

DRAFT Healthy Ecosystems Questions for August 2012 Online Survey

1. The 2010 Community Values & Vision Survey asked “What three aspects of Lake Oswego’s natural environment do you believe will be most important to you, and future generations in 25 years?”

The top three responses were:

- Healthy **watersheds** (rivers, streams and habitat) (68%)
- **Natural areas** open to the public (51%)
- An **exceptional natural environment** that defines the character of Lake Oswego (51%)

1a. How well do you think the City’s existing programs and regulations protect **watersheds, natural areas, and Lake Oswego’s natural environment**?

- Sliding scale “not enough protection – just right – too much”?
 - Programs (e.g., Backyard Habitat Certification program, public natural areas management, stream restoration projects, etc.)
 - Regulations (e.g., tree code, erosion control standards, Sensitive Lands regulations, etc.)

Other _____

1b. What concerns you about the future of Lake Oswego’s natural environment? [Choose your top three]

- Water quality of streams, rivers, and Oswego Lake
- Air quality
- Open space protection
- Tree canopy cover protection
- Fish and wildlife protection
- Spread of invasive species
- Use of pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals
- Nothing concerns me
- Other _____

1c. In 2035, how would you measure Lake Oswego’s success at achieving an **exceptional natural environment**? (e.g., increased percentage of tree canopy; improved water quality; restored fish and wildlife habitat; etc.)

2. The existing Comprehensive Plan goals call for the City to protect and restore significant natural resources, including stream corridors, wetlands, and tree groves.

2a. How important do you think it is to protect and restore Lake Oswego’s natural resources? [sliding scale for each]

- Stream corridors
- Wetlands
- Tree groves

2b. What strategies should the City use to protect and restore natural resources? [multiple choice; can choose more than one]

- Establish funding to acquire resource areas as public open space

- Establish funding to acquire conservation easements on resource areas (A conservation easement is a voluntary, legally binding agreement where a property owner limits the amount or type of development that can occur within a resource area but retains ownership of the land.)
- Increase funding for the restoration of natural areas
- Use the City zoning code to limit development within resource areas (e.g., Sensitive Lands regulations)
- Create incentive programs to encourage property owners to protect and restore natural resources (e.g., grants for stream channel restoration or invasive plant removal)
- Provide education and outreach to property owners(e.g., offer workshops on best management practices)
- Other ____

3. The Community Vision Statement envisions the following for Healthy Ecosystems in 2035:

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.*

Residents, developers, community groups, and the City can each play a role as good stewards of Lake Oswego's environment. For example, residents can landscape their yard with native plants. A developer can use low impact development practices like green roofs and permeable pavements. A church group can build a rain garden to treat parking lot runoff. The City can restore a degraded stream corridor in a public park.

What types of activities do you think each group can undertake (if any) to achieve the Community Vision Statement?

- Residents can ____
- Developers can ____
- Community groups and neighborhood associations can ____
- The City can ____