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Mailed 9-21-2011



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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City of Portland
Bureau of Planning & Sustainability
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**Retirement of Smith & Bybee Lakes Natural
Resources Management Plan**

Retirement of Smith & Bybee Lakes Natural Resources Management Plan

Portland City Council Hearing
Wednesday, October 12, 2011 2:00 p.m.—time certain
Council Chambers, City Hall
1221 S.W. Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Retirement of Smith & Bybee Lakes Natural Resources Management Plan

Why am I receiving this notice?

You are receiving this notice because you have expressed interest in being notified of certain Bureau of Planning & Sustainability projects, you are on one of our advisory groups, or you are a member of a neighborhood or business association.

Background

Smith and Bybee Lakes, also known as the Smith and Bybee Wetlands, are managed by Metro, the regional government for the Portland metropolitan area. The Natural Resource Management Plan for the area ("the NRMP") was developed by consensus of property owners, neighborhood organizations and residents, environmental interest groups and governmental agencies; it was adopted by Metro and Portland in 1990.

The Smith/Bybee NRMP has not been updated since it was adopted more than 20 years ago, and does not reflect the updates in wetland management practices or advances in the scientific understanding of complex ecosystem management. As a result, the plan is obsolete and no longer provides useful guidance. In addition, the environmental zoning regulations that the NRMP were based on have been modified more than 16 times. Several significant updates added development standards and a streamlined permit review. The changes did not affect the Smith/Bybee NRMP, and the area covered by the NRMP has not been able to take advantage of the updates or the streamlined permit review process.

Proposal

The Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) recommends retiring the Smith/Bybee NRMP to replace it with a Comprehensive Natural Resource Plan (CNRP), a new land use review. Similar to the NRMP, the CNRP allows long-term management for large ecosystems. However, the CNRP is designed to work in conjunction with current zoning regulations.

The Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee, a group of property owners and representatives of interest groups, and Metro support this recommendation.

The PSC also recommends delaying the retirement of the NRMP until the new CNRP is in place, and amending the Zoning Code so that the CNRP will not have to address the approval criteria in the NRMP.

Retiring the Smith/Bybee NRMP must be approved by the City of Portland before an application for a CNRP can be submitted. The proposal will amend Title 33, Planning and Zoning, and the Official Zoning Map, which contains the NRMP boundaries.

When Metro applies for the CNRP, owners of property within 400 feet of the CNRP boundary will be notified, as will all neighborhood and business associations

within 1000 feet of the area. Notice will also be posted on the site. A public hearing will be held.

Additional proposal

While the focus of this project is on the Smith and Bybee Lakes NRMP, the Planning and Sustainability Commission is also recommending to amend Title 33, Planning and Zoning to correct an oversight in another project.

On April 13, 2011, City Council adopted the Airport Futures City Land Use Plan which updated the City's natural resources program for Portland International Airport (PDX) and the area surrounding PDX. After adoption of Airport Futures, staff realized several of the maps in Chapter 33.430, Environmental Overlay Zone, had not been updated to reflect the changes adopted by the Airport Futures project. The maps simply show where natural resource inventories are complete and do not change any regulations.

How can I review this document?

Get a copy of the report. The *Retirement of the NRMP for Smith & Bybee Lakes Project—Recommended Draft* will be available the week of September 26. You can pick up a copy at our office (1900 SW 4th Ave., 7th Floor). If you call the bureau receptionist at 503-823-7700, a copy will be mailed to you. The document will also be available on the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability website at <http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?&a=358518&c=50493>.

How can I comment on this project?

Testify at the City Council hearing. The hearing, on October 12 at 2:00 p.m., will be in Council Chambers at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Avenue. Metered and pay parking is available in the vicinity. Many buses and MAX serve City Hall; call Tri-Met at 503-238-7433 or go to their web site at <http://www.trimet.org> for routes and times.

Write to City Council. Send written testimony to the Council Clerk at 1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 140, Portland, OR 97204, or FAX comments to 503-823-4571. Written testimony must be received by the time of the hearing and must include your name and address.

For more information:

Contact Christina Scarzello, Project Manager, at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (503-823-7716 or Christina.Scarzello@PortlandOregon.gov)

Visit the project's website:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?&a=358518&c=50493>