

Cornelius

Oregon's Family Town



CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 4, 2024

Cornelius City Council Chamber
1355 N Barlow St, Cornelius, Oregon 97113

[TVCTV Live Stream](#)

[Zoom Webinar](#) | Meeting ID: 834 7940 8874 | Passcode: 215546

1. **Work Session – 6:00 PM**

West Council Creek Master Plan: **Olena Turula, Metro**

Non-resident Medical Response Fee: **Jim Geering, Fire Chief**

2. **Regular Session – 7:00 PM**

Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

3. **Adoption of Agenda**

4. **Consent Agenda**

The items on the Consent Agenda are considered and adopted by one motion unless a Council Member or community member requests that an item be considered separately before a vote of the Consent items. The Mayor shall decide when an item is removed from Consent for discussion.

A. City Council Meeting Minutes, February 5, 2024

5. **Public Comment**

Comments are limited to three minutes.

Speaking in Person: Register to speak by filling out a form in the City Council Chamber and provide it to the City Recorder.

Speaking Virtually: Register to speak by contacting the City Recorder via email at recorder@corneliusor.gov no later than 3:00pm on the day of the City Council meeting. Provide your name, address, and when possible, the topic of testimony. Those attending virtually will not be able to turn on their camera during the meeting or share their screen; presentation materials may be submitted as written testimony via email or in person at City Hall.

6. Recognition

- A. Completion of one-year Employment Probation, Lucas Anderson: **Kevin Ritcheson, Fire Captain**
- B. Completion of one-year Employment Probation, Kyle Joseph: **Kevin Ritcheson, Fire Captain**

7. Presentations and Appointments

- A. Cornelius Elementary School Choir Performance: **Martin Garcia, Cornelius Elementary**
- B. 2024 City-led Community Events: **Peter Brandom, City Manager**

8. Public Hearings

None

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. New Business

- A. Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Application: **Karen Hill, Library Director**

11. Reports

- A. City Council
- B. Mayor Dalin
- C. City Manager

12. Announcements

- A. Shift to Daylight Savings Time – Sunday, March 10, 2:00 am
- B. Monday, April 1, 2024 – 6:00 pm Work Session; 7:00 pm City Council Meeting

13. Adjournment

East Council Creek nature park master plan



The East Council Creek Nature Park Master Plan sets the stage for visitors to experience nature close to home, access water, listen to song birds, view native flowers and enjoy being outside with family and friends.

Executive summary

Council Creek flows from Forest Grove and nearby agricultural areas, meandering through wetland, floodplain and forest before joining Dairy Creek, which flows into the Tualatin River. The East Council Creek Natural Area protects 33 acres of wildlife habitat along the stream and adjacent to residential neighborhoods of northeast Cornelius.

Thanks to voters, Metro has been able to preserve habitat and water quality along Council Creek, and plan for future public access. East Council Creek Natural Area offers a unique opportunity to experience nature close to home in the City of Cornelius.

Planning for public access to the site will help protect water quality and wildlife habitat. A planned trail route will improve trail experience and direct public use in a way that highlights the property's unique qualities and provides visitors with safe and welcoming access to view wildlife and native flora. It will reduce impacts on Council Creek and adjacent habitat areas from trampling of plants, erosion and other negative effects of off-trail use.

The planned nature park would complement the future Council Creek Regional Trail, which will connect Cornelius to Forest Grove and Hillsboro just two blocks south of the site.

Community engagement

In early 2017, Metro and City of Cornelius staff began working with community members, stakeholders and regional partners to create a master plan to guide public access improvements at East Council Creek. The plan was shaped by extensive public outreach, open houses, multilingual workshops, presentations, tours and surveys. These efforts specifically engaged people of color, members of the local Latine community, nearby neighbors and regional stakeholders.

The Connect with Nature initiative centered communities of color through multilingual workshops and site visits focused on planning for East Council Creek. Outcomes of Connect with Nature helped shape the master plan and are also documented in the Connect with Nature Resource Guide.

Recommendation

The master plan establishes project goals and objectives, describes site resources and conditions and summarizes the planning process. It outlines the site conservation strategy and identifies approximate access and trail locations.

Recommended improvements include a new trailhead, parking lot and entry area to welcome visitors and provide access for people of all ages and abilities. The plan identifies places for wildlife viewing, learning about nature, picnicking, walking or exploring nature. It also recommends a route for a soft surface trail along the south side of Council Creek, with bridges or boardwalks through wet areas, and clear wayfinding signs.

Implementation

Currently, funding has not been identified to implement the master plan recommendations.

Prior to implementing any recommended improvements, a long-term management strategy would need to be developed by Metro or the City. In addition, historic and cultural resource investigations should be completed in consultation with tribal governments.

Once funding has been identified, it is recommended that improvements for the west parcel be prioritized. These include formalizing a natural surface trail, installing boardwalks, wayfinding and regulatory signs, and decommissioning demand trails to reduce erosion and improve visitor experience and safety. Additional funding could support implementing recommendations for a more formalized park entry on the east parcel with parking, restrooms, security elements, and an all ages and abilities nature trail.

East Council Creek offers visitors a unique opportunity to walk along a meandering stream. The East Council Creek Nature Park Master Plan sets the stage for visitors to access water, listen to song birds, view native flowers and enjoy being outside with family and friends.

The plan lays the groundwork for a nature park that:

Welcomes people of all cultures, communities and abilities.

Continues to protect water quality and wildlife habitat for future generations of plants, animals and Oregonians.

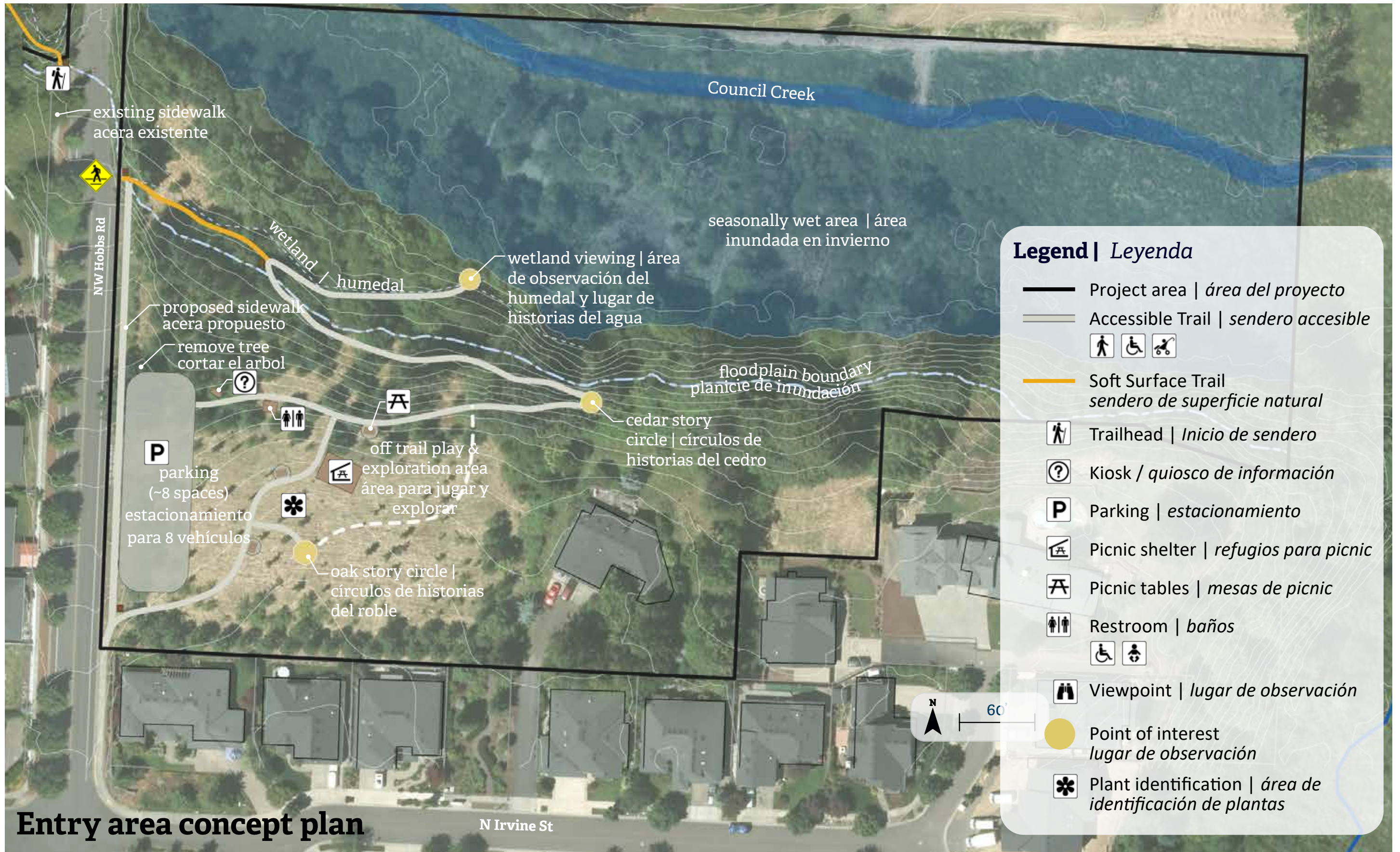
Provides welcoming, safe and meaningful experiences of nature.

Celebrates the unique qualities of East Council Creek and enhances neighborhood identity.

Develops a Nature Park that Metro can care for and operate on behalf of the public for years to come.







Legend | Leyenda

- Project area | *área del proyecto*
- Accessible Trail | *sendero accesible*
-
- Soft Surface Trail | *sendero de superficie natural*
- Trailhead | *Inicio de sendero*
- Kiosk / *quiosco de información*
- Parking | *estacionamiento*
- Picnic shelter | *refugios para picnic*
- Picnic tables | *mesas de picnic*
- Restroom | *baños*
-
- Viewpoint | *lugar de observación*
- Point of interest | *lugar de observación*
- Plant identification | *área de identificación de plantas*

Entry area concept plan

Plan Maestro para el Parque Natural East Council Creek



El Plan Maestro para el Parque Natural East Council Creek prepara el terreno para que los visitantes experimenten la naturaleza cerca de casa, tengan acceso al agua, escuchen el canto de las aves, admiren las flores nativas y disfruten del aire libre con familiares y amigos.

Resumen ejecutivo

Council Creek fluye desde Forest Grove y las zonas agrícolas cercanas, serpenteando a través de los humedales, planicies y bosques antes de unirse a Dairy Creek, que fluye hacia el Tualatin River. El Área Natural de East Council Creek protege 33 acres de hábitat de vida silvestre a lo largo del arroyo y adyacente a vecindarios residenciales del noreste de Cornelius.

Gracias a los electores, Metro ha podido preservar hábitat y la calidad del agua a lo largo de Council Creek, y planear para el futuro acceso público al sitio. El Área Natural de East Council Creek ofrece una oportunidad única para experimentar la naturaleza cerca de casa en la Ciudad de Cornelius.

Planear para el acceso público al sitio ayudará a proteger la calidad del agua y el hábitat de la vida silvestre. Una ruta planeada de senderos mejorará la experiencia en los senderos y el uso directo del público en una forma en que resalta las cualidades únicas de la propiedad y ofrece a los visitantes un acceso seguro y acogedor para admirar la vida silvestre y la flora nativa. Reducirá los impactos sobre Council Creek y sobre las áreas de hábitat adyacentes que resultan del pisoteo de plantas, la erosión y otros efectos negativos de los usos fuera de senderos.

El parque natural planeado complementará el Sendero Regional de Council Creek, que conectará a Cornelius con Forest Grove y Hillsboro a solo dos cuerdas al sur del sitio.

Participación comunitaria

A principios de 2017, el personal de Metro y de la Ciudad de Cornelius empezó a trabajar con miembros de la comunidad, personas interesadas y socios regionales para crear un plan maestro para orientar las mejoras para el acceso público en East

Council Creek. Se le dio forma al plan a través de una extensa comunicación con el público, sesiones de puertas abiertas, talleres en varios idiomas, presentaciones, recorridos y encuestas. Estos esfuerzos específicamente involucraron a personas de color, miembros de la comunidad Latina local, vecindarios cercanos y personas interesadas a nivel regional.

La iniciativa Conectarse con la Naturaleza centró en comunidades de color a través de talleres en varios idiomas y visitas al sitio enfocados en la planeación para East Council Creek. Los resultados de Conectarse con la Naturaleza ayudaron a darle forma al plan maestro y están documentados en la Guía de Recursos de Conéctese con la Naturaleza.

Recomendación

El plan maestro establece las metas y objetivos del proyecto, describe los recursos y condiciones del sitio, y resume el proceso de la planeación. Describe la estrategia de conservación del sitio e identifica los aproximados accesos y ubicaciones de los senderos.

Las mejoras recomendadas incluyen una nueva entrada a sendero, un estacionamiento y un área de entrada para dar la bienvenida a los visitantes y dar acceso a personas de todas las edades y habilidades. El plan identifica lugares para admirar la vida silvestre, aprender sobre la naturaleza, realizar pícnic, caminar o explorar la naturaleza. También recomienda una ruta para un sendero de superficie suave a lo largo del lado sur del Council Creek, con puentes y caminos entablados a través de las zonas húmedas y claras señales con direcciones.

Implementación

Actualmente, el financiamiento no se ha identificado para implementar las recomendaciones del plan maestro.

Antes de implementar cualquier mejora recomendada, Metro o la Ciudad necesitaría desarrollar una estrategia de administración de largo plazo. Además, las investigaciones de los recursos históricos y culturales debe completarse en consulta con los gobiernos tribales.

Una vez que el financiamiento se haya identificado, se recomienda que las mejoras para la parcela oeste se prioricen, lo que incluye formalizar un sendero de superficie natural, instalar senderos entablados, señalizaciones con direcciones, señales sobre las normas, y sacar de la comisión a los senderos de demanda para reducir la erosión y mejorar la experiencia y seguridad de los visitantes. Financiamiento adicional puede apoyar la implementación de las recomendaciones para una entrada más formalizada al parque en la parcela este, con estacionamiento, baños, elementos de seguridad, y sendero para todas las edades y habilidades.

East Council Creek ofrece a los visitantes una oportunidad única de caminar a lo largo de un serpenteante arroyo. El Plan Maestro para el Parque Natural East Council Creek prepara el terreno para que los visitantes tengan acceso al agua, escuchen el canto de las aves, admiren las flores nativas y disfruten del aire libre con familiares y amigos.

El plan prepara el terreno para un parque natural que:

Dé la bienvenida a personas de todas las culturas, comunidades y habilidades.

Continúe protegiendo la calidad del agua y de la vida silvestre para generaciones futuras de plantas, animales y residentes de Oregon.

Otorgue experiencias con la naturaleza que sean acogedoras, seguras y significativas.

Celebre los atributos únicos de East Council Creek y mejore la identidad del vecindario.

Desarrolle un Parque Natural por el que Metro pueda cuidar y operar a nombre del público en los años por venir.

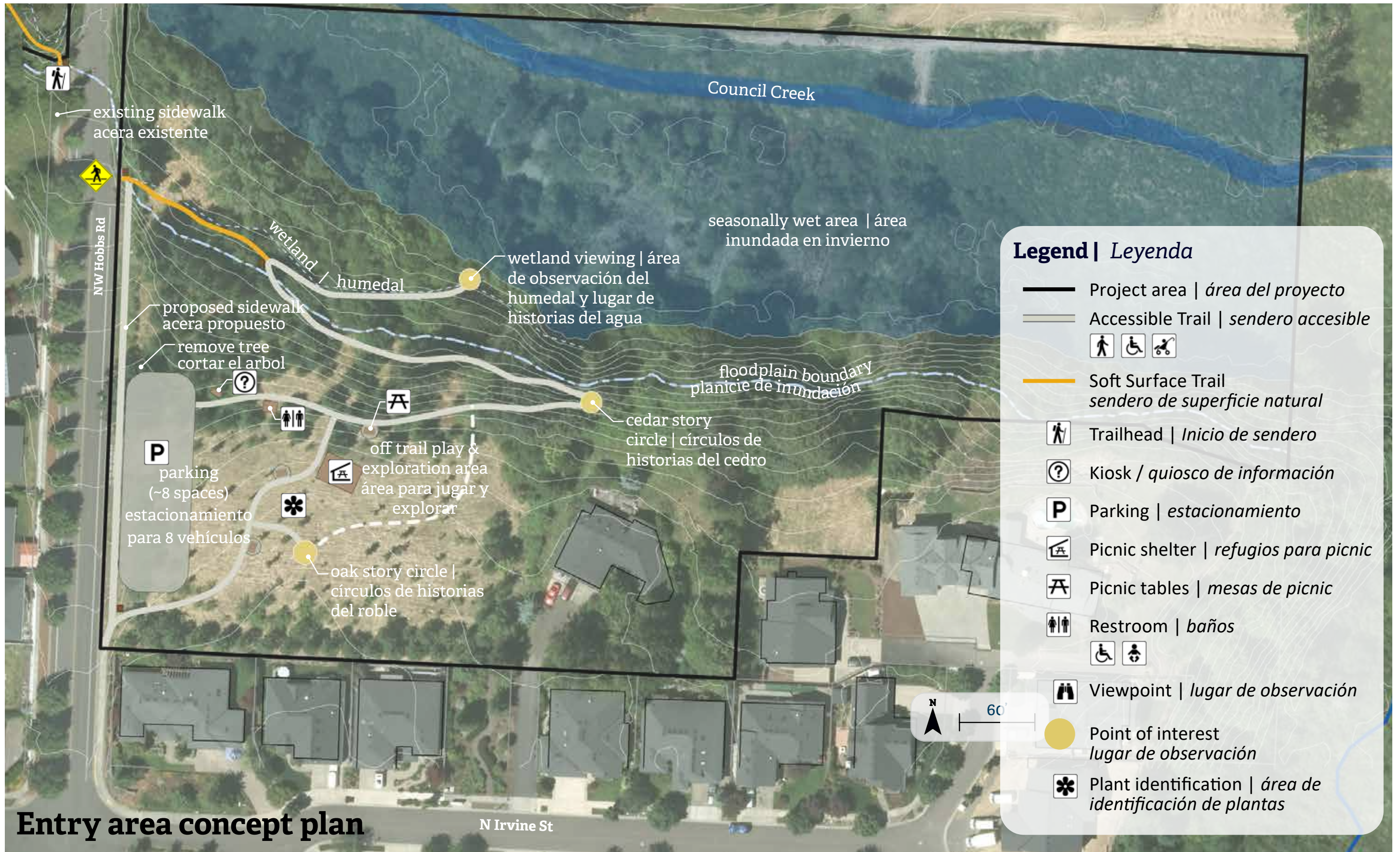




Legend | Leyenda

- Project area | *área del proyecto*
- Existing asphalt path
camino asfaltado
- Council Creek
- Soft Surface Trail
sendero de superficie natural
- Boardwalk |
Paseo marítimo de humedal
- 🚶 Trail head | *Inicio de sendero*
- Point of interest
lugar de observación
- ✿ Plant identification | *Área de identificación de plantas*







MASTER PLAN

East Council Creek Nature Park

January 2024

oregonmetro.gov/parks



If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we’ve already crossed paths.

So, hello. We’re Metro – nice to meet you.

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we can do a lot of things better together. Join us to help the region prepare for a happy, healthy future.

Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.

oregonmetro.gov/parksandnaturenews

Follow oregonmetro



Metro Council President

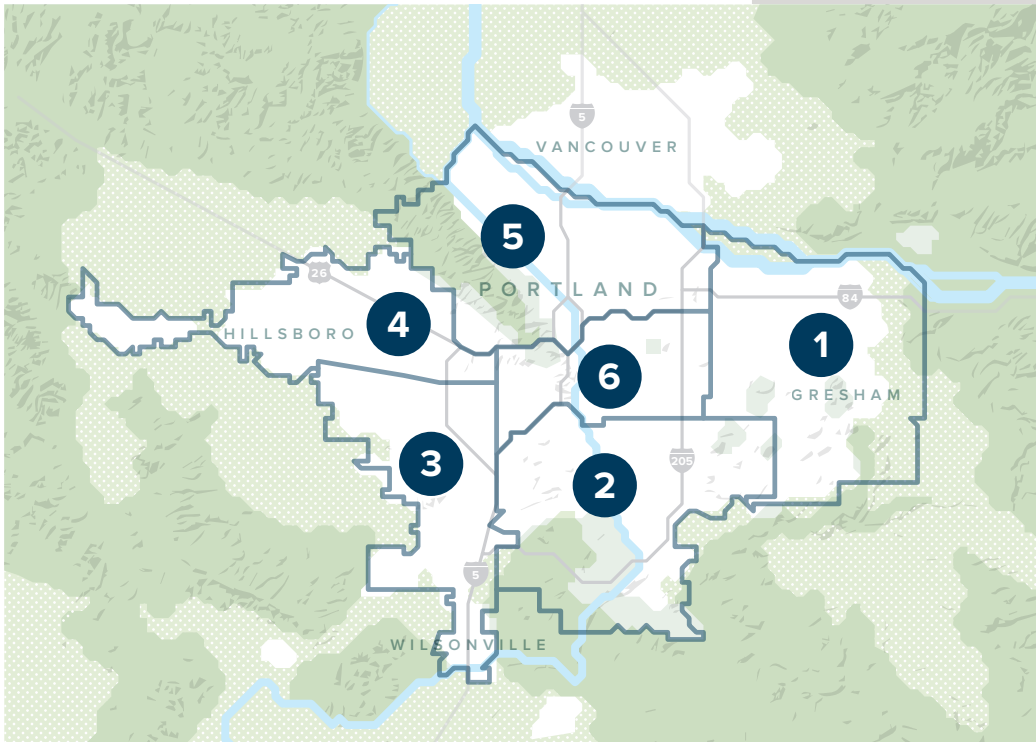
Lynn Peterson

Metro Councilors

- Ashton Simpson, District 1
- Christine Lewis, District 2
- Gerritt Rosenthal, District 3
- Juan Carlos González, District 4
- Mary Nolan, District 5
- Duncan Hwang, District 6

Auditor

Brian Evans



East Council Creek nature park master plan



The East Council Creek Nature Park Master Plan sets the stage for visitors to experience nature close to home, access water, listen to song birds, view native flowers and enjoy being outside with family and friends.

Executive summary

Council Creek flows from Forest Grove and nearby agricultural areas, meandering through wetland, floodplain and forest before joining Dairy Creek, which flows into the Tualatin River. The East Council Creek Natural Area protects 33 acres of wildlife habitat along the stream and adjacent to residential neighborhoods of northeast Cornelius.

Thanks to voters, Metro has been able to preserve habitat and water quality along Council Creek, and plan for future public access. East Council Creek Natural Area offers a unique opportunity to experience nature close to home in the City of Cornelius.

Planning for public access to the site will help protect water quality and wildlife habitat. A planned trail route will improve trail experience and direct public use in a way that highlights the property's unique qualities and provides visitors with safe and welcoming access to view wildlife and native flora. It will reduce impacts on Council Creek and adjacent habitat areas from trampling of plants, erosion and other negative effects of off-trail use.

The planned nature park would complement the future Council Creek Regional Trail, which will connect Cornelius to Forest Grove and Hillsboro just two blocks south of the site.

The plan lays the groundwork for a nature park that:

Welcomes people of all cultures, communities and abilities.

Continues to protect water quality and wildlife habitat for future generations of plants, animals and Oregonians.

Provides welcoming, safe and meaningful experiences of nature.

Celebrates the unique qualities of East Council Creek and enhances neighborhood identity.

Develops a Nature Park that Metro can care for and operate on behalf of the public for years to come.



Community engagement

In early 2017, Metro and City of Cornelius staff began working with community members, stakeholders and regional partners to create a master plan to guide public access improvements at East Council Creek. The plan was shaped by extensive public outreach, open houses, multilingual workshops, presentations, tours and surveys. These efforts specifically engaged people of color, members of the local Latine community, nearby neighbors and regional stakeholders.

The Connect with Nature initiative centered communities of color through multilingual workshops and site visits focused on planning for East Council Creek. Outcomes of Connect with Nature helped shape the master plan and are also documented in the Connect with Nature Resource Guide.

Recommendation

The master plan establishes project goals and objectives, describes site resources and conditions and summarizes the planning process. It outlines the site conservation strategy and identifies approximate access and trail locations.

Recommended improvements include a new trailhead, parking lot and entry area to welcome visitors and provide access for people of all ages and abilities. The plan identifies places for wildlife viewing, learning about nature, picnicking, walking or exploring nature. It also recommends a route for a soft surface trail along the south side of Council Creek, with bridges or boardwalks through wet areas, and clear wayfinding signs.

Implementation

Currently, funding has not been identified to implement the master plan recommendations.

Prior to implementing any recommended improvements, a long-term management strategy would need to be developed by Metro or the City. In addition, historic and cultural resource investigations should be completed in consultation with tribal governments.

Once funding has been identified, it is recommended that improvements for the west parcel be prioritized. These include formalizing a natural surface trail, installing boardwalks, wayfinding and regulatory signs, and decommissioning demand trails to reduce erosion and improve visitor experience and safety. Additional funding could support implementing recommendations for a more formalized park entry on the east parcel with parking, restrooms, security elements, and an all ages and abilities nature trail.

East Council Creek offers visitors a unique opportunity to walk along a meandering stream. The East Council Creek Nature Park Master Plan sets the stage for visitors to access water, listen to song birds, view native flowers and enjoy being outside with family and friends.

Table of contents

Executive summary

1. Introduction and plan overview	1	6. Community engagement	24
Where in the region is East Council Creek?		Outreach	
Project vision		Community ideas and feedback summary	
Plan goals and purpose			
A new way to plan - Connect with Nature			
2. Cultural context	7	7. Master plan recommendations	29
Agriculture		Overall concept plan	
Latine communities		Nature trail west of Hobbs Road	
Demographics		Entry area	
Voter investments in Dairy and McKay creeks' watersheds		Kiosks and wayfinding signs	
		Habitat protection and restoration	
		Interpretive themes	
		Art	
3. Landscape context	10	8. Implementation, operation and maintenance	35
Surrounding land use		Implementation and phasing priorities	
Wildlife		Parking lot design	
Habitat connectivity for long-term biodiversity		Permitting	
Recreation and access to nature		Right-of-way improvements	
Transportation		Anticipated construction cost	
		Historic and cultural resource protection	
		Management responsibility	
		Park regulations	
		Safety and security	
		Monitoring and maintenance	
		Adaptive management	
4. Existing conditions	14	9. Partnership opportunities	39
Geology		Partner agencies	
Topography		Tribal governments	
Soils		Indigenous communities	
Hydrology, wetlands and water quality		Community based organizations	
Vegetation		Volunteers	
Infrastructure			
Current access and use			
Zoning			
5. Site analysis	21		
Conservation targets			
Opportunities and constraints			

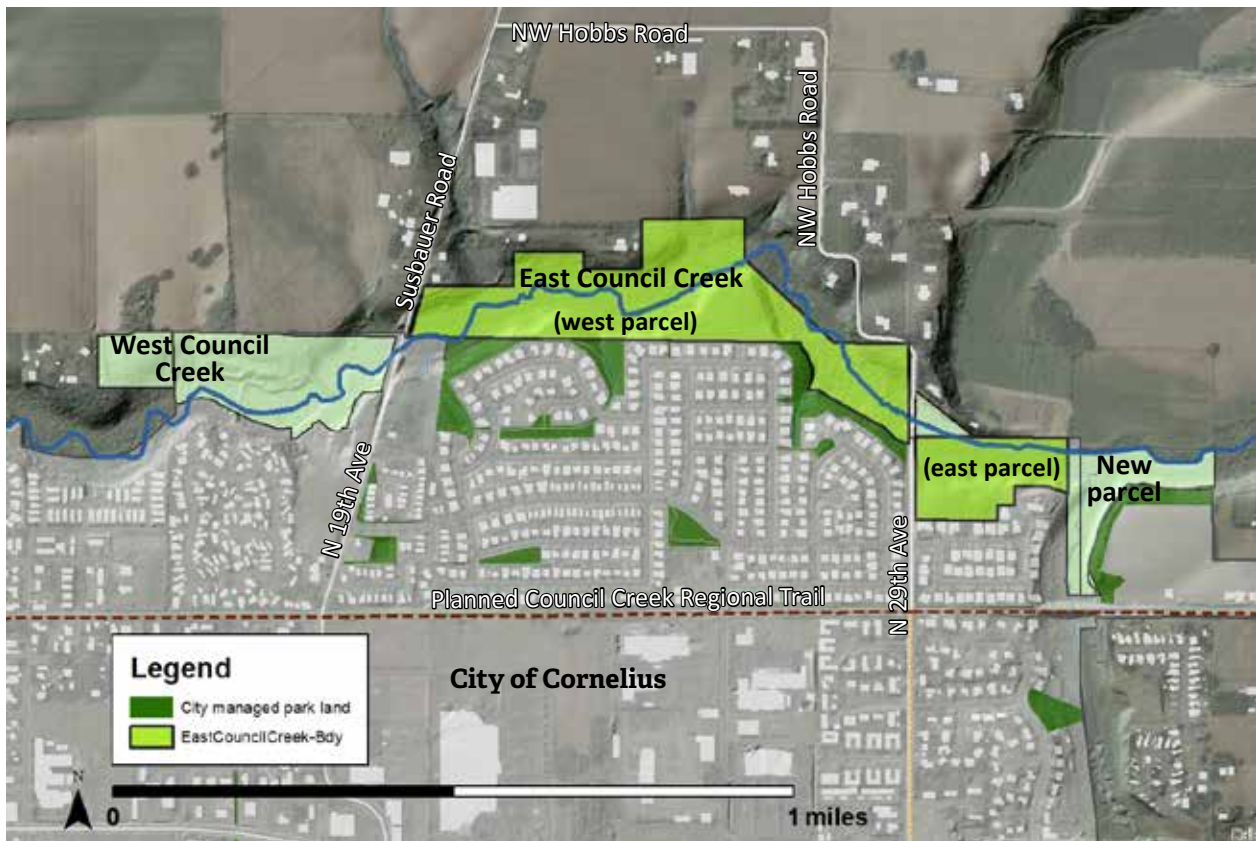
1. Introduction and plan overview

Council Creek flows from Forest Grove and nearby agricultural areas, meandering through wetland, floodplain and forest before joining Dairy Creek, which flows into the Tualatin River. The East Council Creek Natural Area protects 33 acres of wildlife habitat along the stream and adjacent to residential neighborhoods of northeast Cornelius.

Thanks to voters, Metro has been able to preserve habitat and water quality along Council Creek, and develop a plan for future public access to the site. East Council Creek Natural Area offers a unique opportunity to experience nature close to home in Cornelius.

This master plan outlines a vision and recommendations for developing public access to the site in a way that maintains water quality and wildlife habitat, and highlights experiences of the stream, wetlands, and floodplains and their connection to the Tualatin River watershed.

East Council Creek is one of two Metro natural areas along Council Creek. West Council Creek Natural Area was not included in the planning and was not considered for public access.

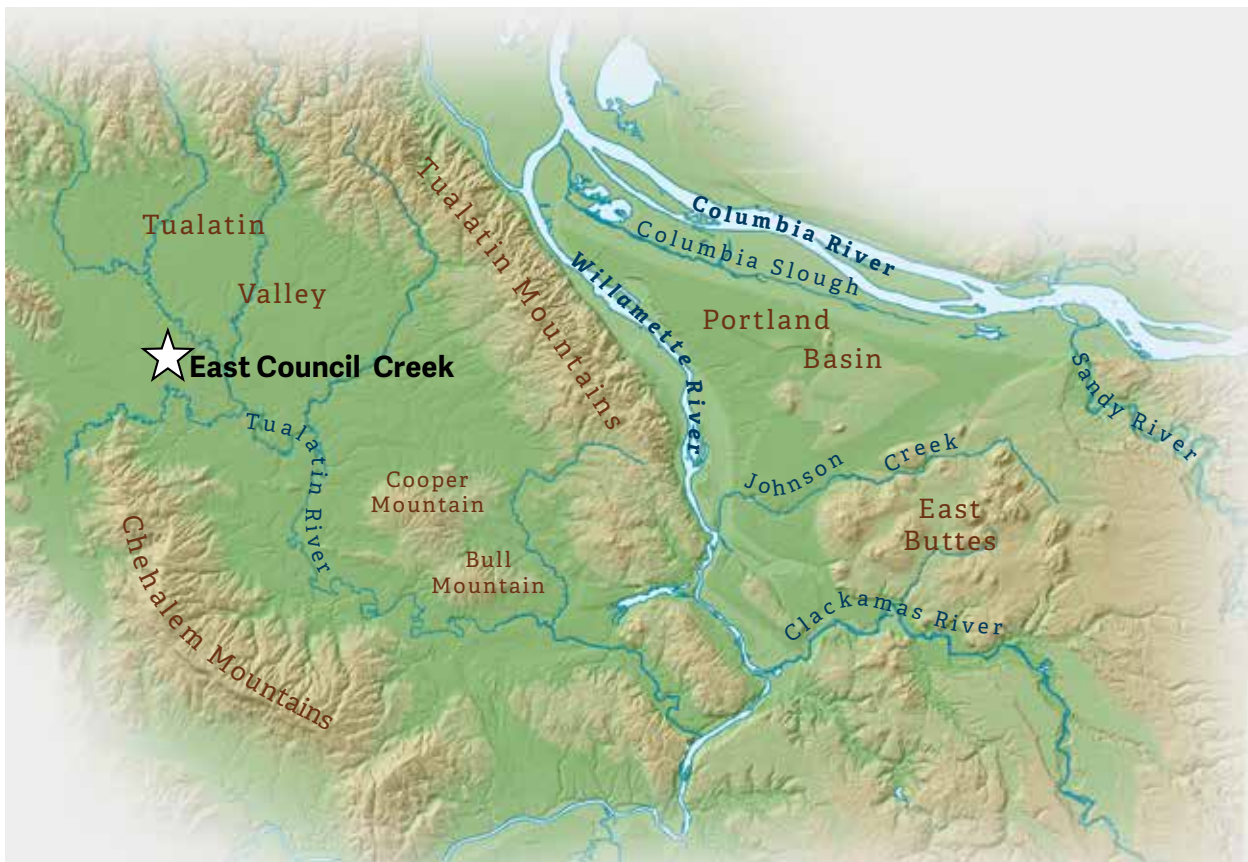


Where in the region is East Council Creek?

The metropolitan region includes two broad valleys, separated by the Tualatin Mountains - the iconic forested backdrop west of downtown Portland. West of the Tualatin Mountains, the Tualatin River and its tributaries meander through a broad valley, bounded on three sides by the foothills of the Coast Range and the Chehalem Mountains. The Tualatin Valley includes the region's western suburbs and is primarily agricultural lands outside the urban growth boundary.

Council Creek flows through the Tualatin Valley along the northern edge of the cities of Cornelius and Forest Grove. Council Creek is one of many tributaries of the Tualatin River, flowing into Dairy Creek just upstream from the Dairy and McKay confluence. In contrast to the faster-flowing, gravel substrate rivers like the Sandy or Clackamas in other parts of the region, the Tualatin and its tributaries flow slowly due to low gradient, silty soils and broad floodplains.

The streams flowing into the Tualatin River, adjacent wetlands and floodplains, and connectivity between them are critical for the long-term health and diversity of species facing habitat loss and the effects of climate change. For people living nearby, these areas can also offer places of respite, to relax, walk, view wildlife and be in nature with family and friends.



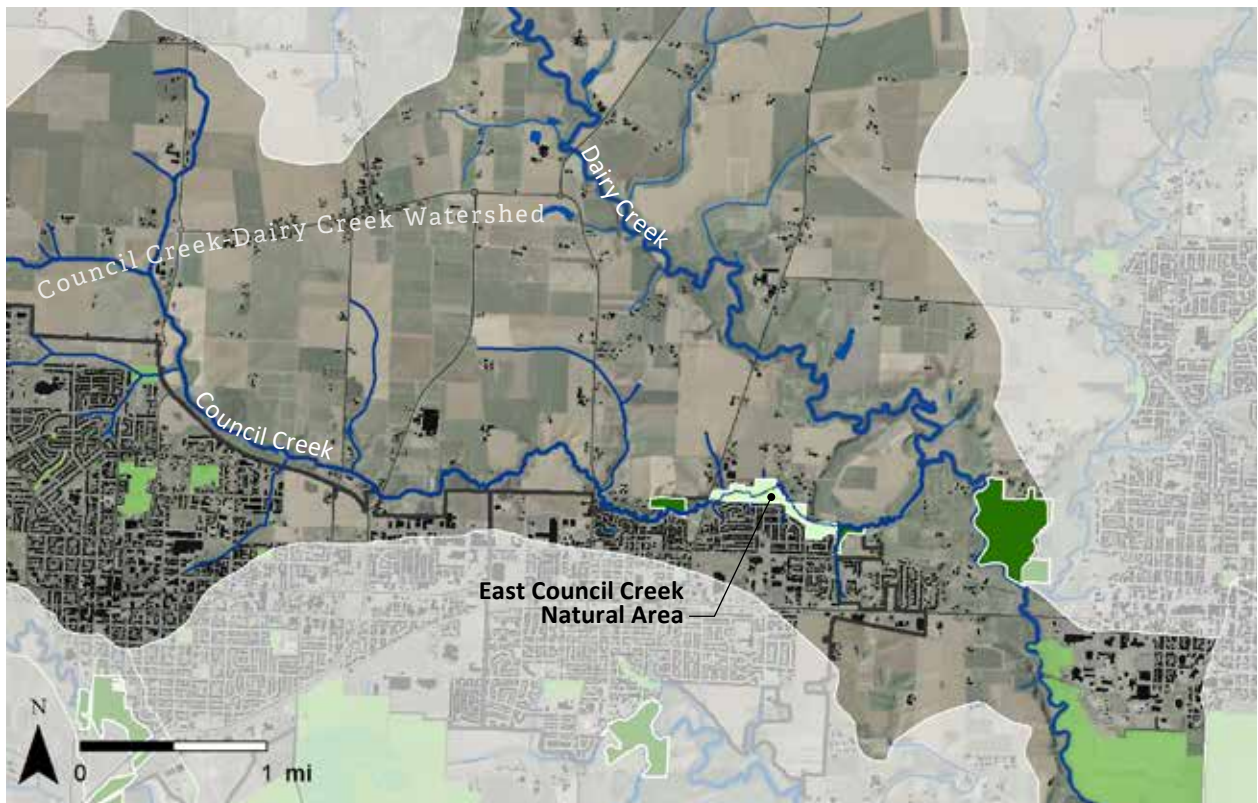
East Council Creek Natural Area landscape

A visitor to East Council Creek might see Canada geese and red-tailed hawks soaring overhead, or Anna's hummingbirds sipping nectar from native red flowering currants. Near the stream, western redcedar trees tower over large leaves of skunk cabbage growing in the floodplain.

Visitors can see firsthand the dynamic seasonal changes in water levels — inundated low-lying areas and wetlands after heavy rains, and a narrower slow-flowing stream during the dry season.

The natural area has two upland areas recently planted with native trees and shrubs. They have a distinctly different character from low-lying areas along the creek. While the trees in these areas are still young, they have the potential to evoke oak savanna and prairie habitats that were once common in the Tualatin Valley.

The natural area and stream support wildlife that contribute to the experiences of people visiting the site. From beavers chewing on alder trees and building dams in the stream, nesting waterfowl to red-legged frogs and willow fly-catchers, protecting habitat connectivity along Council Creek must continue to be a priority in order for these species and experiences to persist long-term at the site.



Project vision

The master plan was developed in collaboration with the community and the City of Cornelius to guide the access improvements in the natural area. The plan envisions a nature park that:

- Welcomes people from all cultures, communities and abilities and complements the character of the neighborhood;
- Continues to protect water quality and wildlife habitat and provides safe, meaningful experiences of nature and fosters connection with the landscape;
- Celebrates the unique qualities of East Council Creek; and
- Plans for a nature park Metro can take care of and sustainably operate on behalf of the public for years to come.

Plan goals and purpose

Why a master plan is needed

Planning for public access to the site will help proactively protect water quality and wildlife habitat. The natural area is surrounded by residential neighborhoods, and there are existing pressures on the landscape to accommodate visitors.

Developing a formal trail and a clearly defined route and access points will reduce impacts on Council Creek and adjacent habitat areas by reducing trampling of plants, erosion and other negative effects of social trails and off-trail use. A planned trail route will improve trail experience and direct public use in a way that highlights the property's unique qualities and provides visitors with safe and welcoming access to view wildlife and native flora.



What is included?

The map below shows the master plan area. Also shown below are West Council Creek Natural Area and a recently acquired parcel to the east, which are not included in the planning area. The East Council Creek master planning area includes two parcels, one to the east and one to the west of Northwest Hobbs Road. This master plan refers to these as the “east parcel” and “west parcel.”

The master plan includes recommendations for a new trailhead, parking lot and entry area to welcome visitors and provide access for people of all ages and abilities. The plan identifies places for wildlife viewing, learning about nature, picnicking, walking or exploring nature. It also recommends a route for a soft surface trail along the south side of Council Creek, with bridges or boardwalks through wet areas, and clear wayfinding signs.



A new way to plan - Connect with Nature

This master plan was developed in collaboration with the Connect with Nature project, a partnership between Metro and a coalition of community organizations, intended to help Metro and its partners learn how to more effectively plan and design parks and natural areas so they better serve the needs of communities of color and welcome all people.

Community outreach efforts intentionally sought out engagement from communities of color who are often not at the table during park planning, who may feel unwelcome or think that their ideas and input won't be valued, and supported them in leading nature park planning conversations. The initiative sought to identify and remove barriers that can exclude people from being able to participate in civic dialogue. This master plan reflects the diversity of ideas we heard through this initiative. Lessons learned are being implemented throughout work in Metro's Parks and Nature department, and have been included in the Parks and Nature Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.



2. Cultural context

The greater Portland area is built upon the ancestral homelands, villages and traditional use areas of multiple Indigenous Tribes and bands who are the original caretakers and inhabitants of these lands.

There are many culturally significant sites in the upper Tualatin Valley landscapes surrounding East Council Creek, which is within the homelands of the Tualatin bands of the Kalapuya people. Wapato Lake near Gaston and the Chehalem Mountains are known sites of Tualatin winter villages, and are significant gathering places for Indigenous communities. The entire landscape of the Tualatin Valley is woven into Indigenous peoples' life and culture. Water flowing in Council Creek, and plants and animals living along these stream banks are part of Indigenous peoples' lives and cultures.

Europeans benefited from the traditional landscape management practices of the Indigenous people. Oak savanna and prairie landscapes in the Tualatin Valley were converted to pastures and farmland. Colonization changed the ways in which land is stewarded - bringing private land ownership and artificial boundaries, drained wetlands, plowed prairies, and channelized streams for planting crops and grazing livestock.



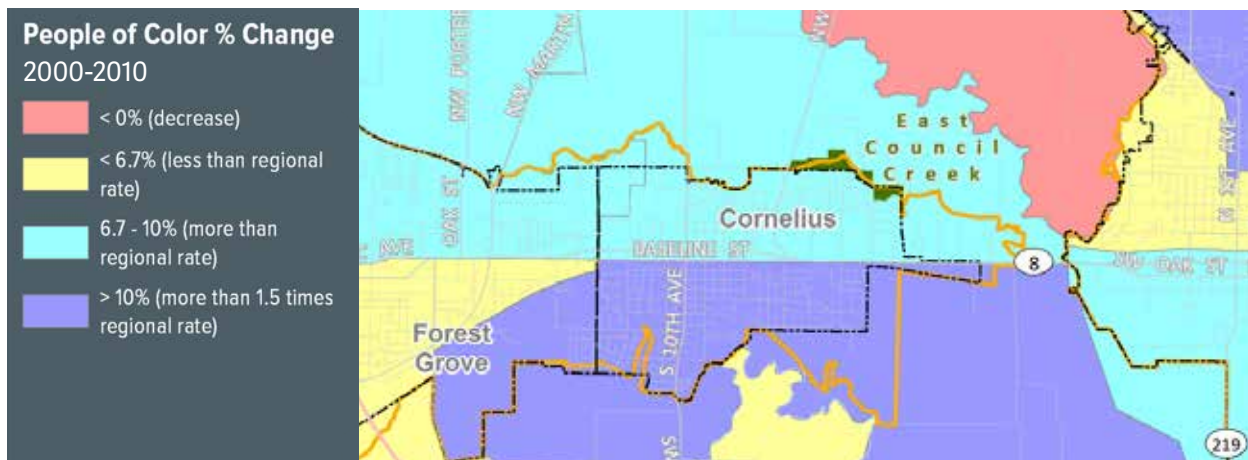
Agriculture

Agriculture continues to be an economic and community driver in the rural areas outside Cornelius and Forest Grove. With the arrival of Europeans in the early and mid-1800's, the land became privately owned by families credited for today's farming economy and community. While these family names are seen all over the landscape today, on street and place names, business signs, and more, it is important to remember that the success of this agricultural economy and communities relied on labor from Indigenous people forced to live in nearby reservations, and later from immigrant labor.

Shifting labor laws and conditions brought the first waves of migrant Latine farm laborers to the area in the 1960s. Prior to that era, area youth were employed in the harvest of seasonal crops, but newly implemented federal labor laws restricted working hours for youth and prompted area growers to recruit from new labor pools. When area nurseries also struggled to find labor, they tapped into this pool of seasonal workers and provided year-round work for farm workers, whose communities have grown roots as a thriving Latine community in Washington County.

Demographics

In 2018 (the time that outreach for this project was conducted), the population of Cornelius was about 12,200 residents, in 3,330 households. Fifty two percent of the population identified as Latine. In 2021, the population had grown to 12,900 residents in 4,160 households. As part of the Connect with Nature work, Metro completed a demographic analysis of areas within a three-mile radius of Cornelius, which included identifying long-term population trends showing increases in people of color, people living below the poverty line and people reporting limited English proficiency.



Voter investments in Dairy and McKay creek watersheds

Regional conservation

As the region has grown, residents have recognized a need to protect habitat connectivity as well as the region's most unique and vulnerable ecosystems, plants and animals.

Three natural area bonds

Thanks to regional voters, Metro has been able to make a significant contribution to this effort. In 1995, 2006 and 2019, voters in the tri-county region approved bond measures to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and opportunities to connect with nature across the region. As a result of this investment, Metro takes care of over 18,000 acres of parks and natural areas on behalf of the public.

Metro's conservation efforts within the watersheds of Dairy and McKay creeks focus on these two significant tributaries to the Tualatin River and include the natural areas along Council Creek.

Early land protection focused on large wetland areas and later on protecting stream corridors. Natural areas bond funding expanded public land around Jackson Bottom, focused on greenway corridors along Dairy, McKay and Council creeks, and the wetland-floodplain complex at the confluence of Dairy and McKay creeks.

Protecting additional land along Council Creek must continue to be a priority in order to maintain connectivity between these larger wetlands, stream corridors and existing public lands along Council Creek. Voter investments increase opportunities for additional protection of these areas.

Natural areas levy

The region's voters passed an operating levy in 2013 (renewed in 2016), which enables continued investments in taking care of and inviting the public to enjoy Metro-managed parks and natural areas throughout the region. The operating levy also supports local communities through partnerships and grants.



3. Landscape context

Surrounding land uses

East Council Creek sits on the northern edge of the City of Cornelius, a city of about 13,000 residents. To the south of the site are residential neighborhoods built within the last 20-30 years. The residential areas include three homeowners' associations, Nature's Ridge east of Northwest Hobbs Road, Hobbs Farm Estates immediately west of Hobbs Road, and Council Creek Estates further to the west. New homes continue to be built nearby.

The land to the north of East Council Creek is outside of the urban growth boundary and is currently designated as rural reserve, with lands immediately to the north zoned for agriculture and forestry with minimum 5-acre lots. Some areas to the north have new residences at a density of 1- to 2-acre lots.



Wildlife

Few formal wildlife surveys have been conducted, however Council Creek provides an important source of water and habitat connectivity for wildlife. A beaver dam has been observed on the site. Waterfowl and deer are common, and raptors are often seen flying overhead. A fledgling turkey vulture was observed during a site visit in summer of 2018.



The site provides suitable, albeit limited, habitat for state-sensitive Northern red-legged frogs, willow flycatchers and other rare or uncommon species. Spring surveys conducted in 2019 detected egg masses from red-legged frogs in wetlands in the natural area.

The Site Conservation Plan indicates that native turtles have been observed at East and/or West Council Creek for many years and most recently in 2013. Although formal surveys have not been completed, at least some of these turtles are believed to be western pond turtles – one of the ten most at-risk amphibians and reptiles in the United States (Center for Biological Diversity, September 2013).



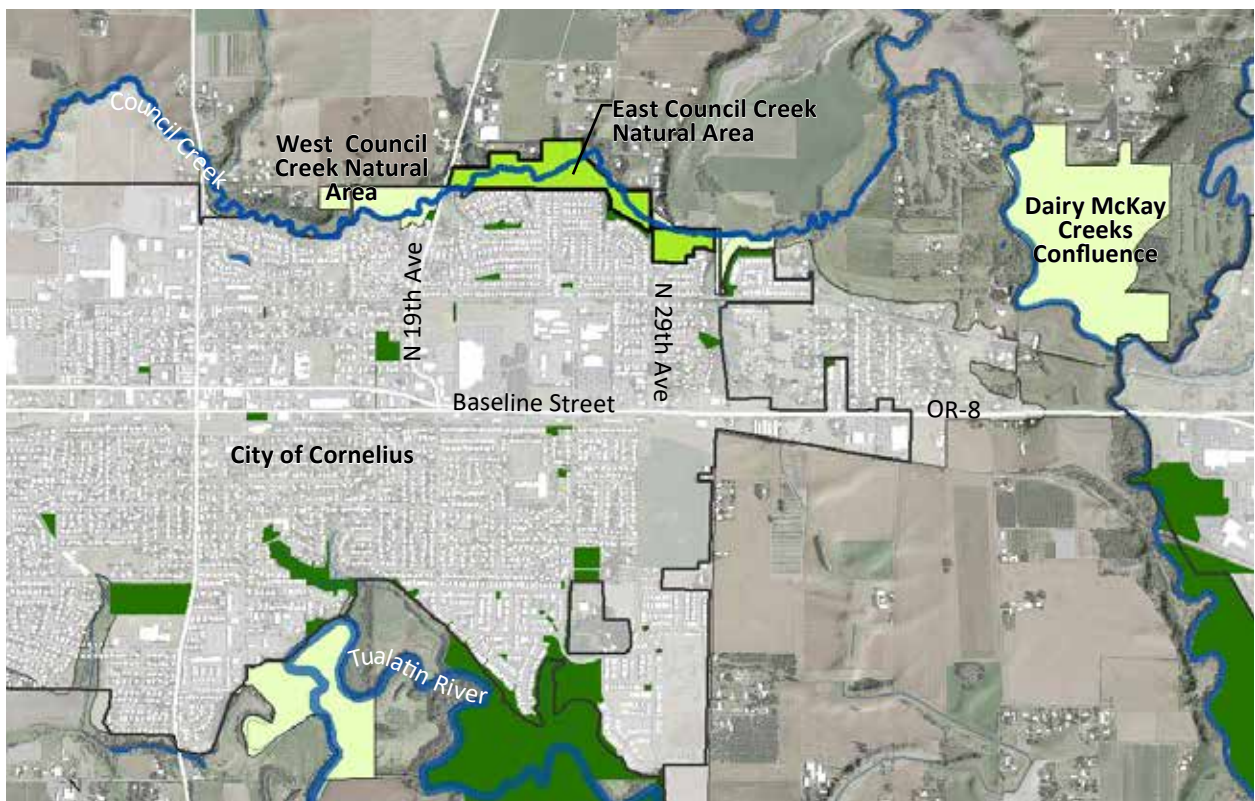
According to the 2009 Conservation Assessment of the Western Pond Turtle in Oregon led by Oregon State University, habitat loss is the primary cause of Western pond turtle decline across Washington, Oregon and California. Council Creek is one of a limited number of Metro sites where pond turtles are known to occur. In addition to habitat connectivity, the north side of the creek has been identified as most important for turtles because they need sunny places for basking. To protect this habitat, access should not be included on the north side of the creek, and care should be taken when planting vegetation north of the creek to maintain sunny areas.

Habitat connectivity for long-term biodiversity

An important element of public access includes opportunities to see wildlife. Maintaining landscape and habitat connectivity is important to preserve species that currently exist on site. Loss of connectivity is a threat to wildlife throughout the region, and especially at East Council Creek, which is becoming increasingly isolated and is too small to support many native species on its own.

It is important to preserve an ecological corridor to the Tualatin River to ensure native wildlife continue to use the site in the future. Long-term persistence of these and other native biota seems uncertain unless the site is reconnected to other habitat patches via one or more wildlife corridors.

This plan recommends protecting land to functionally connect the site to the nearby Dairy McKay Confluence Natural Area. Preserving a functional habitat connection between East Council Creek and the Dairy McKay Confluence Natural Area would go a long way toward preserving native biota and long-term opportunities for people to see a diversity of wildlife at East Council Creek.



Recreation and access to nature

Residents of Cornelius benefit from a variety of public parks and natural areas along with proximity to Council Creek and the Tualatin River. City parks provide more than 25 acres of public parkland and natural area sites. Additionally, a number of public and private open spaces, including East Council Creek, exist throughout Cornelius and add to the city's recreation opportunities. Neighborhood parks nearest East Council Creek and a natural area on the Tualatin River are described below.

- 12 **Natures Ridge Natural Area (0.9 acres)** is the nearest open space to East Council Creek. It is a vegetated ravine along the eastern edge of Holladay Drive. There is no access or recreation provided.
- 4 **Ryland Neighborhood Park (0.25 acres)** is the closest City-managed neighborhood park, north of Baseline Street and east of North 29th Avenue. This park is located on a steep slope adjacent to a natural area/wetland that provides habitat for wildlife. Park visitors report seeing small animals and various species of birds in the wetland and occasionally in the park. This park includes a playground, picnic tables and benches.

In addition, there are several homeowners association parcels in the neighborhoods directly to the south of East Council Creek, some with modest play structures.

- 9 **Steamboat Park Special Facility (0.75 acres)** is located next to the cul-de-sac at the end of South 15th Avenue at the south edge of the city next to the Tualatin River. This historic park got its name because of its location near the last stretch of navigable river on the Tualatin. The river is no longer accessible to steamboats but is used as a recreational amenity for Cornelius residents. This site is across the Tualatin River from Metro's King's Bend Natural Area.

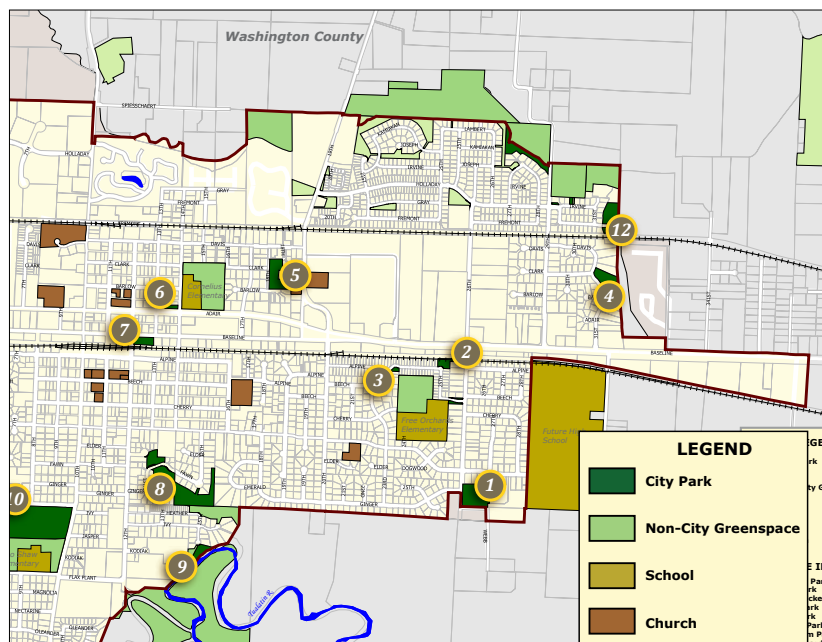


Image credit: City of Cornelius

Transportation

Streets

Northwest Hobbs Road is approximately 34 feet wide at the existing driveway curb cut where it enters the site, with one travel lane in each direction and standard bike lanes that extend south to North Davis Dr. It includes a sidewalk and landscape strip on the west side from Holladay Drive to the Council Creek roadway crossing. A curb tight sidewalk on the east side of Northwest Hobbs Road connects to the south lot line of the site. Northwest Hobbs Road is classified as a collector with a posted speed of 25 miles per hour at the driveway location.



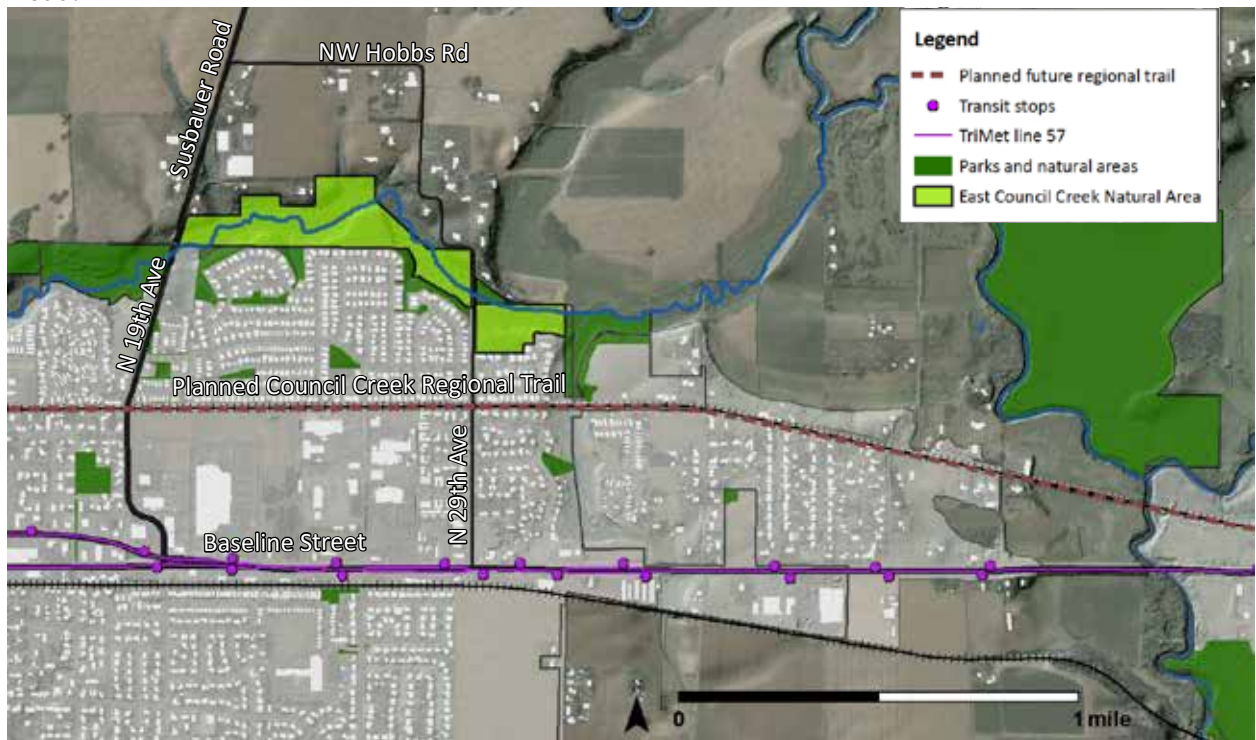
Active transportation and transit

The nearest public transportation is ½-mile south of East Council Creek on Baseline Street. TriMet bus Line 57, which runs east west from Forest Grove to Beaverton Transit Center, serves a bus stop at Baseline Street and North 29th Ave. Line 57 runs every 15 minutes or better most of the day, every day of the week. There is also a long-term vision to extend the MAX Blue Line along the railroad right-of-way to the south of the site.



In addition, the Council Creek Regional Trail is planned along the railroad right-of-way, and would provide regional trail access to within a few blocks of the site. This nature park could provide a pleasant stopover for long distance riders. The Council Creek Regional Trail Master Plan was completed in 2015. Washington County and partner agencies have secured funding for design and construction of the entire six-mile trail. Construction is expected to begin in 2026.

Sidewalks exist in the neighborhoods south of the site and along the west side of Northwest Hobbs Road.



4. Existing conditions

Geology

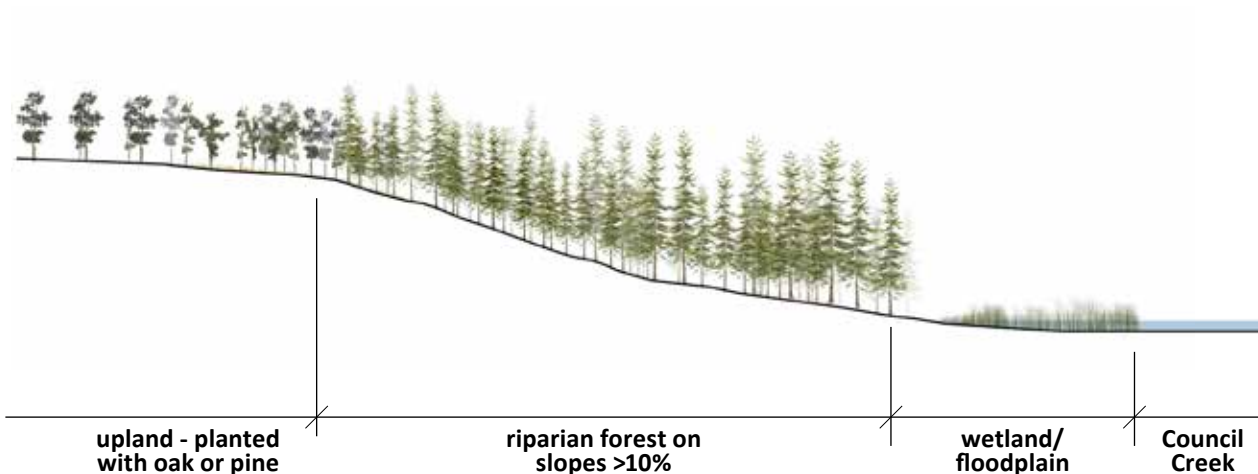
The Tualatin Valley is a western extension of the Willamette Valley and is enclosed by the Tualatin Mountains to the north and east, the Coast Range to the west and Chehalem Ridge to the southwest. Cooper Mountain and Bull Mountain lie within the southeastern part of the valley. Primary geologic layers forming the valley include deep sedimentary marine deposits, Columbia River Basalt Flows, the Hillsboro formation and Willamette Silt deposited by the Bretz Floods (aka Missoula Floods).

The Bretz floods had a significant influence on the character of the valley, and evidence of the Bretz Floods, which occurred 13,000-15,000 years ago, can be seen in features of the landscape. The sediments from these floods were left behind as the floodwaters slowed and spread into the valley and contribute to the rich soil in the valley.

Indigenous peoples' stories of the floods and their influence on the landscape date back long before western science. Recently, LiDAR data has allowed us to see patterns left by water moving through the landscape.

Topography

East Council Creek's topography parallels the stream. The lowest areas are near the creek, with varying widths of floodplain and wetland to either side of the creek and steep slopes that connect with upland areas.



Soils

Four soil types are found at East Council Creek. Information below is from the US Geological Survey Soil Survey.

Cove silty clay

The Cove soil series are very deep, poorly and very poorly-drained soils that formed in mixed alluvium from sedimentary and basic igneous rocks. Cove soils are found on floodplains and have slopes of 0 to 3 percent, and are a hydric soil indicative of wetlands.

Quatama series

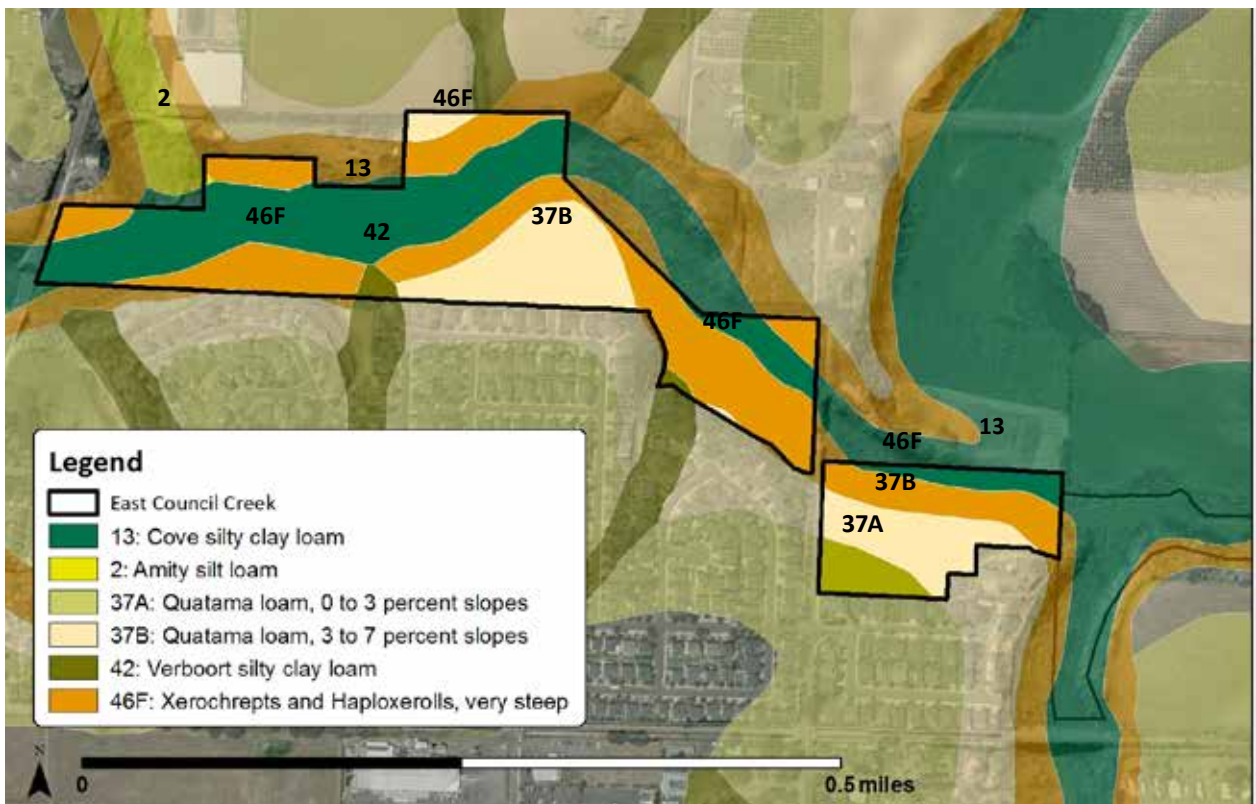
The Quatama series is a moderately well-drained soil that formed in mixed, loamy alluvium on old terraces. These soils developed on deposits from Bretz floods. At East Council Creek, they are found on the upland terraces. Typical vegetation is Douglas-fir, western redcedar, Oregon white oak, Oregon ash, Oregon grape, grasses and forbs.

Xerochrepts and Haploxerolls

These soils occur as steep to very steep escarpments along the small streams that have cut deeply into the valley terraces and where the terraces meet the bottomlands and floodplains along streams and rivers. These are well-drained soils on rocky escarpments. They formed in a mixture of silt and sand.

Verboort silty clay loam

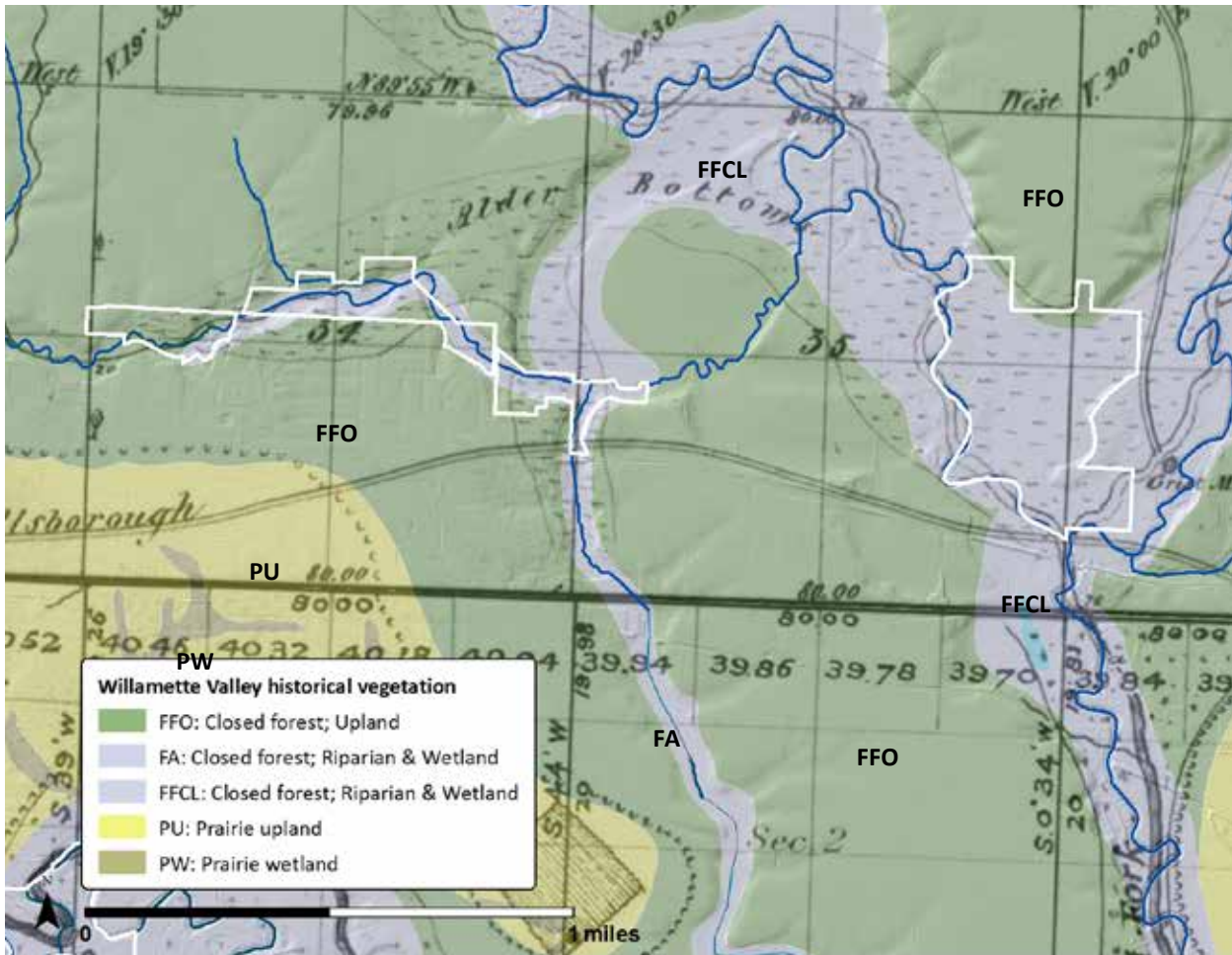
This nearly level soil is in narrow, irregularly shaped, concave areas along streams. At East Council Creek, these soils occur along the side channel drainages that flow intermittently into Council Creek.



Hydrology, wetlands and water quality

Like wetlands and streams throughout the Tualatin Valley, Council Creek's hydrology has been modified to accommodate agriculture and development patterns.

The Council Creek drainage once meandered through wetlands with defined stream channels only forming in some places. The water likely seeped through wetlands at the confluence with Dairy Creek.



Vegetation

East Council Creek is dominated by emergent wetlands and a mosaic of shrub wetland and riparian forest. The wetlands through which the creek flows are degraded and dominated by reed canarygrass. The riparian forest is generally in good condition and includes mature western redcedar and Douglas-fir. As part of the stabilization efforts, Metro has worked to control invasive plants on the site, installed native plants in selected areas, and performed periodic maintenance.

Upland vegetation on the edge of Council Creek Estates includes a mix of planted Oregon white oak and ponderosa pine trees. Metro planted a vegetated buffer along the south and west boundaries of the east parcel that consists of ponderosa pine, red-flowering currant, Pacific ninebark and Douglas spirea. A Boy Scout troop planted Oregon white oak and Douglas-fir trees on the east parcel. Trees and shrubs were planted about twenty years ago.



Infrastructure

Sanitary sewer

A 42-inch Clean Water Services sanitary sewer runs along Council Creek for the length of the site. There are 11 manholes which are monitored and maintained regularly by the Clean Water Services conveyance team. City sanitary sewer lines connect to the Clean Water Services collector from the Council Creek Estates and Hobbs Farm Estates neighborhoods.

On the east parcel where parking and restroom development is proposed, the closest city sewer connection is along the south property line, where the City parcel abuts the site.

Stormwater

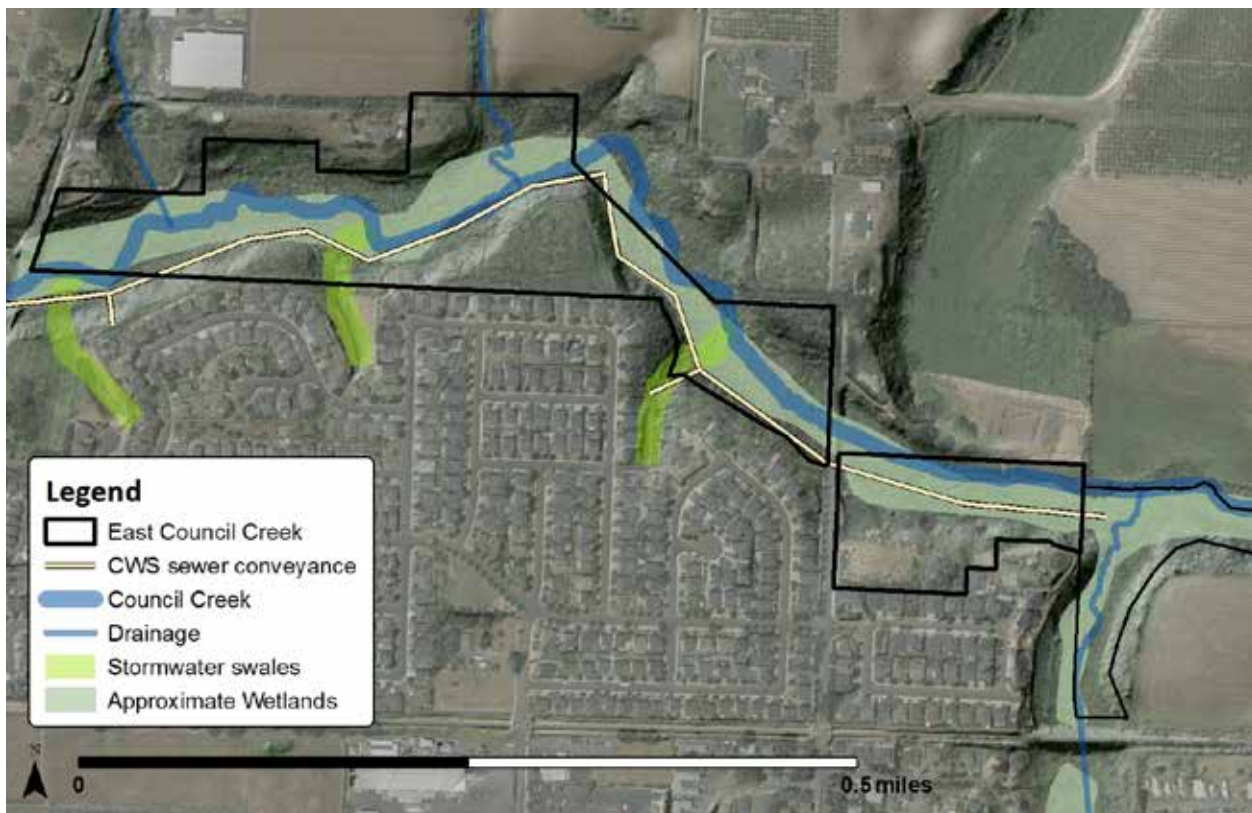
Stormwater from the neighborhoods to the south is collected in pipes through City stormwater infrastructure and conveyed through surface drainages into Council Creek. In some locations, the swales appear to have been reinforced with geotextile fabric, and vegetation growing on them is sparse.

City water

A City water line runs along North 29th Avenue and supplies existing hydrants. There is a hydrant on the east parcel.

Electrical service

Electrical service runs along North 29th Avenue (Northwest Hobbs Road). There are streetlights on both sides of Northwest Hobbs Road. One streetlight exists in the right-of-way of the eastern parcel near the driveway.



Current access and use

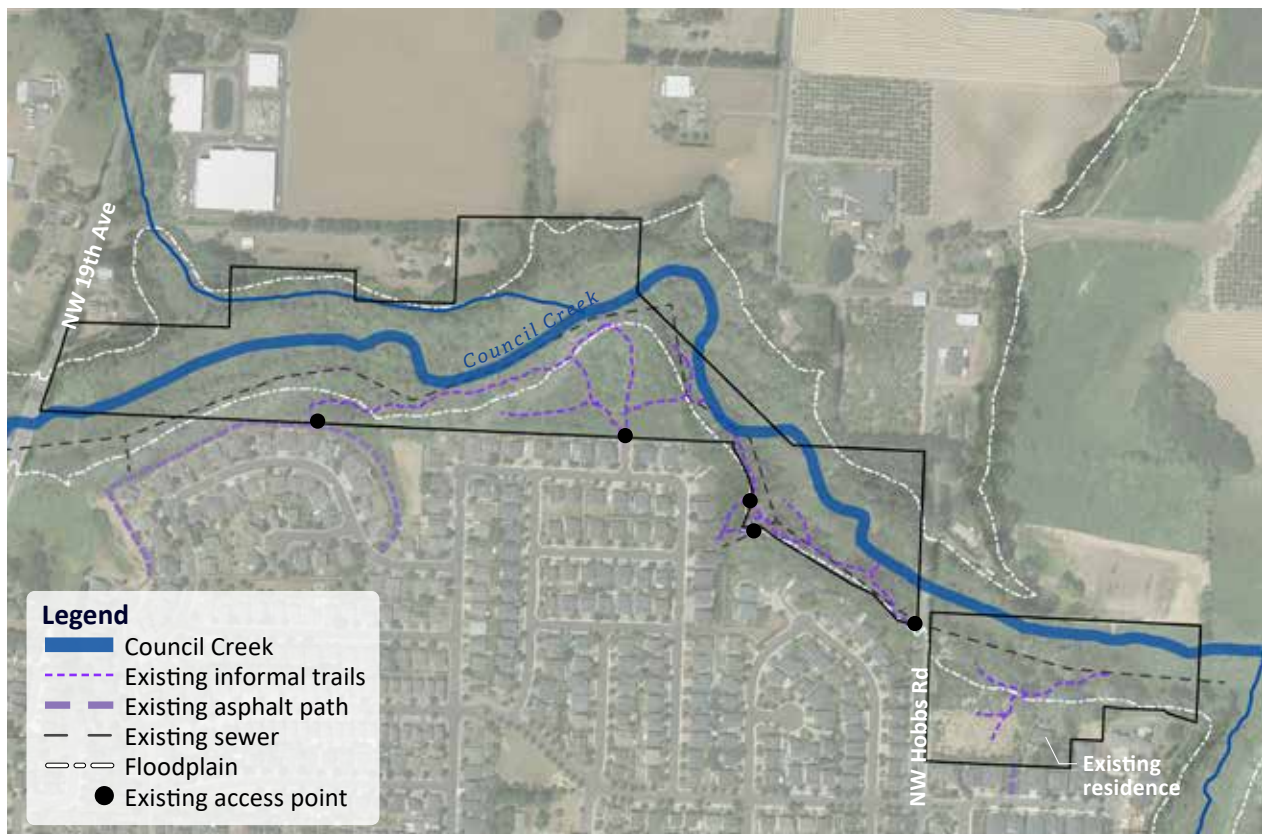
On the south side of the creek, where neighborhoods are adjacent, incidental use of the area has developed over time. Social trails extend from the edge of the neighborhood down the slope to the creek. A trail along the creek appears to be used infrequently and has gaps and fallen trees that result in development of braided social trail and trampling of plants as people try to find their way around obstacles. Remnants of play have been found including natural material shelters and bike jumps.



Trails on the west parcel look inviting from Northwest Hobbs Road, but they quickly become braided and difficult to follow. Where the trails traverse wet areas, or where dense vegetation has blocked the way, several routes have developed over time, causing natural resource degradation and erosion.

Currently, access to the east parcel is limited. There is evidence that the west parcel is used more heavily to access the creek. Metro has not found evidence of the site being used for frequent illegal camping.

There is some encroachment into the natural area from neighboring properties using the site for storage, stacking firewood or dumping yard debris and holiday trees. In most cases the encroachment is onto adjacent City land rather than Metro managed land.



Rental house

On the east parcel, there is an existing residence which Metro plans to continue to maintain as a rental for the foreseeable future. A vegetated buffer surrounding the residence delineates the private area for renters from the publicly accessible portion of the site.

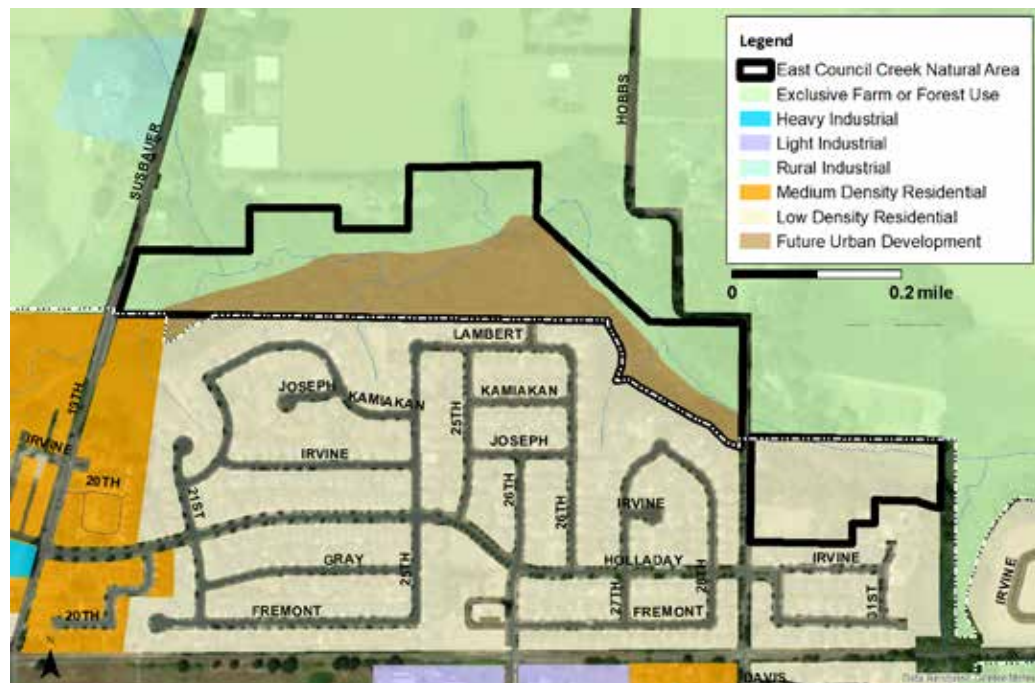
Zoning

Washington County

Areas of East Council Creek in Washington County jurisdiction are zoned FD-10 or FD-20(Future Development with minimum of 10- or 20-acre lots), and AF-5 (Agriculture and Forestry with minimum 5-acre lots).

Cornelius

The portion of the site within the City of Cornelius is zoned R-7 (Low Density Residential) with 7,000 square foot minimum lot sizes). Maximum density of dwelling units is 5 per acre for detached single-unit dwellings, and 20 units per acre for middle housing.







5. Site analysis

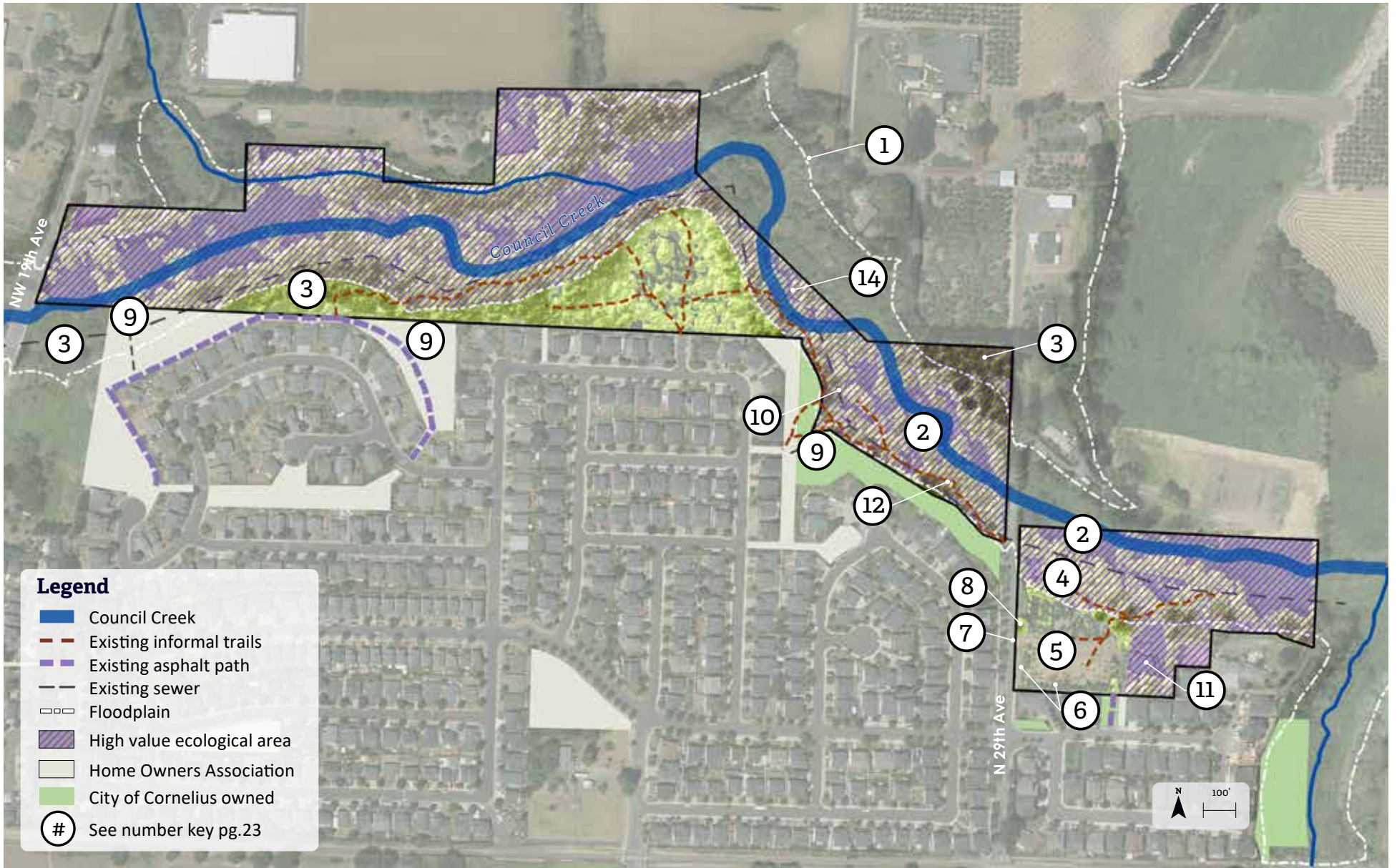
Large Douglas-fir and western redcedar trees create a sense of wildness right in Cornelius. Wetlands and floodplains provide an opportunity for respite, wildlife viewing and for telling the story of the wider Tualatin Valley beyond. Formalizing a soft surface hiking trail along the south side of the creek creates a way to access this pocket of nature in the community.

Conservation targets

The Site Conservation Plan identifies five conservation targets for Council Creek: emergent wetland, shrub wetland, riparian forest, upland closed forest and native turtles.

Conservation Target	Current and desired future condition	Desired future condition
Emergent wetland 	In poor condition due to dominance by reed canarygrass.	Will remain poor unless hydrology can be controlled to allow treatment and plantings.
Shrub wetland 	Mixed condition but some rehabilitation is under way.	Could be in good condition with plant installation and maintenance.
Riparian forest 	Mixed condition, generally good but damage from vandalism in some areas.	Good condition with healthy mix of species and sizes of trees and shrubs.
Upland forest 	Developing in two areas where plantings were done several years ago.	These areas should fill in nicely and provide connectivity and increased patch size for riparian forest.
Native turtles	At risk of extirpation. They continue to be seen every few years but have lost many essential habitat components.	Council Creek can provide all elements needed by turtles, but not without additional holdings. This can be an important link for recovery on a regional scale by providing a stepping stone to other groups and habitats.

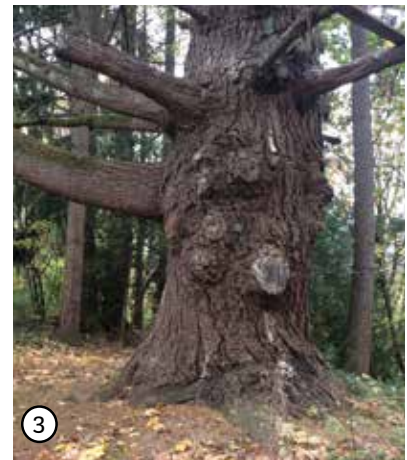




Opportunities and constraints

This map shows opportunities and constraints of developing public access on the site.

- ① **Floodplain** – Much of the site is in the floodplain where soils are wet and wetlands are more likely.
- ② **Possible wetlands** – Trails should avoid wetlands, except to provide access to view them. Where wetlands are unavoidable, trails should use boardwalks or bridges.
- ③ **Large conifer trees** – The oldest conifer trees on site are estimated to be 75 years old. Trails should be designed and constructed to avoid impacting roots of these old trees, while providing opportunities for people to view them.
- ④ **Douglas-fir trees** – Planted on the slope about 20 years ago, some trees may be removed to accommodate an all-abilities trail.
- ⑤ **Oregon oak trees** – These slow growing native oaks are about 20 years old. This upland area is an opportunity to showcase shrubs and flowers that grow with oaks and highlight Oregon oak habitat. Several oaks will need to be removed to accommodate a potential parking lot.
- ⑥ Existing ponderosa pine trees and shrubs **buffer** the perimeter of the site. Some will need to be removed depending on the final parking lot configuration.
- ⑦ **Existing driveway entrance** could be used for parking lot access.
- ⑧ Existing Douglas-fir tree **blocks visibility** for cars pulling into and out of a potential parking lot — may need to be removed.
- ⑨ **Drainages** from neighborhood water quality facilities flow into Council Creek.
- ⑩ **Existing sewer line** - trails will accommodate maintenance access to the existing sewer line.
- ⑪ **Existing residence.**
- ⑫ **Existing informal trails** - Some portions are confusing and difficult to follow, and can be muddy and slippery.
- ⑬ Existing **neighborhood access** points.
- ⑭ **High value ecological area** - the site's high value ecological areas include floodplains and wetlands on both sides of the stream, and areas that support beaver, willow fly catchers, northern red-legged frog and Western pond turtles; as well as forest features like legacy trees and snags.



6. Community engagement

Outreach

Connect with Nature

Connect with Nature brings a new model of planning and community engagement. This model aims to involve people of color from the earliest stages of planning. Through a series of community workshops, Connect with Nature focused East Council Creek planning and design on communities of color first, creating space for people of color to lead the conversation.

Workshop participants shared stories about their values and experiences with nature, parks, and the outdoors, and developed ideas for how East Council Creek Nature Park could serve the needs of their families and communities. In addition to focusing on planning for East Council Creek, Connect with Nature also broadly explored how to make parks and natural areas more welcoming and relevant for participants' communities throughout the region.

Local community leaders received stipends to learn about planning parks, recruit members of their communities for workshops, and help facilitate discussions. Design workshops captured input and solutions to include in the plan. The work of Connect with Nature is demonstrated in this master plan as well as in the Connect with Nature Resource Guide.

Open houses

Metro staff applied traditional methods of connecting with the broad community, including three open houses, social media outreach, mailings and email for individuals who signed up to receive updates on the East Council Creek Master plan project.



Site tours

Metro partnered with Centro Cultural de Washington County to lead site tours for members of the Latine community as well as the general public. Centro staff participated in and led tours of the site.

Stakeholder meetings and public presentations

Staff met one on one and provided site tours for a variety of stakeholders including neighbors, Clean Water Services staff, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Tualatin Watershed Council and others. Staff also provided public presentations at community participation organization meetings and for the City of Cornelius Parks Advisory Board.

Community ideas and feedback summary

The summary below includes community feedback heard at four Connect with Nature workshops, three public open houses, two site tours, four online surveys and numerous conversations with stakeholders and neighbors. All events and information provided for the project were bilingual. Key themes are highlighted below.

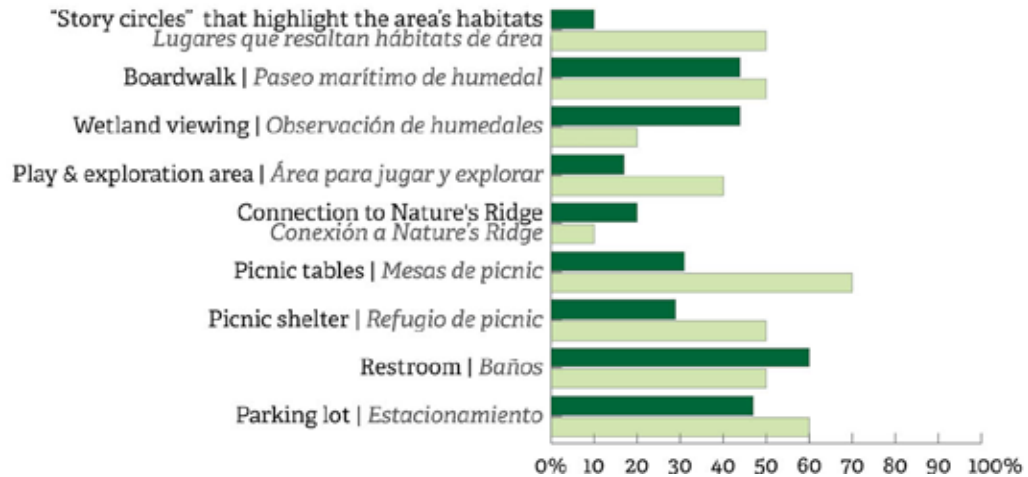
General feedback

There is a mix of excitement about new opportunities to access East Council Creek as well as some concern about increased traffic and parking in the neighborhood. There is a call for more areas for kids to safely play, highlighting that there are lots of kids in the community that need safe, healthy and fun outdoor spaces. A few people don't want any development. People expressed concerns about safety and maintenance. Making sure the rules are clear is important. People shared their excitement for a new park to enjoy and being able to participate in the process.



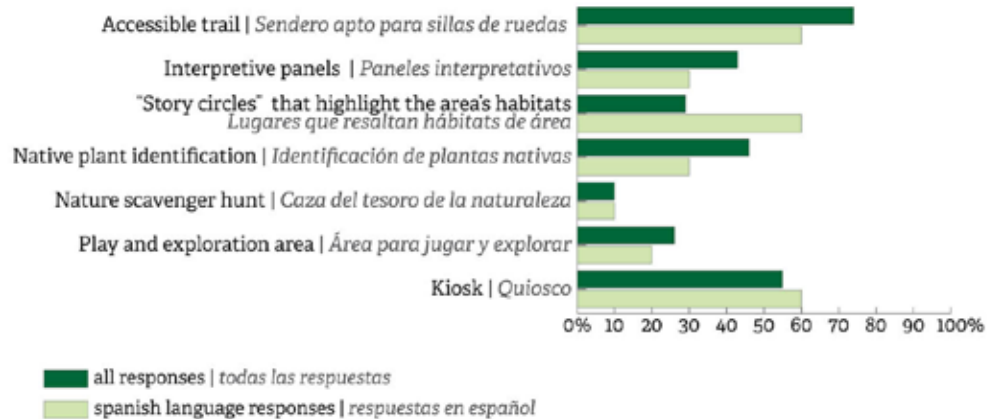
Feeling welcome in parks and natural areas

People shared that generally places that are clean, well maintained, and cared for make them feel safer when visiting parks and natural areas. In addition clear, multi-lingual information about the site, and wayfinding and safety information at each park entrance help people feel comfortable and know what to expect when visiting. Resting places, places for kids to play, and comfortable, beautiful and graffiti-free places to be with family were also mentioned as providing for a positive experience. Welcome signs in many languages also contribute to a sense of welcome and belonging.



Nature experiences

People talked about hiking, walking, learning about nature and taking guided tours of the site. Being able to spend time outside with family to celebrate and teach children about nature was important to participants. One respondent said "[I like to] play with my kids [outside], teach them about nature, go on nature walks, collect things we find, and have picnics."



What people told us about East Council Creek

People expressed their appreciation for the dynamic hydrology of the site and asked that it be highlighted through the design. Some people want there to be no parking or limited parking, while others stressed the need for a large enough parking lot, so that existing parking challenges in the neighborhood are not exacerbated. People highlighted the importance of accommodating people with limited mobility, elders and kids. People shared that new trails would be a benefit to the neighborhood and provide great places to walk. Some neighbors asked that we consider allowing dogs in the nature park because many neighbors need places to walk their dogs.

Feedback about designs

Three alternatives were created to generate options to review and respond to. The overall design of alternative 3 was preferred. When asked what experiences helped people feel connected with nature, a boardwalk near the wetland, native plant identification, stories about the local landscape and habitat, and off-trail play and exploration areas ranked highly.

Providing a large enough parking lot was very important to most respondents. The one-way circulation parking lot shown in design 3 was generally preferred.

Providing an accessible route to the wetland was identified as important, and there was general agreement with the proposed trail alignment along the creek, and that a trail connection to North Irvine Street not be included in the recommendation.

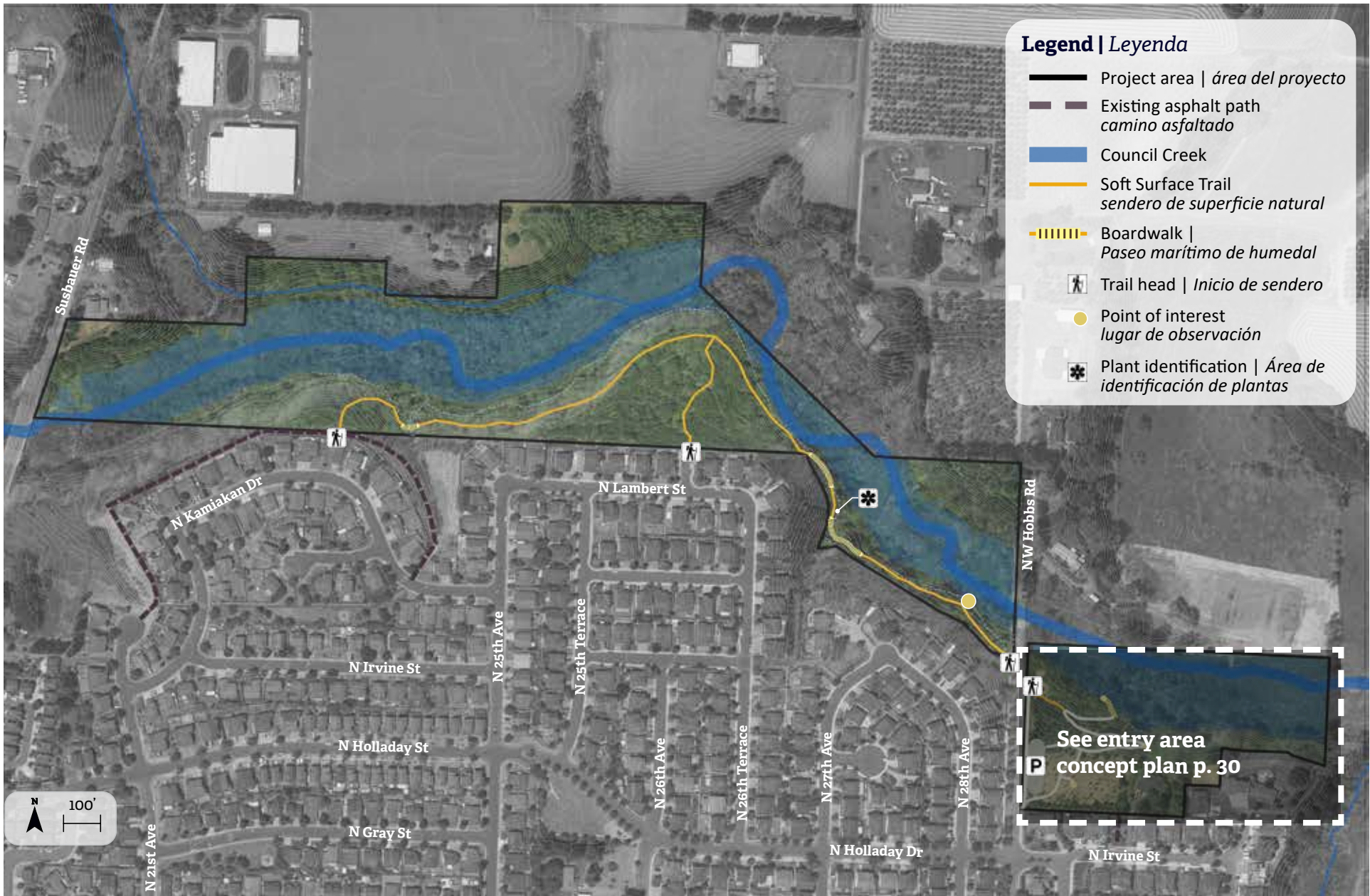
Picnic facilities were desired with either individual tables or a mix of tables and a multi-use picnic shelter. People shared that a variety of options is preferred to providing one shelter.

Feedback about parking

Parking on residential streets to the south is relatively limited, with parking only allowed on one side of the street in many places. The plan recommends a parking area that accommodates approximately eight cars for the following reasons:

- As a regional resource, it is important that the nature park accommodate parking for visitors who are not accessing the park from the immediate neighborhoods.
- The design proposes accessible trail access to view the stream and wetland, and it is important that visitors with limited mobility be able to access these features.
- There is also concern from neighbors that the park would draw visitors who would use limited parking available on residential streets to the south.
- Providing parallel or head-in parking on Northwest Hobbs Road was evaluated by a traffic engineer and the City and determined not to be a feasible solution.





7. Master Plan recommendations

Overall concept plan

The proposed master plan includes parking on the east parcel of East Council Creek, off of Northwest Hobbs Road. An all ages and abilities trail provides access to a wetland overlook and interpretation on this parcel. The master plan identifies a place for community gathering and storytelling and a restroom. In addition, a trail is planned from the end of the sidewalk on the west side of Northwest Hobbs Road, along Council Creek to a connection at the City-managed trail at North 21st Avenue.

Nature trail west of Hobbs Road

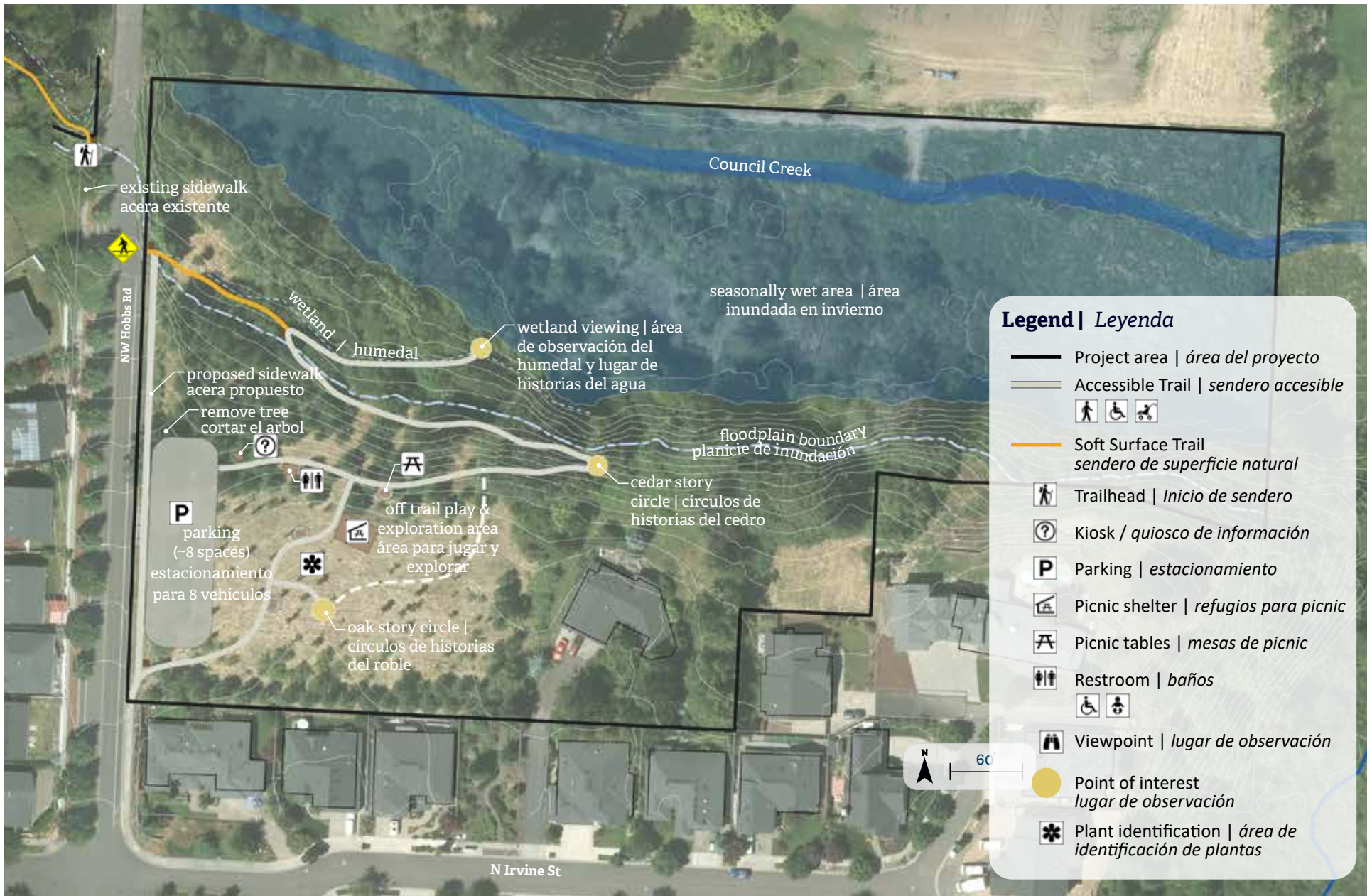
A soft surface nature trail is recommended along Council Creek to connect Northwest Hobbs Road to North 21st Avenue. The recommended alignment avoids steep slopes and wetlands to the extent possible, and provides strategic access points for people to experience the stream. The alignment avoids views of residences on the north side of Council Creek. Where wetland or wet areas are unavoidable, boardwalk is recommended. In several places a boardwalk or bridge may be needed where the trail route crosses water quality facility drainages. The trail route should consider Clean Water Services manhole locations and the need for maintenance access. The final proposed alignment should be reviewed with Clean Water Services conveyance staff prior to construction.

Neighborhood trailheads

Three neighborhood trailheads are proposed at Northwest Hobbs Road, at North 21st Avenue, and at North Lambert Street. In these locations trailhead kiosks should be provided. Kiosks should be bilingual and include a trail map, safety information and rules.

Neighborhood access points

Several places exist where a City or homeowners association owned connection provides access to the site from the neighborhood. This plan recommends not developing formal access in those places. These areas should be monitored, and if social trails develop at a particular location, Metro will coordinate with the neighbors to evaluate whether an access trail should be formalized.



Entry area

Parking lot

The master plan includes a parking lot to accommodate approximately eight cars. As is standard for Metro developed facilities, an automatic gate will allow for controlled entry/exit from the nature park from dawn to dusk. A large Douglas-fir tree located within the sight triangle may need to be removed to provide adequate sight distance. Wood from the tree could be used to enhance habitat or as a feature in the nature park.

All ages and abilities nature trail

A nature trail is recommended to provide all ages and abilities access to view the wetland. The trail should be built to Architectural Barriers Act standards for outdoor recreation, including accessible grades and surfacing to provide a firm and stable surface. Interpretive themes along the nature trail should highlight the three habitat types characteristic of the site. An out and back trail is recommended. It will likely need to switchback in order to navigate the slope. Switchbacks should be designed to minimize cross-cutting by people walking, and the design should consider including a direct route, such as stairs, to reduce the temptation to cut across the switchbacks.

Neighborhood access from Northwest Hobbs Road

Pedestrians from the neighborhood will be able to access the nature park from Northwest Hobbs Road. A trail is not recommended to connect from the east parcel to North Irvine Street to the south. A shrub buffer should be planted in the southeast corner of the east parcel to discourage people from using this access point. During public outreach the project team heard from the neighbors that they preferred accessing the site from Northwest Hobbs Road rather than from a trail to the south.

Connection to trails across Northwest Hobbs Road

The project is also proposing a trail crossing of Northwest Hobbs Road. Two possible locations for the crossing are north of the proposed driveway(s) and near the north end of the existing sidewalk on the west side of Northwest Hobbs Road. Both locations have adequate sight distance. A sidewalk should be constructed along the east side of Northwest Hobbs Road to the proposed crossing location. The future trail crossing requires a detailed assessment to determine the appropriate treatments such as signing, pavement markings and curb extensions, based on vehicle speeds and volumes, roadway cross-section and estimated crossing demand.

Picnic area

A single picnic shelter, with additional picnic tables is recommended. Shelter and tables should be distributed along a gravel path and each should have a clear access path to avoid compacted, muddy areas in the grass. Picnic tables and shelters will be accessible and conform to Parks and Nature standards. They should also provide ways to cook or heat up food and provide a source of water.

Restrooms

The master plan recommends a double stall gender inclusive, accessible restroom near the parking lot. The restroom design should be based on Metro furnishing standards. A standard for Metro nature parks, the restroom should automatically lock at night. The restroom should be plumbed with running water and connected to the city sewer.

Story circles

Three story circles are proposed along the accessible nature trail. They are intended to be spots to pause, rest, contemplate or gather with a small group. These places are opportunities to provide interpretation and stories about the three habitat types of the site – the cultural and ecological importance of oak, the importance of riparian habitats, even for small streams like Council Creek, and a place to observe wetlands, plants and wildlife.

Kiosks and wayfinding signs

Trailhead at parking lot

The main trailhead at the parking lot should include a standard kiosk with a nature park map, rules, safety information and information about the nature park. The kiosk should use international symbols and provide information in multiple languages to the extent possible, especially English and Spanish.

Acknowledging Indigenous people

A nature park welcome sign or kiosk signs should acknowledge that the land at East Council Creek Nature Park and the broader landscapes we inhabit in the Tualatin Valley are part of homelands Indigenous peoples have lived in relationship with since time immemorial.

Neighborhood trailheads

Neighborhood trailheads are recommended at several locations. Each trailhead should include a trailhead kiosk with a multilingual trail map, safety and rule information.

Wayfinding signs

Wayfinding signs should be installed at all trail intersections.

Habitat protection and restoration

Habitat connectivity

In order to protect species diversity, the master plan recommends prioritizing the protection of habitat connectivity between East Council Creek and other nearby natural areas especially the Dairy McKay Confluence Natural Area. Loss of habitat connectivity is the biggest threat to turtles and other wildlife that have been observed on the site. Protecting habitat connectivity is critical to maintaining wildlife diversity on the site, and for people to have opportunities to see the wildlife.



Forest health and understory restoration

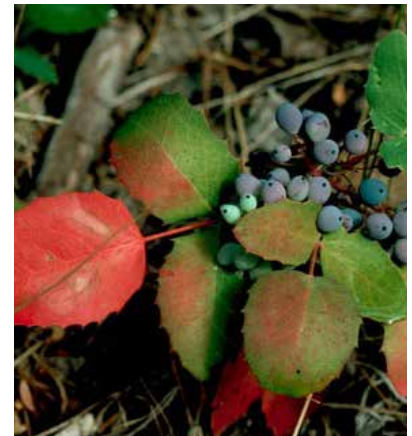
It is recommended that restoration activities take place on the site consistent with the Site Conservation Plan recommendations. Recommended restoration activities include the following:

- Identify and remove of blackberry, ivy and other invasive plants, prioritizing areas with planned trails.
- Regrade, restore and revegetate areas where significant digging and soil moving have occurred.
- Evaluate and continue to restore upland area with young stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, thinning trees and planting understory as appropriate.
- Evaluate mature trees and remove non-native trees or trees that are potential hazards in vicinity of proposed trail.



Stormwater swales

The master plan recommends coordinating with Clean Water Services and the City of Cornelius to improve the habitat and water quality stormwater outfalls flowing into Council Creek. Consider partnership and grant funding opportunities.



Turtle habitat on site

In order to protect potential turtle habitat, development of the nature park avoids all areas north of Council Creek to protect preferred habitat and potential basking areas.

Pollinator habitat

Throughout the site, opportunities to enhance pollinator habitat should be identified, for example trailheads and parking lot areas, and near oaks on the east parcel.

Interpretive themes

In addition to the themes associated with the site's habitat, several other themes emerged as opportunities to share stories and experiences that help visitors connect with the site.

Plant identification

The plan recommends plant identification for plants that can be seen along the trails. People reported that learning about plants helps them feel connected to a place. In conversations with people who had moved to Oregon, we heard that plants can remind them of home, and as a result make Oregon feel more like home. People were interested in the ecological role that plants play as well as medicinal, edible and other uses of plants.

Hydrology

The site's dynamic relationship with water was a theme throughout community conversations about the site. The degree to which the water fluctuates is something that visitors to the site can experience firsthand by visiting during different seasons. In winter, following heavy rains, the narrow meandering stream turns into a lake-like wetland. In addition to the dynamics visible on the site, there is an opportunity to share maps that help people connect to the broader landscape and how Dairy Creek and the Tualatin River shape the place we live.

Wildlife habitat, connectivity and climate change

Council Creek is an opportunity to share stories about how animals like turtles, beaver, frogs and other wildlife rely on connections to the broader landscape for both their own individual survival and species survival.

Art

As part of the Parks and Nature percent for art program, art should be considered at this site. There is an opportunity to work with local community partners like Centro Cultural to highlight local Latine culture of the area. There is also an opportunity to work with Indigenous community members and Tribes to create art for the site. These opportunities should be explored further during design refinement.



8. Implementation, operation and maintenance

Implementation and phasing priorities

Currently funding has not been identified for implementation of the master plan recommendations.

Once funding for project implementation and operations has been identified, it is recommended that improvements for the west parcel be prioritized, including formalizing a natural surface trail, installing boardwalks, wayfinding and regulatory signs, and decommissioning demand trails to reduce erosion and improve visitor experience and safety. Additional funding could support implementing recommendations for a more formalized park entry on the east parcel with parking, restrooms, security elements, and an all ages and abilities nature trail and wayfinding and regulatory signs. With still further resources, additional amenities like site interpretation, gathering areas, and off trail play can be added.

Parking lot design

Two potential parking lot configurations are recommended for further evaluation during design and engineering. Both options accommodate approximately eight cars. Final designs will incorporate secure bicycle parking as well.

Parking Design A includes a single two-way driveway and drive aisle with a hammerhead turnaround. The primary advantage of Design A is the lower impact and cost of developing a single driveway. Disadvantages are that the development footprint is less flexible, requires more grading and extends deeper into the site. It would require removing more oak trees, but fewer trees overall.

Parking Design B has a one-way drive aisle parallel to Northwest Hobbs Road. Advantages are that it doesn't extend as far into the site, and more easily fits into existing contours of the site. Design B requires removing fewer oak trees, but more trees overall. The pull through design is better for day to day circulation, emergency access and as a drop off location. Disadvantages are the cost of building and maintaining two driveways and gates.

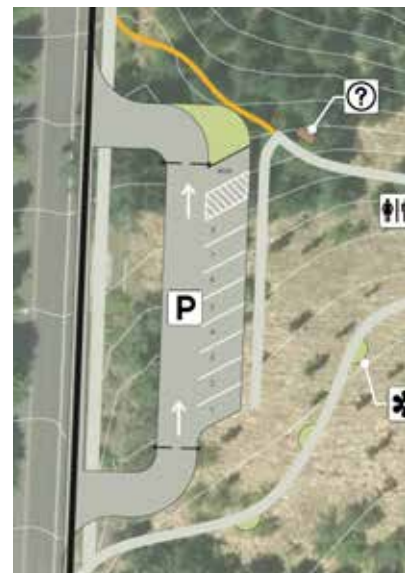
Overall Parking Design B is preferred based on current available information about topography. Once survey and detailed engineering are available, the final design should be adapted to be cost effective and accommodate efficient circulation for vehicles and pedestrians. Both parking lot configuration options comply with the city minimum standard for driveway spacing

Permitting

Because the Cornelius city boundary divides the site, some improvements will need to be permitted through the City of Cornelius, and some improvements will need Washington County development and land use permits. In addition, the site will need permits from Clean Water Services.



Parking design A



Parking design B

Right-of-way improvements

A transportation study was conducted and recommended the following right-of-way improvements. Northwest Hobbs Road should retain the 34-foot cross section with one travel lane in each direction and bike lanes.

It is recommended that a six-foot sidewalk with a six-foot landscape strip be constructed along the frontage from the south lot line to the proposed trail crossing location. These half street improvements require a total of 30 feet of right-of-way from the street centerline. There is currently 20 feet available. To meet these standards, ten feet of right-of-way dedication is required along the length of the frontage.

Anticipated construction cost

A conceptual level cost range estimate was prepared based on elements shown in the draft master plan for the park entry area of the site. If issues are identified, Metro may adjust its approach to managing the site and trail uses. Possible responses include activities such as removing unauthorized trails, implementing seasonal trail closures, or adapting allowed uses.

	Cost range (2019)*	
	low	high
Staging/Erosion Control	\$14,850	\$19,800
Demolition	\$22,275	\$29,700
Salvage And Recycling	\$900	\$1,200
Earthwork	\$65,495	\$87,326
Parking Lot Paving	\$36,000	\$48,000
Entry Area Paths And Paving	\$36,072	\$48,096
Masonry & Rock Walls, Fences And Gates	\$3,420	\$4,560
Planting	\$36,192	\$48,256
Structures	\$157,500	\$210,000
Site Furnishings - Entry And Day Use Area	\$76,185	\$101,580
Entry Area Signs	\$18,900	\$25,200
Utilities	\$112,050	\$149,400
ROW/Street Frontage Improvements	\$78,750	\$91,875
Entry Area Trails	\$75,195	\$87,728
Nature trail and boardwalk along Council Creek	\$233,730	\$272,685
Trail Decommission	\$2,376	\$2,772
Trail Signs And Furnishings	\$14,603	\$17,036
Direct construction costs	\$984,492	\$1,245,213
Overhead	\$147,674	\$186,782
3.5% inflation for 3 years	\$123,087	\$155,683
Contingency (50%)	\$627,626	\$793,839
Subtotal	\$1,882,878	\$2,381,518
Soft Costs (30%)	\$753,151	\$952,607
Total Costs	\$2,636,029	\$3,334,126

**Note: Costs were originally estimated in 2019 dollars. Real construction cost is likely to be substantially higher in future years.*

Historic and cultural resource protection

A historic and cultural resource survey should be completed prior to proceeding with design of the nature park. Metro should engage Tribal governments in this effort in accordance with the agency's Tribal Policy guidelines. If resources are found to be present, the plans should be revised as needed to ensure resource protection prior to continuing with design and engineering.

Management responsibility

Currently, Metro manages land within the project area as an undeveloped natural area and the City manages several adjacent parcels. Prior to implementing any recommended improvements, a long-term management strategy would need to be developed by Metro or the City.

Park regulations

Park rules at East Council Creek would be consistent with Metro's Title 10 Parks and Nature Regulations, which govern the use of Metro's parks, cemeteries and natural areas by members of the public.

Pet policy

Metro's pets policy should be enforced consistent with Metro's Title 10 Parks and Nature Regulations..

Signs

For public security and safety, hours of operation and regulatory signs will be installed at each access point. An orientation map of the natural area will be installed at the parking area to assist visitors and emergency and police response teams with wayfinding. Neighborhood trailheads will be clearly marked with a map and natural area rules and regulations. Regulatory signs will include public use restrictions on pets, fires, camping, motorized vehicles, hunting, smoking, intrusive noise, plant collecting and other uses outlined in Metro's Title 10 rules.

Safety and security

Access control

Vehicle access to the parking area will be controlled with automatic gates which will lock after hours. Automatic locks will be included on restrooms and will also be locked at night. In areas where the site is adjacent to private property, boundary markers will be installed to clearly delineate the public/private edge. Trails that are not part of the adopted trail network will be decommissioned.

Emergency management

Emergency management at the site will be coordinated with local emergency response services. Additionally, an Incident Action Plan will be developed in coordination with local agencies, to assist cooperating agencies responding to a fire or an emergency at the site.

Monitoring and maintenance

Park facilities and amenities

Routine maintenance of the park should include cleaning the restrooms, litter pick-up, walking the nature trail and accessible nature trail and general monitoring. Seasonal maintenance of the park facilities should include upkeep of the restroom building, benches, picnic tables and signs, and maintaining or mowing meadow areas.

Trail maintenance

Routine trail maintenance on a year-round basis will improve trail safety, and prolong the longevity of the trails. The trails should be monitored on a regular schedule to identify trail problems early, and to catch and decommission “social” or “demand” trails. The trails will be walked routinely to remove litter and identify potential areas of erosion and/or trail surface failure.

During the first year following construction of the trails, more frequent inspections should be completed to review the trail, drainage features and the potential for erosion. These inspections should occur following the first heavy rainfall events, and especially during the late winter months when the ground is saturated. Ongoing trail maintenance activities will typically include clearing the trail surface and trailside vegetation to keep passages and selected views open, maintaining drainage features, bridge and culvert clearing and upkeep, litter and illegal dumping clean up, sign replacement, and closing “social trails” through the use of natural barriers and vegetation.

Natural area management

After initial site restoration, ongoing natural area management is expected to include invasive plant control, especially near trails and along the perimeter of the property, monitoring for hazard trees and hazard tree removal, monitoring for and removing illegal trails, and trail network maintenance.

Adaptive management

Once the project is built, nature park and trail use should be monitored for appropriate use, and to make sure that they function as intended. The trails and site features should be modified in the future to adapt to new information, new site conditions and a better understanding of how people and wildlife use the site. If issues are identified, they may require adjustments to managing the site and trail uses. Possible responses could include removing unauthorized trails, implementing seasonal trail closures or adapting allowed uses.



9. Partnership opportunities

From education and research to restoration, there are many opportunities for partnerships to enhance the public benefit and community relationship with East Council Creek. Potential partnerships could be centered on turtle conservation efforts like monitoring, habitat improvement and connectivity protection. Partnerships like the following could be also be centered on site restoration or experiencing nature.

Partner agencies

The City of Cornelius owns several parcels of land adjacent to the site. Metro and City staff should continue to coordinate to ensure parcels under different management complement each other and serve the public as a whole.

Clean Water Services manages the storm and sanitary sewer system in Washington County. There is an opportunity to partner with Clean Water Services to coordinate restoration and long-term maintenance of riparian habitat along Council Creek. If a partnership with Clean Water Services is established, managing for western pond turtle habitat, especially on the north side of the creek, should be explicitly agreed upon, specifically providing sunny areas without trees or dense shrubs for turtle basking.

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District is another potential partner for collaboration on enhancing resources at East Council Creek.

Tribal governments

Tribal consultation and engagement should be an ongoing part of this project in coordination with Metro's Tribal Affairs program and Tribal Policy guidelines. Tribes should be consulted with respect to all historic and cultural resource work and informed of project next steps before they begin to assess where they see opportunities for collaboration.

Indigenous communities

Partnerships with local Indigenous community organizations or Tribes should be explored. Long-term development of an Indigenous environmental education curriculum or coordination on developing art could both be explored.

Community-based organizations

East Council Creek is about 1-½ miles from downtown Cornelius, where several community organizations are based. Once the nature park has been developed, it will be a great opportunity for hosting outdoor programs and nature walks. If there is interest, there are also opportunities to explore partnerships to work together on parts of implementation, ongoing restoration and nature exploration.

Volunteers

There is an opportunity to continue working with community organizations and leaders to be liaisons, tour guides and nature park ambassadors to welcome members of their community.



Metro

East Council Creek master plan

Cornelius City Council: March 4, 2024

Parks and nature

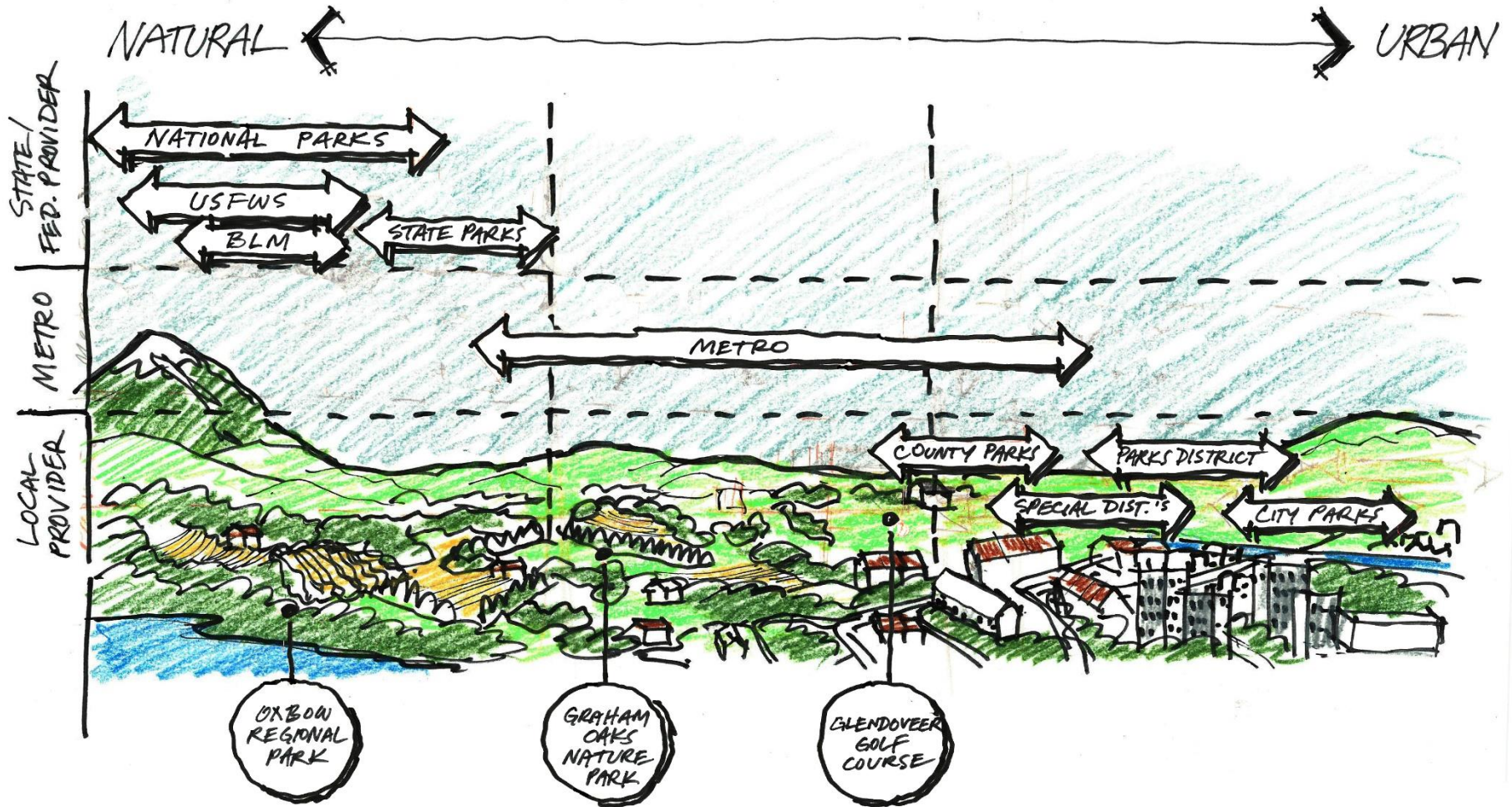
Clean water
Healthy habitat
Happy people



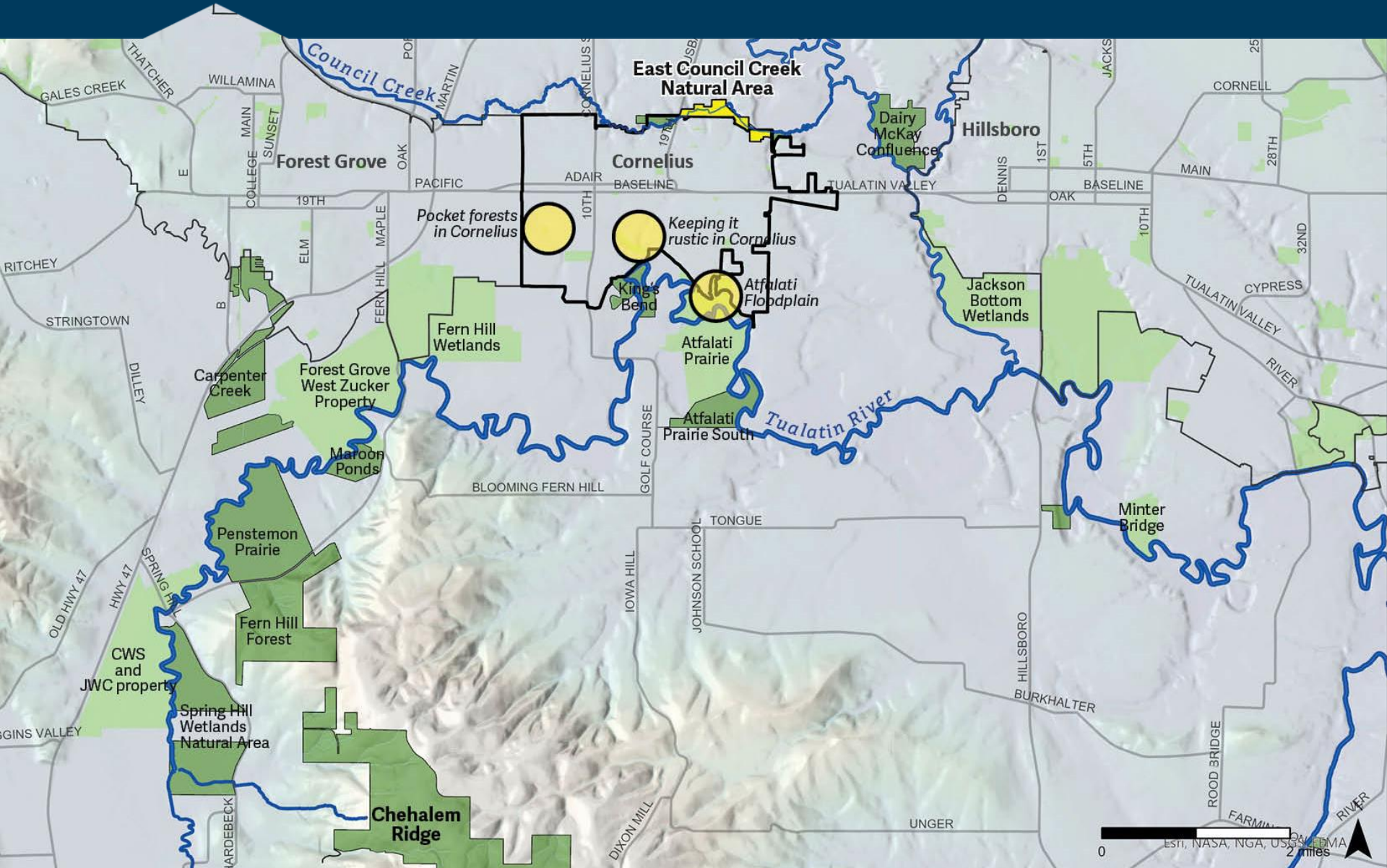
Metro



Parks and nature's role in the region



Regional context



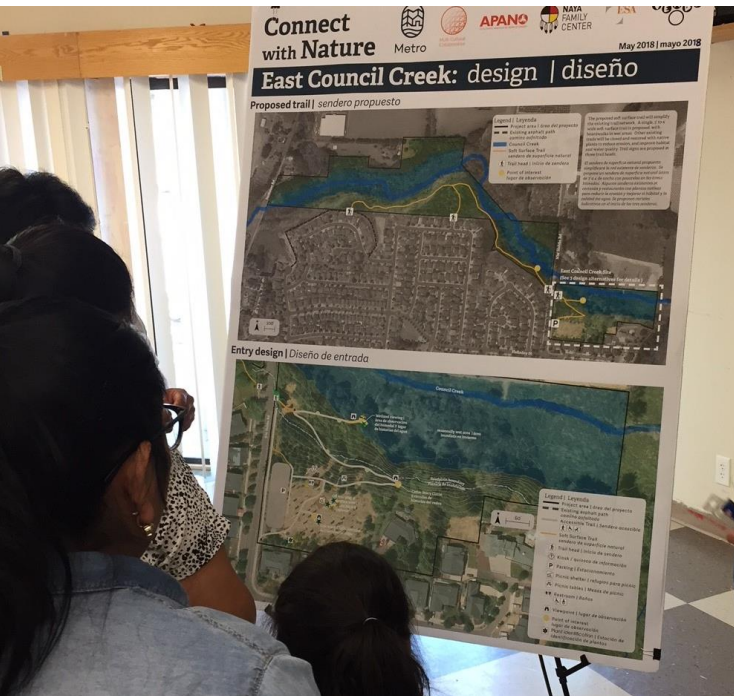
East Council Creek nature park

Master
plan

Project
development

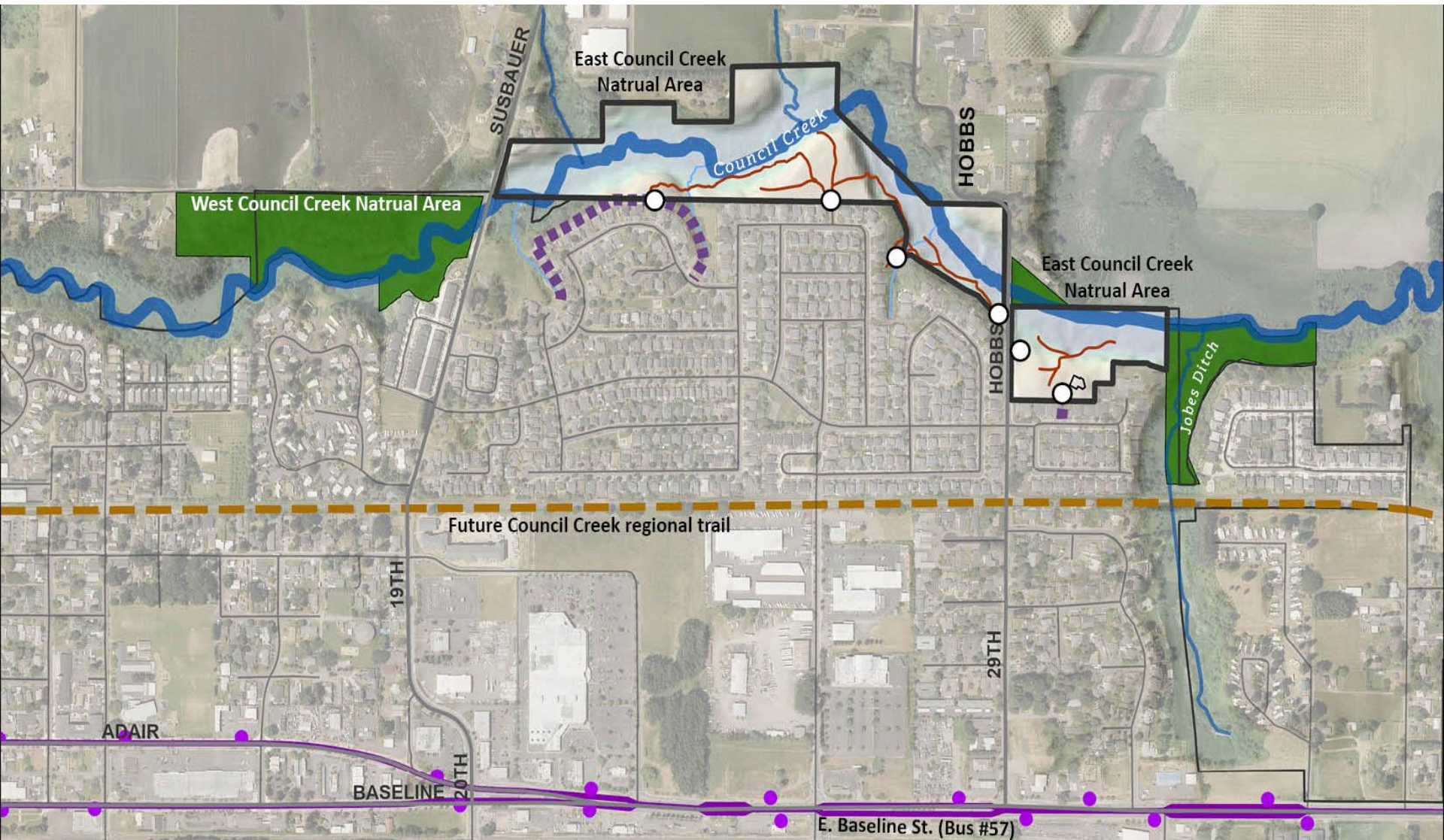
Design
Engineering
Permits

Construction



- Understand feasibility
- Develop common understanding
- Identify amenities and locations
- Understand construction and long-term maintenance costs
- Prepare for future funding and support strategic fundraising

East Council Creek project area



East Council Creek today



Project vision and goals

1. Create a place to welcome people from all cultures, communities and abilities
2. Protect wildlife habitat and reduce impacts on Council Creek
3. Create a trail that provides safe, meaningful and fun experiences of nature
4. Complement the character of the neighborhood
5. Celebrates the unique qualities of Council Creek



Community engagement activities

2017

2019

Start Up

Existing
Conditions

Plan
Alternatives

Recommended
Plan

Final Plan and
council adoption

workshops and
open houses

1

2

3

4

5

6

PROJECT
PAUSED

- 3 open houses in Cornelius
- 3 bilingual Connect with Nature workshops
- 2 bilingual tours in partnership with Centro Cultural
- 2 Parks Advisory Board presentations
- CPO 12 presentation
- Stakeholder meetings
- Numerous public comments

Community engagement highlights

- Overall excitement about new opportunities to enjoy the site
- Concerns shared about increased traffic and parking, safety and maintenance
- Desire to continue protecting nature along Council Creek
- Desire to highlight the creek
- Kids in the community need safe, healthy and fun outdoor spaces and activities



Welcoming places

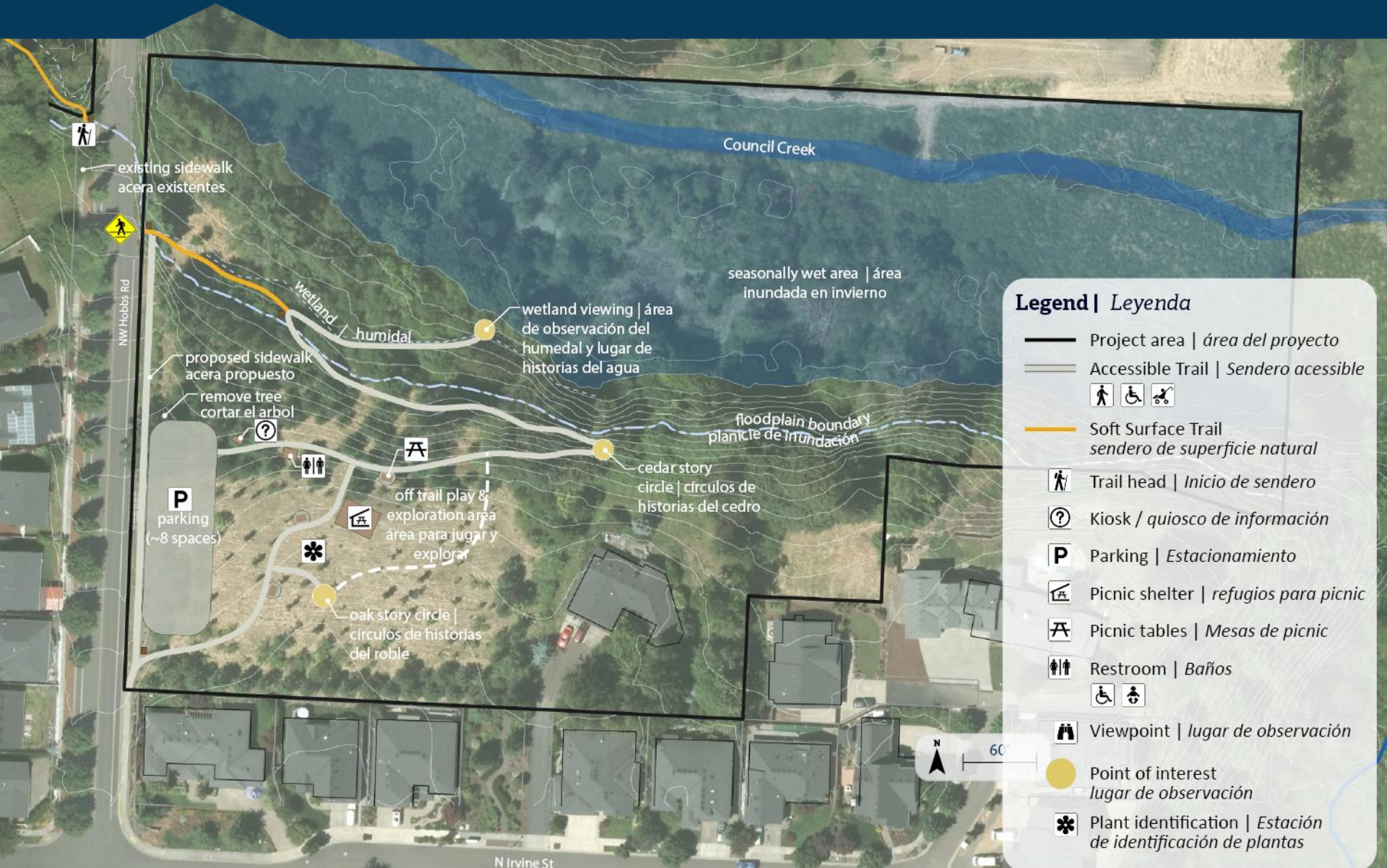


- Clear, multi-lingual signs, wayfinding and safety information
- Designed for people with limited mobility, elders and kids
- Include places to play and places to rest
- Comfortable, beautiful, clean, well-maintained

Overall plan



Entry area concept plan





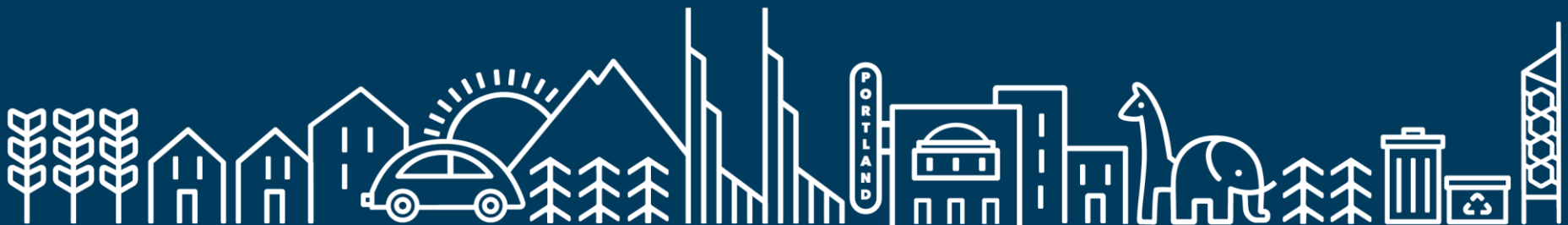
Metro

Thursday, March 7

Metro Council to consider
East Council Creek nature park
master plan for adoption

oregonmetro.gov/eastcouncilcreek

oregonmetro.gov



City of Cornelius Agenda Report

To: Peter Brandom, City Manager

From: Jim Geering, Fire Chief

Date: March 4, 2024

Subject: Fire Department Emergency Response Cost Recovery



Summary: The Cornelius Fire Department (CFD) continues to respond and provide increasingly expensive and frequent calls for emergency assistance arising from incidents occurring within the City of Cornelius and the surrounding Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD); as well as incidents into unprotected areas and/or transportation routes. Currently, there are no taxes or assessments that are levied by the City of Cornelius for certain fire protection or public safety responses that specifically involve people who live outside of the City. Oregon Revised Statute (ORS 478.310) and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 837.130) give authority to the City of Cornelius to recover costs from persons or property receiving certain public safety or fire emergency services as a result of responding to an incident requiring equipment and personnel for medical, fire, and life safety service that occurs within the City or Fire District, as well as incidents that occur in unprotected areas or transportation routes where no taxes or assessments for fire protection or public safety are levied by the City. Staff recommends the implementation of an Emergency Response Cost Recovery Fee for non-residents, as allowed by Oregon Law.

Previous Council Action: Staff recommended that City Council consider this type of fee, roughly ten years ago, and the City Council declined at that time to take up the policy.

Relevant City Strategic Plan Goal(s): Goal 4: Ensure safety for all community members.

Background: The City of Cornelius Fire Department provides fire suppression, prevention and, emergency medical services; hazardous materials response and other emergency services to the City of Cornelius and surrounding Fire District. Oregon Revised Statute (ORS 478.310) and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 837.130) give authority to the City of Cornelius to recover costs from persons or property receiving certain public safety or fire emergency services as a result of responding to incidents requiring equipment and personnel for medical, fire and life safety service that occurs within the City or Fire District, as well as incidents that occur in unprotected areas or transportation routes where no taxes or assessments for fire protection or public safety are levied by the City.

As allowed by Oregon law, many fire departments and districts assess fees to offset the high costs of providing these services. The fees help to offset the significant cost of providing these services to those who do not pay in to the revenue base. Based on staff assessment of departments or districts who assess this type of fee, at least ten Oregon departments/districts assess a fee, ranging from \$180 to \$285. Forest Grove instituted this fee (\$250) in March of 2023.

Examples of covered services include vehicle extrication with the “Jaws of Life,” hazardous

materials spill mitigation, patient care, technical rescue, and fire suppression. These incidents area increasing in complexity with the advent of exotic materials and sophisticated systems to improve vehicle performance and safety. We are seeing a significant increase in hybrid, electric, and high-voltage vehicles, explosive-cartridge seatbelt pretensioners, and extensive air bag systems that present increasing hazards and increasing training demands on our personnel. Further, we have had to acquire and maintain modernized equipment capable of extricating through high-strength, high-risk materials.

For these reasons, staff is recommending Emergency Response Cost Recovery Fees for out-of-area users (those not paying CFD or CRFPD taxes), to be set forth as follows:

1. Motor Vehicle Incidents will be billed a minimum of \$250, plus 15% administrative fee, plus estimated costs of supplies and/or equipment used.
2. Fire/Public Safety Incidents will be billed a minimum of \$400, plus 15% administrative fee, plus estimated costs of supplies and/or equipment used.
3. After the first 30 minutes on scene, fees for equipment and personnel will be billed following the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Cost Schedule (updated annually).

Cost: Staff time.

Emergency Response Cost Recovery Fee



Jim Geering, Fire Chief
Cornelius City Council
March 4, 2024

Cornelius
Oregon's Family Town

Purpose

- Present a report and recommendation on the implementation of an Emergency Response Cost Recovery Fee for non-residents, as allowed by Oregon Law

Issue Statement

- Fire Department responds to ever increasing demand for services
- These services often include vehicle crashes and other emergency incidents on transportation routes within the city and surrounding fire district
- Includes providing services where taxes are not currently levied; service at a cost where no revenue currently exists

Cornelius
Oregon's Family Town

Background

- The Fire Department currently provides fire suppression, prevention/inspection, emergency medical services, hazmat mitigation, and other emergency services
- ORS 478.310 & OAR 837.130 give the City of Cornelius the authority to recover costs for these services, where no taxes or assessments are levied

Cornelius
Oregon's Family Town

Background

- Examples of services include:
 - vehicle extrication with the “Jaws of Life”
 - hazardous materials spill mitigation
 - patient care
 - technical rescue
 - fire suppression
- Providing these services is costly to the City of Cornelius; furthermore, these incidents are increasing in complexity and cost

Cornelius
Oregon's Family Town

Background

- Staff recommended this fee to Cornelius City Council ~10 years ago
- At least ten departments/districts in Oregon assess a fee, ranging from \$180 to \$285
- City of Forest Grove instituted a fee of \$250 in March of 2023

Cornelius
Oregon's Family Town

Recommendation

Staff recommend Emergency Response Cost Recovery Fees, for out-of-area users (those not paying CFD or CRFPD taxes), to be set forth as follows:

- A) Motor vehicle incidents will be billed a minimum of \$250, plus 15% administrative fee, plus estimated costs of supplies and/or equipment used

- B) Fire/public safety incidents will be billed a minimum of \$400, plus 15% administrative fee, plus estimated costs of supplies and/or equipment used

Recommendation (cont.)

C) After the first 30 minutes on scene, fees for equipment and personnel will be billed following the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Cost Schedule (updated annually)

Questions/Discussion?

Cornelius
Oregon's Family Town

Thank you for your time!

- Presented by:

Jim Geering, Fire Chief

Patrick Wineman, Fire Division Chief

Cornelius
Oregon's Family Town



City Council Meeting - Monday, February 5, 2024
In-Person/Hybrid Meeting

Mayor Jef Dalin called the regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call: Council Present: Councilor Eden Lopez, Councilor Angeles Godinez, Councilor Doris Gonzalez, Council President John Colgan, and Mayor Jef Dalin.

Staff Present: Barbara Fryer, Community Development Director; Mark Crowell, Public Works Director; Peter Brandom, City Manager; Ellie Jones, Assistant City Manager – Business Operations & Acting City Recorder; Kevin Oppenlander, Project Manager, Karen Hill, Library Director.

Announcement: City Manager Peter Brandom announced changes made to the City Council proceedings. The virtual element of the hybrid meetings will now be held on a Zoom Webinar; individuals can attend and observe but they must request to testify ahead of time (by 3pm the day of the meeting). Attendees will not be allowed to freely use video or microphones, both will be controlled by City staff. This is to prevent 'Zoom bombing'.

Mayor Dalin added that anyone who requests to speak virtually has to provide their name and that name has to match the one provided online during the meeting. Dalin gave examples of why that is important. Dalin noted that the existing rules have not changed for people participating in-person.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilor Godinez motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council President Colgan. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Councilor Godinez, Councilor Gonzalez, Council President Colgan, and Mayor Dalin.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. City Council Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2023
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes, January 2, 2024

Councilor Godinez motioned to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Council President Colgan. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Councilor Godinez, Councilor Gonzalez, Council President Colgan, and Mayor Dalin.

3. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – NONE

4. RECOGNITION

A. Angelica Novoa de Cordiero, Adult Services Librarian

Library Director, Karen Hill, recognized Angelica Novoa de Cordiero, Adult Services Librarian, for 5 years of service. Karen spoke about Angelica’s previous work history before joining the Cornelius Public Library. Karen explained the role Angelica has played in developing the adult book collection in English and Spanish. Karen highlighted the prestigious recognition the library received, thanks to Angelica, in receiving books from the Mexican Consulate as part of their 200-year anniversary collection. The Cornelius Public Library was one of two libraries to receive that honor in the United States, the other being the Library of Congress. Karen noted Angelica’s work with technology in the library, including the technology replacement plan and many of the technology resources the library offers to the public. Karen talked about Angelica’s work in community engagement through arts and crafts programs, music performances, and cultural events. Karen expressed appreciation for Angelica’s work and thanked Angelica for five years of service.

Mayor Dalin expressed thanks to Angelica for the work being done and continued service to the community.

Councilor Godinez expressed thanks to Angelica for the work done to increase accessibility at the library for the City’s bilingual community and for tracking data.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Washington County Transit Study

Dyami Valentine, Principal Transportation Planner for Washington County, presented on the Washington County Transit Study. Valentine started by sharing the purpose of the project, to enhance the transit system to meet the needs of transit riders as well as develop a long-term shared vision for transit. Valentine discussed the needs of the County and the project goals. The goals of the project include providing better travel options for equitable access, affordable travel options for community members, to consider the environmental impact transportation has, to connect community members to opportunity, and to make transit easier and more accessible. Valentine explained the transit study process and timeline, starting with the start of the project in the previous year and including the community engagement that occurred. Valentine reported the outcome of the transit study, the transit priority investments and vision. The vision of transit service categorized frequent service transit needs as well as shuttle service needs.

Mayor Dalin expressed appreciation for the inclusion of identifying the need for a quick way for Cornelius/Forest Grove/Hillsboro transit riders to get to the Tigard/Tualatin employment zone. Dalin discussed the length of time it takes to get to different areas in Washington County and how that can make transit transportation a difficult option for reliable transportation. Dalin thanked the Washington County group for their work in planning ways to address the problem.

Valentine presented on eight recommendations to prepare priority transit corridors for high capacity transit, at the local level. Valentine noted the importance of the work done on a local level in elevating the recommendations in priority, because Washington County does select the next tier of priority corridors at a regional level.

Mayor Dalin noted the inclusion of [Sherwood-Tigard HCT via] 99W; it is discussed often with Washington County. Dalin suggested that 99W should be a tier one or two priority, and be actively worked on.

Valentine presented on Washington County's work to build partnerships to build out the frequent service grid, and to identify opportunities to improve the frequent service network. Valentine discussed the partnership with Ride Connection, citing it as an example of how additional shuttle services can work with Transit to create additional service areas. Washington County has worked to identify where community connector opportunities are. Valentine discussed ways local jurisdictions can help transit speed and reliability, and the community's wishes to see Transit be more accessible, safe, and welcoming.

Mayor Dalin discussed the dedicated ways implemented in Portland and what can be learned from their experience. Dalin discussed the possibility of using the red lanes to get on and off the road in busy areas and discussed the need for methods to keep bikeways clear, noting the importance of looking at the specifics of each area.

Valentine summarized ways jurisdictions can support transit and the partnerships that can enhance transit service. Valentine explained that the transit study draft recommendations are available for community review and comment through March 1st. The final report will be wrapped up in April. The County hopes that the document can inform some of the actions taken moving forward.

Mayor Dalin asked if it will be on the agenda for the Washington County Coordinating Committee (WCCC) for March or April before it goes to the full board.

Valentine answered that is a good suggestion.

B. City Audit

Ryan Pasquarella, contracted auditor, began with an introduction and reported on the audited financial statements for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2023. City financial statements are required to be submitted to the Audits Division within six months of the end of the fiscal year, as well as the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for an independent review, due within six months of the end of the fiscal year. The City's audited financial statements were

completed on November 28th of 2023. Everything was submitted on time for the year. Pasquarella referred to the letter from the auditors to the City Council. The letter described what an audit is and clarified that the auditor's opinion on financial statements does not mean there are not any errors within the financial records of the City. The auditor's opinion is giving reasonable assurance there are no material errors. Pasquarella explained what that means. The audit began in May of 2023 with preliminary inquiries. The audit included examining the City's internal procedures, to ensure the City has good procedures and practices in place. Pasquarella briefly summarized the auditor's findings. The letter includes any significant risks identified as part of the audit and comments on the accounting policies. It notes that there were no significant accounting policy changes during the year. One thing noted is the implementation of reporting standards related to IT Agreements. The City analyzed what long-term agreements the City has, to determine if any agreements would be subject to the new standards. The auditor did not find anything material. City staff took the time to make sure all of the IT Agreements are understood. Pasquarella highlighted that the auditors did not identify any material mistakes nor made any recommendations. There were no disagreements between the City and the auditors.

Pasquarella gave a brief explanation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial report that was provided to the Council. Pasquarella noted that the City has submitted the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report to the GFOA for grading for the last 15 years in a row. Pasquarella noted the awards and acknowledgements the City has received from the GFOA in the past 13 to 16 years. The Annual Comprehensive Financial report includes the auditor's opinion of the financial statements, responsibilities of management for financial statements, the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements, and the management discussion and analysis. Pasquarella briefly shared some financial figures for assets and liabilities with a year-to-year comparison.

Mayor Dalin commented on the importance of the information. The report represents the business side of the City, including where funds are allocated and spent, long-term certainty, the City's commitments, progress implementing development and programs, and what the City can reasonably afford.

Pasquarella agreed. Pasquarella concluded by sharing the Independent Auditor's Report, related to the Oregon Minimum Standards, that was shared with the Mayor and Council. The auditors are required to look at specific items such as the budgeting process, procurement process, highway fund expenditures, and excess FDIC money. The report includes a list of those items and the City did not have any errors or issues of noncompliance in that process as well.

C. Capital Improvement Program

Ellie Jones, Assistant City Manager – Business Operations, presented on the Fiscal Year 2025 20-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is a document that the City produces annually, typically in the fall. It is a good planning tool for identifying capital needs as the City goes into budget planning to ensure City funds are budgeted for upcoming projects as well as set aside for future projects, and look for revenues as needed such as grants, loans, and fee increases. Nine projects were removed from the CIP because they have been completed, or will

be completed by the end of June. Fourteen new projects have been added; some of which are anticipated to be funded with the Fire Department Levy funds. There are some street, city park, and facilities projects included. Five projects were modified significantly or removed. Notably, Reservoir number two was removed from the CIP because it needs to be revisited. It may be included in the future. Other projects, mainly south 29th Blvd., have been modified with either a change in the project or the estimated budget. Each project has its own page in the CIP with more details such as the finances, budget impacts, and estimated completion date. The City analyzes this annually; projects may move up in the time line, or move out of the timeline. Jones offered to answer any questions.

Council President Colgan asked about the N. 29th improvement. The project is listed as located from Walgreens to Council Creek. Colgan noted Walgreens is not located on 29th.

Jones responded that it is on page 32 of the CIP and it is N 19th to Council Creek, rather than 29th.

Council President Colgan responded that it appears to be a typo.

Mayor Dalin pointed out that the title on the agenda has a typo and that caused confusion, it should read N 19th instead of 29th.

Jones clarified that the project is on N 19th, from Walgreen to Council Creek.

Council President Colgan expressed thanks to Jones for another year of receiving budget awards and acknowledgements.

Councilor Godinez expressed appreciation for the organization of financial reports and how easy they are to follow.

Jones commented that it is a team effort; all of the departments put time into making the reports and including the details.

- D.** Resolution No. 2024-08: Appointments to the Cornelius Economic Development Commission, Public Infrastructure Advisory Board, and Library Board.

City Manager, Peter Brandom, briefly explained that the City's objective is to recommend annual appointments at one time. There will be a need to do additional appointments as needed, however, this is an attempt to get appointments grouped together. Brandom offered to answer any questions. There were no questions.

Councilor Godinez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-08; A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE CITY'S BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, and this action takes effect immediately, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Councilor Godinez, Councilor Gonzalez, Council President Colgan, and Mayor Dalin.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Resolution No. 2024-09: Supplemental Budget

Assistant City Manager, Ellie Jones, explained the Resolution is for Supplemental Budget Number Two Public Hearing. This is the second Supplemental Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. It recognizes unplanned revenue and expenses and changes in appropriations so that the budget is in line with anticipated expenses. The public notice was posted on the City website beginning January 17th, 2024, and advertised in the News Times on January 18th, 2024. Within the Supplemental Budget there are fourteen items identified. Ellie Jones offered to read the items in full; the councilors declined.

Mayor Dalin opened the public hearing at 8:10pm. Mayor Dalin opened discussion for any comments in favor of the Supplemental Budget, there were none. Mayor Dalin noted there were no online testimonies on the subject.

Jones confirmed there were no online testimonies nor any online comment cards.

Mayor Dalin opened discussion for comments against the Supplemental Budget, there were none. Mayor Dalin opened discussion for any comments, there were none. Mayor Dalin closed the public hearing at 8:11pm.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second Reading - Ordinance No. 2023-05: Amending Section 2.85.060 of The Cornelius Municipal Code to add advising the Urban Renewal Agency to the duties of the Economic Development Commission

City Manager Brandom explained the error made at the previous meeting; the vote with a quorum of three councilors did not qualify to pass the motion. A majority of that quorum did not meet the requirement; it has to be a majority of the council.

Councilor Godinez made a motion to read by title only, for the second reading, an adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-05, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.85.060 OF THE CORNELIUS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD ADVISING THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY TO THE DUTIES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, and this action takes effect 30 days from adoption, seconded by Councilor Lopez. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 4-1. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Councilor Godinez, Mayor Dalin, Councilor Gonzalez, and Mayor Dalin; Nays: Council President Colgan.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 2024-09: Supplemental Budget

Assistant City Manager, Ellie Jones, forwent a formal presentation and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Councilor Godinez to approve Resolution No. 2024-09, A RESOLUTION OF THE CORNELIUS CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET NUMBER TWO, and this action takes effect immediately; seconded by Council President Colgan. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Councilor Godinez, Councilor Gonzalez, Council President Colgan, and Mayor Dalin.

B. Resolution No. 2024-10: Metro 2040 Grant

Community Development Director, Barbara Fryer, forwent a formal presentation and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Council President Colgan that the Cornelius City Council approve Resolution No. 2024-10, A RESOLUTION OF THE CORNELIUS CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH METRO TO AWARD THE CITY A GRANT FOR AN ANTI-DISPLACEMENT ANTI-GENTRIFICATION STRATEGY IN THE TOWN CENTER, and this action takes effect immediately; seconded by Councilor Gonzalez. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Councilor Godinez, Councilor Gonzalez, Council President Colgan, and Mayor Dalin.

C. Resolution No. 2024-11: Contract with Unite Oregon for Implementation of the Metro 2040 Grant

Community Development Director, Barbara Fryer, forwent a formal presentation and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Councilor Lopez that the Cornelius City Council approve Resolution No. 2024-11, A RESOLUTION OF THE CORNELIUS CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER OF UNITE OREGON TO IMPLEMENT THE METRO 2040 GRANT, and this action takes effect immediately; seconded by Councilor Godinez. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Councilor Godinez, Councilor Gonzalez, Council President Colgan, and Mayor Dalin.

D. Resolution No. 2024-12: Subcontract with EcoNorthwest for Implementation of the Metro 2040 Grant

Community Development Director, Barbara Fryer, forwent a formal presentation and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Councilor Godinez that the Cornelius City Council approve Resolution No. 2024-12, A RESOLUTION OF THE CORNELIUS CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH ECO NORTHWEST TO IMPLEMENT THE METRO 2040 GRANT, and this action takes effect immediately; seconded by Councilor Gonzalez. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Councilor Godinez, Councilor Gonzalez, Council President Colgan, and Mayor Dalin.

- E. Resolution No. 2024-13: Bid Award for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-funded Sidewalk Project

Project Manager, Kevin Oppenlander, forwent a formal presentation and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Council President Colgan that the Cornelius City Council approve Resolution No. 2024-13, A RESOLUTION AWARING THE BID FOR THE CORNELIUS CDBG SIDEWALK PROJECT TO PACIFIC EXCAVATION INCORPORATED, and this action takes effect immediately; seconded by Councilor Godinez. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Councilor Godinez, Councilor Gonzalez, Council President Colgan, and Mayor Dalin.

REPORTS

- A. City Council: None
- B. Mayor Dalin: Mayor Dalin represented the City at the celebration of life for Mayor Gery Schirado in Durham. Dalin discussed the occasion and Mayor Schirado's history as Mayor. Dalin explained that many meetings are picking back up, including the Washington County Coordinating Committee and the Metropolitan Mayors' Meeting. Dalin reported the last Metropolitan Mayor's Meeting was with GPI. Dalin reported on the keynote presentation on infrastructure maintenance and how it relates to Cornelius.
- C. City Manager: City Manager Brandom discussed the recent weather event, with freezing temperatures. Brandom expressed appreciation for the Public Works, Police, and Fire Teams. Brandom expressed appreciation for City staff and fellow City Managers for their input and communication during that time.

Mayor Dalin asked if the money and efforts in undergrounding utilities has made Cornelius less susceptible to problems that arise from weather events. Dalin noted the extent of damage in neighboring cities and other adverse effects. Dalin commented on the possible reduced budget and staff within the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT.)

Brandom responded and could not speak on the subject with any basis in fact. Brandom will check with Public Works staff for information regarding ODOT. There have been reports in the

media that ODOT has had trouble staffing their winter crews statewide. Brandom was unsure what impact that has had locally. Discussion continued about the low temperature weather event and ODOT.

Brandom took a moment to appreciate staff, noting Angelica’s five years of service, Ellie’s fifteen years of various finance awards, Barbara’s work on grants, and Kevin passing the Professional Engineering exam. Brandom expressed gratitude in working with the team. Brandom has been spending time and energy into developing the City Council Chambers to be more efficient. Brandom thanked the Councilor’s for their patience. Discussion continued on the changes to the meeting, specifically about the move toward digital resources.

10. COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Monday, February 19, 2024 – All City offices closed in recognition of Presidents’ Day
- B. Wednesday February 21, 2024 – 6:00 pm Future Cornelius Community and Recreation Center Community Meeting, Cornelius Elementary School
- C. Monday March 4, 2024 – 6:00 pm Work Session; 7:00 pm City Council Meeting

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Godinez made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Lopez. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Councilor Lopez, Council President Colgan, and Mayor Dalin.

Date

City Recorder

City of Cornelius Agenda Report

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Peter Brandom, City Manager
Date: March 4, 2024
Subject: Planned City of Cornelius Community Events – 2024



Summary: Staff have developed the list of City-led events for 2024 and present them below.

Previous Council Action: Not applicable.

Relevant City Strategic Plan Goal(s): Goal 1: Enhance the City’s communication and engagement to be more representative and equitable.

Background: The 2024 City-led events are largely the same as 2023, with a couple of differences.

The joint State of the City event, facilitated by the Cornelius/Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce will be held in April, due to schedule conflicts at the time when it has traditionally been held.

The annual Holiday Tree Lighting event will be a larger, programmed event called *Winter Wonderland in the Plaza*. The location of the holiday tree will move to the Dinsdale Plaza. Staff plan to partner with local organizations to host a holiday market, family activities, and entertainment. The holiday tree lighting ceremony will take place on the Plaza, and local school choirs will be invited to sing holiday songs. The cost to obtain and light the tree will be less, since the tree in Veteran’s Park has gotten so large. The City plans to continue to decorate Veteran’s Park with holiday lights.

The City will also support and participate with community partners in their events. Those events are not listed here.

City Event	Date	Location
State of the City	April 22	Forest Grove Auditorium
Shred Event	May/June, TBD	City Hall
Cornelius Farmers’ Market	June – September	Library/City Hall/Dinsdale Plaza
National Night Out	August 6 (Tuesday)	Harleman Park
Flicks at the Park	August 2, 9, 16, 23	Harleman Park
Public Safety Open House	October, TBD	Cornelius Fire Station
Veteran’s Day Ceremony	November 11	Veteran’s Park
Community Dinner	November 23 (Saturday)	Cornelius Elementary
Winter Wonderland in the Plaza	December 6 (Friday)	Dinsdale Plaza
Shop with a Cop	December, Various	Walmart & Fred Meyer
School Supply Backpacks	August	Cornelius Police Department

Cost: The City will utilize a similar amount of staff time to coordinate events, and additional equipment and supplies will be purchased using \$40,000 in ARPA funds. This equipment will be useful in future year events as well.

Advisory Committee Recommendation: Not applicable.

Staff Recommendation: Provided for information purposes and discussion.

City of Cornelius Agenda Report

To: Peter Brandom, City Manager
From: Maria Aguilar, Youth Services Librarian
Date: March 4, 2024
Subject: Application for Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) Grant



Summary: Due to the quick turnaround time of the state grant opening and the deadline approaching, the Cornelius Library applied for a grant of \$4,250 from the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) to fund a teen internship from June 1 through August 31, 2024.

Previous Council Action: The Library was granted permission in 2022 and 2023 to apply for the funds, and the Library was awarded \$3,072 in 2022 and \$3,499 in 2023.

Relevant City Strategic Plan Goal(s): Goal 2: Increase connectivity and engagement and improve culture within the City organization.

Background: The State Library of Oregon is offering small grants to libraries in Oregon to fund library internships for local high school juniors or seniors (approximately 16–19 years old), to be completed in Summer 2024, up to \$5,000. This project was inspired by the Public Library Association (PLA)'s Inclusive Internship Initiative and has been adapted for Oregon library needs.

Cost: Staff time.

Advisory Committee Recommendation: Not applicable.

Staff Recommendation: Authorize the Cornelius Library to apply for the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant.

Proposed Motion: I make a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-14, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CORNELIUS PUBLIC LIBRARY TO APPLY FOR THE LSTA TEEN GRANT and this action takes effect immediately.

Exhibit: Resolution No. 2024-14

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CORNELIUS CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CORNELIUS PUBLIC LIBRARY TO APPLY FOR THE LIBRARY SERVICE TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA) TEEN GRANT

WHEREAS, Cornelius Public Library provides a mentoring opportunity for a local teen in the Cornelius Library; and

WHEREAS, Cornelius Public Library staff are providing a connected learning project opportunity for a local teen in the Cornelius Library; and

WHEREAS, the LSTA offers grants for teen employment and mentorship opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Library plans hands on training during the Summer Reading Challenge programs and events; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to increase connectivity and engagement and to improve culture within the City organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CORNELIUS CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Cornelius City Council authorizes the Cornelius Library to apply for the LSTA Teen Grant.

Section 2. This resolution is effective immediately upon its enactment by the City Council.

INTRODUCED AND APPROVED by the Cornelius City Council at their regular meeting this 4th day of March, 2024.

City of Cornelius, Oregon

By:

Jeffrey C. Dalin, Mayor

Attest: _____
Debby Roth, MMC, City Recorder