

WETLAND & RIPARIAN INVENTORIES FOR UGB EXPANSION AREAS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN INCORPORATING DIRECTION FROM THE SPRINGFIELD COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT ON APRIL 21, 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

This Community Engagement Plan (“Engagement Plan”) describes activities that the City of Springfield will undertake as part of the [Wetland & Riparian Inventories for UGB Expansion Areas](#) project. This Engagement Plan highlights the project’s strategies for ensuring that interested and affected parties, together with the project team, receive and provide meaningful input to one another. This Engagement Plan is designed with the general public, decision makers, Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD) Grant Managers, and the project team in mind as the intended audience.

II. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Since the State’s acknowledgement of Springfield’s urban growth boundary (UGB) expansion in March 2019, the City is now able to make progress on implementing a planning framework for how and where future development may occur in the areas where the UGB expanded (“UGB expansion areas”). The purpose of this project is to further one of several ways to address this need. Future development actions and other activities within the UGB expansion areas rely on an understanding of the land’s existing characteristics—including its natural resources—to make informed decisions on best uses and the siting of those uses. Protection measures for these resources must be adopted for compliance with Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 5. To comply with Goal 5, the inventory will result in updates to the Springfield Natural Resources Study. The most recent update to the Study (2011) included findings and protections for resources found in Glenwood. This project will primarily follow the methods used for this previous work.

This inventory project is made possible by a Technical Assistance Grant from DLCD and local matching funds. These funds enabled the project to benefit from the support of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) staff as members of the project team who bring extensive experience with local governments’ efforts to adopt natural resource-based planning documents, many of which were implemented through DLCD grant programs. LCOG brings relevant knowledge to the City of Springfield, having managed the wetland and riparian inventory and assessment process for the Glenwood area.

As of the date of this Engagement Plan, the City is actively soliciting consultant services through a Request for Proposals process to hire a wetlands consultant in May 2020. Upon completion of the inventory, updates to the Springfield Natural Resources Study will involve co-adoption by the City of Springfield and Lane County.

The goals of the inventory project balance values of natural resources and open space with the need to provide available land for employment and institutional opportunities. Specific goals are:

- Further Springfield’s conformance with the [Springfield Comprehensive Plan](#)¹.

¹ Applicable policies include: **Urbanization Policy 45:** Continue efforts to restore, enhance, and manage the Springfield Mill Race to fulfill multiple community objectives. Partner with Willamalane and Springfield Utility Board to provide public access to the Mill Race where appropriate.; **Urbanization Policy 47:** Prior to approval of a plan amendment or zone change that permits urban levels of development within the North Gateway or Mill Race



- Promote a healthy, safe, and clean community by making wise use of natural resources.
- Enable urbanization of Springfield's designated employment areas by meeting State-mandated planning requirements based on Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 5.
- Identify ways to enhance Springfield's work by addressing other Statewide Planning Goals: quality air, water, and land (Goal 6); natural hazards (Goal 7); recreation (Goal 8); and economic development (Goal 9).
- Provide better certainty for developers by making development decisions streamlined and predictable.

The goals of this Engagement Plan are consistent with the overall purpose of the project.

III. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN GOALS

At the foundation of this Engagement Plan is an understanding of the extent and type of activities needed to convey technical, scientific data in a clear manner. An understanding of how to reconcile potentially competing interests and priorities to reach policy decisions will also guide the project's success.

- **Timely Communication:** Provide stakeholders a project team that is accessible and responsive.
- **Accurate and Understandable Communication:** Target outreach in a manner that offers platforms for quality input from stakeholders to ensure that the project results in quality outcomes. Specifically, to facilitate effective communication with affected and interested stakeholders so that the community's values of Springfield's natural resources are understood.
- **Agency Collaboration and Public Service:** Communicate actively with TEAM Springfield² agency partners to allow them to consider if and how the knowledge gained from this project will help TEAM Springfield fulfill their shared missions to ultimately serve the public.
- **Appropriate Scaling:** Develop engagement strategies and conduct outreach activities commensurate with the level appropriate for this type of work.
- **Respect:** Ensure that all views and perspectives will be acknowledged and balanced where possible.
- **Alignment with Critical Dates:** Enable the project tasks to occur at the most advantageous times to obtain and provide optimal information and to fulfill the terms of the Grant Agreement.
- **Reliability and Adaptability:** Serve as a guiding document and resource for the project team when questions arise and/or the need to revisit strategies becomes apparent.

District urbanizable lands, the Springfield Local Wetland Inventory shall be updated in accordance with Statewide Planning Goal 5 and Goal 5 administrative rules requirements.

² TEAM Springfield includes the Springfield Utility Board, Willamalane Park & Recreation District, Springfield Public Schools, and the City of Springfield.



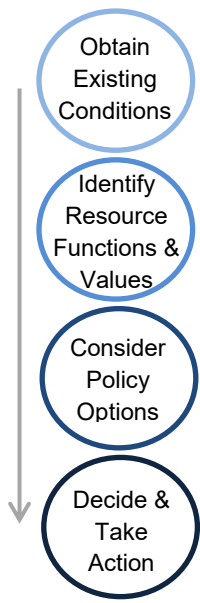
IV. STAKEHOLDERS

Though the inventories will be limited to the UGB expansion areas, parties who may have an interest in the project are not necessarily limited to being physically located within these geographic boundaries. Some of the stakeholders identified include, but are not limited to:

- Property owners in the UGB expansion area whose land accommodates (or may accommodate in the future) a range of residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, and/or institutional uses. Specifically (in no particular order):
 - Private property owners,
 - Willamalane Park & Recreation District (property owner; environmental, recreational, and educational interest)
 - Springfield Utility Board (property owner; environmental interest)
 - Eugene Water & Electric Board (property owner)
 - Oregon Department of Transportation (property owner)

- Within the larger Springfield area and surrounding region (in no particular order):
 - General public (including neighboring land owners and tourists)
 - Employers who may choose to locate within the expansion area
 - City and county appointed and elected officials with the role of representing these community perspectives
 - Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes (Klamath Tribes; Coquille Indian Tribe; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; and, Burns Paiute of Harney County)
 - Land, air, water, and wildlife conservation interests
 - Transportation providers with adjacent rights-of-way

V. PROCESS OVERVIEW



The data collected by the consultant will inform which wetlands and riparian areas will be protected with locally-adopted policies and regulations. The results of the inventory and assessment will be more accurate if property owners within the UGB expansion areas allow the consultant physical access to their properties for on-site data collection. Input from stakeholders will be considered to verify information presented after data collection and to determine appropriate local protections for each wetland and riparian area, in compliance with State law.

After the inventory and assessment is approved by the Oregon Department of State Lands, proposed policies and regulations to protect the identified resources will go through a land use approval process. The process will begin with the Springfield (and possibly Lane County) Planning Commission(s), providing a recommendation to the Springfield City Council and Lane County Board on the Comprehensive Plan amendments needed to protect the natural resources.



VI. PROCESS STRATEGIES

The opportunities for working with the community on the project must follow the scope of the Grant Agreement. As noted, the scope of the Grant Agreement establishes the framework of tasks where community engagement is anticipated for the project. The project scope provides an outline for the anticipated strategies as shown below. Task 1 of the project scope is to approve this Community Engagement Plan. The outline below begins with Task 2.

Oregon Administrative Rules and Oregon Revised Statutes prescribe phases of the inventory process where input from the public is required. The most recent inventories and assessments of wetlands and riparian areas in Springfield and the subsequent update to the Springfield Natural Resources Study in 2011 proceeded with public involvement consistent with State law.

While the strategies in this Community Engagement Plan generally follow this previously successful framework, the project team proposes actions to adapt to actions necessary to address the COVID-19 emergency. In some instances, certain tasks must differ in response, whereas others later on in the project identify contingency tasks. Effective conveyance of information through a variety of means will continuously serve as a fundamental principle of this Engagement Plan.

Task 2: Wetland & Riparian Inventory & Assessment

- Send letter and request access permission to property owners within the areas to be studied as required by State law (April 2020). This letter must be clear about what is being asked of property owners and also introduce them to the project. In the letter:
 - Invite property owners to contact staff. Under current requirements for COVID-19, contact will be limited to phone calls and e-mails. In-person meetings can occur once allowed.
 - Create awareness of the project webpage.
 - Ensure that the letter expresses that the needs and circumstances of each property owner will be accommodated.
- Develop project webpage and project materials. The webpage will summarize the purpose of the project, offer educational materials, be a resource for project documents and updates, provide staff contact information, and may serve as the location for a virtual open house or other public forum as further described in Task 3.
- Create and maintain an e-list for sending out periodic e-updates about the project; sign up form will be on the project webpage. With permission from interested parties, staff can also add parties' information directly to the list instead of requiring completion of the sign up form.
- Publish media release to announce the project and promote awareness of how the project fits into Springfield's broader efforts.
- Open House (Fall 2020 or Winter 2020/21)



- Hold open house to reveal the results of the draft inventories to the affected property owners, to answer questions, and to gather any additional information owners may have prior to finalizing the inventory and assessment. The City may also seek input about potential options for resource protection.
- Hold open house on a day and time that will result in the greatest likelihood of the open house being well-attended. Potentially host at a location near the majority of the properties inventoried (e.g., a Willamalane facility). Place materials and summary of open house on project webpage.
 - ❖ Contingency location for COVID-19: Hold virtual open house. Interactive method is to be determined (i.e., live, content provided in advance and available for a specified range of time, a combination of both, etc.).
- Announce the open house through appropriate media platforms (e.g., direct mailings to affected and neighboring property owners, webpage, social media, etc.); clarify in announcements the date by which the City needs notification of requests for Spanish translation services; and, ensure that the public is aware that the City will accommodate accessibility-related needs.
- Within 120 days of approval of the inventory by the Oregon Department of State Lands, mail notice to landowners whose lots contain or abut a mapped or probable wetland.

Task 3: Develop Protection Measures

- Ensure that partner agencies are involved in this process (e.g., Oregon Department of State Lands, DLCD, Willamalane Park & Recreation District, Springfield Utility Board, Lane County, etc.).
- Allow for input from stakeholders on policy options by posting a memo of potential protection mechanisms on the website and notifying interested parties of the opportunity to comment. Continue to be available by phone and e-mail. Any meetings requested by interested parties should be considered according to the applicable public health requirements in place at that time.
- Share memo of potential protection mechanisms with Springfield and Lane County Planning Commissions (potentially), Springfield City Council, and Lane County Board as appropriate.
- Communicate with Springfield and Lane County Planning Commissions, Springfield City Council, and the Lane County Board as needed (e.g., memorandum and/or Work Session). Ensure the public is aware that such sessions are open to attend and that the City can accommodate accessibility-related needs when notified in advance of the Work Session.

Task 4: Prepare Adoption-Ready Inventory & Assessment Policy Language

- Continue to be available by phone and e-mail. Any meetings requested by interested parties should be considered according to the applicable public health requirements in place at that time.

Task 5: Adopt Plan Amendments (Spring – Fall 2021)

- Advertise joint City/County Public Hearings in legal notices section of the Register-Guard.



- Mail notice of Public Hearings to affected and adjacent property owners.
- Provide Public Hearing agendas and/or agenda packets to interested parties who have asked for such notification.
- Post information concerning proposed amendment and dates of joint City/County Public Hearings on City website, at City Hall, and other appropriate locations.
- Ensure the public is aware that the City will accommodate accessibility-related needs when notified in advance.

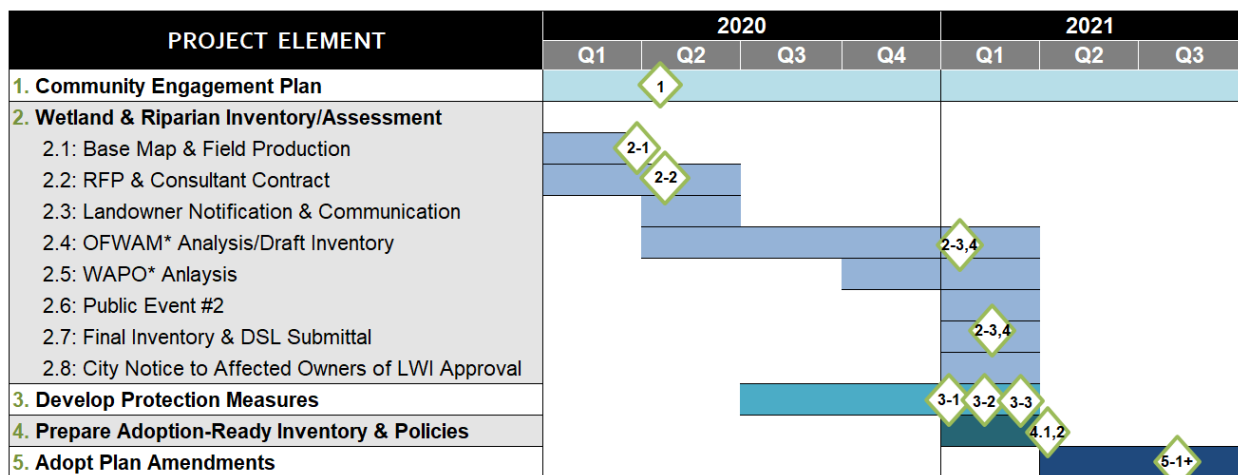
VII. PROJECT TIMELINE

An Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and LCOG was fully executed in January 2020. Also in January 2020, the City and DLCDC finalized the Grant Agreement. The project became officially active in February 2020.

To meet the terms of the Grant Agreement, Springfield and Lane County must either:

- Co-adopt the update to the Natural Resources Study pursuant to the Plan Amendment process by May 31, 2021; or,
- Provide evidence in the form of draft, adoption-ready products that provide substantial evidence of a reasonable effort to adopt the Plan Amendments in September 2021.

Due to the inherent uncertainties of timelines associated with the adoption processes for amending comprehensive planning-related documents, staff is prepared for the possibility that adoption may extend into Fall 2021. The visual project timeline summarizes the targeted dates and duration of each task. As shown below, working with the community to share knowledge and determine outcomes will occur throughout the duration of the project.



◆ Key products completed. Products are numbered as identified in the DLCDC Grant Scope of Work.

*Note: OFWAM= Oregon Freshwater Wetland Assessment Methodology. WAPO= Wetland Assessment for Planning in Oregon.