

Airport Futures – Environmental Program Update

January 2009

As part of the Airport Futures project, the City will be updating the existing Environmental Program. The program update is needed to contribute toward City compliance with Metro Titles 3 and 13, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

The City's existing Environmental Program includes inventories of natural resources and application of environmental conservation and protection overlay zones to specific resources. The Environmental Program has been applied to different parts of the City over the past 20 years including the Columbia Slough in 1989/1990. Currently a conservation overlay zone is applied to the Columbia Slough west of 82nd Avenue, the Columbia River banks and secondary drainageways. A protection overlay zone is applied to the Columbia Slough east of 82nd Avenue, Broadmoor Wetland and the Peninsula Drainage Canal.

Updating the City's Environmental Program is a three step process:



Step 1: Update the natural resources inventory – Data, information and maps of key natural resource features and attributes such as waterway condition, banks, flood area, water quality, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife habitat, etc. will be compiled. Much of this information can be found in existing documents and studies. As part of the inventory update, the quantity and functionality of the natural resources will be assessed. The City uses two GIS models and

information on special habitat areas to assess functionality. The methodology is based Metro's approach to inventory riparian corridors and wildlife habitat across the region as part of Title 13 Nature in Neighborhoods. The *Draft Natural Resources Inventory Project Report* provides a context for the inventory, presents the scientific basis, and describes the project approach and methodology (<http://www.portlandonline.com/planning/index.cfm?c=44745&a=216241>).



Step 2: Evaluate the tradeoffs between different levels of resource management – The tradeoffs of allowing, limiting or prohibiting development within the inventoried natural resource areas will be evaluated through an environmental, social, environmental, and energy (ESEE) analysis. Economic factors to be considered will include employment, commerce, land supply, housing options/types, ecosystem services, etc. Social factors will include public health, safety

and welfare, recreation, education, cultural values, livability, etc. Environmental factors include impacts on hydrology, water and air quality, habitat, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, etc. Energy factors focus on transportation requirements, infrastructure costs, heating and cooling requirements, etc. The analysis will be qualitative and intended to address all key potential impacts of the program options. The analysis will conclude with recommendations regarding under what circumstances development within natural resources areas should be strictly limited (protection overlay zone), limited (conservation overlay zone) or allowed (no overlay zone). Other City regulations and non-regulatory approaches, such as low impact development, green building techniques, restoration opportunity areas, may be recommended as well.



Step 3: Adopt the updated inventory and apply the Environmental Program – Based on the results of steps 1 and 2, environmental overlay zones could be refined and other program tools established to manage natural resources.

General Time Line

Natural Resources Inventory Update
Resource Management Evaluation

Spring 2009
Summer/Fall 2009