

Rasor Park Master Plan

Final Report



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SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

Technical Report #1: Preliminary Report (Project Overview)

Technical Report #2: Inventory/Analysis, Issues/Findings, Policy Framework

Technical Report #2 Rev'd: Design Concept/Intent, Implementation Plan

Habitat Assessment for Razor Park

Summary of Workshop #1 Results

Summary of Workshop #2 Results

Summary of Workshop #3 Results

Community Survey Results

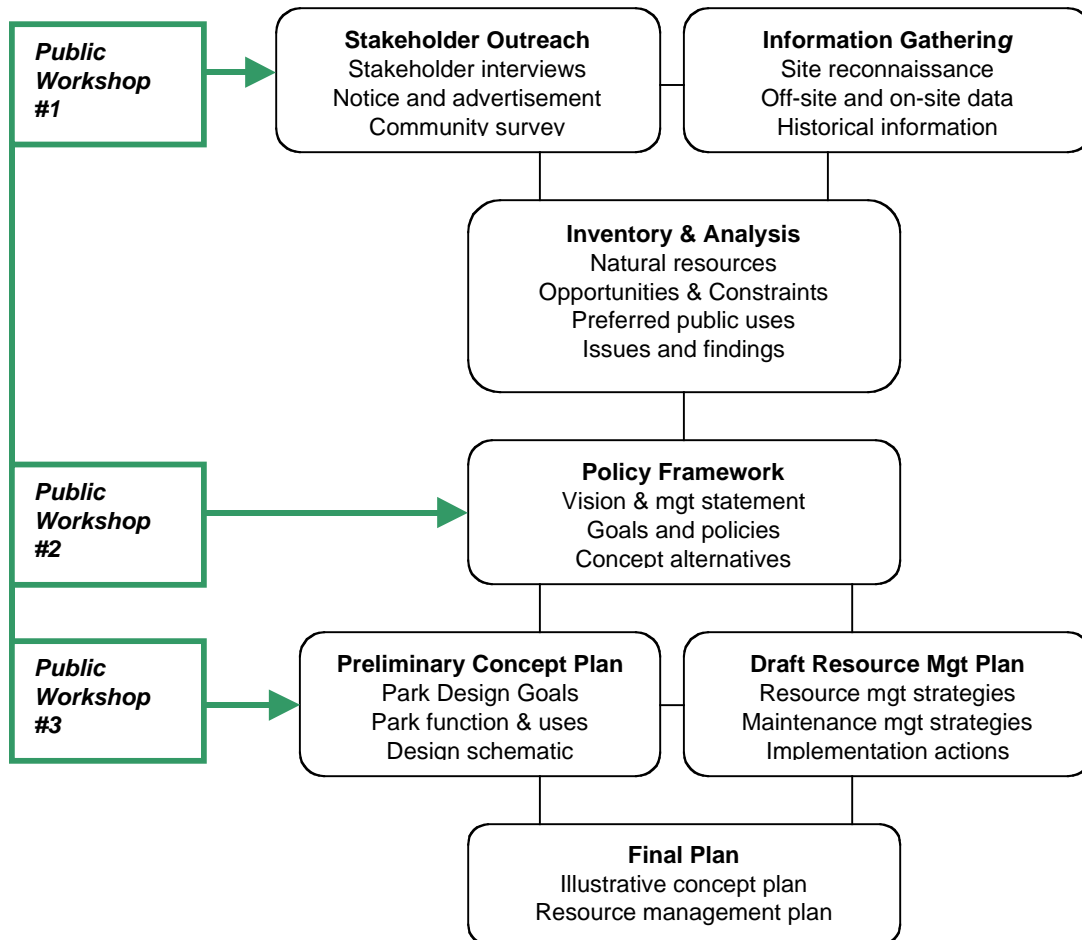


Razor Park Master Plan

1 Planning Process, Purpose and Scope

In 2001, the City of Eugene and its consultants prepared a master plan for Razor Park, a 10-acre portion of the West Bank riverfront park system in the River Road area of Eugene (Maps 1 and 2). The following planning process was designed to produce a concept design for the park, as well as an implementation plan including resource management strategies. The scope of the process centered on a comprehensive public involvement process, engaging potential stakeholders in three public workshops and a community survey.

Razor Park Planning Process



2 Summary of Stakeholder Outreach Process

2.1 Methodology

The stakeholder outreach process included an extensive effort to engage the River Road community, including these workshops and public involvement methods.

- Public Workshop #1 - February 15: attended by 105 participants who generated 112 comments recorded on index cards addressing Razor Park's physical character, benefits and satisfactions, issues and concerns, desired uses and activities, and planning goals. 61 comments sheets were returned at the end of the workshop and were tabulated according to topic.
- Community Survey: 1100 surveys were mailed in the spring to residents living within 1/4 mile of the park (the primary service area for a neighborhood park). 172 surveys were returned (16%). The survey asked which uses were considered important for planning the park, activities that users currently participate in, how far respondents live from the park, and respondents' age. Results were compiled and tabulated.
- Correspondence: Friends of Razor Park distributed a postcard survey with six master plan themes; 71 postcards were returned. Additionally, there were a number of personal letters submitted by the public.
- Personal Interviews: Personal interviews were conducted by the consultant with key stakeholders including steering committee members of Friends of Razor Park, the organizer of the River Road Cruise-in, a former city park planner, city planning, park planning, and transportation staff.
- Public Workshop #2 - June 28: attended by 80 participants who responded to the Framework Plan and proposed design concept, with 37 specific review comments returned at the end of the meeting and recorded by topic.
- Public Workshop #3 - September 13: attended by 65 participants who responded to the revised design concept and 24 implementation strategies with 29 specific review comments returned at the end of the meeting and recorded by topic.

2.2 Stakeholder Participation Findings

These findings represent analysis and distillation of the results of the public outreach efforts that formed an underlying planning theme for the project. It is emphasized that all of these themes remained consistent throughout the planning process, except for interest in continuing the River Road Cruise-in (a car show, which had become a major event in the park over the last decade). Notably, at the first workshop some support was expressed for the car show; however, this support did not continue through the second and last workshop.

Stakeholder Findings

Values and Benefits

1. Razor Park is valued for its location on the river and its open space values.
2. Enjoying nature, peace and quiet, natural beauty, and views are important perceived benefits of Razor Park.

Planning Issues and Concerns

3. Planning issues include protection of the river and riparian zone, degree and type of “development,” and site management practices (mowing, use of chemical, and dog control).
4. Additional concerns include noise along river road, dog waste, car show impacts, and compatibility of uses.
5. Some users are concerned that the park not be managed for exclusive use, and not become a fire hazard.

Preferred Use

6. Preferred uses of the park include passive, low impact recreation, focused on nature and the river.
7. Relaxation, unwinding, being with friends and family, and enjoying the park with dogs are also important.

Planning Priorities

8. Preserving and restoring the natural environment is the top planning priority, including oak-savanna restoration.
9. Other priorities include acquiring and purchasing two vacant lots adjacent to the park, and natural history interpretation and education.
10. Some support exists for special events, ranging from guided nature walks and volunteers working in the park to continuance of the car show event. There is also some neighborhood opposition to the car show held in past years.

3 Inventory and Analysis

3.1 Natural Resources

The park’s natural resource inventory and assessment is reported in more detail in the supplemental report “Habitat Assessment for Razor Park.” Outlined here is a summary of that report.

Habitat Types

Razor Park was classified into three habitat types for the purposes of inventory and assessment. In addition to these three types, open water habitat -- the Willamette River -- abuts the site, but was not assessed as a part of this project.

Habitat Type	Location
Savanna-prairie	Edges, mostly NE and SE
Prairie	Majority of site
Riparian forest	Edge of River up to top of bank

Vegetation History

In 1997, the Oregon Division of State Lands, The Nature Conservancy, and other organizations created a regional vegetation map based largely on field notes from early government surveys. Two vegetation types were mapped in the area that is now Razor Park: “savanna” was mapped for the majority of the area, and a narrow band of “closed riparian forest” vegetation was mapped along the Willamette River. Large areas to the north and west of the park were mapped as “prairie.” The Oregon Natural Heritage Program (Titus et al. 1996) has documented that bottomland forest, savanna and prairie habitat types have become very rare in the Willamette Valley.

Savannas, by definition, are areas with widely spaced trees. It is likely, however, based on more detailed analysis of historic vegetation types, that savannas in this region were mosaics of areas with widely-spaced trees (such as Oregon white oak, California black oak, occasional ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir), areas with clusters of these trees, and prairies. These upland prairies (or grasslands) probably were not completely treeless.

Aerial photos from the 1930's and 1940's show most of the park was being used for orchards at that time, which may have included nuts (filberts, and possibly walnuts) and fruit.

Soils

Soils in the study area formed from alluvial deposits on fairly flat floodplains, are deep, and are well to excessively-well drained.

Existing Vegetation

Current vegetation on the Razor Park site consists of a riparian forest on the steep bank of the Willamette, and a nearly flat terrace comprising the vast majority of the park, dominated by Eurasian grasses and forbs with scattered trees in portions. (This terrace will be referred to as the savanna-prairie and grassland area in this report.) There are scattered, mature trees, mostly in the northeast and southeast portions, and small native trees have been planted in several areas around the margins.

The extreme northeast corner is a grove (or small woodland) of mostly Oregon white oak, with some large Douglas firs near the bike path at the top of the river. Although the oaks in the western part of this area appear to be within park boundaries, they are on a private, vacant residential lot. Several native Douglas-fir and Pacific madrone trees are located to the south of the oaks, extending nearly half way down the eastern section of the site. There also are a few mature Douglas-fir trees in the southern portions of the western section of the park bordering River Road. Several planted mature, native and non-native trees are present, mostly in the

southeast corner of the park. Recently-planted seedlings consist of ponderosa pine, Oregon white oak, bigleaf maple, and incense-cedar -- all species historically native to the local area.

Although there are native shrubs in the riparian forest, there are many non-native trees and shrubs invading that threaten the integrity of this area. Few native shrubs remain along the edges of the savanna-prairie, but some have been sparingly introduced near the existing and newly-planted trees, including snowberry and vine maple.

Native herbaceous (non-woody) vegetation persists in very small quantities throughout the park, but has otherwise been displaced by Eurasian species now common throughout this region. Introduced grasses such as tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, silver hairgrass, and several bromes, and several introduced clovers dominate the savanna-prairie. Relict populations of native species such as California oatgrass and broadpetal strawberry exist in several small areas of the savanna-prairie, and Douglas’ aster and slough sedge are the only native herbaceous plants persisting in significant populations along the river. Small populations of native species such as Cusick’s checkermallow and showy milkweed have been introduced in the savanna-prairie areas with the new tree and shrub plantings.

Many non-native species present in the park are invasive into native plant communities and sometimes landscaped areas, and are very difficult to control. In addition to long-established, non-native “lawn weeds” and pasture grasses dominating the savanna-prairie, the following invasive species are present and spreading in the riparian area: sweet cherry, English laurel, Portugal laurel, English ivy, English hawthorn, Scot’s broom, English holly, Himalaya blackberry, birdsfoot trefoil, and a new invader, false brome. Yellow flag iris is colonizing along the bank just north of the park. Residual ornamental species in the south portion of the park include invasive weeds (ornamental cherries, Italian arum, etc.), and they contribute little to ecological health of the savanna-prairie habitat.

The following table summarizes characteristics of identified vegetation species identified in late winter and spring surveys on the Razor Park site. Additional species could be identified in surveys conducted throughout the remainder of the growing season.

Categories of Razor Park vegetation (number of species per category).

Category	Native	Intro (Invas)	Total
Trees	14	6 (2)	20
Shrubs	14	7 (6)	21
Forbs	14	44 (9)	58
Graminoids	11	13 (4)	24
Total	53	70 (18)	123
Note: Intro (Invas) = Introduced species (invasive species). “Invasive” species are a subset of “Introduced” species. Most introduced species are not invasive.			

Nearly 57% of the species identified in our inventories are non-native, and the actual coverage by non-natives is much higher – probably over 95% for herbaceous vegetation species. While percent cover by trees of both types is low, it is primarily comprised of native species.

No rare plant species were expected or found during our inventory, and none are reported from the area in a report generated by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (2000).

Wildlife

Although there is significant human use of the bike path, and occasional use of the remainder of the park by humans and pets for recreation, it has habitat qualities that support a number of wildlife species. Although insect, herptile and mammal surveys were not a part of this project, when compared in context to similar sites in the area, some use by several species in these groups could be expected. Our inventories included two bird surveys in early and mid spring, and a bird (and other wildlife) list. We confirmed presence of 37 species, and estimate an additional 28 species that are likely to use park habitats. A neighbor provided a separate list of 50 bird species (and a few other categories of wildlife) compiled over a longer term of observation). Both lists indicate use of the park by a substantial number of bird species.

Although there are several sensitive grassland bird species that nest in the Willamette Valley (western meadowlark, vesper sparrow, horned lark, etc.), in general, they require larger open spaces. Although some of these species need as little as two acres for nesting territory (ODFW 2000), such nesting territories are normally established in larger habitat blocks that are not islands surrounded by unfavorable habitat. In general, tracts of 100 acres or larger provide much better nesting opportunity. In the Metro area, only Alton Baker Park has sufficient acreage to provide nesting habitat for some species of grassland birds. Although western meadowlarks are known to winter there, they have not been present there in summer. It is likely that even that space is too small and isolated, and has too much human use, to be conducive to nesting for that species. In our experience, Rasor Park may be too small and isolated even for nesting by savannah sparrows, which are somewhat more tolerant of human disturbance than meadowlarks and the other sensitive species listed above. (Savannah sparrows have not been documented in Rasor Park.)

Riparian forest habitats tend to be used by a wide diversity of animals for feeding, cover and protected access to water, and safe movement corridors between habitats. Additionally, riparian forests benefit adjacent aquatic habitats and species by providing habitat for terrestrial phases of aquatic insect life cycles, shade for maintaining cool water temperatures, and inputs of organic material (coarse and fine) into aquatic systems. For these reasons, the riparian fringe is important to wildlife in and adjacent to the park.

Wildlife species that use savanna-prairie areas are more exposed and vulnerable to predators, and may be sensitive to perceived potential predators or danger. Residences closely border Rasor Park on two sides, and a busy road borders on a third. The proximity of these human uses, as well as the actual human and pet use of the savanna-prairie undoubtedly discourages use by many species that would use the site if it were located in a quiet, rural location. The isolation of Rasor Park from other large, natural open spaces also limits its use by wildlife. Nonetheless, an

open savanna-prairie of this size provides habitat opportunities proximate to the urban area that is exceeded only by Alton Baker Park.

Because of the overwhelming dominance of ground layer vegetation (grasses and forbs) by Eurasian species, and the paucity of local native species, opportunities for wildlife use are lower than if native species dominated. Native wildlife species co-evolved with native vegetation, and some native insect species (for example Monarch butterflies) need exclusively one or more certain native species to complete their life cycles. Non-native species can substitute in many cases for general food and cover, but cannot replace native species in instances where they are relied upon exclusively, particularly by insects. Plants and insects are low on the food chain, and if they are present in diverse types and large numbers, more diversity can be expected higher up the food chain. For example, if insects prosper, several species of bats and birds, which forage over the grassland would benefit.

The location of Rasor Park on a corridor of riparian habitat adds greatly to its habitat value. Many birds, herptiles, mammals, and insects (such as migrating butterflies) utilize riparian corridors for not only feeding, watering and cover, but also migration and dispersal to new habitats. Thin corridors of riparian vegetation have less value than wider corridors because they provide less food and cover, and Rasor Park provides a very wide natural habitat adjacent to the corridor. Park use is relatively low density compared to other adjacent uses, such as commercial and residential. Many animal species moving along the corridor cannot utilize adjacent developed areas, but they can utilize adjacent open spaces temporarily during their movement periods. Rasor Park habitat, especially managed using techniques that will improve habitat values, also can be a destination for some species. For example, if the milkweed populations recently planted in the park can thrive, adult monarchs may arrive in the park, lay eggs on the milkweeds, and produce a new generation. (That generation may then continue on a northward migration.)

Rasor Park is part of the greenway system included in the draft Eugene-Springfield Goal 5 inventory of natural resource areas. For additional discussion of the values of the connectivity of the greenway park system, see Lev, 1988. This report was prepared as part of the area's Goal 5 efforts.

Conclusions

Rasor Park presents an excellent opportunity to restore native vegetation communities that existed prior to the time of EuroAmerican settlement. Ten acres in size, it is large enough to comprise a significant and manageable patch of valuable habitat for native plants, animals, fungi, and other species. Likewise, the riparian forest provides opportunities for controlling exotic species and replanting with native tree, shrub, and herbaceous species to increase the health, structure, and viability of the river zone. The existing Oregon white oak woodland and other native trees are also valuable resource assets of the park. Finally, outstanding potential exists for public education and interpretation.

3.2 Opportunities and Constraints

An environmental scan was undertaken to record the potential capabilities and limitations of the park, as well as specific opportunities and threats of the park edge and surrounding neighborhood. This site analysis has also been mapped. Positive (+) and negative (-) findings are listed here by category.

Resource Values

- +Razor Park is distinctive in the Eugene park and open space system because of the presence of both scattered native trees and non-manicured, biodiverse grassland next to the Willamette River.
- +Razor Park has a special landscape character, because much of the site has the vegetation structure of historic savanna-prairie.
- +The historic savanna-prairie provides high potential as a demonstration project, experimental station for testing, research and monitoring, and for natural history education and interpretation.
- +Madrones, conifer groves, and a remnant oak woodland are major attributes of the site.
- +Vegetation structure along the river is moderately good with mature maples, ash, and cottonwood and some native understory.
- +The neighborhood has made a major investment in the park with native plantings, care and maintenance.
- +Plantings by the neighborhood represent civic pride and attachment to the park.
- +The park is valued for its open character, but also its existing vegetation and natural values.
- +The river fringe is an important link providing habitat connectivity for wildlife within and through the urban area.
- +Location on the Willamette River/Greenway contributes to the high significance of this site.
- +Due to armoring of the riverbank, bank erosion is minimal.
- +The park is undeveloped and therefore nothing must be “undone.”
- The park grasses are largely non-native and must be mowed to control woody plants such as blackberries, poison oak, and seedling trees.
- Blackberries and other non-native vegetation are found along the riverbank.
- Worn “desire lines” extend from the bikepath to the rivers edge, which creates some erosion and potential hazard because of the steepness of the bank.
- A townhouse building terminates the greenway and bikepath on the north edge of the park, which fragments the riparian habitat and creates a gap in the greenway corridor.

Views

- +Excellent views and viewsheds include the park’s open space and riverbank from River Road, the opposite riverbank and night lights, the river itself including an island, Coburg Hills, Skinner Butte, and Spencer Butte.
- +Vegetation along the eastbank screens intensive development in the Valley River Center area.
- +Mature Douglas-fir trees on the west side of River Road provide an important enclosure and buffer to the west side of the park.
- +Proximity of the park to the river provides excellent opportunity for public education with respect to ESA and salmon recovery.
- Views of the river itself are obstructed by riverbank vegetation from the park, especially during the growing season.

Access

- +Access to the park is good, primarily due to the West Bank Bikepath that extends across the park.
- +Razor Park is one of two greenway parcels that has frontage on River Road.
- +Pedestrian access is provided across River Road at Park Ave (signal-controlled) and continues along a 20 ft. dedicated pedestrian access easement that connects with Stephens Drive, providing access into the park.
- +Alternative transportation is excellent, with both bicycle and pedestrian access to the park.
- Vehicle access and parking is limited to the 140 ft. of frontage along Stephens Drive on the northwest corner of the park; this street access is not legible because it is not a direct route to the park.
- Razor Avenue is an unplatted street, and while it provides pedestrian access to the park and greenway from the south, it is not an official public accessway.
- “Desire lines” indicate users are attracted to the rivers edge and suggest a need for facilitating access without impacting the riverbank (i.e. a viewing platform; filtered views).

Intrusions/Misfits

- Surrounding houses and buildings represent some moderate visual intrusion into the park; the duplexes along the north edge of the park have only a 15 ft. setback.
- With recent fencing of the vacant portion of private property on the southwest edge of the park (6 ft cyclone fence), a pleasant visual seam with the park has been eliminated.
- Dog waste is evident throughout the park and affects ability to enjoy the site; dogs are frequently off-leash.
- Signage is not installed at a human scale (too high), especially the bikepath sign on Stephens Drive.
- There is high potential for intrusion into the park if a house is built on the vacant lot in Kungys Estates, where several Oregon white oak trees exist as part of the oak woodland.
- Potential exists for building to occur on the vacant portion of the private lot along the southwest edge of the park, reducing the open frontage along River Road by approximately 100 feet; vehicles also park in this area on occasion.
- Noise from River Road impacts the park; however, a low berm provides some noise abatement.

Surrounding Land Use/Zoning

- +Designation of this area for nodal development in TransPlan has the potential for creating a more pedestrian, neighborhood-friendly area, and the new grill and bar and existing pie shop are compatible with the park.
- While most of the area surrounding the park is zoned multi-family residential, General Commercial zoning creates an intensity of use south of the park that is not very compatible.

Other

- There is no park sign, which suggests to the unknowing public that the site is a vacant lot and not subject to park rules and regulations.
- There are no waste receptacles, which compounds the dog waste problem.
- +A storm sewer (6 ft depth) extends along the southern boundary of the park, and may have potential for a demonstration water quality project if creatively approached.

-The park does not embrace the River Road thoroughfare in an engaging, effective manner, with only a brief visual relief.

Conclusions

Rasor Park is an exceptional, distinctive public space because of its location on the river; special landscape character including oak woodland and other native vegetation; its savanna-prairie restoration potential; considerable neighborhood investment in native plantings, care, and maintenance; its undeveloped condition; excellent views; good pedestrian and bicycle access; and potential role in nodal development. Its limitations and constraints include intensive zoning south of the park; invasive vegetation; obstructed views of the river; a number of intrusions and misfits; and considerable dog waste that inhibits use of the park.

3.3 Recreation Suitability

Rasor Park was evaluated for its suitability to support eleven recreation activities that were generated through the stakeholder involvement process as potential uses of the site. This step of the planning process provides an objective method to:

- test specific recreation activities against the *physical capabilities* of the site;
- determine if there are *compatibility issues* with the neighborhood, the river, and among user groups;
- consider availability and relationship of park facilities and uses in the *adjacent park and greenway system* to avoid duplication; and
- take into account *staff and financial requirements*.

Results of the rating system suggest that seven uses are well suited to the site:

Table 2. Recreation activities well suited to Rasor Park

<p style="text-align: center;">Bicycling Environmental Interpretation Neighborhood Organized Events* Passive Recreation Picnicking Unstructured Play Activities Volunteering Walking/Jogging</p>
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**Neighborhood events include guided nature walks, school field trips, and volunteer activities.*

The suitability analysis indicates that four activities may not be as suitable in Rasor Park.

Table 3. Recreation activities that may not be suited to Rasor Park

<p style="text-align: center;">Community Organized Events* Traditional Playground Activities Dogs Off-leash Organized Sports Activities</p>

**Community organized events include festivals and other major events that attract large number of participants.*

These four recreation uses should be carefully evaluated because they are either available in nearby parks (soccer field, playgrounds), may impact adjacent homes (community events, organized sports activities), or may not be compatible with other recreation uses or natural resources and habitat (dogs off-leash).

3.4 Role and Function of Rasor Park

Technical Report 1 outlined the history and planning context of Rasor Park, including its acquisition as part of the Willamette Greenway, and its inclusion in the Willamette Greenway Management Plan with recommendations for viewing stations along the river. The report also noted that Rasor Park has not been formally classified with respect to its role and function in the city-wide park and open space system because it has been considered part of the West Bank Riverfront Park. Further ambiguity arises from the 1989 Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, which includes a recommendation for playfields in Rasor Park but does not classify the park as to its neighborhood or community status.

It is believed that community opposition to an indoor soccer facility in 1996, and some tension in the neighborhood over past use of the Rasor Park for an annual organized car show, all stem from a lack of a clearly defined role and function for the park within the city. To address this issue, analysis has been made of the preferred future role of the park, using several planning criteria.

Legislative Intent/Statewide Planning Goal 15

Rasor Park is one of seven sites acquired by the City of Eugene in the 1970s along the west bank of the Willamette River, under authority of the state's Willamette Greenway Plan. To meet the intent of Statewide Planning Goal 15, public uses and recreation activities of the greenway should be ***river-dependent*** and ***river-related*** in order to achieve compatibility goals as outlined in the goal. Public access to the river and greenway should also be a high priority.

System Analysis

Rasor Park is an open, undeveloped nodal area that functions as part of the Willamette Greenway system; it is strategic because of its size, access, and location on the river and West Bank Bikepath. Other nodal areas on the West Bank Greenway include Maurie Jacobs Park to the south, a 24 –acre site classified by the city as a community park, and a 5-acre undeveloped node

on the upper end across from Marist High School. Much of the remainder of the West Bank Greenway is characterized by a thin strip of riparian vegetation, with some exceptions such as a slough (former gravel extraction area) north of Razor Park.

Maurie Jacobs Park is within walking distance of Razor Park (1/4 mi), and functions as both a neighborhood and community park including a soccer field, two playgrounds, an exercise facility, picnic area, and community garden; a large parking lot provides a major staging area and access to the Willamette Greenway and West Bank Bikepath.

Due to rapid growth and infilling, there are a number of areas unserved by parks in the River Road Park Planning District. The City plans to extend neighborhood park coverage to these areas as is practicable.

Site Analysis

A number of qualities make Razor Park a distinctive open space area including its views, openness, existing vegetation and neighborhood plantings, bird habitat, and its location and relationship to the river, greenway, and bikepath. Razor Park also has exceptional potential for environmental education and interpretation, as well as demonstration projects that foster clean water and salmon recovery. In this sense, the park has value not only to the neighborhood, but also to the large community as well.

Perceived Community Needs

Public involvement and outreach efforts of this planning process indicate that the River Road community places a high priority on protecting and enhancing the natural environment of Razor Park. Little support exists for neighborhood park facilities such as a traditional playground or sports fields. City-wide, residents appear to have similar priorities based on a recent survey to determine reasons for residents visiting Eugene parks (leisure/relaxation – 46%; individual exercise/sports – 26%; natural areas/wildlife – 17%; picnics or family/social events – 16%; and playgrounds – 15). It is also noted that there is a lack of accessible, natural greenspace in the River Road Park Planning District.

Management Capability

Funding continues to be an issue for park and open space development and maintenance, which favors a simple, low-budget vision for the park. Volunteer support, as historically provided by the Friends of Razor Park, will continue to be a major resource to augment the City's ongoing maintenance management program.

Conclusions

Applying criteria of legislative intent, park system and site analysis, perception of community needs, and management capability, the preferred role and function of Razor Park is a park node on the Willamette Greenway with metropolitan-wide significance, accommodating river-related and river-dependent recreation uses. Given the lack of neighborhood park facilities in the River Road neighborhood and increasing density of growth and development associated with infilling, the park should also support multiple use park uses that are suited to the park's physical capability and suitability.

3.5 Preferred Park Uses

Based on findings and conclusions of the natural resource assessment, opportunities and constraints analysis, recreation suitability ratings, and the preferred role and function of Rasor Park, these are the desired future recreation uses of the park:

Table 4. Preferred Uses of Rasor Park

<p><i>Passive, Low Impact, and Simple Recreation Activities</i> <i>Picnicking, Bird Watching, Nature Study & Enjoyment, Natural History Education, Bicycling, Walking, Flying Kites, Frisbee, Exercising/Playing with Dogs (on leash)</i></p> <p><i>A Demonstration Project as Savanna-Prairie Restoration and Management</i></p> <p><i>Emphasis on Natural History, Education, and Research</i> <i>Engaging the entire community as a metropolitan resource</i></p> <p><i>Volunteering: Habitat Restoration Program</i></p>
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4 Issues and Findings

Distilling information from stakeholder outreach efforts and inventory assessment of this planning process, the following management issues have been identified as central to prepare a master plan for Rasor Park. The issues are supported by findings of fact.

OVERALL THEME: Rasor Park is a special place and must be planned and managed carefully.

- Rasor Park is valued for its openness, greenspace, and location on the river.
- Residents have an interest in design simplicity and a concern for “development”
- Views of the river, especially from River Road, are highly valued.

1. The role and function of Rasor Park is unclear.

- Some residents believe the park currently functions well and suffers from a “vacant lot” image.
- Nearby Maurie Jacobs Park and nodal positioning on the Willamette Greenway should be major considerations in determining Rasor Park’s preferred role.
- Maintenance management (mowing, use of herbicides) are citizen concerns.

2. The Willamette River/Greenway is a dominant feature of Rasor Park.

- Enjoying and protecting the river are high priorities of residents.
- The park’s open space is viewed as an integral part of the river setting.

3. Habitat restoration is a major priority; design and direction are needed.

- The natural environment is the top planning priority, including savanna-prairie and riparian forest restoration, as determined by the public workshop.
- Neighborhood-generated restoration concepts lack consensus but provide direction.
- No upland savanna-prairie restoration has been attempted in this part of the valley.
- Outstanding potential exists for public education and interpretation.

4. If adjacent property is not acquired, some park values could be impacted.

- Oak woodland could be irretrievably lost if the vacant lot in Kungys Estates is not acquired.
- Vacant property adjacent to the southwest corner of the park could be developed and create an intrusion into the park.

5. Noise and dog waste negatively impact the park.

- Noise from traffic along River Road is viewed as a constraint to enjoying the park.
- The park is popular for walking and playing with dogs, but dog waste is significant.

6. View protection and noise abatement are in conflict.

- Noise barriers along River Road could obstruct valued views of the park and riverbank.

7. Compatibility among uses is a major concern; past/current uses create tension.

- Resolution of the park's purpose and function will help resolve user conflicts.
- Public safety must be addressed in planning the park.
- Preferences for low-impact vs. multiple use/special events are potentially in conflict.
- Off-leash dogs are viewed by some as a park issue.

8. Razor Park volunteers have established a legacy of involvement.

- High potential exists for formally engaging volunteers in all aspects of park management.
- Volunteer participation can enhance neighborhood pride and ownership of the park.

5 Policy Framework

This component of the planning process represents a future vision and policy framework for the Razor Park Master Plan. Outlined here are the management options that emerged from the planning process, a preferred option is recommended, draft vision and management statements are proposed, and management goals and policies are presented.

5.1 Park Management Options

Based on the key issues and findings of the planning process, the staff and design team considered a range of options for managing and planning the future of Razor Park. Habitat restoration clearly emerged as the central theme, while providing multi-use park activities

suitable for the site. It should be noted that not all public interests and opinions from the outreach efforts are reflected in the consensus option. Considering all planning information, the preferred management direction for Razor Park is believed to be a logical, defensible conclusion and reflects the key sensibilities of the neighborhood.

Because open, savanna-prairie habitat is so rare in the southern Willamette Valley, the restoration approach was favored over forest habitat restoration for the open area of the park. Outlined in Table 5 are three options that were evaluated, ranging from the low end of maintaining “status quo” of mostly native trees and a few native shrubs and wildflowers, to the high end of “cleaning the slate” and creating a complete upland savanna-prairie on the site.

Because there are no known examples of complete savanna-prairie restoration and trial attempts farther north in the Valley have not be very successful, the best option is believed to be the compromise or “nudge” option involving enhancement of the existing, primarily non-native herbaceous vegetation by augmenting with native species. This option is considered a less risky approach and more practical.

Table 5. Range of options for savanna-prairie restoration in Razor Park

<i>How should historically native prairie-savanna be restored in the Park?</i>		
1. Low end	2. Middle	3. High end
Maintain status quo of mostly native trees, a few native shrubs, a very few native wildflowers (nearly all planted in the last couple of years by Friends group.) Consider keeping much or open area mown for multi-use park activities.	“Nudge.” Continue introduction of a few more scattered native trees and patches of shrubs, and continue introduction of native perennial wildflowers. Most non-native grassy/weedy areas would remain dominated by non-native grasses, but some native perennial forbs (such as showy milkweed, rosy checkermallow, mule’s ears, etc., or combinations of these) may become dominant in large patches. A portion could be mown for multi-use park activities.	“Clean the slate.” Retain native trees and most shrubs on site. Temporarily remove some shrubs and native perennials that have been introduced, and store in City’s native plant nursery. Prepare soil (plow? disc? mulch?) and re-seed with all native mix, dominated by grasses (Roemer’s fescue, California oatgrass, etc.), with some perennial forbs mixed.

5.2 Vision Statement

The draft vision statement for Razor Park represents a lofty image of the park, in direct response to the issues, findings of fact, and consideration of management options. The vision statement becomes the cornerstone for the plan’s policy framework.

Vision Statement

Rasor Park is a special place, valued for its natural qualities including undeveloped public open space, native vegetation, expansive views, and its function as a strategic node on the Willamette River Greenway and West Bank Bikepath. The desired future park will feature a legacy of sustainable natural open space and habitat, which will be restored, enhanced, and maintained using innovative resource management strategies. Opportunities will be provided for multi-use, low-impact recreation on mowed grass surrounded by restored native savanna-prairie and a healthy riparian zone along the river that support passive recreation activities. Community education and awareness will be a major benefit of the park through creative environmental interpretation methods and by active participation of volunteers in all aspect of park management. The park and its strengthened connection to the river will enhance the livability, tranquility, and civic pride of the River Road neighborhood by serving as a quiet refuge from the urban environment.

5.3 Management Statement

The draft management statement for Rasor Park translates the park’s vision statement into a management framework, with more specific policy direction for action and implementation.

Management Statement

Rasor Park will be managed as a demonstration urban natural park and riverfront node. We will apply, test, and assess progressive ecosystem management principles and practices for the purpose of protecting, conserving, and restoring the natural, scenic, outdoor recreation, and wildlife values of the site. These practices will require generally a low level of site maintenance with no permanent irrigation, minimal soil disturbance, no herbicides, and varying mowing regimens.

Emphasis will be placed on restoring the native savanna-prairie and riparian forest, as well as providing opportunities for simple, low-impact, passive recreation activities such as walking, biking, nature enjoyment and appreciation, and multiple uses to include flying kites, frisbee, picnicking, and exercising and playing with dogs (on leash). The park will be accessible to persons with different abilities.

The desired future park will feature a mowed grass area surrounded by a less-frequently mowed savanna-prairie and riparian forest, separated from adjacent properties by a fire protection zone. The tree/shrub component of the park will resemble savanna-prairie in structure with scattered trees and shrubs. Some native wildflowers and grasses will be restored; however, the ground-layer vegetation will continue to be dominated by non-native grasses. Experimental plots will provide opportunities for research and testing.

Rasor Park will have a metropolitan education function with interpretive displays, signs, and river-viewing opportunities an integral part of the management of the park. Opportunities will be provided for learning about natural processes, natural values, and savanna-prairie and salmon restoration programs. The legacy of volunteer involvement will continue in planning and maintaining the park, and in making park enhancements.

Built facilities will be minimal, provide a minimal level of public access, will be designed to support circulation throughout the park, and will provide environmental interpretation opportunities. All park infrastructure will be compatible with the park’s theme, designed for human scale, and using natural materials where practicable. Safety and security will be key management goals, including emphasis on maintaining good visibility and exposure, as well as fire protection.

5.4 Management Goals

The draft management goals for Razor Park become the guideposts and specific policy direction for implementing the management statement. These goals are supported by the issues and findings that were generated throughout the planning process.

Goal 1: Actively protect, enhance, and restore the natural environment of the site, with emphasis on proximity to the river as well as the park’s openness and existing views.

Issues: *The role and function of Razor Park is unclear.
The Willamette River/Greenway is the dominant feature of Razor Park.
View protection and noise abatement are in conflict.
Maintenance management (mowing, use of herbicides) are citizen concerns.*

Goal 2: Provide for low-impact, passive recreation opportunities that are compatible with habitat restoration and enhancement goals.

Issues: *Compatibility among recreation uses is a major neighborhood concern.
Past/current uses have created tension in the neighborhood.
Dogs off-leash can affect quality of experience for park users and impact wildlife.*

Goal 3: Create an awareness and understanding of natural processes, natural history, and urban ecosystem management within the neighborhood and broader community.

Issues: *Environmental interpretation and education are high priorities in Razor Park.
Razor Park volunteers have established a legacy of involvement, and there is high interest that this continues and expands.*

Goal 4: Protect the park from urban encroachment and contribute to the City’s nodal development goal to the degree possible.

Issues: *If adjacent property is not acquired or prevented from impacting the park, some park values could be irretrievably lost.
Current zoning encourages intensive urban development near the park.
Razor Park could be a catalyst for implementing nodal development goals.*

Goal 5: Create a safe, accessible, and attractive park environment.

Issues: *Public safety and fire protection are neighborhood concerns.
Visibility and exposure along the bikepath and in the park must be addressed.
Over-design, built facilities, and use of appropriate materials are concerns.
The park should be accessible to both the disabled and metro community.*

5.5 Management Policies

These draft policies for Razor Park provide direction for implementing the broad management goals of the master plan.

Natural Resource Management

Restoring the savanna-prairie and riparian forest is a key management priority, to achieve biological richness and native diversity within this open space node on the Willamette River. Active and diligent management will be required, demonstrating and testing ecosystem management practices to restore, rehabilitate, and enhance the park and rivers edge, including control of invasive vegetation. Routine monitoring and assessment will be required to achieve management goals. Opportunities for public education and interpretation will be actively promoted to tell the story of the park’s natural history, restoration management programs and practices, and the city’s clean water and salmon restoration programs. Physical and visual access will be provided to the river with appropriate interpretive displays and information.

Recreation and Park Use

Desired park uses are low-impact, passive recreation activities that are compatible with a natural park setting and are river-dependent. Razor Park will emphasize activities such as walking, biking, nature enjoyment and appreciation, and multiple uses to include flying kites, frisbee, picnicking, and exercising and playing with dogs (on-leash). These activities will be accommodated by an all-weather circulation system to accommodate persons with disabilities, allocating a portion of the park for mowed grass, and creating a small place for community gatherings such as school groups. Large, community events are not compatible with the park vision and purpose.

Edge Protection

Monitoring and protecting the park/urban edge will be essential to maintain integrity of the park and prevent encroachment. If key properties cannot be acquired, every effort will be made to assure that development proposals are compatible with the park. To help protect park values, adjacent intensive uses will be screened and buffered.

Safety and Security

Emphasis will be placed on providing a safe and secure park environment, with special attention to preserving good visibility and exposure throughout the site and along the bikepath. Restoration strategies and actions will include a palette of trees, shrubs and forbs that makes

safety and security a very high priority. Fire protection will be a key priority in the design and maintenance of the park.

Volunteer and Public Participation

Maintaining community involvement is a high priority for the management of Rasor Park, including continued participation of volunteers who have invested considerable time and effort in habitat restoration. Active involvement will also be encouraged in other aspects of park management, including park enhancements that may be labor intensive and/or may benefit from special neighborhood skills and talents.

Park Design and Construction

Park enhancements and infrastructure will blend into the natural character of the site, and will be designed and constructed for human scale. To the degree practicable, natural materials will be used. The design will be bold, enduring, reflect neighborhood sensibilities, and will emphasize simplicity. Built facilities will be minimal.

Public Access

Providing public access to Rasor Park will be important to accommodate not only use from the immediate neighborhood, but from the larger community as well because of the unique role and function of the park having metropolitan significance. Special efforts should be made to reconstruct the interface with River Road and the park edge to create a more accessible relationship. A high priority should be placed on making the edge of the park attractive, inviting, and accessible to pedestrians, cyclists, and the disabled.

6 Park Design

Three design alternatives and six design goals were prepared in response to the policy framework for the plan. City staff and the design team reviewed the alternatives and a preferred design scheme emerged, which was presented for review and comment at the second public workshop, and then refined and reviewed at the last public workshop. Outlined here are the design goals for guiding the design process.

6.1 Park Design Goals

1. Keep it simple: don't "overdesign" but make the design bold, enduring, and reflect a balance of neighborhood sensibilities and needs.
2. Place emphasis on the natural setting, the river, and the openness.
3. Enhance opportunities to experience and learn about natural processes and values, including salmon restoration and savanna-prairie restoration.
4. Build on and foster future neighborhood/volunteer investments.
5. Make the design and maintenance affordable and maintain a natural theme for all built facilities and infrastructure, using natural materials where possible.
6. Keep the park safe and accessible, with emphasis on visibility and exposure.

6.2 Design Concept and Intent

The design concept for Razor Park features three management zones surrounded by a fire protection area, with the following features:

- (1) Mowed Grass Zone: accommodating multi-use and unstructured park activities
- (2) Savanna-Prairie Restoration Zone: less frequently mowed area surrounding the mowed grass zone
- (3) Riparian Forest Restoration Zone: along the Willamette River corridor
- (4) Fire Protection Strip: around the perimeter of the park

Design intent is outlined here for each of the management zones, as well as supporting design elements including infrastructure and other park design features. In Section 7, implementation strategies are recommended to execute design and development, resource management, park operations, and edge protection such as land acquisition and participation in the River Road nodal development concept.

Mowed Grass Zone

This area will be maintained as a traditional mowed lawn area, and will function as multi-use open space for unstructured activities and unorganized, open play. Low-impact recreation uses will be encouraged such as flying kites, throwing a Frisbee, informal picnicking, and exercising and playing with dogs (on leash). Additional plantings will occur around the periphery of the open lawn, keeping the interior open to protect scenic views of the park and riparian zone.

Savanna-Prairie Zone

Surrounding the open lawn area, the savanna-prairie zone will take on an appearance of scattered trees and shrubs, and native wildflowers and grasses intermixed with non-native grasses. Over time with additions of native vegetation, biodiversity and wildlife habitat values should increase. Experimental plots will encourage testing and research, with the park becoming one of the City's demonstration sites for natural area restoration and management. Public uses of this area will be encouraged that focus on the restoration process and natural values of the site including passive recreation activities such as observing wildlife, nature enjoyment, outdoor photography, walking, picnicking in two locations near the relocated bikepath, and environmental education. Neighborhood volunteer efforts will continue at a high level, with active participation in restoration projects.

Riparian Forest Zone

By removing non-native vegetation and replacing with native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, the riparian zone should be enhanced for wildlife habitat and the adjacent aquatic habitat. With relocation of the bikepath toward the park side, a wider river corridor will provide an opportunity to not only restore the riparian zone, but also to provide improved public access, enjoyment, and interpretation of the rivers edge. Access to the river will be directed and limited to appropriate designated areas and will support activities such as river viewing, wildlife observation, river study and awareness through interpretation, and limited picnicking (no more than one or two tables) in two areas (north and south ends of the bikepath).

Fire Protection Zone

A mowed, 30 ft fire protection strip will be maintained around the perimeter of the park adjacent to private property, which will reduce the risk of an escaped fire. The mowed strip will accommodate new tree plantings where appropriate for screening adjacent properties, as long as the distance between trees allows a large tractor to maintain the area.

Sacred Space

In the southeast part of the park, an area will be maintained as quiet space for contemplation and relaxation, and where dogs should be discouraged. This area should not encroach into the riparian zone because of the connectivity to the wildlife corridor along the river toward Maurie Jacob Park. Initially, the area will be mowed and surrounded with additional native tree plantings. Options should be left open for perhaps a neighborhood or community project that might define the space more formally, such as a labyrinth or other type of appropriate use that promotes peace and tranquility.

Pathways and Circulation

A three-tiered circulation system will provide access throughout the park. The bikepath will be relocated approximately 100 ft. westward from its present location along the river, which will allow widening of the river corridor for riparian restoration and river access, and acknowledge presence of the park from the bikepath and encourage its use. An 8 ft. paved path will extend from the staging area on River Road through the heart of the park and connect with the bikepath, providing an opportunity to experience the contrasting mowed lawn area and the unmowed grass and scattered tree area. Finally, mowed paths will meander throughout the savanna-prairie zone, allowing for walking, nature appreciation, and bird watching. These paths will change based on the mowing regime, and will have movable benches at strategic locations.

Staging Area

Intent of the staging area design is to reconstruct the River Road edge so there is an inviting, fully accessible entry to the community. Gateway enhancements will include an information kiosk and interpretive facilities that instill interest and provide a positive orientation to the values, opportunities, and benefits of the park. Capacity of the parking area will be limited to 10 spaces including parking for persons with disabilities, and a bioswale to collect and filter contaminants. To accommodate the parking area, the existing berm will be moved toward the interior of the park.

River Viewing Platform

A sensitively designed, unobtrusive, and small-scale viewing platform/interpretive facility will be located at the termination of the pathway at the river, designed at-grade and extending from the top of the bank. Constructed of natural materials, this will be the only location to access the rivers edge, thereby protecting the wildlife habitat and integrity of the riparian forest along the river corridor.

Community Gathering Place

Near the bikepath intersection, a small-scale, low, and gently sloping mound will function as a gathering place to accommodate small neighborhood and community groups. Seating will be provided by setting natural stones in the hillside slope, accommodating not more than 25-30

persons (one school class). Also near the bikepath intersection, bicycle parking will be provided as well as a park sign, interpretive kiosk, and a waste receptacle.

Interpretive Facilities

Interpretive facilities including two information kiosks, wayside interpretive signs, and river interpretation (one viewing platform) will be sensitively designed and placed in strategic locations. Themes for the interpretive program will focus on the natural history of the area, the savanna-prairie restoration demonstration project and its progress, the significance of invasive plants, river ecology and riparian forest restoration project, and the city's programs for clean water and salmon restoration. Ideally, at least part of the interpretive information should be current and dynamic, reflecting changes in the site character as restoration efforts proceed.

Screening/Buffering

Site restoration will include locating native trees and shrubs to create a seam between the urban and park edge, softening and filtering views of homes, businesses, and fences using naturalistic patterns.

Park Infrastructure

Park infrastructure will consist of natural-appearing garbage receptacles and dog waste stations located near the staging/gateway area and at the river bikepath intersection, and a drinking fountain and water spigot (requiring installation of a water meter) located near the community gathering facility.

Nodal Development Participation

Razor Park can make a significant contribution to advance pedestrian-friendly goals of the River Road "Neighborhood Center Development Area" by functioning as strategic, high quality public open space and as a river node. To further accomplish this role, it is recommended that River Road be reconstructed with a landscaped median and at-grade pedestrian crossing (see Section 7.4 below).

7 Implementation Strategies

Strategies outlined in this section represent an action program to facilitate implementation of the Razor Park Master Plan. Generally, these strategies are listed in order of priority to assist in phasing and fiscal planning for the park. It is also believed that this master plan should solidly position the park for grants and fund-raising because of the demonstration potential and strong neighborhood and community support. Many of the strategies (resource management) are by their very nature labor-intensive, requiring primarily supervision, organization, and direction of neighborhood and community volunteers.

7.1 Park Design and Development

These action strategies prescribe how to execute the park elements and infrastructure recommendations of the design concept, which will require some moderate level of funding support. It should be recognized that there has been some interest from the neighborhood in contributing time and talent in making physical enhancements to the park.

Strategy 1: Install waste receptacles and park signs. (high priority)

- 1.1 Immediately install park identity signs, dog waste facilities, and garbage receptacles near the curb cut on River Road and near the bikepath. Lower the bikepath sign at the Stephen's Drive entrance so that it has human scale.
- 1.2 Consider installing additional signs at the same locations, or attached to the park identity sign, explaining the new vision and mission of the park and invite volunteers to participate in restoration projects. Avoid proliferation of signs throughout the park.

Strategy 2: Install park benches and picnic tables in strategic locations. (high priority)

- 2.1 Install a couple of park benches along the mowed savanna-prairie paths, and a couple of picnic tables near the bikepath as indicated on the concept plan, and at the edge of the mowed area.
- 2.2 Consider natural seating in the unmowed areas, using river stones or split logs.
- 2.3 Place large river stones for sitting at the top of the revetment in the open area near the apartments on the north end of the park.

Strategy 3: Implement screening and buffering elements of the design. (high priority)

- 3.1 As a high priority and integral part of the planting plan prescribed in Section 7.2, Strategy 1.2, work with volunteers to continue planting native trees and shrubs along the park edges and especially adjacent to the southern boundary, while maintaining the fire protection strip.
- 3.2 As a part of the screening and buffering project, define the mowed open space with naturalistic clusters of trees and varying canopies near the Graffiti Alley property, in association with the community gathering place, around the park staging area (NW corner of the mowed area), and around the "sacred space" in the southeast corner of the park.
- 3.3 Placement of trees will be carefully planned to preserve the open space and extended views through the park.

Strategy 4: Develop a design theme and specifications for the interpretive and environmental education program to promote restoration, rehabilitation, and enhancement goals of the plan.

- 4.1 Develop an interpretive plan for the park, and design and install interpretive facilities including signs, wayside exhibits, and information kiosks.

- 4.2 Design and locate interpretive facilities in as sensitive, artistic, and unobtrusive a manner as possible. Avoid over-interpretation and intrusion that detracts from natural values of the park.
- 4.3 Design a small river viewing platform, sensitively located at-grade near the top of the bank, including built-in benches. Thin and prune nearby trees to enhance views of the river. Develop interpretive facilities.

[See Section 7.2, Strategy 8]

Strategy 5: Design and install the paved pathway and community gathering place.

- 5.1 Design and construct an 8 ft. paved pathway connecting river road with the bikepath, with several meanders that create interest and variety along the mowed and unmowed management zones. Consider use of permeable material or cement tinted in earth tones and/or enhanced with river stones or pavers.
- 5.2 Use pathway excavation material to form the small hillside slope for the community gathering place, using native stones for seating and a pattern of paving stones to harden the hillside apron and create a focal point. Capacity should not exceed 30 persons.
- 5.3 At the time the gathering place becomes a priority, consider a small viewing platform located near or in the savanna-prairie part of the site, either as an alternative or as an added feature.

Strategy 6: Design and relocate the bikepath and make improvements at the park path intersection. (low priority)

- 6.1 Relocate the bikepath with a minimum of disturbance to existing native plantings.
- 6.2 Design intersection with the park path in a manner that creates maximum safety including pavement grids, signing, or other methods to warn bicyclists to de-accelerate and look for pedestrians.
- 6.3 Install bicycle parking, drinking fountain, water spigot, and water meter.

Strategy 7: Maintain and monitor the “sacred space” and work with the neighborhood to make additional enhancements.

- 7.1 Continue to mow the “sacred space” area, add a park bench, and monitor to determine if it functions as designed; if neighborhood interest emerges, make additional enhancements that would be appropriate to the character of the area as a quiet, contemplative zone.

Strategy 8: Design and install the staging area and entryway into the park. (lowest priority except for pedestrian enhancements)

- 8.1 Create a character theme for the staging area that provides for reconstruction of the River Road edge to be more pedestrian friendly, attractive and inviting, and provide a strong connection to the community. Consider bicycle parking, park benches, simple and naturalistic artwork, and use of pavers. Pedestrian oriented entryway improvements should be undertaken as a high priority, while the parking lot should be a low priority.
- 8.2 Execute design of the parking lot in such a manner that it does not block views of the park from River Road, while at the same time improving on noise abatement to the degree possible as the sound berm is reconstructed. Consider lowering the parking lot approximately 24 inches.
- 8.3 Design the parking lot for no more than 10 spaces, including space for persons with disabilities. Monitor use of the parking lot, and should it exceed capacity consider alternate locations for parking (such as the greenway north of the park along River Road, or acquire additional property to the south). Avoid future expansion of the parking lot that would create an intrusion of hard surface area into the park.
- 8.4 Design a bioswale to collect and filter contaminants from the parking lot, and include in the interpretive information at the kiosk.

7.2 Resource Management Plan

The Resource Management Plan provides specific strategies, actions and prescriptions for site management and maintenance of Razor Park.

Strategy 1: Prepare a site restoration plan. (high priority)

- 1.1 Establish specific target goals, phasing, prescriptions, and protocols for restoration management.
- 1.2 Develop a planting plan specifying species, locations, quantities, timing, site preparation, and propagation. Make screening and buffering of adjacent properties a high priority.
- 1.3 Establish a prescription for mowing and for controlling invasive non-native vegetation.

Strategy 2: Augment native vegetation in the savanna-prairie by introducing native forbs and grasses on an ongoing basis as resources permit. (high priority)

- 2.1 Following the restoration plan, continue small plantings of scattered native trees and patches of shrubs, and continue to introduce native perennial wildflowers, enhancing the existing, primarily non-native herbaceous vegetation layer.
- 2.2 Propagate native species from on the site or as near as possible.

Strategy 3: Install demonstration plots to test different restoration methods.

- 3.1 Establish plots (perhaps in the southwest portion of the park) to test methods at a small scale for complete eradication of non-native vegetation and reseeding with natives.
- 3.2 Work with volunteers to maintain the demonstration plots, established and coordinated by city staff. Results of experiments would help determine future direction of the restoration plan.
- 3.3 Test best management practices for site preparation within the planting demonstration plots, such as small-scale solarization or larger-scale plowing and disking of non-native vegetation.

Strategy 4: Target removal of all non-native woody vegetation in the riparian area.

- 4.1 Work with volunteers to remove non-native vegetation within the riparian zone and replace gaps with native tree, shrub, and herbaceous species.
- 4.2 Increase viability of the riparian area by extending the native planting westward toward the relocated bike path, using a sparser planting pattern to maintain adequate public safety and visibility.
- 4.3 Vary species composition as the distance from the river increases with black cottonwood and Oregon ash lower on the bank, and a mixed forest of conifers and deciduous trees near the top of the bank and out onto the river terrace. Maintain an oak edge along the riparian forest.
- 4.4 Near the bike path, keep shrubs to a minimum to maximize visibility, safety, and security.

Strategy 5: Establish a mowing scheme to keep woody vegetation from succeeding, and to allow full life cycles of plants and insects. (high priority)

- 5.1 Until completion of a restoration plan, develop the following mowing schedule:

Recommended mowing schedule for Razor Park

Management Zone	Mowing Regime
Multi-use Zone	As needed. Avoid use of fertilizers and pesticides, which could affect insects, birds, and small mammals in savanna-prairie adjacent.
Bike Path	Mow minimum border adjacent to path (suggested 3 feet) as needed.
Perimeter Fire Protection Zone	Minimum width and number of mowings to meet fire regulations. Mow proposed location of the bikepath until it is relocated.
Savanna Prairie Zone (and walking paths)	Try mowing only one half each year. Not mowing through a complete year allows insect eggs or pupae on vegetation to complete life cycles in the unmowed half. For mowed half, mow once in late summer or fall. Consider mowing 3' wide pathway for interpretive walk through one or both halves to provide through access or an interpreted walk with small signs.

Strategy 6: To maintain integrity of the savanna-prairie restoration project, install a minimum area of manicured turf (lawn) for multi-use park activities.

- 6.1 Regrade the multi-purpose lawn zone and establish drought-resistant turf.
- 6.2 Avoid use of fertilizers and pesticides to the maximum degree possible, which could affect insects, birds, and small mammals in the adjacent savanna-prairie zone.

Strategy 7: Provide wildlife enhancements throughout the park.

- 7.1 Formally establish a native butterfly garden to provide a special habitat for insects and an attraction to park users, and an opportunity for neighborhood volunteers to become involved in maintenance and monitoring of the garden.
- 7.2 Establish bat houses/roosts, songbird nest boxes, and osprey nesting platforms.
- 7.3 Create small rock or brush piles (approximately 2 ft diameter in width) in little-used corners of savanna-prairie for reptiles.

Strategy 8: Establish an interpretive and environmental education program to increase public awareness and stewardship of the park and the river, including natural history and restoration projects.

- 8.1 Prepare content for interpretive signage recommended in Section 7.1, including the savanna-prairie restoration and riparian forest restoration projects, and river ecosystem interpretation including the City's efforts to support the recovery of spring Chinook salmon populations, as well as restoration of the Willamette River (clean water goals). If practical, keep current and seasonal as restoration projects evolve.
- 8.2 Continue to work with volunteers such as the Friends of Rasor Park, neighborhood schools, and organizations such as Nearby Nature, developing an on-site educational program to include work parties, on-site tours, and classroom outreach.

Strategy 9: Educate neighborhood residents and park users as to their role in restoration concepts and park use.

- 9.1 Prepare a neighborhood park booklet including:
 - a. Values and limitations of native species and urban wildlife habitat
 - b. Homeowner guidelines for living near wildlife and protecting natural habitats (except for birdfeeders, do not feed wildlife -they become tame and cause problems)
 - c. Invasive plant and exotic wildlife species impacts and control (why it is necessary in the natural landscape; don't encourage Eastern Fox Squirrels and European Starlings, etc.)
 - d. List of ornamental invasive species (don't use in home landscaping)
 - e. List preferred native ornamental plants in residential settings, plants for wildlife, ethnobotany of native plants

- f. Keep garbage can lids tight.
- g. Manage pets to reduce impacts to wildlife
 - keep pet food indoors
 - keep cats indoors (see “Cats Indoors” website; American Bird Conservancy)
 - keep dogs on leash

9.2 Prepare park regulation signs to guide and control park use and behavior (but keep to a minimum):

- a. In Riparian Forest Zone: “No Camping: Wildlife Area” (or similar)
- b. In Savanna-Prairie Zone: “Savanna-Prairie Restoration Area: Please Keep Dogs on Leash,” and “Please Stay on Trail” (or similar)

7.3 Park Operations

These operational strategies provide more specificity to the management statement and policies of the master plan.

Strategy 1: Operational emphasis will be placed on maintaining the park in a manner that will promote its natural character, simplicity, and serenity.

- 1.1 There will be no electricity or amplification in the park.
- 1.2 There will be a minimum of lighting in the park, as required only to achieve public safety. If lighting is required, shield lighting fixtures to direct light only on to pathways, and away from all natural areas.
- 1.3 Nearby property owners will be encouraged to shield lights to minimize intrusion into the park.
- 1.4 Public restrooms will not be provided in the park, due to the proximity to Maurie Jacobs Park.
- 1.5 Irrigation will not be installed in the park, with emphasis on demonstrating drought-tolerant lawn and native plantings.
- 1.6 Park operations and management practices will not involve use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals, to the degree allowed by the city’s Integrated Pest Management standards.
- 1.7 Public events will be restricted to those that involve no large crowds, no parking of vehicles in the park, pose no significant disruption or hazard to wildlife, or damage soils or the restored savanna-prairie. (“Significant disruption” is defined as more than customary site impacts by individuals or groups of people participating in activities described by the master plan as appropriate for the park).

Strategy 2: Fire protection and public safety will be high priorities.

- 2.1 A mowed 30 ft. fire protection strip will be maintained around the perimeter of the park, and a smaller fire strip will be maintained along the bikepath and park path. Where trees are planted for screening, distance between trees or clusters of trees will be at least 20 ft. to accommodate mowers.
- 2.2 All plantings will take visibility and exposure into consideration to maintain maximum public safety, especially along the bikepath.

Strategy 3: Dog control and elimination of dog waste will be high operational priorities.

- 3.1 Special effort will be made to enforce dog leash regulations and to educate park users that they must pick up after their dogs and avoid conflicts with wildlife.
- 3.2 Waste stations will provide opportunities for dog owners to efficiently pick up and dispose of dog waste.

Strategy 4: Make water available in the park. (high priority)

- 4.1 Install a drinking fountain near the bikepath intersection, and a locked water spigot for supplemental watering of new plantings undertaken as part of the restoration project.

Strategy 5: Maintain an open and inclusive relationship with the neighborhood in management and operations of the park. (high priority)

- 5.1 Build on the legacy of neighborhood and volunteer participation and encourage continued and expanded involvement, including monitoring appropriate and compatible uses of the park, park design decisions, restoration planning and implementation, interpretive and educational programs, and enhancement projects. Encourage self-help projects and routine monitoring of activities and accomplishments.

7.4 Edge Protection-Offsite (highest priority)

Rasor Park is vulnerable to the intensity of zoning and land uses adjacent to the park, in addition to the proximity to a major four-lane thoroughfare. For this reason, every effort should be made to avoid potential permanent loss of park values through the following strategies.

Strategy 1: Aggressively pursue acquisition of vacant properties adjacent to the park. (very highest priority)

- 1.1 Obtain a “right of first refusal” agreement as a first step toward acquisition of the vacant lot in Kungys Estate, and seek funding for acquisition of the site to secure integrity of the oak woodland that is located on both private property and parkland. (highest priority)
- 1.2 Keep open communication with the owner of the Graffiti Alley property to determine if an acquisition opportunity might develop to acquire at least the vacant portion of the lot.

Strategy 2: Actively pursue participation in the city’s efforts to implement the River Road Nodal Center Development concept.

- 2.1 Recommend to the City Transportation Department that a landscaped median be developed in the center lane of River Road along the park edge, and opportunities be explored to make the area more pedestrian friendly and aesthetically attractive. Consider an at-grade pedestrian crossing at this location.
- 2.2 Explore possibilities of developing agreements with adjacent businesses for joint use of surface parking south of the park, especially space that is currently underutilized.

7.5 Implementation Priorities

Organizing implementation projects, tasks, and actions into categories based on funding requirements and suitability for volunteer participation, it is apparent that a significant part of the plan can be implemented without additional funds.

Organizing Implementation Actions

<u>Strategies Requiring Additional Funding</u>	<u>Strategies Requiring No Additional Funding</u>	<u>Volunteer Strategies No Additional Funding</u>
Park benches	Park signs	Continue planting natives
Picnic tables	Waste receptacles-river side	Propagate native species
Interpretive signs, displays	Mowing regimen	Establish demo plots & maintain
River-viewing platform	Restoration plan	Remove non-native vegetation *
Paved pathway	Park regulation signs	Re-plant riparian zone
Community gathering space	Enforce dog-leash laws	Establish butterfly garden
Relocate bikepath	Install dog waste stations	Establish bat-houses, birdhouses, etc.
Bicycle parking	Continue volunteer coordination	Monitor sacred space area
Drinking fountain		Create rock brush for habitat
Water spigot and meter		Develop guided tours
Staging/parking area		Prepare neighborhood booklet
Regrade/replace turf		Encourage neighbors to shield lights**
Acquire edge land		No pesticide use
Beautify River Rd-nodal dev.		* <i>No pesticides – manual removal</i>
Waste receptacles-park side		** <i>Include business owners</i>

Summarized below are action strategies that are considered top priorities for implementing the Rasor Park Master Plan. A number of priorities can and should be accomplished simultaneously, resulting in multiple actions and tasks appearing with the same priority. In this regard, some projects requiring additional funds are included in the priority list, because they are vital to the successful implementation of the plan. For example, negotiations should be started immediately

to work toward acquisition of the vacant lot in Kungys Estates on the north edge of the park in order to keep the existing oak woodland in tact.

In addition, because of extensive neighborhood involvement in the park in the past and demonstration value of the park plan, it is believed that these projects would score very high as grant applications, with funds becoming available through alternative revenue sources.

Top Implementation Priorities for Razor Park

Priority	Strategy	Description
1	PD-1	Install park signs and waste receptacles, including rules and regulations.
	PO-2	Make fire protection and public safety high priorities.
	EP-1	Aggressively pursue acquisition of vacant edge properties.
	PO-3	Make dog control and dog waste control high priorities.
2	PD-2	Install park benches.
	RM-1	Prepare a site restoration plan; establish mowing regimen.
3	RM-2 PD-2	Continue planting natives; involve volunteers; implement screening and buffering
	RM-7	Provide wildlife enhancements, involve volunteers.
	PO-4 RM-2	Remove non-native vegetation, involve volunteers. Propagate native species.
	RM-4	Make water available.
4	PO-1	Encourage neighbors to shield lights.
	EP-2	Pursue River Rd edge enhancements with Transportation Dept.
	PD-8	Design the pedestrian-oriented phase of the Staging Area along River Rd and install, including bicycle parking
5	PD-5	Design and install the paved park pathway.
	RM-6	Re-grade and establish new drought-resistant turf.
6	PD-4 RM-8	Develop an interpretive plan; begin implementing.
	PD-6 PD-4	Relocate the bikepath; construct the river-viewing platform.
	<i>PD=Park Design RM=Resource Management PO=Park Operations EP=Edge Protection</i>	