



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



# A Functional Plan for Stephens Creek Nature Park

A collaborative project of the Stephens Creek Subcommittee  
of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association  
and Portland Parks & Recreation

Final Public Review Draft  
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**Portland Parks & Recreation**

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# Introduction

This Functional Plan is designed to provide basic direction to neighbors, citizens and parks staff in the appropriate use of, and protection for, Stephens Creek Nature Park.

A park functional plan consists of a vision for the park, an outline of general policy, and park space designations for desired park use. It specifies appropriate management and on-going community involvement and considers how a park relates to and is connected to other parks, to pedestrian and bicycle routes, and to natural resources.

In 1998, the Stephens Creek Nature Park Subcommittee of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association prepared a Stephens Creek Nature Park Master Plan. This Functional Plan updates that plan. It was developed by a citizen and city staff partnership that included representatives from the Southwest Neighborhood Incorporated (SWNI) Parks Committee, Hillsdale Neighborhood Association, the Friends of Stephens Creek Nature Park (a subcommittee of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association) and staff from the PP&R Natural Resource Program (PP&R NR).



*Red Flowering Current is a native species found at Stephens Creek Nature Park.*

# Background



## Purpose

Until the preparation of this Functional Plan, the overarching problem for Stephens Creek Nature Park has been the lack of a coordinated vision that articulates the rehabilitation of the site. Also, there has been no document that records the many agreements among neighbors, park users, user groups and PP&R NR about the Nature Park's future use, management and development. The purpose of a Park Functional Plan is to guide development, operations and maintenance and stewardship of a park over a ten to twenty year period in lieu of more detailed park master or management plans.

All improvements, developments and stewardship activities should be consistent with this plan unless the plan is amended or replaced through a public process equivalent to or better than the process used to adopt this plan. Changes to the park or its natural area will be reviewed to determine whether the plan is still relevant.

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## Description

Stephens Creek Nature Park is an approximately 4-acre site located in the Hillsdale neighborhood in Southwest Portland, west of SW Bertha Boulevard and east of SW Capitol Hill Road. Stephens Creek, a perennial creek with an average depth of 6.5 inches, is part of the Willamette watershed and is one of three major watersheds in Southwest Portland. The creek is in the center of the park and flows in a northwest to southeast direction. Portions of the creek above and below the park are culverted as it flows through urbanized Southwest Portland. Custer Creek empties into the park from a culvert located just east of the junction of SW Capital Hill Road and SW 17th Avenue. The confluence of Custer and Stephens Creeks is located within the park. Two municipal storm drains originating in the residential area east of SW Bertha Boulevard empty into Stephens Creek. See Appendix A - Stephens Creek Nature Park Vicinity Map.

The site is owned by the City of Portland and managed by Portland Parks and Recreation Natural Resource Program. A 55 ft wide undeveloped public right-of-way bisects the site east to west. Adjacent parcels to the north, west and south are owned by several private landowners. The entire site has an environmental zoning overlay.

## Background

Environmental zone types and restrictions are described in the Portland City code 33.430. See Appendix B - Nature Park Land Use & Zoning Map.

*The park is a habitat park and its primary amenity is its natural area.*

The park is a habitat park and its primary amenity is its natural area. It is valuable as neighborhood open space and as refuge for the native plant and wildlife resources it provides. The park is used for walking, nature observation, neighborhood revegetation and cleanup projects and community stewardship projects.

## A Selected History

- 1845 Thomas Stephens obtains a Donation Land Claim along lower reaches of what is now Stephens Creek. His brother, James, operates Portland's first ferry service, the Stark Street Ferry, from downtown, across the Willamette, to the east side.
- 1890s Southern Pacific Railroad builds a rail line leading from Portland to Forest Grove. The line ran south from Union Station, along present-day SW 4th Avenue, passing around the West Hills, along present-day SW Barbur Boulevard, then out to what is now SW Bertha Boulevard. To avoid confusion with Hillsboro, the company decided to name the Hillsdale stop "Bertha Station," after the stationmaster's wife. The station was located near present-day SW Bertha Boulevard and SW Capitol Hill Road (then called Slavin Road).
- 1920 May 9, eight lives lost in noted head-on collision of two Red Electric trains near curve of what is now SW Bertha Boulevard near SW 13th Avenue.
- 1930s Railroad tracks torn out due to increasing use of private automobiles and buses.
- 1937 S. Henry Raz starts Raz Transportation Company in Multnomah.
- 1950 Fred Meyer Company builds large supermarket on SW Barbur Boulevard at SW Bertha Boulevard. Large segment of Stephens Creek canyon covered with fill.
- 1952 Raz Transportation moves to Bertha Boulevard next to Stephens Creek.
- 1950s Bob's Nursery occupies land along Stephens Creek and Bertha Boulevard.
- 1970 A neighbor digging a post hole finds a fleshing knife near Stephens Creek. Possibly a Native American artifact or perhaps made by Chinese railroad laborers.
- 1980 Bob's Nursery quits operating. Stephens Creek property is neglected and becomes overgrown.
- 1980s Attempts to build homes on five lots along Stephens Creek site fails. Builder goes bankrupt and land ownership reverts to Multnomah County.
- 1985 City obtains easement for stormwater detention along what later becomes the Stephens Creek Nature Park site.

- 1989 SW Bertha Boulevard is improved from a simple paved road into a tree-lined street with curbs and sidewalks. The Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) proposes to build a 35-unit apartment building (a multi-family use) on land next to Stephens Creek zoned for single-family residential development.
- 1991 Wilson NA opposes the Conditional Use application by HAP.
- 1991-95 Lengthy land use procedural maneuvering led by Wilson NA president Wesley Risher.
- 1992 City of Portland adopts Southwest Hills Resource Protection Plan, which applies environmental zoning protection to riparian areas, steep slopes and streams.
- 1994 Stephens Creek site is selected for study by the Green City Data Project. Portland Jewish Academy 5th grade class is assigned to inventory flora and fauna and to investigate water quality.
- 1995 HAP abandons their Conditional Use application for the Stephens Creek site and agrees to build on a nearby City-owned property that enjoys full neighborhood support.
- 1996 HAP returns tax foreclosed Stephens Creek property to Multnomah County.
- 1996 Multnomah County transfers Stephens Creek site to Portland Parks and Recreation.
- 1996 Hillsdale NA initiates rehabilitation work at Stephens Creek Nature Park.
- 1994-97 Raz Transportation experiences diesel leaks, which flow into Stephens Creek. Containment booms are placed in water and soil is removed from Raz property. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues fine.
- 1997 Raz Transportation moves headquarters to Tigard. Maintains Bertha site for airport bus storage and maintenance.
- 1996-98 Neighborhood organizes numerous work parties and obtains two City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services Watershed Stewardship grants to rehabilitate Stephens Creek Nature Park. Over a two-year period, the area is transformed by removing solid waste and yard debris, controlling invasive plants and replanting the site.
- 2000 The 1.6 acre Christensen property is acquired by Portland Parks & Recreation. This purchase brings the total acreage of Stephens Creek Nature Park to approximately four acres.
- 2001 The Christensen house and garage are demolished and the entire area is seeded with native grasses.



*Red flowering current trees are native to the area.*

### Existing Conditions and Constraints

Currently, Stephens Creek Nature Park is a degraded and undeveloped wetland/riparian area, composed of disturbed vegetation, soils and hydrology. Specific natural resource disturbances are as follows:

- The site's vegetation is dominated by invasive non-native species. Currently there are large expanses of species such as Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), English hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), ivy (*Hedera helix* and other *Hedera* cultivars), other non-native trees [European birch (*Betula pendula*), *Cryptomeria japonica*] and non-native grasses. See Appendix C - Existing Vegetative Cover Map.
- Stephens Creek has poor water quality. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has determined Stephens Creek to be a water quality limited stream due to such problems as high temperatures in summer and excessive bacteria.
- The Stephens Creek floodplain contains a great deal of sediment and the creek channel is extremely down-cut. Both conditions indicate that a great deal of upstream erosion has taken place and has been affecting the site for many years. In addition, storm events often result in stormwater backing up on the site. These incidents of stormwater backing up on site are intentional, the result of a stormwater detention facility located immediately downstream of Stephens Creek Nature Park. The detention facility helps protect downstream stormwater facilities, as well as the lower open channel segment of Stephens Creek between SW Barbur Boulevard and the Willamette River, because the storm flows are detained and the peak flows are reduced.
- Sediments from the Stephens Creek floodplain have not been tested but most likely contain toxins. Diesel oil spills impacted the site in 1994 and again in 1997.
- The trails in the Nature Park are unmanaged, were not deliberately designed and some are poorly sited.



*Inorganic debris dumped in Stephens Creek.*

Additionally, there are several negative social impacts to the Nature Park:

- Inorganic and organic debris is often dumped at the Nature Park.
- Park structures (e.g. kiosk, etc) have been vandalized and marred with graffiti.
- Occasionally transients have established camps at the Nature Park.
- Off-leash dogs and feral cats frequent the park.



# Planning Process

In the spring and summer of 1996, the Stephens Creek Subcommittee of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association organized two community meetings to receive input and ideas from neighbors of Stephens Creek Nature Park. Ten people attended the two meetings.

The group raised several ideas for the long-term improvement of the Nature Park:

## Access

- Improve pedestrian access.
- Build a footbridge across the creek.
- Talk to PDOT about a crosswalk on SW Bertha Boulevard at SW Chestnut Drive.

## Flora & Fauna

- Reintroduce amphibians once the stream is cleaner.
- Enhance habitat for birds.
- Remove non-native plants - blackberries, loosestrife, ivy, and nightshade.
- Replant with native trees and shrubs.
- Retain mature noninvasive ornamental trees for shade.
- Map current vegetation.
- Learn more about invasive plants like purple loosestrife and nightshade.
- Learn about herbicides.

## Social/Cultural

- Investigate history of the area for decision on the name of the creek.
- Explore Mr. Christensen's intentions for his property. [subsequently purchased in 2000].
- Address safety issues.
- Work toward re-zoning to environmental protection overlay.
- Document low and high water levels of Stephens Creek over time.

An additional meeting was held in September 1996. At that meeting, the group refined the idea list and decided to organize blackberry removal work days and begin work on a master plan for the Nature Park.



*Western Red Cedar is a native tree of the Stephens Creek area.*

## Planning Process

The following citizens and PP&R staff attended the three neighborhood meetings:

Jill Watkins	Julie Schimschock
Leslie Pohl-Kosbau	Carolyn Raz
Doug Speers	Wes Risher
Mary Vogel	Alice Speers
Bill Woodard	Barbara Wolf
Jay Mower	Kim Isaacson

In 1998, the Stephens Creek Subcommittee submitted a Master Plan for the Stephens Creek Nature Park to the Natural Resource Program of Portland Parks & Recreation. However, negotiations for the purchase of the Christensen tract began soon after the plan was submitted. With the purchase of the 1.6-acre Christensen tract in 2000, the Master Plan needed to be amended and re-submitted to the City. So in the fall of 2001 the subcommittee and PP&R NR staff began work on the amendment by developing several alternatives for the desired future condition of the Christensen property. Over the course of the next few subcommittee meetings, the areas of the property adjacent to Custer Creek and Stephens Creek were identified as suitable for revegetation as closed canopy riparian woodland. Three alternatives were proposed for the areas immediately around the Christensen house footprint and the flat fill along Bertha Blvd. The three alternatives were:

*The acquisition of the Christensen tract provided additional opportunities.*

1. A community orchard around the Christensen house and a community garden on the flat area.
2. An open canopy woodland around the Christensen house and a wildflower meadow on the flat area.
3. A picnic area around the Christensen house and an open canopy woodland on the flat area.

In December 2002, the subcommittee presented the three alternatives to the public at a general meeting of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association. Following the presentation, there was discussion regarding the merits of the alternatives and an agreement was reached favoring alternative 1 [community orchard and garden]. Thereafter, PP&R staff contacted Metro regarding the possibility of developing properties purchased with Metro Greenspaces bond measure monies

for the proposed community orchard and garden use. PP&R staff learned that this proposed use was outside of the definition of nature-based recreation stipulated by the Metro bond measure. A compromise alternative needed to be developed and after consultations with PP&R NR staff, the house footprint and flat areas were identified for restoration of open canopy woodlands in the future. In the spring of 2003, the SW Trails Committee (of SWNI) contacted PP&R staff and expressed interest in constructing a neighborhood access trail between the SW Capital Hill Road and SW Bertha Boulevard, the east-west trail alignment. PP&R supported the neighborhood trail concept and will provide assistance to SWNI on the design of the preferred alignment and preparation of the required permit application during the winter/spring of 2003-04. In the early summer of 2003, the Nature Park Subcommittee submitted a conceptual plan to PP&R staff for the development of an access point to the Nature Park from SW Capital Hill Road and self-guided interpretive walk for the southwestern portion of the east-west access trail.

## The Functional Plan

The following desired future condition statement summarizes the results of the community planning process for the Park.

### DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION STATEMENT

Stephens Creek Nature Park is a neighborhood natural area park that is valuable for the open space, native plant, wildlife and creek resources it provides.

The community vision for the Nature Park stated above does not include significant active and passive recreational facilities or attractions that would conflict with the preservation of natural resources or its status as a neighborhood natural area. Amenities such as tennis courts, baseball facilities, irrigated lawns, or dog off leash hours or areas are not appropriate. The planned trail system will be designed and built for pedestrian use only; motor vehicles and bicycles will not be permitted. See Appendix D - PP&R Natural Area Development Guidelines for additional information.

*This neighborhood natural area park is valuable for the resources it provides.*

### Prioritized Goals

The community identified the following goals for the Nature Park:

- Revegetate the site with appropriate native plants.
- Enhance water quality.
- Improve public access and use.
- Provide opportunities for environmental education and stewardship.
- Create buffer zones adjacent to creeks and provide openings in the vegetation to improve safety.

The needs listed above are in rough priority order and are described in greater detail below.

#### REVEGETATE THE SITE WITH APPROPRIATE NATIVE PLANTS

**Emergent & Shrub/Scrub Wetlands:** Emergent vegetation is very important as food and cover for wildlife and invertebrates and for water quality improvement. Currently, the floodplain of Stephens Creek is dominated by infestations of invasive non-native plants such as reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), nightshade (*Solanum* spp.), yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Before additional native emergents can be planted, the existing infestations of the non-native species need to be controlled. PP&R NR staff recommends that over time two wetland habitat types, emergent marsh and shrub/scrub wetlands, be restored in the floodplain of Stephens and Custer Creeks.

**Riparian Woodlands:** The revegetation of closed canopy riparian woodlands along the margins of Stephens Creek and open canopy woodlands in the adjacent uplands has many benefits for wildlife, avian species and the water quality of the stream. Since 1996, volunteers with the Nature Park Subcommittee have completed small initial plantings of native upland trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials at the park. In 2001, PP&R NR initiated a multi-year invasive species control project to manage English hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), tall fescue (*Festuca arundinaceae*), and other aggressive non-native species. PP&R NR staff recommends that over time two woodland habitat types be restored at the Stephens Creek Natural Area: open canopy and closed canopy riparian woodlands. Site preparation and invasive species control continues and the entire Nature Park woodland area is tentatively scheduled for planting during the winter of 2005-06. See Appendix E - Desired

Future Condition Map and Appendix F - Recommended Revegetation Plant Communities List.

In the long term, the wildlife habitat values of the Nature Park could be enhanced by linking the riparian vegetation within the Park to tree and shrub canopies on adjacent residential properties and nearby habitat areas [e.g. Custer Park and Custer School, Hillsdale Woodland, etc.]. Such linkages could increase the number of avian species in the vicinity and help control populations of invasive species. Although such linkages need to be part of a much larger plan than this document addresses, Stephens Creek Nature Park can play a role as a “node” in the larger landscape of connected greenspaces.

ENHANCE WATER QUALITY

While the placement of additional native plantings can provide some natural filtration, it is imperative that the stormwater and other drainage into the stream be as clean as possible if healthy aquatic and riparian habitat is to be restored. Little is known about the water quality of Stephens Creek but it currently receives untreated stormwater from adjacent and upstream roads and parking lots. Stormwater outfalls and other stormwater facilities should be inspected and maintained regularly to ensure that they are properly functioning and not adding to water quality problems. A water quality monitoring protocol should be designed and implemented at the Nature Park. If monitoring results reveal water quality problems, Parks staff should work with the Bureau of Environmental Services to develop and implement measures to improve water quality.



*Erosion of the bank has occurred near the mouth of Stephens Creek.*

IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE

Access from the Neighborhood: Currently, the primary pedestrian access point to the Nature Park from the neighborhood is from the north, at the intersection of Bertha Boulevard and Chestnut Street. The south access point from SW Capital Hill Road is undeveloped. There is parking available on SW Chestnut Street north of SW Bertha Boulevard but there is no pedestrian crosswalk across Bertha. There is very limited streetside parking at the undeveloped SW Capitol Hill Road access point.

Trails: Currently, there are a number of informal trails throughout the Nature Park. All existing trails have been evaluated and two permanent trail alignments are proposed: an east-west trail with a boardwalk stream crossing and a north-south trail roughly parallel

to SW Bertha Boulevard. There are other trail alignment options for each of the primary alignments. The direct east-west alignment could be supplemented with a longer route between the Capital Hill Road access point and the creek to provide a self-guided interpretive tour. If some of the existing shared driveway that used to serve the Christensen house were designated for A.D.A. (Americans with Disabilities Act) parking, a switchback would provide an accessible route to the boardwalk and creek. These options have been approved by the City County Advisory Committee on the Disabled (who review and must approve access system improvements at all PP&R sites). The north-south trail could be supplemented with a Stephens Creek overlook loop. Both trail alignments will be designed and built for pedestrian traffic only. Stairs will be used to discourage bicycles. See Appendix G - Proposed Nature Park Trail Alignments.

*Trail alignments will be designed and built for pedestrian traffic only.*

### PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Staff from the PP&R Environmental Education and Natural Resource programs will coordinate all environmental education and volunteer stewardship activities at the Nature Park in consultation with the Nature Park Subcommittee and Bureau of Environmental Services watershed stewardship staff. To date, Wilson High School science classes and the environmental club, and Mary Rieke Elementary School students have conducted field trips, science projects, water quality testing and bird watching at the Nature Park. The existing Nature Park kiosk has space for additional interpretive displays and, in the future, interpretive signage and self-guided tour posts will be placed alongside the trails. See Appendix H - Drawing of the Nature Park Kiosk.

### CREATE BUFFER ZONES ADJACENT TO CREEKS & PROVIDE OPENINGS IN THE VEGETATION TO IMPROVE SAFETY

In order to protect natural resources and restrict public access, the interior portions of the Nature Park alongside Stephens and Custer Creeks are identified as areas to be densely vegetated with plantings of riparian trees, shrubs, grasses and emergent vegetation. The edges of the Nature Park along SW Bertha Boulevard and SW Capital Hill Road will be planted with trees, grasses and wildflowers with occasional patches of shrubs. This open canopy structure adjacent to the streets will allow for visual access into the interior of the Park. No site boundary fencing is being considered, although a survey of the southwest boundary of the park would help resolve current encroachment and yard debris dumping conflicts.

## Stewardship Agreements

### PURPOSE

A Stewardship Agreement is used to implement the goals and priorities and projects of the Functional Plan. It spells out the agreed upon roles and responsibilities of participants and ensures that there is good on-going communication among the parties to the agreement.

Elements of the agreement will follow the Functional Plan that provides the general guidelines for management and procedures to be used to develop the park.

### PARTICIPANTS

- Portland Parks and Recreation staff responsible for maintenance, volunteer coordination and security. Note: PP&R is ultimately responsible for all activities in the park.
- Friends Group if there is one.
- Neighborhood association (if they want a role in stewardship).
- Watershed Council (if there is one for the watershed).
- Representative of neighbors immediately adjacent to park (if they want a role in stewardship).
- Active organized user groups who use the park regularly for educational or project purposes.
- Other bureaus, if Functional Plan implementation involves integration of their work; e.g. Environmental Services for stormwater management or Transportation for related trails work.
- Community of School Police liaison if security issues are part of Stewardship Agreement.

PP&R will work with the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association and the Stephens Creek Subcommittee to identify participants for the Stewardship Agreement.

## Planning Process

### ELEMENTS

This varies according to the specific Functional Plan and the skills, resources and needs of the community partners in the agreement. The agreement may be very basic or more complex depending on the amount of public involvement in on-going park maintenance, development and programs.

The agreement will spell out:

- The specific duties of each party (e.g. activities, supply of material, numbers of work parties to be conducted, etc.).
- General work schedule.
- Contact persons.
- Procedure for coordinating with other on-going projects and activities in the park.
- Periodic meetings to review activities if needed.
- The term of the agreement (may be set up for annual review).
- Term of the agreement or conditions requiring renewal.

The agreement may also specify additional conditions, such as:

- Required training of participants.
- Standards to be applied, such as construction materials or PP&R standard details.
- Responsibility for supervision of minors.
- Signing of insurance information forms.
- Reporting hours worked.

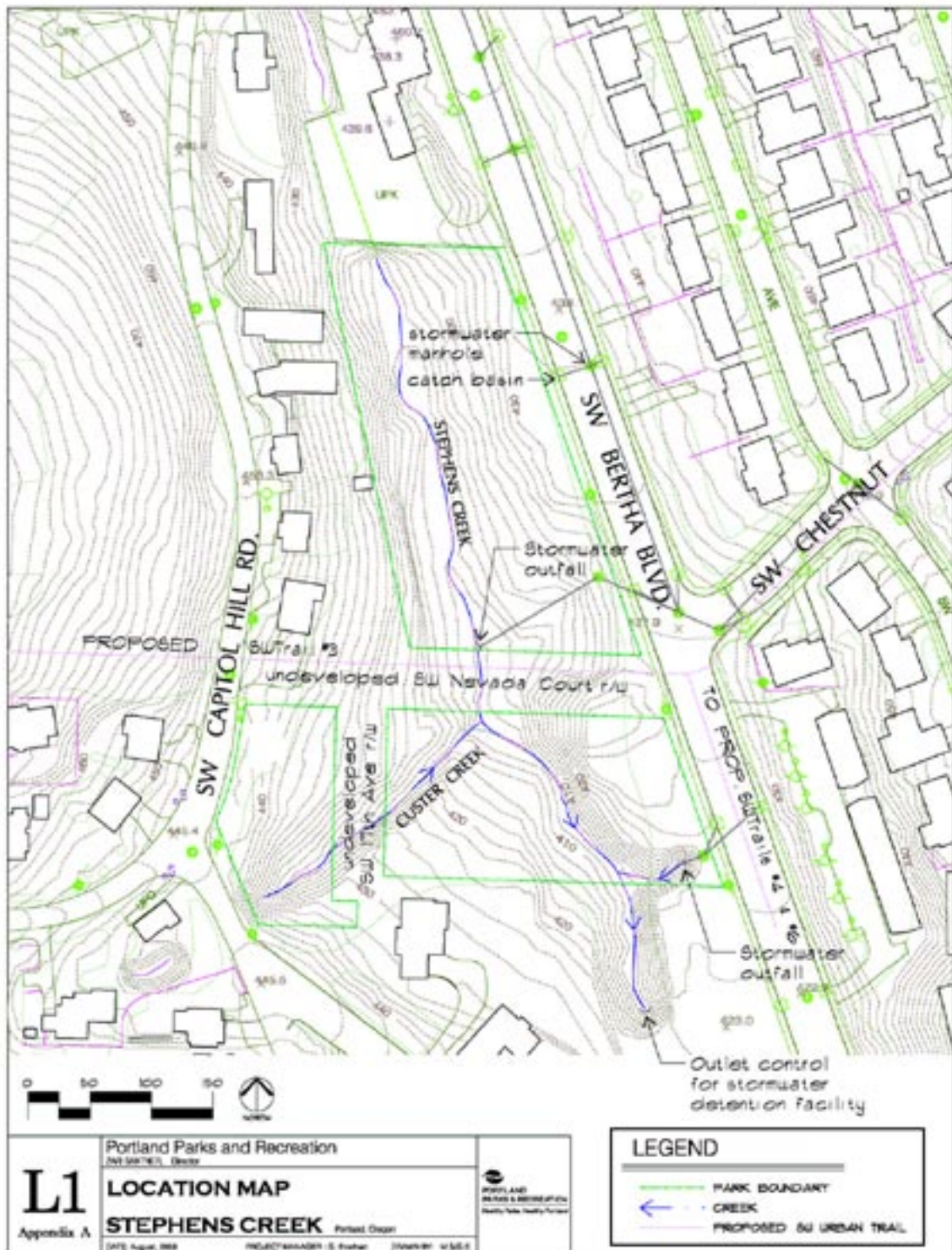
See Appendix I- Stewardship Agreement Template.



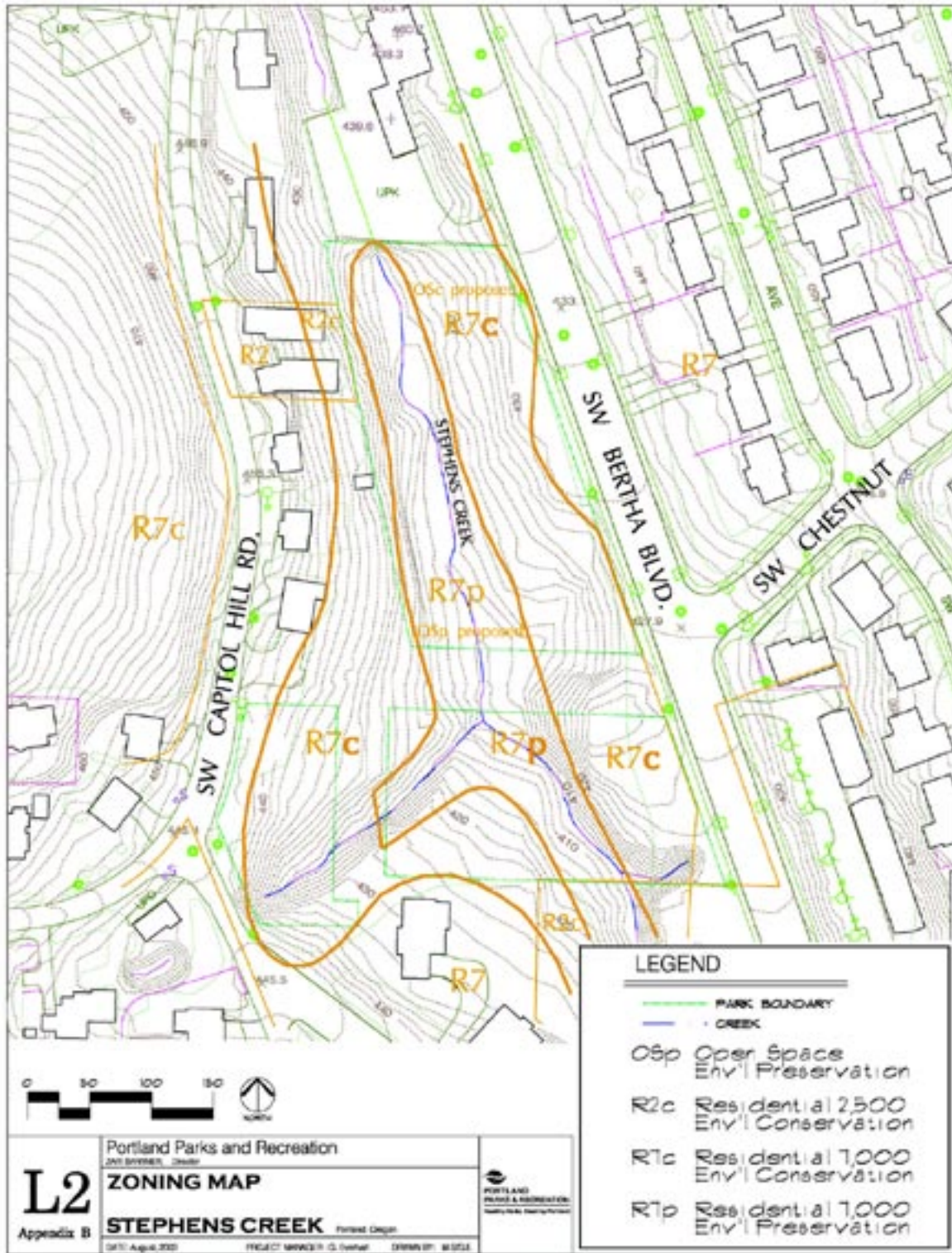
*Stewards of the Nature Park can participate in water quality testing as well as bird watching.*



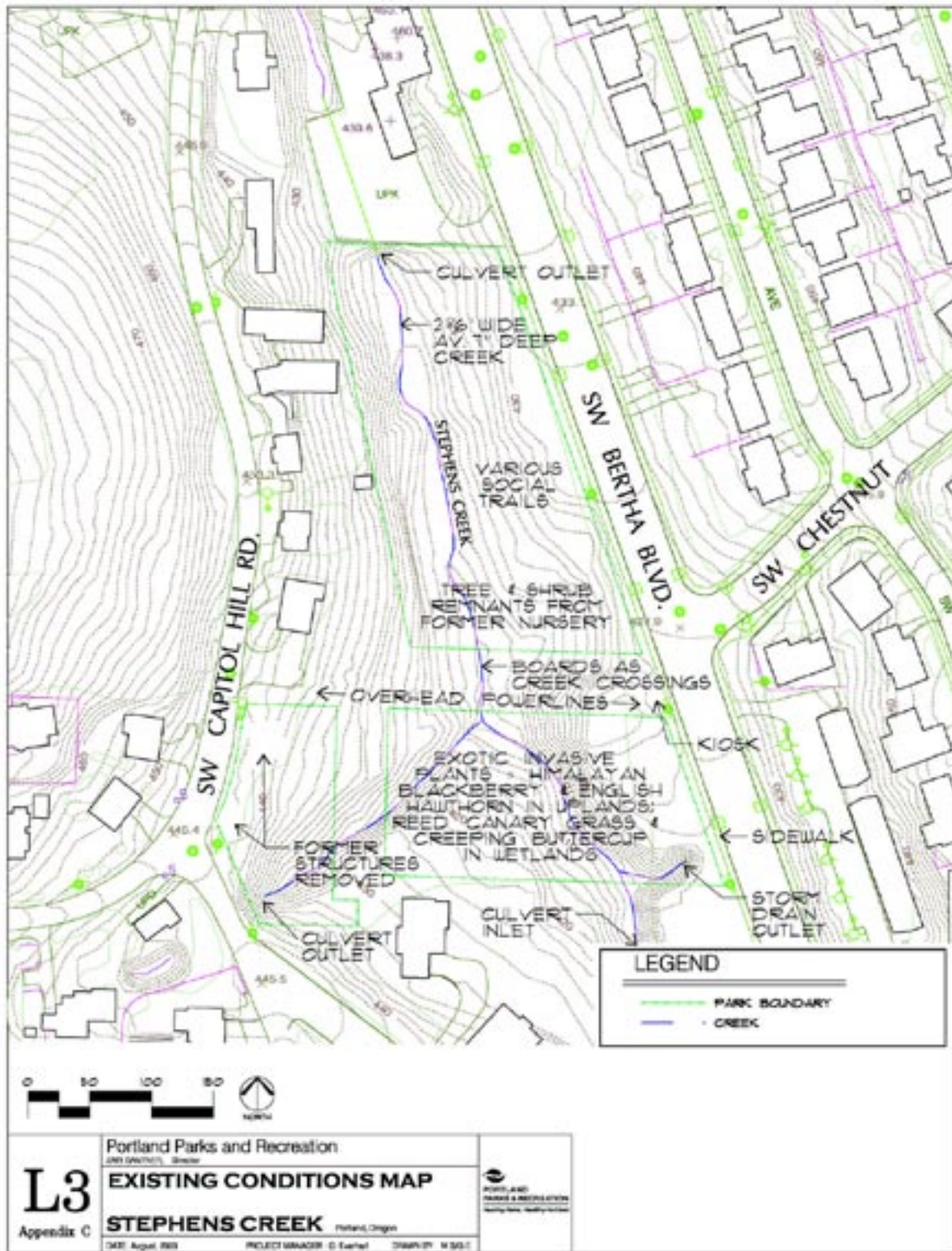
Location Map



Zoning Map



### Existing Vegetative Cover Map



## Appendix D

### PP&R Natural Area Development Guidelines

The following definitions are from Planning for Southwest Parks – A Process for Planning Parks in Southwest Portland Using Limited Resources. The full document can be obtained from the SWNI office or from Portland Parks and Recreation.

#### PARK SPACES

A critical element of the Park Functional Plan is to determine what areas are appropriate for different kinds of use. Certain park lands can easily handle intensive active use such as sports fields while others are fragile and must be protected. The Natural Area (habitat) park space is described below.

#### NATURAL AREAS

1. Description: Areas with important or unique natural resource values. Natural areas often conform to the City's designated 'environmental protection overlay zones'. They can be forested areas, meadows, wetland areas, and riparian areas. Natural Areas can include habitat spaces that conform to specific natural settings, such as Northwest Coast or Cascade upland forest or riparian areas, or Willamette Valley meadow or wetland areas. Development which has limited, minimal impact on the resource is allowed. Public access may be restricted to protect the resource. Development may include interpretive signs, benches and other minor elements, except at trailheads which may have parking areas and restroom facilities.

2. Purpose: The primary purpose is to provide beneficial fish and/or wildlife habitat for native species. It may help support stream buffers and wildlife corridors, and it can provide significant benefits to water quality and stormwater management as well as wildlife and aquatic organisms by providing shade and natural, vegetative filtering of runoff into streams. Additionally, these vegetative corridors provide significant local infiltration of runoff into the ground, which helps sustain steam flows in the early months of the summer dry season.

Another purpose of natural areas is to provide for outdoor recreation and nature study, but only to the extent that it does not infringe on the primary purpose of the natural areas.

3. Examples: Natural areas can encompass an entire park, such as Marquam Nature Park, or be a riparian, wooded, or meadow area within a traditional park. Examples include the heavily wooded northwest corner of Pier Park, or the wooded and wetland areas of Gabriel Park. Appropriate activities have minimal impact on the resource and are confined to specific areas.

Activities may include:

- Walking and hiking
- Education and nature study
- Wildlife viewing
- Leashed pet exercise (pets may be excluded completely from very sensitive habitat)
- Bicycling (bicycles may be excluded from very sensitive habitat spaces, or trails with high levels of pedestrian use)
- Restoration and maintenance
- Reading, resting, meditation

PARK SPACE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines were developed by the Working Group to address typical projects and activities appropriate to each type of Park Space – Active, Passive, Habitat and Transition Spaces. Additional guidelines that address the park function of corridors is also included. These are advisory in nature, and should be followed where appropriate, but may be altered depending on specific site conditions and recreation needs. These guidelines were developed to address issues in SW Parks, but efforts have been made to broaden the language so they can be applied to all Portland Parks, if this is a desired outcome of the Parks 2020 process.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT

Consider soils and water quality in all park development. Adequate drainage and erosion prevention are key considerations. Preserve and enhance trees and native vegetation wherever possible.

NATURAL AREA SPACE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

These areas have a particular functional ecological value such as wildlife habitat, water quality benefits, urban forest resources, stormwater detention or resource restoration. These areas are often some of the few remaining examples of the natural landscape. Often these environmental functions are compatible with passive recreation activities and provide passive recreation and education opportunities as a secondary benefit. In some cases, or at some times, public access is restricted to protect the resource.

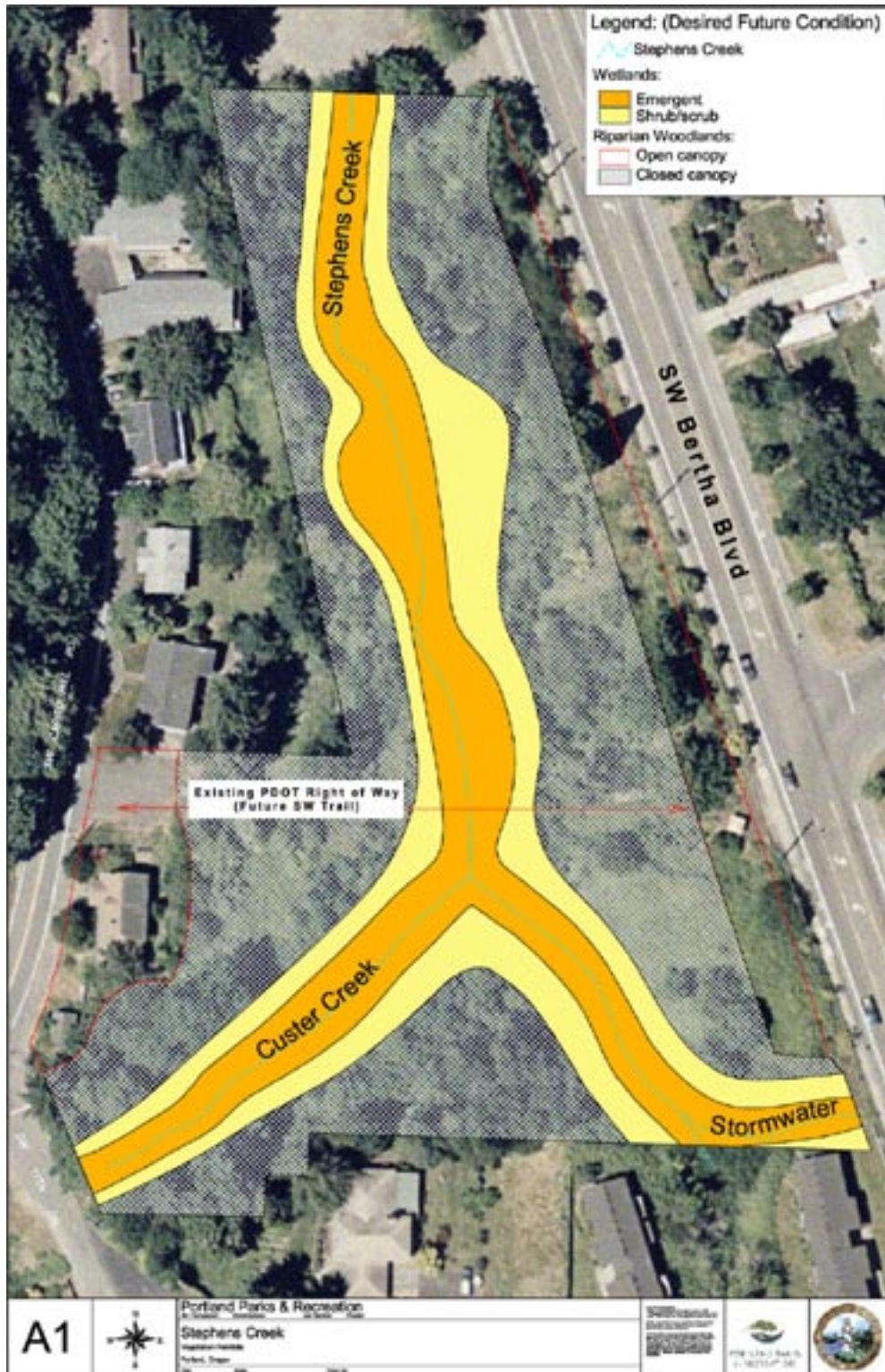
Any development here enhances preservation and protection of the resource, or restores the resource. Limited facilities support the use and enjoyment of the resource and educate the public about the resource. Scientific research is encouraged. Some areas have Comprehensive Plan designations such as Environmental Protection or Environmental Conservation zones, Greenway or Scenic Resources that provide protection and allow certain uses.

Trail development should allow the public to view streams, wetlands and other interesting habitat without impacting the resource. Well-drained, durable gravel trails or soft-surface trails are appropriate in low use areas. Paved trails may be appropriate for ADA access in areas of particular significance. Raised walkways are preferred for sensitive wet areas. Trailheads may be developed with parking, restrooms and educational signing. Lighting is to be avoided in Natural Areas.

Examples of Natural Area Activities and Resource Needed:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Activity                         | • Resource Needed                                       |
| • Walking/hiking Designated trails | • Paved or soft-surface                                 |
| • Education/Interpretation         | • Functional habitats w/ significant educational values |
| • Resting, meditating              | • Occasional benches or sitting areas                   |
| • Habitat restoration              | • Degraded or overused natural resource                 |

# PP&R Natural Area Development Guidelines



## Recommended Revegetation Plant Species List

### Emergent Wetland

*Beckmannia syzigachne* (American slough grass)  
*Carex obnupta* (slough sedge)  
*Eleocharis palustris* (creeping spike-rush)  
*Glyceria occidentalis* (northwest mannagrass)  
*Scirpus microcarpus* (small-fruited bul-rush)

### Shrub/Scrub Wetland

*Cornus sericea* ssp. *sericea* (red twig dogwood)  
*Physocarpus capitatus* (ninebark)  
*Salix lucida* ssp. *lasianдра* (Pacific willow)  
*Salix sitchensis* (Sitka willow)  
*Beckmannia syzigachne* (American slough grass)  
*Carex obnupta* (slough sedge)  
*Eleocharis palustris* (creeping spike-rush)  
*Glyceria occidentalis* (northwest mannagrass)  
*Scirpus microcarpus* (small-fruited bul-rush)

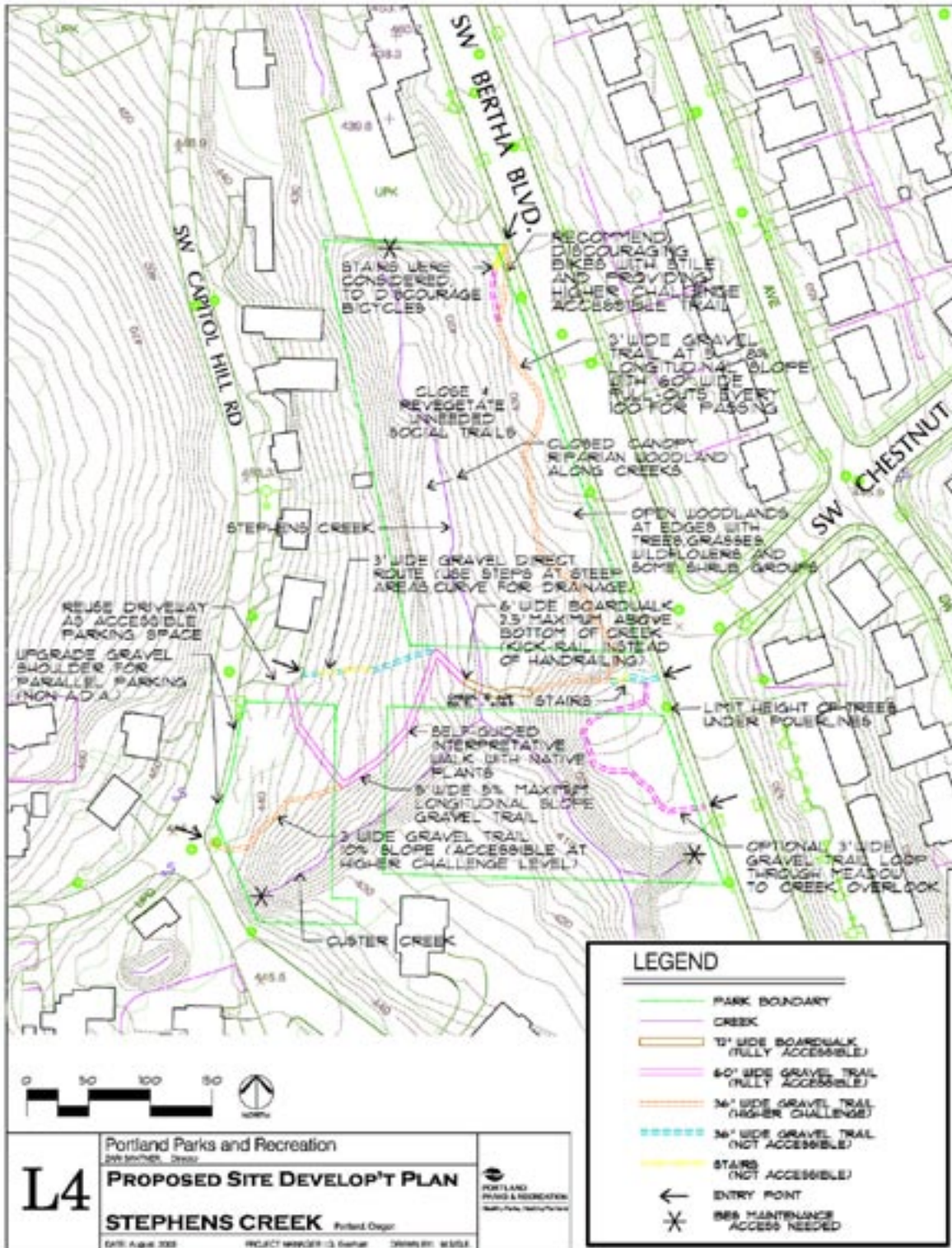
### Riparian Woodland (closed canopy)

*Acer circinatum* (vine maple)  
*Acer macrophyllum* (big-leaf maple)  
*Alnus rubra* (red alder)  
*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir)  
*Mahonia nervosa* (leatherleaf grape)  
*Polystichum munitum* (sword fern)  
*Rubus parviflorus* (thimbleberry)  
*Rubus spectabilis* (salmonberry)  
*Thuja plicata* (western red cedar)

### Riparian Woodland (open canopy)

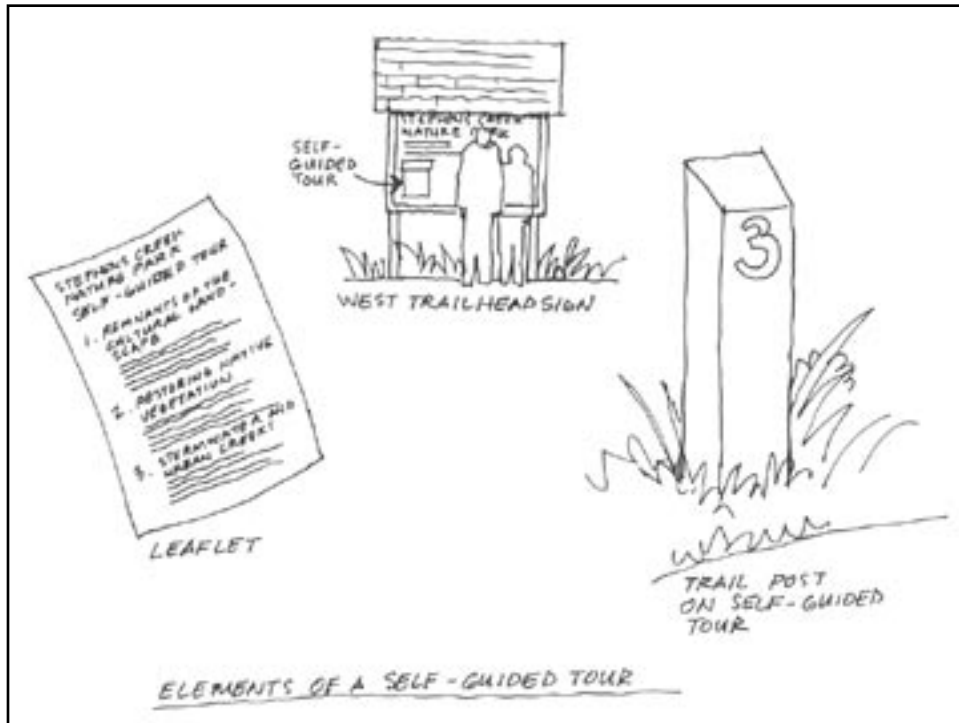
*Acer macrophyllum* (big-leaf maple)  
*Alnus rubra* (red alder)  
*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir)  
*Rosa gymnocarpa* (baldhip rose)  
*Symphicarpus albus* (snowberry)  
*Thuja plicata* (western red cedar)  
*Bromus carinatus* (CA brome grass)  
*Elymus glaucus* (blue wildrye)  
*Epilobium angustifolium* (fireweed)  
 + existing non-native grasses

Proposed Site Development Plan and Details

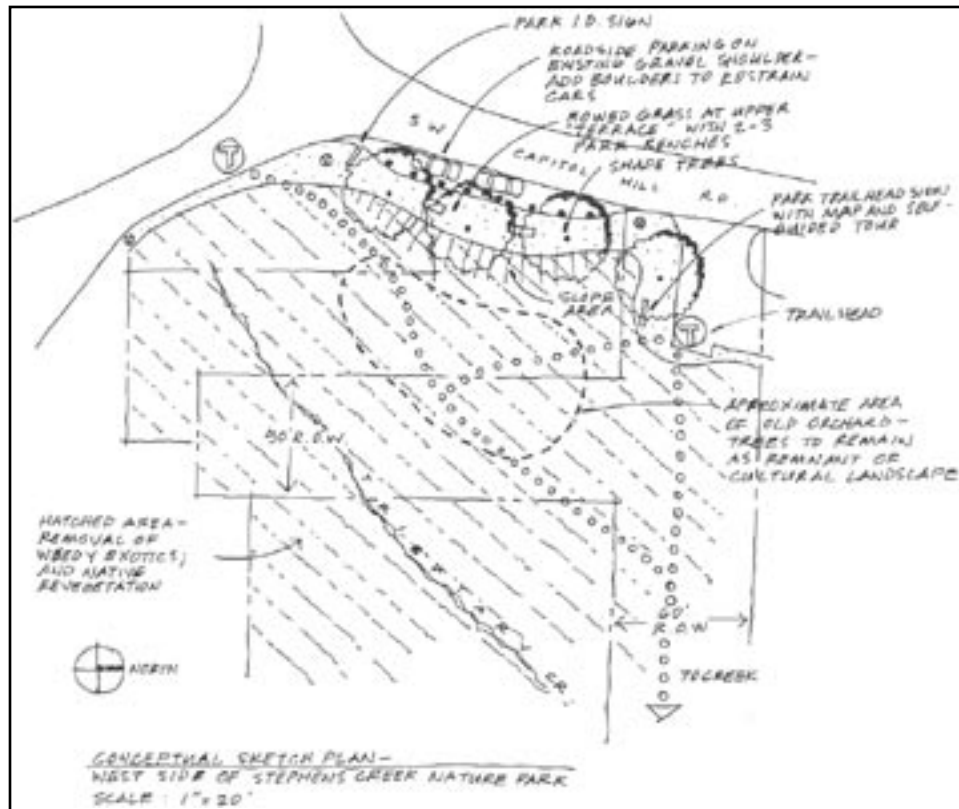




# Drawings of the Nature Park Self-Guided Tour and Kiosk



# Drawings of the Nature Park Self-Guided Tour and Kiosk



## Drawings of the Nature Park Self-Guided Tour and Kiosk



## Appendix I

# STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT - STEPHENS CREEK NATURE PARK

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Stewardship Agreement (Agreement) is to define the roles and responsibilities of the Friends of Stephens Creek (Friends) and Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR) pertaining to the maintenance and native habitat restoration of Stephens Creek Nature Park. Stewardship of Stephens Creek Nature Park is hereby a partnership between the Friends and PPR and it is anticipated that this partnership will continue into the future.

### TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement will take effect on the day it is signed by both Friends and PPR (the Parties). The Agreement is subject to an annual review by the Parties and may be revised by mutual agreement of the Parties. Either Party may terminate the agreement at any time.

### PLAN FOR STEPHENS CREEK NATURE PARK

The Desired Future Condition Statement of PPR's Functional Plan for Stephens Creek Nature Park (the Plan), dated April, 2004 will be used as the principal guide for the Parties in proposing, approving, and implementing all maintenance and native habitat restoration activities for the park. Projects should conform to the goals and policies outlined in the Plan. All maintenance and native habitat restoration projects shall follow the management practices, and shall meet the design standards or policies in the Plan or those of PPR. Projects inconsistent with these standards or policies shall be submitted to PPR for approval prior to implementation.

As excerpted from the Plan, the primary goals of the Parties for the improvement and restoration of Stephens Creek Nature Park are to:

(following items are examples)

Restore and rebuild the trail system;

Solve drainage, erosion, and landside problems and restore the creek;

Clean-up and restore the meadow;

Enhance existing gateway entrances;

Develop and implement a park security program.

The Friends will maintain a record of work projects that will be reviewed annually by the Parties. Members of the Friends must be signed up as PPR volunteers before doing any on-the-ground work. PPR will maintain all documentation required by the City of Portland in connection with the Parties activities.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO STEPHENS CREEK NATURE PARK

Capital improvements to Stephens Creek Nature Park are not covered by this Agreement. Improvements are subject to approval by PPR outside of this Agreement.

FUNDING RESPONSIBILITIES

PPR will assume primary financial responsibility subject to availability of funds from the City, for infrastructure maintenance projects, including but not limited to the following infrastructure elements: landscape (natural and planted) water system, roads, trails, bathrooms, sewers, electrical. PPR will also be responsible for ensuring that approved maintenance and restoration projects comply with all applicable planning and codes and environmental regulations. The Friends may assume primary funding for projects as agreed upon with PPR.

RESOURCE AND COMMUNICATION CONTACTS

Name	Number	Primary responsibility/resource
Name	Number	Secondary responsibility/resource

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Alice Spears  
Chairperson  
Friends of Stephens Creek

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Jim Sjulín  
Program Manager Natural Res.  
Portland Parks & Recreation

Dated:

Dated:

## Appendix J

### Non-Park Use Considerations

Permanent access must be made available to Bureau of Maintenance staff and to other utility maintenance staff for routine maintenance of the following facilities:

- Stephens Creek culvert at the NW boundary of the Nature Park.
- Custer Creek culvert and manhole on SW Capital Hill Road at the SW corner of the Nature Park.
- Stormwater discharge culvert and manhole just south of SW Bertha Boulevard at the SE corner of the Nature Park.
- Overhead utility lines that run east-west in the SW Chestnut right-of-way.

Other issues that should be considered as Nature Park train construction and revegetation projects are designed and implemented are the following:

- In the event of a very large storm event, Stephens Creek may need to be accessed in order to remove sediment, large wood, and debris.
- Design and construction of the boardwalk section of the east-west trail alignment should allow for the passage of small debris and the drainage of floodwaters.
- Trees planted within the active utility line corridor parallel to the north-south trail alignment should be shorter than 40 feet at maturity to avoid interference with overhead utility lines.

