

## Staff Responses to Sue Beilke's letter to Planning Commission, dated 6/19 received 6/20/11

### Action Measure 8.1.20.xix

Make parks, trails, and open spaces universally accessible by as many people as possible by adhering to the United States Access Board accessibility guidance and standards, AASHTO design guidance, and Metro trail standards, where possible.

. . . drop the last words, 'where possible'.

RESPONSE: We have some instances where existing greenway trails do not meet ADA standards, such as the connection from the main stem Fanno Creek Trail to the Senior Center. The slope of the area makes it difficult to achieve compliance without excessive switch backs that would increase the area disturbed by the trail. Staff does not recommend deleting "where possible", given the topography of the city and instances where the choice may be between no trail and one that is not ADA compliance.

### **Policy 6 The City shall acquire and manage some open spaces to solely provide protection of natural resources . . .**

RESPONSE: Beyond the ellipsis are the words "*and other open spaces to additionally provide nature-oriented outdoor recreation and trail-related activities.*"

There is a well-documented history of the greenways providing routes for the greenway trail system. The greenway trail network was first delineated in 1974 in the Tigard Area Comprehensive Pedestrian-Bicycle Pathway Plan, which identified proposed on- and off-street bike/ped facilities. The off-street trails followed the Greenway System proposed in the 1971 Tigard Community Plan. Later, Tigard's first park system master plan, adopted in 1987 as the Tigard Park Plan, identified a network of proposed greenway trails within the City as did the updated Tigard Park System Master Plan adopted in 1999. The current park system master plan, adopted in 2009, contains the now official map of the greenway trail system, upon which the GTSMP is based. The network includes eight trails: Fanno Creek Trail, Tualatin River Trail, the Westside Trail, Washington Square Loop Trail, Summer Creek Trail, Pathfinder-Genesis trail, Krueger Creek Trail, and the "Tigard Street" Trail (see map attached).

The Community Development Code implements this policy by requiring developers under 18.774.070.B.4 to provide an easement for trail as a condition of development approval. Under 18.775.070.B.4, a land form alteration or development plan must include a pedestrian/bicycle pathway in accordance with the adopted pedestrian/bicycle pathway plan, unless the construction of said pathway is deemed by the Hearings Officer as untimely.

FINDING: The open spaces included in the greenway system have historically been identified in adopted city documents as providing routes for greenway trails and not as areas to be managed solely for the protection of natural resources. Moreover, any proposed site-specific greenway trail

**We oppose the acceptance of the *GTSMP* based on a number of factors:** because it includes the Summer Creek and Krueger Creek Trails . . .

RESPONSE: Contrary to this statement the *GTSMP* calls for an on-street alignment for the majority of the Summer Creek and Krueger Creek Trails. Along Summer Creek it does include a segment connecting crossing from 116<sup>th</sup> to Katherine Street and the nature trail on the Fowler property. Along Krueger Creek it includes a short trail from to the fire station parking lot to Jack Park.

The Krueger Creek Trail greenway portion that in the Greenway Plan connects a City owned parking lot to Jack Park. The short trail and bridge crosses the creek and riparian area to allow public access from an off-street parking area to an existing public park. The trail does not run down a narrow portion of greenway, but crosses the creek as quickly as possible as recommended in Metro trail guidelines. The bridge will be much less impactful than the damaged culvert that is still in the creek at this crossing

The proposed nature trail has existed on the property for at least a decade (and probably longer). The proposed interpretive trail is a centerpiece of the education plan that will meet the terms of two grants used to fund the purchase of the property, and will comply with the conservation easement that are included in the grants agreements. There is no “new” trail proposed, though the existing trail may be moved if a better alignment with less impact on the environment can be found. A sidewalk is also proposed along Tigard Street, where none presently exists. This sidewalk likely will be required as part of approval conditions for the development of the park.

The crossing at 116th was proposed because the recommended Summer Creek Trail is to the north of the greenway and located along Tigard Drive. The nearest crossings that provide access are at 121st, and at Fowler Middle School, to the existing interpretive trail. Pedestrians presently are using the greenway to cross Summer Creek as a shortcut. The proposed crossing would “elevate” the public out of the stream and riparian corridor with a boardwalk and bridge.

The Greenway Trail Master Plan was not intended as a final analysis for wildlife impacts or engineering feasibility. It is simply the best alignment based on the partial analysis that could be included in this overarching study. More extensive studies of all kinds will need to be conducted before permitting and construction can occur.

Staff does not recommend any changes to the proposed acceptance of the *GTSMP*.

**No expert wildlife biologist was included on the consultant team.**

As noted, the environmental consultant, Mason, Bruce & Girard was part of the consultant team. And any individual trail segments would be required to go through the land use approval process and meet any relevant environmental standards.

Staff recommends acceptance of the *GTSMP*.