



Wetland & Riparian Inventories for Springfield's UGB Expansion Areas

This past year has been challenging for everyone, and we hope that you are all safe and healthy. That is our first and foremost concern. Even with so much happening in our community, we are making progress on the **Wetland & Riparian Inventories for Springfield's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) Expansion Areas** project and are excited to share an update.

In early spring, the project team geared up to make sure the on-site field work could beat the heat and be carried out efficiently! Below are details on this part of the project and other highlights so far.



Progress to Date

Currently, the consultant team is organizing data, creating maps, and writing up assessments for the inventory report. Some of you may have participated in the events mentioned below or have seen the work happen first-hand. We are grateful for your interest and participation! Next is a list of accomplishments to date.

Community Engagement Plan Approved

The Springfield Planning Commission as the Springfield Committee for Citizen Involvement

met on April 21, 2020 to provide direction on the draft Community Engagement Plan (CEP). The current approved version of CEP is [available here](#). However, a meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 15 for the Committee to discuss a proposed revision to the CEP to reflect the project's current timeline.

Virtual Information Session Held

The original plan was to provide property owners in the study areas opportunities to meet in-person with staff before the estimated start date of field work. With COVID-19 precautions in mind, this format became primarily virtual and was held on May 14, 2020. City Hall was available for anyone who could not tune in remotely. The project team invited owners of properties in the UGB expansion areas to learn about the inventory process, to ask questions about what to expect if a consultant visited their property, and more.

Consultant On-board & Inventory Underway

The City issued a Request for Proposals from qualified consultants in March 2020 for the inventory phase of the project (approx. June-December 2020). The review committee selected SummitWest Environmental, together with TerraScience, as one team.

Field Work for Inventory Complete

A big focus this spring was to make sure in-person observation of wetlands and riparian areas could take place before water levels dropped and before plants dried up. SummitWest and TerraScience completed this critical early step in the project the week of June 22, 2020. Currently, the consultant team is organizing data, creating maps, and writing up assessments for the inventory report.

Next Steps & Look Ahead

All of this work leads to a future update to the [Springfield Natural Resources Study](#). The Study will identify new wetlands and streams to be protected and which type of protections should be put in place. An updated study will also provide clarity to where future development could or should not occur in the UGB expansion areas. Be sure to check your inbox for another e-mail update about the results of the draft inventory ready for review! In it, we will share how to review and comment on the results.

Fall 2020/Winter 2021 — Project team to invite public review and comment on the draft inventories

We look forward to sharing the results of the draft inventories with property owners, the Springfield community, and other stakeholders. We'll be reaching out in December with additional details. As we navigate requirements for COVID-19, we are researching best-practices for the use of virtual community engagement tools as alternatives to in-person events.

Winter 2021 — Oregon Department of State Lands to review and approve the Local Wetlands Inventory (LWI) piece of the

inventories

Once approved, this LWI and the inventories for riparian corridors will be the foundation for the preferred local policy approach for protecting the resources identified in the inventories.

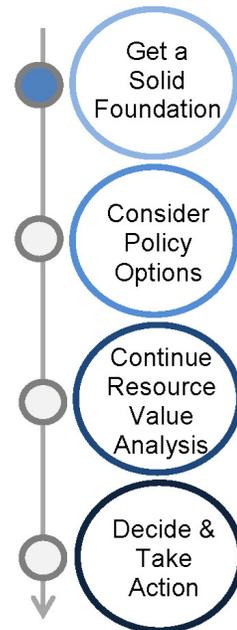
Winter/Spring 2021 — Work Sessions to consider options for local protection measures

Although the Springfield City Council will be the deciding body to select and direct the project team on which policy approach to use, the project team will also look to schedule a meeting with the Springfield Planning Commission to receive the Commission's recommendation before meeting with City Council.

TBD 2021 — Update to the Springfield Natural Resources Study to be adopted

This update will involve adoption by the Springfield City Council and the Lane County Board of Commissioners. This action could occur as soon as 2021, but much needs to be accomplished before we can identify a timeframe.

Where are we?



Questions?

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Sign Up for E-Updates

Forward this email to other community members you know who may like to be informed about the **Wetland & Riparian Inventories Project for Springfield's UGB Expansion Areas** and receive email updates automatically. They can use the above button to sign up!

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