

## **Agenda Item Number 15.B.**

### **Completion of the Rivers to Ridges Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Visioning Process**

**Presenter:** Steve Gordon

**Action Recommended:** Information only

#### **Background:**

Park and open space planning for the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area has occurred primarily at a local level without the benefit of a broader regional perspective. Prior to the initiation of this visioning process, there was not a single comprehensive vision for the metropolitan region as a whole. Lack of such a vision has resulted in lost funding opportunities and difficulties with local coordination.

In response to this need, on November 29, 2000, the Eugene and Springfield City Councils, the Lane County Board of Commissioners, and the Willamalane Park and Recreation District Board met jointly and agreed to proceed with, and jointly fund, a Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Study. Funding was secured in July 2001, and LCOG has been managing this project, working closely with staff representatives from each of the four funding partners. The Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) has been provided policy direction throughout the project.

The vision map was developed over the past 18 months in collaboration with citizens, elected officials, and representatives from state, local, and federal agencies. The vision is intended to serve as a general framework to help guide the coordination of future park and open space planning and protection in our region. Because this vision is not a land use plan, demonstrating widespread local support of the vision is extremely important as state, federal, and non-profit assistance is sought in the future to implement the vision. In addition to receiving endorsements from 11 local interest groups, the Eugene and Springfield City Councils, the Lane County Board of Commissioners, and the Willamalane Parks and Recreation District Board have endorsed the vision, all by unanimous consent.

Both the Vision Map and the Vision and Strategies document can be viewed on the LCOG website at [www.lcog.org](http://www.lcog.org) under publications.

**Attachment:** *Rivers to Ridges* Vision Map