail System

Existing Condition: Willamette Park currently has two formal trails - the Willamette Greenway Trail and the commuter bike trail. The Willamette Greenway Trail is a very well used amenity in the park.

Problem: A number of issues were identified with this trail during the information gathering phase including: flooding during storm events, perceived safety on trail in north natural area, crossing the boat parking lot, and its location within the Willamette Greenway buffer. The commuter bike trail is used but many commuting bicyclists continue to the Greenway Trail. The route is not clearly identified in the park.



Powell Butte, Portland
NW-trail.org

Action 2.1: Add signage for bicycles to designate commuter/recreational routes at entrances

- **Description:** At the south and north entrances to the park, provide clear signs that designate the route for commuting bikes versus pedestrians and recreational bikes. Place these signs throughout the park at decision points.
- **Benefit:** These directions will help reduce conflicts between fast moving bikes and other trail users.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts.
- **Example:** Trail sign at Powell Butte Park
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Action 2.2: Construct elevated crosswalk and curb bulges at pedestrian crossing in boat launch parking lot

- **Description/Benefit:** Construct an elevated crosswalk and curb bulges at the pedestrian crossing where the Willamette Greenway Trail crosses the boat launch parking lot.
- **Benefit:** This improvement should bring attention to pedestrians in the parking lot and help non-motorized users feel more comfortable using the park. The improvement will also help divert stormwater from the parking lot into the vegetated swale.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. The height of the elevated crosswalk and the extent of the curb bulges will need to accommodate trailers that use the parking lot.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Action 2.3: Maintain north natural area for better visibility of trail users

- **Description:** Plant vegetation that allows for better visibility of trail users from outside of the natural area, and improves ongoing maintenance needs. This improvement would require replanting a portion of the natural area and identifying native plants that meet these goals.
- **Benefit:** These improvements should encourage more people to use this portion of the Willamette Greenway Trail and enjoy the natural areas in the park.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. May reduce habitat for wildlife or limit use of native vegetation.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R City Nature

Action 2.4: Complete sidewalk between boat launch parking lot and tennis courts to improve pedestrian connection

- **Description:** Construct a sidewalk along the road between the boat parking lot and the tennis courts to improve access for pedestrians between the boat parking lot and the south end of the park. The feasibility of pervious materials should be explored during the planning of this facility.
- **Benefit:** This walkway will increase pedestrian safety by providing space for park users to walk outside of the flow of traffic.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Action 2.5: Regrade Willamette Greenway Trail to reduce standing water during storm events

- **Description:** Regrade the trail so that the water flows from the trail into the adjacent green space and eventually into the river. The grade should be constructed to be angled enough so that water will flow off the trail but is still within Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. In areas where physical constraints require the design of the trail to create depressions, explore other methods, such as piping to move the water away from the trail.
- **Benefit:** Improve ability for bicyclists and pedestrians to use the trail safely on rainy days.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Soil in some areas may not drain well and flooding of trail may continue to occur. Further study should determine where grading is adequate and where piping of stormwater is needed.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Improvement Area 3: Boating Facilities

Existing Condition: The boat launch at Willamette Park is one of three public boat launches in Portland, and the only public boat ramp on the west side of the Willamette River. It serves both motorized and non-motorized boat users including fisherman, paddlers, motor boaters, and more. It is also an important launch for the Coast Guard, Portland Fire Department and Multnomah County Sheriff.

Problem: Being able to get close to and access the river at Willamette Park is a major asset of the park, and thus the boat launch and facilities are one of the most heavily utilized amenities at Willamette Park.



Boat launch at Willamette Park, 2010

Action 3.1: Install hose station to remove invasive species from boats

- **Description:** The spread of invasive species is a threat to the health of the Willamette River as well as other bodies of water in and around Oregon. One method of preventing the spread of invasive species is to install boat cleaning stations that allow boaters to use hot (140° F) and/or high-pressure water to remove invasive species before entering the river. In 2009 the Oregon Legislature passed legislation that requires operators of all registered boats (motorized and non-motorized) 10 feet or longer to purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species Permit to fund prevention and control programs. The law went into effect January 1, 2010. As part of that effort, PP&R is working on initiating its own prevention strategies to combat the spread of invasive species, most notable the quagga and zebra mussels.
- **Benefit:** The hose station could an important project that would help prevent the spread of invasive species, by helping boaters remove species that attach themselves to the boats in the Willamette River or other bodies of water.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Installing a boat hose station could lead to an increase in calls to fix or manage the boat washing station to ensure the water is not going directly into the river and that equipment is working properly. Adding a water element to the pervious parking area could exacerbate stormwater management issues if not managed properly. Requires access to hot water and water disposal. May remove parking capacity. May require staff resources.
- **Example:** Port of Bandon, Oregon
- **Lead(s):** PP&R City Nature, Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB)

Action 3.2: Install separate low-float launch for non-motorized boats

- **Description:** The boat launch currently serves non-motorized and motorized boaters. This arrangement does not create optimal safety conditions because of the nature of loading and unloading boats in the boat launch area. Primarily, safety issues arise when non-motorized boaters try to maneuver around trucks and other vehicles that are backing in and out of the boat launch area.
- **Benefit:** By creating a separate non-motorized area, paddlers and kayakers could avoid contact and interference from moving vehicles.

-
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Non-motorized boaters prefer the current boat launch because they do not have to launch from a non-paved area. Non-motorized boaters expressed that if a separate launch was built, they would prefer it to be similar to the current boat launch not just a path down to the river where they would have to trudge through the mud.
 - **Example:** Warren G. Magnuson Park non-motorized boat launch
 - **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone, City Nature, OSMB

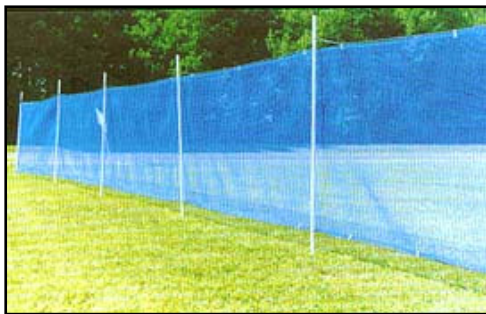
Improvement Area 4: Sports Fields

Existing Condition: Willamette Park has two soccer fields for programmed sports, as well as other grassy areas for unprogrammed activities.

Problem: Limited field space in Southwest Portland is placing increased pressure on existing resources. The fields are being overused and are not given enough time for the grass to re-grow in the off-season. Sports fields are difficult to drain due to restrictions of the historic fill, compaction of the soil from heavy use, and limited resources available for soil improvement. In the park, poor infiltration and high demand are causing the fields to become in poor condition with standing water and large divots.

Action 4.1: Improve drainage on fields by installing surface and sub-surface drainage system

- **Description:** Provide surface ditches and/or flow diversions around the field, ensure that surface water has a removal path (open channel or storm sewer).
- **Benefit:** Proper surface and sub-surface drainage and the development of a good overall maintenance plan for sports field drainage will save money, provide better participant enjoyment, and add to the life of the field.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Installing a drainage system could be costly and time consuming.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone, Sports Field Maintenance



Temporary fencing on sports field
precisionnetcompany.com

Action 4.2: Install temporary fencing and signage to re-seed fields during off-season

- **Description:** During the soccer off-season, from fall to early spring, install temporary fencing to prevent activities and allow the seed to grow. Ensure the public is notified of the reason for the field closure by installing signs.
- **Benefit:** Closing the fields during this time would allow them time to re-grow and will improve long-term field use.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Sports fields are limited on the west side and postponing or cancelling games

may impact sport teams scheduled seasons.

- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone, Sports Fields Maintenance

Action 4.3: Increase open space available for passive (or non-programmed) recreation

- **Description:** Because of its location along the river, its small acreage, and its diverse and growing user base, Willamette Park may not actually be the most ideal location for programmed sports.
- **Benefit:** Passive or non-programmed field space may be a more effective use of space and could add a more cohesive identity to the park.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Sports fields are limited on the west side, and decreasing active recreation space may cause additional scheduling problems. Could be politically challenging.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone, Sports Fields Maintenance

Improvement Area 5: Interactive Education

Existing Condition: Many cities around the US are developing methods for informing their park users about park history, native trees and plants, and recreational amenities, in addition to interpretive signage.

Problem: Willamette Park currently does not have any such education available.

Action 5.1: Self-guided Podcast Tour

- **Description:** A podcast tour allows park users to download a program onto an mp3 player at their home and then play the specific tracks as directed by small signs in the park. Although some signs would be placed in the park, other park departments have been able to do this in tasteful ways.
- **Benefit:** Provides educational opportunities to park users with minimal visual clutter and no paper waste.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Access is limited to those with the Internet and an mp3 player. Adds additional signage throughout the park.
- **Example:** San Francisco Botanical Garden
- **Lead(s):** Depends on content of program



San Francisco Botanical Garden

Action 5.2: Self-guided Cell Phone Tour

- **Description:** A cell phone tour allows the visitor to use their cell phone to call a posted phone number along with stop number and hear short presentations about the area that they are visiting. Similar signs could be used as the podcast tours.
- **Benefit:** This type of tour is accessible to a larger number of citizens, as more people have cell phones than mp3 players.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Some small signs are required throughout the park.
- **Example:** Grand Canyon National Park
- **Lead(s):** Depends on content of program

Action 5.3: Self-guided Walking Tour Map

- **Description:** This tour would be a one or two page flier that is downloadable from the Internet. The tour would include a map indicating the locations of key features and important information. PP&R currently creates tree tours for 15 other parks.
- **Benefit:** This type of self-guided tour provides a physical map for park users to follow and, if desired, bring home with them. Some users may feel more comfortable with this type of tour.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Printable fliers would be limited to those with the Internet. Fliers distributed in the park would require ongoing refill service. May increase garbage in the park.
- **Example:** PP&R Tree Walks; USDA NRCS Native Plant Tour for Grant Park, Atlanta, GA
- **Lead(s):** Depends on content of program

Action 5.4: Install interpretative signage to enhance connection to larger ecological and regional contexts

- **Description:** Signs would be placed in the park to provide information about the regional context of the park, including: its place within the mosaic of natural areas and within the park system, its urban context, and the importance of its location along the Willamette River. These signs could also highlight that the park is an important destination for sports and recreation, and a major thoroughfare for transportation with the Willamette Greenway Trail, and Macadam Avenue.
- **Benefit:** These signs would provide information about the context of the park in graphical form that may be difficult to communicate using other forms of education.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Potential to have too many signs in the park. Expensive and difficult to maintain.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone, City Nature, BES

Strategy 2: Protect and enhance natural resources

Improvement Area 6: Stormwater Management

Existing Condition: Willamette Park was filled with construction debris and riprap and then capped with cement in the 1960s. As a result the park has very poor infiltration capacity for stormwater, and stormwater often pools on the park surface. Willamette Park is located at the base of the California Subwatershed and along the Willamette River, so it is a major focus for stormwater management in this area.

Problem: Stormwater issues include runoff from surrounding impervious roadways and the parking lots in the park, particularly the boat launch parking lot; the underperforming stormwater swale near the boat launch; the exposed drainage inlet in the dog off-leash area; and additional drainage issues throughout the park.



Stormwater collecting by drainage inlet, 2010

Action 6.1: Retrofit existing stormwater swale in boat launch parking lot

- **Description:** The project will retrofit a vegetated bioswale in the boat launch parking lot that is currently underperforming. The swale is important due to its high visibility in a heavily used public park. The project will be developed in three phases: work with park managers and natural area managers to develop a concept for the stormwater swale; develop a predesign and design for the swale facility in cooperation with PP&R; and construction of the stormwater swale (to be completed 2011-2012). This action has received funding in the 2011 fiscal year.
- **Benefit:** Improves capacity of swale to infiltrate runoff from parking lot before entering the river. Enhances aquatic and terrestrial habitat in riparian area and supports revegetation efforts. Provides public education relative to sustainable stormwater efforts.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. The design of the stormwater swale will need to be done in a way that it does not impact the capacity of the boat launch parking lot.
- **Lead(s):** BES, PP&R Service Zone, City Nature

Action 6.2: Retrofit existing stormwater inlet in dog off-leash area with vegetated swale

- **Description:** This project, called the Centennial Oaks Stormwater Project, will be constructed in the dog off-leash walking area. The swale will be designed to treat runoff from the dog area as well as from nearby impervious roadways and parking lot surfaces. The swale is located adjacent to a grove of bi-centennial Oregon white oak trees, which are unique due to their age and to their placement in the floodplain of the Willamette River. Issues of concern related to the oaks include seasonality and depth of groundwater levels in the stormwater area. It will follow the same three-phase work plan as described in Action 6.1. This action has received funding in the 2011 fiscal year.
- **Benefit:** Improves treatment and increases infiltration of runoff before entering the drainage inlet. Reduces runoff levels to river. Improves native oak habitat. Improves dog area for park users.

- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Potential to impact space available for dog off-leash walking area in the south portion of the off-leash area.
- **Lead(s):** BES, PP&R City Nature, Service Zone



Pervious Pavement at
Terminal 6. Land and Water,
2007

Action 6.3: Replace impervious surfaces with pervious pavement in future parking lot and trail upgrades

- **Description:** The current parking lots and the Willamette Greenway Trail are impervious, which adds to the level of runoff entering the Willamette River. Replacing with pervious pavement during upgrades would improve permeability of surfaces and nearly eliminate road or trail runoff in the park.
- **Benefit:** Reducing impervious surfaces in the park will lower the amount of stormwater runoff to river.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Historic fill conditions, inadequate road base, and inconsistent pooling conditions could reduce capacity of pervious pavement to infiltrate runoff entirely. Pervious pavement will need maintenance to upkeep, but the level

will be dependent upon the mix employed.

- **Example:** Port of Portland Terminal 6
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone, BES

Action 6.4: Prepare stormwater management plan for park

- **Description:** Willamette Park is located at the base of the California Subwatershed and along the Willamette River. A stormwater management plan for the park will ensure stormwater is adequately addressed in the park prior to entering the river system. Infiltration and permeability would be a major focus for the plan.
- **Benefit:** Provide coordinated and strategic plan between PP&R and BES to address stormwater challenges in park. Help identify future challenges and prepare mitigation.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts.
- **Example:** Fresh Kills Park Stormwater Management Plan, Staten Island, New York
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone, BES

Improvement Area 7: Restoration and Enhancement

Existing Condition: Restoration actively occurring in natural area at the south end of the park and riparian area along the Willamette River to provide critical habitat for ESA listed salmonoids and to enhance native vegetation.

Problem: Valuable oak habitat throughout park is deteriorating from conflicting park uses and current maintenance strategies. Mud flats in north area of park are very intact and provide high natural resource habitat for biodiversity.

Action 7.1: Formalize planting concept for hybrid park to increase native vegetation

- **Description:** As a hybrid park, Willamette Park is managed for both recreation and natural areas. A coordinate planting concept would provide a framework for all future landscaping projects in the park and ensure that plantings meet the needs of the hybrid park, particularly in the transition from natural areas to recreation areas. Native vegetation would be a major focus and a planting concept would be able to address guidelines to transition areas of the park towards native vegetation.
- **Benefit:** Creates strategic vision for native plantings at park and supports goal of managing a hybrid park. Enhances visual appeal and cohesiveness of park. Encourages intra-agency communication and management. Increases level of native landscaping in park including native plants and trees that support native wildlife, and decreases maintenance over time. Helps mitigate climate change impacts. Ensures legacy of native trees and plants for future generations of park users.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts.
- **Example:** Sellwood Riverfront Park; Sellwood Park
- **Lead(s):** PP&R City Nature, Service Zone, Urban Forestry, BES



New plantings at Willamette Park, 2010

Action 7.2: Establish Native Oak Habitat Study Area and protect native oaks with vegetative buffers

- **Description:** Provides a framework within which to monitor and sustain the health of the bi-centennial stand of native Oregon white oaks in dog off-leash area.
- **Benefit:** Increases opportunities for enhancement of native oak habitat. Under planting oaks with native shrubs and herbaceous forbs and grasses protects oak trees from soil compaction and harm to root structure, enhances habitat for wildlife, and improves stormwater infiltration. Provides physical buffer around native oaks to limit impact from dogs in the off-leash area.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Potential to impact area available for dogs. Potential difficulty for Maintenance to mow around fences.
- **Example:** River Study Area at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge
- **Lead(s):** PP&R City Nature, Service Zone; Urban Forestry, BES



Heritage oak plaque at Willamette Park, 2010

Action 7.3: Retain tree snags or create snags along riverbank and at key locations in the park

- **Description:** Tree snags provide important habitat for biodiversity by providing cavities for wildlife nesting and creating nurse logs for insects and plants. Necessary to strategically identify opportunities and locations for tree snags and plan for snags by providing buffers around native trees.
- **Benefit:** Increases wildlife habitat in park. Enhances birding opportunities. Retains ecological cycle in the park and recycles nutrients back into soil. Snags in riverbank stabilize riparian area.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Potential hazard for park users.
- **Example:** Stephens Creek Confluence Habitat Restoration Project
- **Lead(s):** PP&R City Nature, Service Zone, Urban Forestry, BES



Snags placed at Stephens Creek Confluence, 2009

Action 7.4: Install bird boxes or gourds along riverbank and in trees

- **Description:** Bird boxes or gourds provide habitat in park where tree snags and cavities cannot be maintained.
- **Benefit:** Provides habitat for resident and migratory birds in the park. Enhances birding opportunities. Provides opportunities to develop educational programming around birds.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Potential maintenance costs.
- **Example:** Columbia Slough Confluence
- **Lead(s):** PP&R City Nature, Service Zone, BES

Improvement Area 8: Pedestrian Access to Willamette River

Existing Condition: Pedestrian access to river is currently limited and poor. Over-steepened concrete fill and Himalayan blackberries along riverbank through the northern and central portions of park are major barriers for park users trying to access the river. Social trails or informal access points can be found along the riverbank immediately south of the boat launch and in the natural area at the south end of the park where a majority of restoration activities occur.

Problem: Pedestrian access to the Willamette River could be improved at Willamette Park by formalizing access point(s) and addressing the current steepened riverbank.



Willamette River shoreline, 2010

Action 8.1: Enhance viewing opportunities along river with overlook platform

- **Description:** An overlook platform, placed strategically in the park, would provide an opportunity for pedestrians to experience the river in a different way by getting out onto the river directly from the park.
- **Benefit:** Enhances and diversifies park user experience. Enhances connection to river and larger ecological landscape. Provides educational opportunity for history of park and importance of riparian areas and river for wildlife. Redirects social and informal trails.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Potential to impact natural resources, depending on placement; permitting; regulatory issues.
- **Example:** George Rogers Park, Lake Oswego
- **Lead(s):** PP&R City Nature, Planning

Action 8.2: Construct steps or a trail from Willamette Greenway Trail to riverbank

- **Description:** Formalize central access point to redirect use of social trails and create pedestrian access to the river.
- **Benefit:** Provides centralized and safe access to river for pedestrians.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Potential to interfere with restoration activities along riverbank.
- **Example:** Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge River Study Area, Sellwood Riverfront Park
- **Lead(s):** PP&R City Nature, Planning

Action 8.3: Create gentler riverbank slope and provide formal access points

- **Description:** Restore and enhance the riverbank to historically floodplain conditions with a gentler riverbank slope that removes riprap and debris currently preventing access to the river. This project would include removal of fill and hardened banks in strategic locations along the river as well as enhancement of riparian vegetation and provision of open areas for wildlife and people to access the river.
- **Benefit:** Creates pedestrian access to the river. Enhances appearance of park and connection to river for park users. Creates opportunity to improve watershed health. Improves conditions for ESA listed salmonoid. Improves upstream and downstream view sheds. Increases space available for riparian restoration activities. Supports natural floodplain ecological processes.

-
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Potential to impact current location of Willamette Greenway Trail. Change of use of park in certain locations. Will require federal, state, and local permitting.
 - **Example:** South Waterfront Greenway
 - **Lead(s):** PP&R City Nature, Service Zone, Planning, BES

Strategy 3: Improve park management and operations

Improvement Area 9: Signage

Existing Condition: Willamette Park has regional significance from both a recreational and ecological context. It is one of three parks with river access, a major part of Portland's tourism.

Problem: Current signage in Willamette Park is limited, and in some places inaccessible or outdated. Improved signage will increase park user's experience and showcase its various amenities.

Action 9.1: Upgrade existing park sign at entrance

- **Description:** Current park entrance sign is weathered and difficult to read. The entrance sign should be welcoming to support a positive user experience while visiting the park.
- **Benefit:** Preserve the unique wooden sign by either removing or updating the right side, as the information listed is outdated. Paint writing on sign in the standard PP&R yellow. Eventually replace with PP&R standard signage to enhance PP&R branding.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Removing the right side of the sign may decrease the stability of the left. Improvements to the left side of the sign may need to be made when removing the right side. Updating the sign could lead to outdated information in the future, which will require maintenance.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone



Current sign at entrance to Willamette Park, 2010

Action 9.2: Install information kiosk for boaters near pay station

- **Description:** Install kiosk near the restroom pay station in boat parking lot.
- **Benefit:** Providing boating and fishing information will increase proper etiquette, safety, and care for the environment and provide information about invasive species.
- **Constraints:** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Kiosk/signage may need to be updated/maintained periodically.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Action 9.3: Install community board for announcements

- **Description:** Install community board in park, and consider public input for location.
- **Benefit:** Installing a community board will allow the exchange of information for community members about Willamette Park, and the community at large, in one central location.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Community board will need to be updated to ensure that information is current.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone



Current DOLA information sign in north area of Willamette Park, 2010

Action 9.4: Replace elevated dog off-leash signage with eye-level signage

- **Description:** Current DOLA signage is difficult to distinguish.
- **Benefit:** Installing eye-level signs throughout the park that are easily accessible and readable will inform and remind dog owners of responsible use of the park.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Expensive and difficult to maintain.
- **Example:** Sign in north area of Willamette Park
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Improvement Area 10: Management of Geese

Existing Condition: Geese inhabit Willamette Park throughout the year. They enjoy open fields because they are grazers and will feed on almost any grass. In Willamette Park they prefer to spend time on the large open sports fields and in the grassy area adjacent to the Willamette Greenway Trail in the central portion of the park.

Problem: Geese fecal matter is highly unsanitary. It contains pathogenic organisms such as E. coli and Salmonella which adversely affects the health of the river, the park and humans, especially those that play in the fields. It is especially problematic for vulnerable populations such as children or the elderly.



South soccer field at Willamette Park,
2010

Action 10.1: Explore potential management options to control geese in park

- **Description:** PP&R should talk to other park bureaus and organizations to develop a method to deter geese in Willamette Park. Park bureaus, academic institutions, and Audubon societies around the country have researched effective ways for deterring geese from undesired locations. A few such methods include strategically planting native vegetation, utilizing temporary fencing material with Mylar scare tape, and placing predator animal replica cutouts near open fields.
- **Benefit:** By deterring geese from open field areas, there could be less exposure to the harmful pathogens contained in geese fecal matter and less contaminated water running into the river.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone, Sports Fields Maintenance

Improvement Area 11: Dog Off-Leash Area

Existing Condition: The unfenced dog off-leash area (DOLA) at Willamette Park is located along the western edge of the park. This area borders businesses, a railway and the main roadway through the park.

Problem: The DOLA is located in a high traffic area of the park and includes steep terrain. The terrain can make it difficult for dogs and owners to easily access or utilize this area. Poor irrigation in the area and the steep terrain causes water and fecal matter to pool. When the fecal matter is able to drain, the waste empties directly into the river through the current drainage inlet, adding to stormwater issues. The DOLA is also located in the same area as the native oak habitat.

Responding to Concerns: The planned implementation of the Streetcar line to Lake Oswego is underway, which will utilize the railway adjacent to the DOLA, and Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) will need to consider alternatives for its placement and safety. Any major recommendations for improvement to the DOLA would be for an interim investment and would not be an effective use of resources therefore the following minor strategies are included below. PP&R is currently undertaking community based strategies to encourage healthier and more respectful use of DOLA's. In summer 2010, PP&R is planning to carry out an education campaign and holistic enforcement of DOLA's in Portland.

Action 11.1: Improve current DOLA kiosk by installing a pet waste station with signage, bags and garbage receptacle

- **Description:** The current kiosk at the DOLA needs to be updated to encourage park users to utilize this feature.
- **Benefit:** Installing a pet waste station with proper DOLA etiquette, information, bags to clean up feces and a garbage receptacle, will increase the DOLA's user safety and experience, and help to eliminate fecal matter from entering the river through the drainage inlet.
- **Constraint(s):** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Pet waste station will need to be maintained by replacing bags and emptying the garbage receptacle. Providing bags is costly.
- **Example:** Gladiator Pet waste station
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone



DoodyCalls Gladiator Pet Waste Station along the Willamette River
doodycalls.com

Improvement Area 12: Parking

Existing Condition: Willamette Park has four areas for parking; one in the north portion of the park, one that is fairly central near the boat launch, one near the tennis courts, and one in the south portion of the park near the picnic shelter. As of summer 2009, PP&R installed a new paid parking system at Willamette Park. For the past number of years PP&R has charged for parking seasonally at the park. Under the new system people are required pay to park for parking year round. Willamette Park attracts users year round but is particularly popular in the summer. Prior to the installation of the paid parking system, local businesses would use the parking area and would sometimes limit access of park users. The paid parking system has helped to deter parking for uses other than park activities.



Parking in Willamette Park can be limited, 2010

The potential addition of a Streetcar stop for Willamette Park will likely affect the parking situation at the park because it will allow users the option of taking public transit instead of driving their cars. However, it is difficult to anticipate whether this will lessen the demand for parking or simply add additional users from the Streetcar line.

Problem: Sometimes, the increase of volume in users results in an overflow of parking, which can result in parking in Miles Place or on adjacent streets which can overflow into parking for local businesses. Damage has been caused to the boat parking lot because the lot was not designed for trailers with wide turning radii.

Parking was not initially included in QPG's project scope. Since pay parking concerns were highlighted by many stakeholders, QPG identified a few strategies to address these concerns.

Action 12.1: Create 15-minute load/unload parking spot

- **Description:** Designate a parking spot to use for 15-minute loading/unloading
- **Benefit:** A 15-minute parking spot would better accommodate park users who have very short parking needs, such as caregivers who drop off their children for sporting events or other event loading/unloading. Helps resolve 15-minute paid parking spot in boat parking lot that does not coordinate with the pay stations' one hour minimum time requirement.
- **Constraints:** Potential capital and/or ongoing fiscal impacts. Could be difficult to monitor time limits of park users.
- **Lead(s):** PP&R Service Zone

Next Steps

Quercus Planning Group gathered feedback regarding the areas of potential improvement, as well as specific improvement actions through the TAC meeting on Monday, April 26, 2010. The next step is to gather community input at community meetings on May 2 and May 3, 2010. This memo will be updated to incorporate the comments received from these input opportunities.

The strategies will then be evaluated by the project team using mutually agreed upon criteria and evaluation techniques established by QPG and the TAC. Project recommendations will be provided to the TAC for comment in May 2010. The final report will be completed in early June 2010.



Memorandum

To: Willamette Park Technical Advisory Committee
From: Quercus Planning Group
Date: May 10, 2010 (Updated June 4, 2010)
Subject: Willamette Park Recommendations

Introduction

Since January 2010, Quercus Planning Group (QPG) has been assisting Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) in conducting an assessment of Willamette Park and developing alternatives that balance the viability and sustainability of the park with growing user demands. Following the information gathering phase, QPG held a Technical Advisory Committee meeting on April 26, 2010 to present the full list of alternative actions for three broad strategies: improve recreation experiences, protect and enhance natural resources, and improve park management and operations. In addition to this meeting, QPG also held a set of community meetings on May 2 and May 3, 2010 to receive feedback from the community about their priorities for the park using a rating exercise.

With the combined information and feedback from the TAC and community meetings, and with further direction from PP&R planners, QPG prepared a set of criteria to evaluate and assess the alternative actions. Based on this evaluation process, QPG has prepared a set of draft recommended actions that meet the three strategies identified in the alternative phase and that help guide Willamette Park into the future as a hybrid park. The draft recommended actions were rated based on criteria in the form of a point system and were then ranked as high, medium, or low.

QPG reviewed a set of the draft recommendations at the TAC meeting on May 17, 2010. During this meeting, QPG received feedback about the evaluation process and the draft recommended actions. This memorandum reflects the comments received about the criteria and ranking. In addition to this discussion, QPG also asked for comments and direction about implementation challenges as a way to identifying a time frame for each action. The final recommended actions will be based on the criteria rank and the ease of implementation rating.

This memorandum outlines the methodology of developing the criteria and how each action was scored and prioritized. It also provides a table that illustrates the criteria score for each action. The ease of implementation rating and final recommendations will be included in the final report.

Criteria and Methodology

QPG adapted criteria from PP&R's Capital Project Request Criteria and Rating System, modifying it to incorporate additional criteria like user experience, stewardship, water quality, habitat, and maintenance that are important and specific to this project. A point system was developed to weight each criterion, with a total number of points equal to 100. Close attention was given to weight the recreation criteria equal to the environmental quality criteria to not give preference on one focus over another.

The criteria were grouped into overarching categories to reflect the broad strategies and different aspects of park management. The categories and descriptions are as followed:

Regulation

Regulation addresses existing mandates, plans and goals that guide the maintenance, operations, and development of parks, and specifically of Willamette Park.

User Experience

User Experience encompasses new or improved opportunities for passive or active recreation. Recreation is a primary use of the park and this category helps to document how recommended actions will address user issues to improve recreational opportunities.

Environmental Quality

As a hybrid park, it is important for the criteria to reflect the restoration and enhancement of natural features in the park. This is reflected in the Environmental Quality category with specific criteria for water quality and habitat.

Maintenance

Considerations about how recommended actions will affect the maintenance of existing and proposed facilities are important to include in evaluation, so as to avoid a significant increase in maintenance requirements for the park.

Public Support

Public involvement was an important component to both the information gathering and alternative development phase. At the May 2 and May 3, 2010 community meetings, community members were provided the opportunity to rate the proposed list of 38 alternative actions on a scale from 1 to 4, where 1 represents strongly oppose and 4 represents strongly support. Community members were given a set of 15 sticker dots and were asked to rate the actions by prioritizing the most important ones. QPG used the final rating scores to assign points for the criteria category of public support by using the natural break in points (identified as at least seven ratings of support/strongly support for the action) to assign which actions received either 0, 5 or 10 points.

Table 1 shows the Willamette Park Alternative Action Criteria that was used to determine the criteria score for each of the actions.

Scoring and Prioritization of Recommendations

Table 2 shows the recommended actions according to prioritization, the identified applicable criteria and the assigned points for each action. Appendix A provides an account of the regulations QPG identified as applicable to the recommendations.

After the actions were assigned points, QPG further evaluated the actions by improvement area to determine a prioritization of the actions. The actions were prioritized by high, medium, and low, depending on the total number of points of the action compared to other actions in the improvement area. Ranking the actions was conducted to help identify the recommended priorities for each improvement action and to provide guidance to PP&R about which actions QPG identified as a priority for future planning of the park. Table 3 provides an explanation of how actions were designated as a high, medium, or low priority rank.

Table 1. Willamette Park Alternative Action Criteria

Category	Criteria	Description	Points
Regulation and Guidance	Legal Compliance (max 10 points)	Legal mandate, directive by Council, condition of Land Use Review, contractual obligation, etc	10
	Conforms to City or PP&R Plans (max 10 points)	Vital to PP&R mission and 2020 goals Project is part of an approved PP&R Plan Project is part of a City plan or Urban Renewal Area plan or continues a prior project	10 5 5
User Experience	Level of Service (max 15 points)	Provides new passive/active recreation service for identified need to a significant population Improves existing passive/active recreation service for identified need.	15 10
Environmental Quality	Human Health and Safety (max 10 points)	Improves general health, safety, and welfare	10
	Stewardship (max 5 points)	Fosters a greater level of understanding about the park	5
	Water Quality (max 15 points)	Improves water quality of the Willamette River and California Subwatershed	15
	Habitat (max 15 points)	Reduces quantity of sitting water within park Improves endangered species habitat or special habitat Improves habitat for native wildlife, insects, fish, plants, and trees	10 15 10
Maintenance	Reduces level of maintenance (max 5 points)	More efficient use of maintenance resources	5
Public Support	Protects Capital Assets or Facilities (max 5 points)	Repairs important systems or will deter major future expenditures	5
	Public Support for Action (max 10 points)	Public meeting with summaries showing strong public support	10
		Likely support / no issues anticipated	5

Strategy 1: Improve Recreation Experiences

[illegible]

Strategy 1: Improve Recreation Experiences

	Regulation			User Experience			Environmental Quality		Maintenance		Public Support	Rank
	Legal Compliance (max 10 points)	Conforms to City or PP&R Plans (max 10 points)		Level of Service (max 15 points)	Human Health and Safety (max 10 points)	Stewardship (max 5 points)	Water Quality (max 15 points)	Habitat (max 15 points)	Reduces level of maintenance (max 5 points)	Protects Capital Assets or Facilities (max 5 points)	Public Support for Action (max 10 points)	
	10	Project is part of a City plan or Urban Renewal Area plan or continues a prior project	5	Improves existing passive/active recreation service for identified need.	10	Fosters a greater level of understanding about the park	15	Improves habitat for native wildlife, insects, fish, plants, and trees	5	Repairs important systems or will deter major future expenditures	Likely support / no issues anticipated	100
		Project is part of an approved PP&R Plan	5	Provides new passive/active recreation service for identified need to a	15		15	Improves endangered species habitat or special habitat area		More efficient use of maintenance resources	Public meeting with summaries showing strong public support	5
		Vital to PP&R mission and 2020 goals	10									60
												High
												Medium
Boating Facilities												
Install hose station to remove invasive species from boats	10			15		5	15			5		
Install separate low-float launch for non-motorized boats				15	10						5	
Sports Fields												
During the short-term, install temporary fencing during off-season and improve drainage on fields in the long-term				10	10				5	5	10	40
Increase open space available for passive (or non-programmed) recreation			10	10				15	5	5	10	55
												Medium

Strategy 1: Improve Recreation Experiences

	Regulation			User Experience			Environmental Quality		Maintenance		Public Support	Rank
	Legal Compliance (max 10 points)	Conforms to City or PP&R Plans (max 10 points)		Level of Service (max 15 points)	Human Health and Safety (max 10 points)	Stewardship (max 5 points)	Water Quality (max 15 points)	Habitat (max 15 points)	Reduces level of maintenance (max 5 points)	Protects Capital Assets or Facilities (max 5 points)	Public Support for Action (max 10 points)	
Interactive Education	Legal mandate, directive by Council, condition of Land Use Review, contractual obligation, etc	Project is part of a City plan or Urban Renewal Area plan or continues a prior project		Improves existing passive/active recreation service for identified need.	Improves general health, safety, and welfare	Fosters a greater level of understanding about the park	Improves the flow of water through the park	Improves habitat for native wildlife, insects, fish, plants, and trees	More efficient use of maintenance resources	Repairs important systems or will deter major future expenditures	Likely support / no issues anticipated	Total
		Project is part of an approved PP&R Plan		Provides new passive/active recreation service for identified need to a			Improves water quality of the Willamette River and California Subwatershed	Improves endangered species habitat or special habitat area			Public meeting with summaries showing strong public support	
		Vital to PP&R mission and 2020 goals										
	Develop Self-guided Walking Tour Map											Rank
	Install interpretative signage to enhance connection to larger ecological and regional contexts											Rank
	Install interpretative signage to enhance connection to larger ecological and regional contexts											Rank

Strategy 2: Protect and Enhance Natural Resources

		Rank	
		Total	100
	Public Support	Likely support / no issues anticipated	5
		Public meeting with summaries showing strong public support	10
Maintenance	Protects Capital Assets or Facilities (max 5 points)	Repairs important systems or will deter major future expenditures	5
	Reduces level of maintenance (max 5 points)	More efficient use of maintenance resources	5
Environmental Quality	Habitat (max 15 points)	Improves habitat for native wildlife, insects, fish, plants, and trees	10
		Improves endangered species habitat or special habitat area	15
	Water Quality (max 15 points)	Reduces the quantity of sitting water within the park	10
		Improves water quality of the Willamette River and California Subwatershed	15
User Experience	Stewardship (max 5 points)	Fosters a greater level of understanding about the park	5
	Human Health and Safety (max 10 points)	Improves general health, safety, and welfare	10
	Level of Service (max 15 points)	Improves existing passive/active recreation service for identified need.	10
		Provides new passive/active recreation service for identified need to a significant population	15
Regulation	Conforms to City or PP&R Plans (max 10 points)	Project is part of a City plan or Urban Renewal Area plan or continues a prior project	5
		Project is part of an approved PP&R Plan	5
		Vital to PP&R mission and 2020 goals	10
	Legal Compliance (max 10 points)	Legal mandate, directive by Council, condition of Land Use Review, contractual obligation, etc	10

Restoration and Enhancement

Establish Native Oak Habitat Study Area and protect native oaks with vegetative buffers				5						5		15		5	5				10		5			45	High
Formalize planting concept for hybrid park to increase native vegetation				5											5	10								40	Medium
Create additional bird habitat in key locations in the park by passively retaining tree snags, and/or installing bird boxes or gourds				5											5									40	Medium

Strategy 2: Protect and Enhance Natural Resources

	Regulation			User Experience			Environmental Quality		Maintenance		Public Support	
	Legal Compliance (max 10 points)	Conforms to City or PP&R Plans (max 10 points)	Level of Service (max 15 points)	Human Health and Safety (max 10 points)	Stewardship (max 5 points)	Water Quality (max 15 points)	Habitat (max 15 points)	Reduces level of maintenance (max 5 points)	Protects Capital Assets or Facilities (max 5 points)	Public Support for Action (max 10 points)		
		Project is part of a City plan or Urban Renewal Area plan or continues a prior project	Improves existing passive/active recreation service for identified need.	Improves general health, safety, and welfare	Fosters a greater level of understanding about the park	Improves water quality of the Willamette River and California Subwatershed	Improves endangered species habitat or special habitat area	More efficient use of maintenance resources	Repairs important systems or will deter major future expenditures	Public meeting with summaries showing strong public support	Likely support / no issues anticipated	Total
	10	10	15	10	5	15	10	5	5	10	5	100
Pedestrian Access to the Willamette River												
Create gentler riverbank slope	10	10	15	10	5	15	15			10	90	High
Construct soft surface steps or a trail from Willamette Greenway Trail to riverbank		10	15	10	5					10	50	Medium
Enhance viewing opportunities along river with overlook platform		10	15		5					10	40	Low

Strategy 3: Improve Park Management and Operations

[illegible]

Table 3: Ranking Methodology

High	Action with the highest points within improvement area. Multiple actions can receive high rank if they receive identical points.
Medium	\geq half the points assigned to the high priority rank action
Low	$<$ half the points assigned to the high priority rank action

Next Steps

QPG will be drafting their final report to include findings from information gathering, alternative development, and the final recommendations. The draft final report will be sent to the TAC on May 25, 2010. The final TAC meeting will be on June 1, 2010 followed by QPG's brown bag presentation at the Portland Building.

Appendix A: Regulation Notes

QPG reviewed the following plans to determine if the actions met a regulatory requirement or plan goals: the PP&R 2020 Vision, the PP&R Sustainability Plan, the Portland Bicycle Plan, the Portland Watershed Management Plan, and the Endangered Species Act. This appendix documents the regulation or goal QPG identified as being applicable to an action.

Park Facilities

Install durable, maintainable furniture at both playgrounds

- PP&R 2020 Vision
 - Management Strategy: Develop best management practices.
 - Sustainable: Use environmentally friendly, sustainable methods to build and care for parks, natural resources and recreation facilities

Add bicycle racks throughout the park

- Portland Bicycle Master Plan
 - Policy 6.26 Bicycle Parking
 - Objective E: Provide and maintain public bicycle parking at high-demand locations in the Central City, neighborhood business nodes, cultural and recreational destinations, transit nodes and employment centers.

Provide recycling collection near garbage receptacles

- PP&R Sustainability Plan
 - Goal 5: Resource conservation – energy, water, recycling and re-using – practices are prioritized and improved throughout the Parks system.
 - Objective 5.1: Optimize recycling opportunities & reduce waste stream to landfill

Upgrade existing furniture with durable, maintainable furniture throughout park

- PP&R 2020 Vision
 - Management Strategy: Develop best management practices.
 - Sustainable: Use environmentally friendly, sustainable methods to build and care for parks, natural resources and recreation facilities

Trail System

Construct elevated crosswalks and curb bulges at pedestrian crossing in boat launch parking lot

- Salmon Safe Certification Standards
 - Standard B.4.1: Various methods to treat stormwater runoff are maximized within the park system as feasible, including infiltration, bio-filtration, and detention.

Boating Facilities

Install hose station to remove invasive species from boats

- Oregon Conservation Strategy
 - Goal 2 Invasive Species: Prevent new introductions of species with high potential to become invasive, and reduce the scale and spread of priority invasive species infestations.

- Action 2.4. Focus on eradication of invasive species in Strategy Habitats and other high priority areas where there is a clear threat to ecosystems and a high probability of success.

Sports Fields

Increase open space available for passive (or non-programmed) recreation

- PP&R 2020 Vision
 - Development Strategy: Design and build excellent parks and recreation facilities.
 - Balanced: Provide an appropriate balance of active recreation and passive open space within each subarea and, to the extent possible, within each park.

Stormwater Management

Retrofit existing stormwater swale in boat launch parking lot

- Salmon Safe Certification Standards
 - Standard B.4.1: Various methods to treat stormwater runoff are maximized within the park system as feasible, including infiltration, bio-filtration, and detention.
 - Performance requirement 5.1.1: Drainage routes

Retrofit existing stormwater inlet in dog off-leash area with vegetated swale

- Salmon Safe Certification Standards
 - Standard B.4.1: Various methods to treat stormwater runoff are maximized within the park system as feasible, including infiltration, bio-filtration, and detention.
 - Performance requirement 5.1.1: Drainage routes

Prepare stormwater management plan for park

- Salmon Safe Certification Standards
 - Standard B.4.1: Various methods to treat stormwater runoff are maximized within the park system as feasible, including infiltration, bio-filtration, and detention.
 - Performance requirement 5.1.1: Inventory

Replace impervious surfaces with pervious pavement in future parking lot and trail upgrades

- Salmon Safe Certification Standards
 - Standard B.4.1: Various methods to treat stormwater runoff are maximized within the park system as feasible, including infiltration, bio-filtration, and detention.
 - Performance requirement 5.1.1: Drainage routes

Restoration and Enhancement

Formalize planting concept for hybrid park to increase native vegetation

- Portland Watershed Management Plan
 - Revegetation
 - Increase the extent of canopy and other vegetative cover

Establish Native Oak Habitat Study Area and protect native oaks with vegetative buffers

- Portland Watershed Management Plan
 - Revegetation
 - Improve the quality and composition of vegetative cover
- Salmon Safe Certification Standards
 - Standard B.6.1 Pesticides use in the park system does not result in contamination of stormwater or streams with amounts of pesticides harmful to salmon or aquatic ecosystems.
 - Performance Requirement 6.1.7: Reduction Program

Retain tree snags or create snags along riverbank and at key locations in the park

- Portland Watershed Management Plan
 - Aquatic and Terrestrial Enhancement
 - Restore channel and floodplain function and stability; Restore habitat connectivity and access

Install bird boxes or gourds along riverbank and in trees

- Portland Watershed Management Plan
 - Aquatic and Terrestrial Enhancement
 - Restore habitat connectivity and access

Pedestrian Access to the Willamette River

Create gentler riverbank slope and provide formal access points

- 2020 Goals
 - Create an interconnected regional and local system of paths and walks to make Portland "the walking city of the west"
 - Develop convenient appropriate access to major natural resource areas
- Portland Watershed Management Plan
 - Aquatic and Terrestrial Enhancement
 - Restore channel and floodplain function and stability
- Endangered Species Act
 - Chinook - Listed as threatened on March 24, 1999; threatened status reaffirmed on June 28, 2005. The ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of spring-run Chinook salmon in the Clackamas River and in the Willamette River, and its tributaries, above Willamette Falls, Oregon
 - Steelhead - Listed as a threatened species on March 25, 1999; threatened status reaffirmed on January 5, 2006. The DPS includes all naturally spawned anadromous *O. mykiss* (steelhead) populations below natural and manmade impassable barriers in the Willamette River, Oregon, and its tributaries upstream from Willamette Falls to the Calapooia River (inclusive).
- Salmon Safe Certification Standards
 - Standard B.2.1: Riparian areas are in good condition, functioning to maintain and restore stream health, and provide shade, wood recruitment, leaf litter supply, stream bank stability and cover, and filtration of sediment.
 - Performance requirement 2.4.1: Restoration effort

Construct steps or a trail from Willamette Greenway Trail to riverbank

- 2020 Goals
 - Create an interconnected regional and local system of paths and walks to make Portland "the walking city of the west"
 - Develop convenient appropriate access to major natural resource areas

Enhance viewing opportunities along river with overlook platform

- 2020 Goals
 - Create an interconnected regional and local system of paths and walks to make Portland "the walking city of the west"
 - Develop convenient appropriate access to major natural resource area

Signage

Upgrade existing park sign at entrance

- A draft signage plan identifies that a similar signs must be used system-wide to establish a recognizable PP&R brand.