



TO: Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB)
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)

FROM: Beth St. Amand, Senior Planner
Laura Weigel, Associate Planner
Sarah Selden, Neighborhood Planner
Andrea Christenson, Natural Resources Planner

SUBJECT: May 23, 2013, Joint Meeting

DATE: May 17, 2013

ACTION

The Comprehensive Plan Update - Citizen Advisory Committee invites the PRAB, NRAB and SAB to join them for a discussion of Healthy Ecosystems goals and policies, which is the seventh action area of the Comprehensive Plan Update. The discussion will focus on key policy issues as detailed in this memo, soliciting policy direction, feedback and comments to guide revisions.

Please note that **the Healthy Ecosystems action area will not include updates to Sensitive Lands-related goals and policies at this time.** These goals and policies will be addressed at a later date, since the City is currently in discussions with Metro about removing Sensitive Lands regulations from private residential properties.

DISCUSSION

The Comprehensive Plan addresses how the City uses land, including both the built and natural environment. The 2035 Community Vision, developed based on community direction from three online and telephone surveys and reviewed by advisory boards, the Planning Commission and the City Council, includes the following vision statement for Healthy Ecosystems:



We are good stewards of our environment. Our urban forest, natural areas and watersheds are valued and cared for as essential environmental, economic, and cultural assets. We effectively balance today's community needs with the need to preserve clean air, water and land resources for future generations. The built environment is designed to protect, enhance and be integrated with natural systems.

The Healthy Ecosystems action area will include goals and policies relating to Lake Oswego's natural resources and open space, including trees and vegetation, streams and wetlands, Oswego Lake, the Willamette River, and parks and natural areas. Healthy Ecosystems primarily updates Goals 5 (Open Spaces, Historic & Natural Areas) and Goal 15 (Willamette River Greenway) of the existing Comprehensive Plan. The following table illustrates the topics included in this action area and notes whether or not the topic will be addressed as part of the May 23 meeting discussion:

Current Comprehensive Plan Goal and Section	Comprehensive Plan Update Action Area	Part of 5-23-13 Discussion?
Goal 5: Open Spaces, Historic & Natural Areas		
5.1 Fish and Wildlife Habitat	Healthy Ecosystems	No
5.2 Vegetation	Healthy Ecosystems	Yes
5.3 Wetlands	Healthy Ecosystems	No
5.4 Stream Corridors	Healthy Ecosystems	No
5.5 Sensitive Lands	Healthy Ecosystems (if applicable)	No
5.6 Open Space	Healthy Ecosystems	Yes
5.7 Oswego Lake	Healthy Ecosystems; Community Culture: Recreation	Yes
5.8 Historic and Cultural Resources	Community Culture: Historic Preservation	No
Goal 15: Willamette River Greenway		
Goal 15	Healthy Ecosystems; Community Culture: Recreation	Yes

MEETING FORMAT

Throughout the Comprehensive Plan Update process, the CAC has been asked to review existing Comprehensive Plan goals and policies and recommend updates based on the 2035 Community Vision, changed conditions as outlined in the background reports, and public comment. As part of this process, public comment on the Healthy Ecosystems action area was gathered through a Virtual Survey that was posted online in August 2012.

To provide all participants with the same basic information, this packet contains the following: the applicable goals and policies from the existing Comprehensive Plan, the Healthy Ecosystems background report, a summary of the Virtual Survey responses, and a summary of Parks Plan 2025 recommendations that relate to Healthy Ecosystems. Please review these materials prior to the meeting.

The goal for this meeting is to have the CAC, PRAB, NRAB and SAB hold a joint discussion on key policy issues and provide direction that will guide policy revisions. The focus of the meeting will be on policy direction rather than wordsmithing the existing goals and policies. Four specific discussion questions can be found in the following section. Members of the CAC and the advisory boards can submit comments prior to the meeting that will be distributed for everyone's consideration.

There will be opportunities for the public to comment before and after the discussion. The public may also submit written comments in advance of the meeting for the group's consideration.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Goals in the existing Comprehensive Plan call for the City to protect, enhance, and restore natural resources, including fish and wildlife habitat, vegetation, wetlands, stream corridors, open space, Oswego Lake, and the Willamette River Greenway.

Do these broad goals to protect, enhance, and restore natural resources support the 2035 Community Vision and reflect public comment? If not, what changes should be considered to the goals for Healthy Ecosystems?

2. The city has a network of open space that provides multiple functions, from visual buffers and relief from urban development to recreation, protection against natural hazards, and preservation of natural resources. As currently defined in the Plan, the open space network includes public and private lands that are both developed and natural in character (see the Healthy Ecosystems Background Report for open space definitions).

How should the City address this open space network from a Healthy Ecosystems perspective? Are revisions needed to the existing Open Space goal and policies 1, 3, or 9 (see Attachment 2b) to support the 2035 Vision or reflect changed conditions since 1994?

3. Policies in the existing Comprehensive Plan call for view corridors, and a new policy in Inspiring Spaces and Places calls for strategies to preserve view corridors from encroachment from the built environment. The specific corridors would be identified as part of Plan implementation.

Should the existing policies be revised to describe where views should be provided from (e.g., public vantage points or right-of-way), and whether they should be preserved by regulations that limit encroachment of the natural environment into public view corridors?

4. **Are there other issues that should be addressed through new or revised policies to reflect recent efforts, the 2035 Vision, public comment, and today's discussion?**

NEXT STEPS

The Planning Commission will also review this material at its May 29 meeting. On June 20, the CAC will review, discuss and revise the Healthy Ecosystems goals and policies in detail (not including policies relating to Sensitive Lands). PRAB, NRAB and SAB members may choose to submit comments and attend the June meeting.