



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LANE COUNTY

April 7, 2010

Lane Council of Governments
Attn: Jeff Krueger
859 Willamette Street, Suite 500
Eugene, Oregon 97401-2910

The League of Women Voters of Lane County is pleased to endorse the *Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan*. We would like to commend the organizations that contributed to this effort to envision the possibilities for the major river that shapes our metropolitan area.

The League supports many aspects of the process and the report. It is a long-term vision that continues and refines a planning effort begun in 2003. It has been cooperatively developed by participants representing a variety of interests: park agencies, natural resource agencies, utilities, watershed councils, and environmental advocates. Public comment has been solicited and incorporated into the document.

The vision elements recognize the diverse benefits that can be provided by the river and riparian areas including recreation, protection of native species and habitats, beautiful scenery, economic activities, and a sense of place. Broad goals are supported by many specific actions, but the plan retains flexibility. Its implementation will be determined by available financing, new opportunities, new research, and voluntary participation of property owners.

While acknowledging the importance of other goals, we would like to emphasize our support for Goal 3.6 Public Safety and the related recommended actions and strategies. Residents need to feel safe in order to use existing and new recreational facilities.

The *Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan* provides an exciting design for the future of a wonderful resource. Please share our endorsement with interested parties.

Pat Hocken
President



LANE COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

AN OREGON CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 5086 • EUGENE, OREGON 97405

April 9, 2010

Jeff Krueger
Senior Landscape Architect
Lane Council of Governments
859 Willamette Street, Suite 500
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Jeff,

Lane County Audubon Society is an organization that values conservation of and education about our natural environment. We are writing to support the *Willamette River Open Space Vision*. The components of the plan that preserve and enhance the riparian habitat are priority areas that may allow several bird, wildlife, turtle, fish and plant species to survive into the future.

The habitats described in the "Vision" can benefit species such as the Lewis' woodpeckers, Wood ducks, osprey, bald eagles, and many other bird species that benefit from healthy waterways and fringing native vegetation. Migrating birds depend on such areas for cover, food, water and a safe place to breed and rear their young.

Our membership of over 1400 households use areas like this for walking, birding and communing with nature. We appreciate the efforts of LCOG to create a long term plan to allow a corridor for wildlife and plant habitats so that they can continue to exist. We hope you have success in creating this vision for future open spaces near Eugene for people to enjoy, and plants and animals to benefit from now and in the future! Thank you for this vision which helps makes Lane County such a livable location.

Sincerely,

Maeve Sowles
President
Lane County Audubon Society



Lane Council of Governments
Attn: Jeff Krueger
859 Willamette Street, Suite 500
Eugene, OR 97401-2910

GEARs Cycling Club enthusiastically endorses the Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan. This document provides a framework to guide acquisitions, enhancements and enjoyment of our river for many years to come. By pursuing this common vision, the various governments and other organizations will be able to coordinate their actions for the benefit of all residents and the river itself.

GEARs' mission is to promote and encourage bicycle riding for transportation and recreation. The riverside path is the crown jewel of Eugene-Springfield's bikeway system, so GEARs strongly supports the Plan's improvements to that path and enhanced connections to it. Linkages between Springfield, Glenwood and Buford Park, a connection to Lane Community College, and links to the river in the River Road/Santa Clara area are particularly important, and will make bicycling a much more attractive option for thousands of people living, working and recreating in these areas.

While the Plan identifies numerous important improvements, GEARs feels that it would be even stronger if it included several other "missing links". These include the following:

1. Connecting the Fern Ridge Path and Amazon Park Path to the Riverbank Path. These three path systems form the backbone of Eugene's bikeway system, yet it can be difficult to move between them. We recommend significant "Green Street" and family-friendly, path-like improvements on High Street from South Eugene High School to the Willamette River, and on 15th Street from Jefferson to the University of Oregon to link these three system to one another.
2. Connecting Alder Street (two-way) to the Willamette River. Alder Street is a major arterial for bicyclists. Planned improvements on Alder Street from 18th Avenue to Franklin should be supplemented with an easy, direct connection all the way to the river.

3. Eugene-Springfield has a conspicuous lack of mountain bike facilities. While this Plan identifies many “Multi-Use Paths”, it needs a commitment to trails that are explicitly open for mountain biking.

GEARs strongly endorses the Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan, and we hope you will consider these additions to make it an even stronger guide for the future.

Sincerely,

Sue Wolling
President, GEARs Cycling Club

WILLAMETTE KAYAK AND CANOE CLUB

April 27, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

The Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club would like to endorse the water-oriented recreational opportunities Goal 3.1 in the "Open Space Vision for the Willamette River in and around Eugene-Springfield Oregon", as described in the March 2010 draft document.

The Club has a long history within Oregon. Founded in Corvallis in 1975, the Club is the author of "Soggy Sneakers: A Paddler's Guide to Oregon Rivers." We currently have approximately 150 active members from ten counties, including Benton, Lane, Marion, Multnomah, and Deschutes counties. Our members paddle a variety of craft including: sea kayaks, recreational kayaks, lake canoes, whitewater kayaks and whitewater canoes. We can be found on lakes, bays, and class I to V whitewater rivers and creeks..

The Club draws its name and inspiration from the centerpiece of the Willamette Valley, the Willamette River, and feels very strongly that planning and development must use, showcase, and protect this great natural resource. Many of our members use the canoe canal for casual floats, for after-work training sessions where the canal is used to create an upriver/downriver loop with the Willamette, and even for rodeo play paddling. This is a great resource that could be made even better through riparian improvements and modifications to improve portage routes around dams. Furthermore, by incorporating specific features of whitewater play parks that attract advanced boaters and spectators, local businesses might also benefit. While access to the river is generally good, additional access points in Springfield (upstream of Day Island Park), would be particularly helpful. These and other access points would also be enhanced by providing amenities such as changing areas, secure bicycle parking, and vehicle parking near launches. Other opportunities for flat-water paddling, such as in the Delta Ponds, could be enhanced by adding signed portage trails, which would open the area for exploration. Finally, any plan involving water recreation MUST pay close attention to safety: through facility design and maintenance, providing safety equipment, and providing educational and training opportunities to facilitate training and awareness of safety in recreational activities.

The Club supports all these elements contained within the "Open Space Vision". We also strongly encourage you to consult with our sister organizations such as the American Whitewater Association and the American Canoe Association. These organizations can provide many examples of actively engineered water recreation and urban play parks that their members have advocated for and have benefited from.

Sincerely,



Steve Stuckmeyer, President
Laura Zaerr, Vice-President
Rob Blickensderfer, Treasurer



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON

Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation and study
of Oregon's native plants and habitats.

May 24, 2010

Jeff Krueger, Senior Landscape Architect
Lane Council of Governments
859 Willamette Street, Suite 500
Eugene, Oregon 97401-2910

Jeff Krueger,

The Emerald Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon endorses the Willamette River Open Space Vision. This vision statement includes important goals for the enhancement and restoration of native plants and the ecosystems that support them.

While recognizing the need for balanced approach, the vision sets priorities for maintaining natural areas in the riparian and floodplain areas surrounding the river. Those natural areas provide invaluable ecosystem functions that enable native plant populations to provide habitat for invertebrates, fish, and wildlife, as well as enjoyment for people.

The Emerald Chapter enthusiastically supports the Lane Council of Governments in its vision regarding the stewardship of open space surrounding the Willamette River.

Sincerely,

Brian Basor
President, Emerald Chapter
Native Plant Society of Oregon
bcb10@humboldt.edu

Dr. Rhoda Love
Conservation Chair, Emerald Chapter
Native Plant Society of Oregon
rglove@uoregon.edu



Community Recreation Center | 250 S. 32nd St., Springfield OR 97478-6302
(541) 736-4544 | willamalane.org

June 9, 2010

Jeff Krueger
Lane Council of Governments
858 Willamette Street, Suite 500
Eugene, OR 97401

Re: *Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan*

Jeff and other interested parties:

Willamalane Park & Recreation District wishes to express their support for the *Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan* and the regional and inclusive planning effort it represents. We encourage proactive comprehensive open space planning and the use of voluntary landowner participation to bring about the vision's implementation.

Willamalane will give due consideration to the *Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan* in our own future planning, and will continue to work in harmony with such regional planning efforts whenever possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gregory James", written over a horizontal line.

Gregory James
President, Willamalane Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Keefer", written over a horizontal line.

Bob Keefer
District Superintendent



Oregon Chapter
American Society of Landscape Architects
P.O. Box 40709
Portland, OR 97240-0709
Phone 503.227.6156

WILLAMETTE RIVER OPEN SPACE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

Lane Council of Governments
Jeff Krueger, Senior Landscape Architect
859 Willamette Street, Suite 500
Eugene, Oregon 97401

The American Society of Landscape Architects, Oregon Chapter, expresses its support for the *Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan*. The Willamette River has been cherished by the Eugene/Springfield metro area for many generations for its natural, recreational, and visual qualities. The river gives residents a sense of place and contributes greatly to the quality of life for those living in the southern Willamette Valley. The open space surrounding the river provides a welcome break from the urban environment within city limits, accommodates active and passive recreational opportunities, and provides exceptional wildlife habitat. The linear corridor also serves as a major transportation route for bicycles, pedestrians and wildlife. The goal of LCOG's planning effort is to create a unified vision for protecting, enhancing and developing the open space of the Willamette River for the community to enjoy for years to come.

The inspiring vision for the Willamette River open space corridor directly correlates to the mission of the landscape architects in our organization. Landscape architects protect public health, safety and welfare through environmentally conscious planning and design. The work of landscape architecture protects and manages natural resources by planning land uses which respect natural systems and accommodate the needs of people. Landscape architects combine expertise in design and the arts with knowledge of natural, social and behavioral sciences to create places where people live, work and play. Similarly, the open space vision and action plan serves to balance riparian habitat and natural resources with public access and recreation.

ASLA Oregon supports this vision and appreciates the efforts of LCOG for creating a comprehensive guide supported by various agencies, interest groups and the public.

Sincerely,

Oregon ASLA Executive Committee



October 11, 2010

Mr. Jeff Krueger
Lane Council of Governments
858 Willamette Street, Suite 500
Eugene, OR 97401

Subject: Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan

Dear Mr. Krueger:

The City of Springfield is pleased to endorse the *Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan*. This endorsement comes from the City Council upon recommendation of the planning commission. We appreciate the non-regulatory, voluntary approach to guiding local agencies and community partners toward better connection of our cities with the benefits provided by the Willamette River corridor.

The City also appreciates the public process and collective input solicited from agencies in developing the draft document. The City of Springfield will give due consideration to the *Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan* in our own future planning and continue to encourage harmonious planning with regional partners when possible.

Sincerely,

Sidney W. Leiken
Mayor