

Rivers to Ridges Comment Form Responses

The Rivers to Ridges Comment Form was distributed to groups receiving presentations between September and December 2002 and was also posted on the LCOG web page.

1. What, if any, additional scenic, natural, and/or open space areas do you feel are important to the Metropolitan Area, but are not shown on the map? Please indicate where they are and why they should be considered.

- *I favor maintaining agricultural land by easement where feasible.*
- *Add Moon Mountain. As a highly visible scenic resource. (see map). Connector from Spencer Butte south to Camas Swale. (see map) Note that the only section of trail missing from a circumnavigation is near the airport. You can walk all the way around the rest of the UGB.*
- *Should parks or gateway consideration be given to the Sacred Heart site area on the McKenzie? Airport Road? That is a kind of community gateway.*
- *I would concentrate on the area South of Dillard, Fox Hollow and Spencer Butte. That area is being divided up into 5-20 acre parcels and disappearing fast, it would provide a greenbelt on the North side of the Creswell Valley which is low quality agricultural land, thereby more developable.*
- *Ridgeline trail extension.*
- *The view to the west of Spencer Butte, in the upper reaches of Spencer Creek should be preserved as unspoiled Oak Savannah. This area should not be developed as a park or "Wine Tour" area. Development to the South and East of Spencer Butte should be halted. This area also must be preserved as habitat and viewshed.*
- *Add a possible trail up the Amazon Creek beyond Greenhill Road and then connecting over somehow to the MWC site to complete a loop all the way around.... Perhaps North of the airport through the agricultural lands.... We should at least have a vision of closed loop. Add a trail spur up into Coburg Hills for an overlook site and picnicking in forest.*
- *Russell Creek and Wetlands*
- *I think you've covered them! Maybe show a Gateway at the airport.*
- *Trails in county side, more open space in West & North Eugene & in downtown Springfield.*
- *We need more city parks with good playgrounds (like Washington Park). I would like to see the grounds of closed schools purchased and added to the parklands. The loss of Dunn School grounds as a play area (the West Side Post Office is there now).*
- *No*
- *I think that the Mid-Fork Willamette & Fall Creek waterways are valuable, natural, scenic areas and need to be enhanced as wildlife habitat & protected from development. Biologists recommend 200' inviolate riparian zones at the edges of water features. These zones should not be impacted by development.*
- *A bicycle path from Eugene bike paths to HBRA (probably utilizing the Wildish bridge over the Coast Fork is a hugely important in terms of trying to connect HBRA along the river to Amazon Park by a Wildlife's corridor is important.*
- *Gateway from airport.*
- *Use rail line as a trail in Springfield in the area near Vitus Butte.*

2. Are there areas shown on the Vision Map that you feel should be considered top priority for implementation (either general categories or specific sites)?

- *It is impossible to understate the need for habitat restoration and a vision for sustaining and improving the Natural Resources of the Eugene/Springfield area. Every square inch of our community should be studied for its impact on our environment.*
- *No.*
- *Agriculture lands North of Eugene need to be maintained as agriculture land. We cannot afford to lose the rich Willamette Valley farmland for food production.*
- *No*
- *I'm glad that many areas, area being considered as park & open space, "greenspace" worthy of protection. I urge you to add to rather than subtract from the list.*

3. Of the areas shown, which do you feel should be considered top priority for implementation (either general categories or specific sites)?

- *The area between HBRA and the Middle Fork now owned by Wildish. If HBRA extends from river to river it will remain an important natural area even where it is surrounded by urban development. A 5000 + area with natural boundaries or three (more or less) sides is essential to long town value and stability.*
- *Wildish property and other confluence's.*
- *I think the Coburg Hills area, with its high visibility, should be a priority. I also think extension of the Greenways along the Willamette are very important.*
- *Between Eugene and Junction City, Coburg Area, South of Eugene (South of Dillard & Fox Hollow).*
- *The most endangered areas lie west of Greenhill Road, east of Fern Ridge, north of Hwy 126 and South of clear Lake Road. This wetland habitat and farmland must be preserved and off limits to urban sprawl/road building and human intervention.*
- *Coburg Hills, Coyote Creek and Ridgeline Trail*
- *Top priorities: trail connection to Mount Pisgah through LCC Basin, McKenzie River Park and trail pieces in Springfield River confluence's (easements), Junction City and Coburg Buffers (easements, perhaps)*
- *"Blueways" and Wetlands*
- *Acquiring open space ASAP. And/or securing easements. And Rivers!*
- *Area between McKenzie & Willamette to connect corridors-Estate planning/Land trust. Preserving land in natural state. Recreation & Education that are salts in bay in to open space concept.*
- *The inner city & River Road area need parks for children.*
- *Ridge Line Trail to Hendricks Park connection to Pacific Crest Trail.*
- *McKenzie-Willamette confluence, Delta Ponds, Alton Baker, Island Park, Buford Rec. Area, Dorris Ranch, Elijah Bristow State Park, I think that watershed, riparian restoration is extremely important.*
- *McKenzie River corridor including Cedar Creek.*
- *Thurston South Hills – Potato Hill – BLM Ridgeline trail.*

4. Where do you live?

- a. Eugene –19
- b. Springfield – 4
- c. Within ten miles of the Metropolitan Area – 8
- d. Do not reside near the Metropolitan Area – 2

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

- *I am convinced that this is a good plan, which will get support from many local people. It is important to define this kind of broad goal.*
- *It would be interesting to develop guidelines for which parks or developments or areas are city/park district responsibilities & which are county responsibilities (or State or Federal).*
- *Unless we erect extreme barriers to in-migration, all of our plans are hopeless; we have already lost millions of square miles of our irreplaceable soils, forests and ecosystems' to the cancer of urban sprawl. We must draw the line in our community and say ENOUGH. And then work to repair the damage we have already done. The answer is not more bike lanes, wine tours, and other so called "amendments". The answer is reclamation of the abandoned quarries, restoration of wetlands, exorbitant building fees and systems development charges. Eugene/Springfield is in the midst of a population explosion. Unless they can contain the tidal wave of people moving here and being born here the damage will continue.*
- *Add notion of wildlife corridors where appropriate to textual descriptions and motivation. Note the importance of this document in informing the 2050 process and plans for future urban development.*
- *Note importance of this plan to maintaining/enhancing local livability, property values, infrastructure, etc. Good luck in presenting this to elected officials and getting their final acknowledgement.*
- *Clearly one can say FRESH, as a program of Audubon has been supportive throughout.*
- *Really appreciate the emphasis on tourism & economic benefits and working with agencies like BLM & Fish & Wildlife folks.*
- *Should emphasize that greenways and blueways can function as wildlife corridors.*
- *Preserve agricultural lands around Buford recreation area to serve as a transition from urban uses.*
- *Hopefully this effort will change the terrible inertia that exists with the City of Springfield and Willamalane in not protecting, restoring, and providing public access to these gems of open space, especially along the McKenzie River. Walk the talk.*
- *Security is a major concern. I no longer use Spencer Butte as a hiking area because of lack of security. My vehicle is not safe there and I do not feel safe there. Other members of my league unit echoed the security concerns. It is important to keep and maintain productive farmland North of Eugene. We like the plan.*
- *Consumption (Sales) tax*
- *Bertelsen Nature Park needs complete protection – no WEP. Need to stop 2050 UGB expansions to Junction City, Creswell & Pleasant Hill. Community Gateways need to be within current UGB – not future expansions. Blueway on Spencer Creek needs description, since there is zero public land there. We need a greenway connector between Bertelsen & the Willamette River. Convert ODOT properties bought for WEP to BLM West Eugene Wetlands Conservation effort; protect habitats, not image!*

- *Springfield and Willamalane should be ashamed that they have done so little to provide protection and public access to the Thurston Hills area.*
- *Coordinate with Willamalane and Eugene Park Plan update process.*
- *Please ensure the Greenways are not intended to be walls to constrain growth over the long term.*
- *Use power easements to accommodate trails where possible to cut down on need to acquire land.*
- *I believe that developers will make the acquisition of parks & open space very difficult. I hope that the acquisition process is not derailed by developers. Thank you very much for making the Rivers to Ridges presentation. Our group appreciates your good efforts.*
- *Make sure the vision does not conflict with the Eugene Park Master Plan update.*
- *Be creative with methods for open space protection. Use conservation easements in some areas.*
- *Clearly identify ways to pay for ongoing operations and maintenance when sites are acquired.*
- *I would prefer to see that land north of Eugene restored to prairie as opposed to keeping it in long term agricultural protection.*
- *Please consider horse use when designing trails and access points.*