

Rivers to Ridges Community Forum Questionnaire

Results

The following is the record of responses from the Rivers to Ridges Community Forum Questionnaire that was distributed during the January 23 public event held at EWEB. A total of 41 completed questionnaires were received as of January 28, 2002. Also included are the oral comments received at the forum as recorded on flip charts (listed under question seven).

1. Which of the following open space attributes are the most important to you (check your top three):

(results ranked in order starting from highest)

- _38_ Natural resource values (water quality, wildlife habitat, and biological diversity)
- _26_ Recreation (hiking, bicycling, bird watching, picnicking, etc.)
- _24_ Connected open space areas and recreational corridors (connectivity)
- _12_ Education and interpretation of natural, cultural, and historic resources
- _9_ Buffers maintaining community identity between the metro area and nearby small cities
- _7_ Scenic views and vistas (scenic quality)
- _4_ Farm resource values
- _4_ Forest resource values
- _4_ Other
 - Swimming like at Buford or BRING conference area
 - I believe the metro area needs to identify 2 or 3 other Buford Parks within 30 miles of Eugene-Springfield.
 - Protects land from development
 - Natural flood control (restored wetlands and riparian areas)
 - I would check all of these
 - It's very hard to choose between these – I want them all. We shouldn't have to choose between them.

2. Do you feel our community needs more publicly owned open space in and around the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area?

37 Yes, a great deal more

4 Yes, a little more

0 Currently enough

0 No, currently too much

Comments:

- A little more public lands please (and a lot more private land in protected status – scenic or conservation easements, special status or management, zoning, etc.)
- Provided that there would be adequate funding for development and maintenance.
- As much as possible.

3. *What do you feel are the three most important publicly owned park or open space areas in the metropolitan area?*

26 Mt. Pisgah / Buford Park (Arboretum 1)

23 Spencer Butte/Ridgeline trail/South Hills

21 West Eugene Wetlands

17 Alton Baker Park / East Alton Baker Park

8 Skinner Butte

9 Amazon Park / Amazon greenway / Amazon headwaters

8 Willamette Greenway

3 Dorris Ranch

2 Delta Ponds

2 Ridgeline corridor

1 Armitage Park

1 Willamette / McKenzie River confluence

1 South Hills Skyline Area

1 Coast fork / Middle fork confluence

1 U of O

1 Sports Complex in Gateway

1 Willamette River Corridor

1 Santa Clara/Junction City corridor

4. What, if any, additional scenic, natural, and/or open space areas do you feel are important to the metropolitan area and need protection? Please identify these areas on the map on the reverse side of this comment form or list below.

- Coburg Hills, McKenzie River, rural area SW of Eugene
- Amazon Canal
- Alton Baker Park, Spencer Butte Park, Buford Recreational Area
- River Corridors AND major creeks, all ridgelines and higher elevation lands, all wetlands, agricultural and forest lands, especially in city(ies) limits.
- Certainly the urban McKenzie deserves attention but I cannot make a specific recommendation at this time, other than the influence. I do have specific recommendations for Eugene (mapped on reverse): Amazon headwaters, Amazon streamway, Moon Mountain area, UO – new courthouse river greenway, extension of Ridgeline (fir) areas to oak savanna, prairie, and wetland areas via the south hills.
- Oak woodlands, Ridgeline Trail system, farmland buffers, confluence areas of rivers, swimming holes.
- Extension of Ridgeline Trail to LCC, Pisgah, Hendricks, Moon Mt.
- All are important.
- Important farmland for flood storage & rural character near Pisgah. Acquire development rights especially if UGB expands this direction. Corridor connection (WilMck Trail, connect Willamette to McKenzie in a more pleasant way than Coburg Road).
- Commissioner Dwyer's priority of the confluence area (middle fork) below Buford Park / BRING confluence swimming area. Another Buford type (working) farm between Creswell-Cottage Grove. A riparian ag/river front area above Santa Clara, near Junction City or NW of Coburg.
- Remaining open streams especially upland streams. Additional lands along ridgeline. Ridgelines & hilltops in Springfield.
- One area that is a great opportunity is the oak-pine habitat in the upper Spencer Creek drainage west of Willamette Street.
- West Eugene Wetlands area, Hendricks Park
- What about the future use of the Railroad yard? Could be developed in a way that allows for housing & connectivity. There are some great brownfield developments in Germany that we ought to look at as examples of what can be done with creative public/private partnerships.
- Land at end of West Amazon (Beverly Property)
- See map. The connectivity shown on the other side could simply be public paths that travel through private farms. (i.e. England)

- McKenzie River east of Game Farm Road, West Eugene Wetlands, Fox Hollow Road outside city limits.
- More prairie wetlands required.
- Oak savanna
- Amazon creek headwaters. Archaeological sites – e.g., Kalapuyan winter village sites & summer camp sites. Thurston hills, Spencer Creek, Russell Creek & MacDougal-Arlie 30th Ave. forest area, Gillespie Butte
- Cancel West Eugene Parkway. No more parking lots in parks – i.e. Autzen. Rezone to stop paving natural areas.
- Coburg hills, Delta Ponds.
- Circled on back; confluence of middle/coast forks, confluence of McKenzie/Willamette, ridgeline from coast fork to Willow Creek, wetlands in west Eugene.
- South side Quarry Butte (Springfield) along middle fork Willamette. Wildish Lands so. Side of middle fork Willamette adjacent Mt. Pisgah. Lands along the McKenzie, very little at present time.
- Amazon headlands, confluence McKenzie & Willamette rivers, Coburg Hills, South Hills.
- Thurston Hills, McKenzie River front, Coburg Hills.
- Mt. Pisgah / Buford Park, Fern ridge, McKenzie River lands in town (including proposed PeaceHealth area), river lands considered for gravel mining, Skinner Butte park, Dorris Ranch (get rid of pesticides), Elijah Bristow, Razor Park.
- Middle fork / wildish land corridors, McKenzie / Willamette confluence, Ridgeline connecting parcels linking Willow Creek, Spencer Butte, Mt. Pisgah & Hendricks Park
- Significant wetlands upland wetland prairie & creek. LCC Bottom wetlands & creek, Russell Creek Basin & Russell Creek which flows into the Willamette River. Ridgeline connection to other significant areas.
- We need a connected, contiguous greenbelt of open space around the UGB.
- Headwater area of Amazon Creek, connectivity of Ridgeline Trail to green belt around city as previously planned (South Hills Plan), currently unprotected wetland areas in West Eugene.
- Everything sent in by the Citizens' Nature Project. All riparian areas should be protected with large setbacks for development including @ least 200' for rivers.

Note: additional information was included on the questionnaire maps

5. Where do you live?

35 Eugene

2 Springfield

2 Within ten miles of the metropolitan area

___ Do not reside near the metropolitan area

6. What is your zip code?

18 97405

4 97402

9 97401

3 97403

2 97404

2 97477

1 97478

7. Please add any additional comments you feel would be helpful.

- Thanks for staging this forum. It sounds like we have a lot of challenges to resolve with conflicting positions on development vs. acquisition of public space. Hopefully we can incorporate some of wisdom of the Corvallis presenters.
- I think a lot of our open space has greater potential than is being used currently, especially in the realm of education/interpretation.
- In #1, I “voted” for three choices as requested. However, at least three more (the next 3 listed) would be close behind! In #3, the Amazon Creek & Fern Ridge Reservoir wetlands would be a close fourth choice.
- Natural function / ecological value should be a paramount consideration in planning all open space parcels – whether mainly proposed for recreation, habitat, or scenic use. This includes winter floodways that could be summer playgrounds, moving existing ball fields to urban renewal locations and restoration rec. area to native habitat if the ecological value dictates it. Finally, a vision of a continuous “ridgeline” trail that connects both recreational uses and habitat types in an integrated landscape will drive the continued acquisition/restoration/salvation of our hills, savannas, prairies, and waterways. Let’s show the rest of the U.S. how to give the environment prime respect that gives us great livability and a thriving economy.
- All areas need more venues for children to relate to a thriving natural environment (ditches with frogs, turtles, other, etc.)
- We have to protect the farmlands and invest our money in saving those lands; water quality, saving salmon, forest resources.
- Advocate to pull in the UGB for more protection, especially in the North and West.
- “Treat our rivers like our oceans” (In Oregon). Acquire land along river/stream corridors.
- I believe that, on a parallel track, there should be a comprehensive inventory, continually refined, throughout Lane County. Perhaps broken down by watershed area. Yes the metro area – but also in the outlying small city areas (i.e. McKenzie Valley, Creswell,

Cottage Grove, Junction City, Florence). Lane County also needs to be urged to adopt a vision statement for county-wide space protections.

- Metro area as a whole needs to strengthen protection of the Willamette River corridor – not exclusively for habitat but for multiple natural and recreational functions. The vision could also address visions for natural area restoration. Protecting remaining habitat areas in the metro area should be a very high priority. Completing trail connections along rivers, creeks, ridgelines and through the cities should be a priority. Looking for opportunities for partnering with stormwater management efforts is an opportunity to be taken advantage of.
- We need additional sites for passive recreation to reduce the recreation pressure & overuse on Mt. Pisgah & Spencer Butte.
- Why aren't there more garbage cans along the River/Fern Ridge Trail – and all the parks? Garbage Cans are important to keeping our parks/open lands attractive. More dog friendly open areas – of leash – not more dog parks, which are stale/artificial environments. When we signed in for this forum we signed agenda mailing list – Why wasn't there an e-mail section? I would prefer e-mail info vs. written mail. I am sure there are a lot of open lands that are available for public use (walking, sightseeing, etc....) but there doesn't seem to be a nature watching comprehensive/decent guide of where these places are. We only know of the overused areas (Pisgah/Spencer's Butte/River Trail...) There are areas I have seen, but there doesn't seem to be good access to these areas. I would like to see more art in the public parks (sculptures, etc.). Any way to work with the schools and their open lands (fields) for community after-hours use. In Medford – many schools have fields with an adjacent park /walking trail/playground, with evening lights, garbage cans, restrooms, etc...
- Get the Chamber of Commerce on board. Stable funding – a metro mode, special openspaces parks and districts with ability to tax, would be my preference. Get American Farmland Trust involved – farming & agriculture community. Extensive Public Involvement, it needs to be vamped up ASAP.
- We need to investigate funding sources in addition to property taxes.
- Good info, but too much presentation and not enough participation from the public. I feel like I attended a lecture, not a forum. If you want me back, let me participate more in the beginning of the process. It's great to hear non-profit sectors are already partnering, but the business community needs to be involved now. You need friends in the power and money circles in this town. What is the timeline on this project? Where are you in the process? A diagram, PPT slide, or flyer would be helpful for the regular citizen.
- Using Boulder, CO is problematic in my opinion. Boulder seems to have an exclusionary attitude, creating a ring of green around the community. I would prefer an open space system that provides recreation for a culturally, economically diverse population. One solution would be a user survey so our open space system responds to community use & need. In response to the advisory committee issue – may I suggest getting some social service representatives on board.
- Important to provide “fingers of green”; connections from central urban areas to outlying open space surrounding the metro area, not just the rivers and ridges. Wouldn't that be great?
- We are preserving ridge lines, but the land along both rivers needs to be preserved. It is not prime industrial as the gateway area has been billed. In 50 years it may be where we have to grow our produce. Japan is an example.
- I recommend holding meetings where participants can draw potential open space areas, trails, parks as well as the existing ones they use now and also show important connections between areas. I recommend setting up a citizen involvement committee to help organize this effort. There are many people, including myself, who would be

interested in making new open spaces and preserving existing areas. Connectivity is very important. Have bike/walking paths between existing recreation areas. Create partnerships with local businesses, citizen groups, etc. Connect plan to SCORP. Create a metro-wide parks district – great idea! Think of multi-use areas to broaden open space areas that can be used. Use groups like NW Americorps Youth Corps to do trail building, other nature/recreation construction. Get funding through rivers, trails, renovation and assistance program RTCA – National Parks Service.

- Thank you for holding this forum. I believe it shows tremendous responsibility and leadership.
- No more tax money should be spent to buy parks if they're going to be paved over.
- Along with \$ for acquisition, please consider \$ and strategies to maintain and improve existing parks & trail systems. How about a local sales tax for parks? (worth a dream anyway!) A lake to ridge trail is a great idea.
- More focus on ecological values. Less focus on recreation and revenue. More river channels for natural flood control and increased riparian habitat.
- Stop building in the flood plains – let the rivers move around. Find a way to pressure BPA to spend their mitigation funds in the metro area. Maintain an agricultural belt around the metro area.
- Can more awareness be brought out about priorities of storm water funds?
- The comment at the Forum about the West Eugene Parkway cutting through the West Eugene Wetlands hit the nail right on the head. If we are serious about this project, than help is needed from all of you in government to PRESERVE the West Eugene Wetlands, rather than make it easier for sprawl advocates to pave more of our open space.
- Also, it was good to see a crowd at your Forum – but earlier, there was a public hearing, a few blocks away at City Hall having to do with Greenway issues at Alton Baker Park. The City of Eugene Parks people chose not to publicize this hearing. A cynic would ask why they publicize some things and not others. Our open spaces are being compromised piecemeal – while we have Rivers to Ridges Public Forums Slide Shows that are feel good efforts. When we need CONCRETE actions NOW!
- We feel time is of the essence! Our open spaces are rapidly disappearing. Clearly, Corvallis & Salem have a much clearer plan for protecting open spaces, recreation resources, and protection of the natural habitat for the wildlife & future of their communities! Eugene is falling sorely behind in protection of open space. As residents of Eugene for over 25 years and local small business owners, we are disillusioned at the direction the city has taken, in development and huge national retail chains building on valuable land and displacing small businesses, which are the backbone of our community!
- Of particular interest to me are the old gravel jets, now lakes, off High Banks Rd & 52nd St. in Springfield. This area should be acquired by Willamalane for a park. Before it was fenced off for the Blue Water Boats factory (now a camper factory) it was often used by local people for fishing, swimming & picnicking. It provides an ideal recreation site for these activities in an area without such facilities. It also provides important wildlife habitat, especially for birds.
- Let Citizens craft the message
- Need to incorporate zoning (zoning must reflect open space needs)
- Don't build the WEP through public open space (insulting to pay tax money to pave parks)

- Keep in mind the goals of the community
- We will need an operations and maintenance strategy.
- Political will should remain true on the purpose of measure 66.
- Publishing the positive impacts of open space on real-estate values is critical.
- Identify a developer in the community to forward the message.
- We need to form a citizen advisory committee for this project (how are members selected)?
- Create a metro wide parks district (best way to assure consistent funding)
- We need to decide exactly how much open space is enough.
- Open space planning must go beyond city boundaries.
- Make sure you tie into the Metro Natural Resources Study.
- Need to establish public-private partnerships now.
- Use Eugene stormwater money to acquire property.
- Generate revenues through agency partnerships
- Make sure you evaluate earlier park and open space plans as you proceed.