

panorama from the urbanized portion of Washington County and define the southwestern edge of the greater metropolitan region.

15 Parrett Mountain

An extension of the Chehalem Mountains southeast to the Willamette River, Parrett Mountain is the prominent topographic feature separating Wilsonville from Newberg.

16 Willamette River Floodplain

This complex floodplain system is essential for flood storage and water quality protection of the Willamette River while providing productive wetland habitats for migratory waterfowl and native amphibians and off-channel refuge for migrating salmonids.

17 Yamhill/McMinnville/Amity Oaks

Three areas east of McMinnville contain large tracts of Oregon white oak woodlands, historically a major component of the Willamette Valley landscape there are only a few large stands of Oregon white oak woodland and savanna remaining.

18 Wapato Lake

This ancient lakebed has the highest potential for protecting wildlife habitat and water quality in this part of the region. The lakebed serves as a catchment

for the upper Tualatin River as it transitions from steep slopes of the Coast Range and Chehalem Ridge to its meandering lower floodplain.

19 Tillamook State Forest

The Tillamook State Forest provides a scenic panorama and defines the western edge of the greater metropolitan area as well as providing drinking water for a substantial population of the region.

20 Lower Gales Creek

Lower Gales Creek provides the only remaining steelhead spawning area of the Tualatin River and also provides wildlife habitat, water quality/quantity benefits and recreation, education and stewardship opportunities.

21 Dairy and McKay Creeks Confluence

Dairy and McKay Creeks drain a largely agricultural watershed within Washington County, enhancing water quality and providing wildlife habitat along these major tributaries contributes significantly to the natural functions of the Tualatin River.

22 Rock Creek Headwaters

The upper watershed of Rock Creek provides a great opportunity for water quality protection goals for the lower watershed as the creek and its

tributaries pass through rapidly urbanizing neighborhoods within the cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton.

23 Forest Park Connections

The Forest Park connection area provides protection to key watersheds like Balch, Miller, Ennis and Agency Creeks and secures the integrity of the "big game" corridor that links the park with habitat in the northern Coast Range.

24 Dixie Mountain

Lying within the Tualatin Mountains range northwest of Forest Park, Dixie Mountain is a heavily forested area that serves as a major attractant for roosting and nesting bald eagles.

25 Sauvie Island

The 26,000-acre Sauvie Island is one of the largest attractants to waterfowl, neo-tropical bird migrants, and raptors and is one of the region's most identifiable landscape features.

26 Columbia River Islands

The Columbia River islands provide significant aquatic habitat for migrating salmon and protected upland wildlife habitat for nesting shorebirds and raptors and are very identifiable within the bi-state landscape.

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Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

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Summary of the Natural Landscape Features Inventory

INTRODUCTION

The Metro Council launched the New Look at Regional Choices work program, which will re-examine the way we carry out the region's long-range plan, the 2040 Growth Concept. The New Look at Regional Choices work program is separated into three broad categories: Investing in our Communities, Shape of the Region and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The Shape of the Region portion of the New Look work program, a coordinated effort with Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties and the State Departments of Land Conservation and Development and Agriculture, focuses on balancing regional agricultural land needs with the protection of natural resources and the creation of great communities. This memo focuses on the natural resources component of the Shape of the Region. The intent is to define a simple mapping process that will identify those features of the landscape that influence the sense of place for the greater region and ultimately will help define the future urban form of the greater region.

BACKGROUND

Metro Planning and Parks and Greenspaces staff have been working with members of the Metro Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee to identify natural landscape features that influence the sense of place for the greater region. The process for identifying these features included standard GIS format mapping of natural resources as well as the collective expertise of a select group of ecology and park professionals from various federal, state, local and private organizations. The inventory and assessment was based on a couple of key questions:

- What natural resources are essential to the health and welfare of the region?
- What landscape features define the sense of place for the region?

To give context to the broader New Look perspective, the inventory area extended from north of Salem to the North Fork of the Lewis River on a north-south axis and from the Cascade foothills to the Coast Range on the east-west axis.



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NEXT STEPS

The next step for the Natural Landscape Features work is to confirm the identified features, provide boundaries for the features and make certain that no natural landscape features are missing from the inventory. Metro Planning and Parks & Greenspaces staff, with continued involvement from our regional partners, will explore ways to integrate the results of this work with the agricultural and great communities work elements of the Shape of the Region and identify potential tools to reflect the importance of these areas in the regional landscape.

NATURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Below are the twenty-six identified natural landscape features, listed as one moves in clockwise motion starting at the Columbia River in the east portion of the region.

1 Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area

The Columbia River Gorge is a spectacular river canyon, 80 miles long and up to 4,000 feet deep, cutting the only sea level route through the Cascade Mountain Range.

2 Cascade Foothills

The Cascade Mountains foothills provide a scenic panorama for Portland and the eastside of the region and provide drinking water for the majority of the population of the region.

3 Sandy River Gorge

The Sandy River Gorge is a 12.5-mile stretch of the river that wends its way through the 800-foot-high basalt and sandstone canyons and is designated as both a State Scenic Waterway and a National Wild and Scenic River.

4 East Buttes

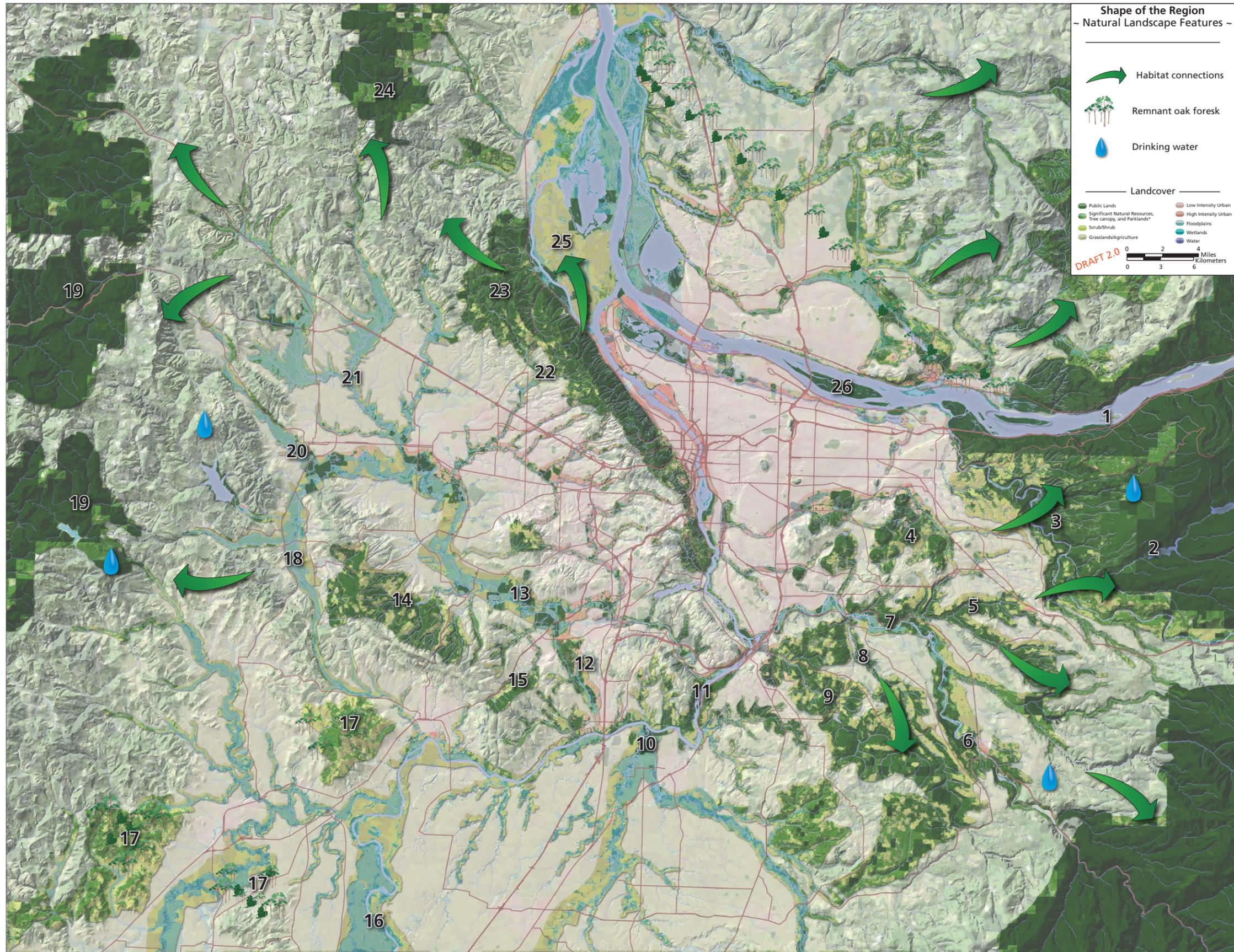
The forested buttes stretching from Gresham south through Damascus and Happy Valley create a unique geography for local residents and provide welcome relief from surrounding land uses.

5 Deep Creek Canyons

The intact steeply wooded slopes of Deep Creek and its major tributaries of Noyer and Tickle Creeks serve as the principal corridor connecting the Clackamas River to habitat areas to the north within urbanized areas.

6 Clackamas River

The Clackamas River watershed is home to the last significant run of wild late winter Coho in the Columbia Basin, is a part of the National Wild and Scenic River system designated as a recreational river and provides high quality drinking water to approximately 200,000 people.



7 Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway

The Clackamas River Bluffs area contains uncommon habitat types that provide an important link to the lower river for the communities of Damascus and Happy Valley.

8 Clear Creek Canyon

Clear Creek is a high-quality fish-bearing creek that supports 11 different varieties of fish, including rainbow trout and endangered fall chinook and coho salmon, steelhead and threatened coastal cutthroat trout.

9 Newell and Abernethy Creeks

Located within and surrounding Oregon City, Newell and Abernethy Creeks provide critical fish and wildlife habitat in a rapidly urbanizing area, especially threatened habitat for steelhead and cutthroat populations.

10 Lower Pudding River

The Pudding River flows through forests and developed plains of the Willamette Valley to form a large floodplain delta with the Molalla River, an important seasonal resting area for large gathering of waterfowl.

11 Willamette Narrows to Canemah Bluff

The Willamette Narrows is a stretch of steep cliffs and rocky islands that are botanically rich, home to plants normally found far north and east of our region, and also contains a unique place called Peach Cove Bog, believed to be the only wetland of its kind remaining in the Willamette Valley. Canemah Bluff is noted for a diversity of habitats and its historical use by Native Americans.

12 Tonquin Geologic Area

Ancient floods created the Tonquin geologic area 12,000-15,000 years ago creating unique geologic formations including "kolk" ponds, channels, basalt hummocks and knolls.

13 Tualatin River

The riparian areas and floodplains of the Tualatin River are important to protecting the water quality of this river heavily impacted by urban and agricultural uses. In addition to providing flood storage, the floodplains and associated wetlands support considerable numbers of waterfowl and migrating neotropical birds.

14 Chehalem Mountains

The unbroken ridges and forested slopes of the Chehalem Mountains provide an important scenic