



Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map Update

What is the Parks, Trails and Open Space Map?

- It is a part of the City of Ashland's Comprehensive Plan, approved by City Council
- It is a guide for APRC land acquisition and provides for a range of uses including **neighborhood parks, potential sports fields, open spaces, trail connectivity, and riparian areas.**
- The plan was first drafted in 1991, updated in 2002, and was given a "light update" in 2012.
- In May 2022, APRC formed the Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan Update Subcommittee.



Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map Update

What has changed since 1991, when this plan was first created?

- In 1991, Ashland had less park land per capita than Roseburg, Medford, and Klamath Falls. Now, after 30+ years of effort, Ashland's per capita park land is one of the highest in Oregon.
- One goal of the City's Comprehensive Plan is to have a neighborhood park within a 1/4 mile of every resident inside current city limits. Except for the Mistletoe (Croman) area, Commissioners have deemed that sufficient property has been obtained to meet this goal.



Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map Update

Why does APRC need more land?

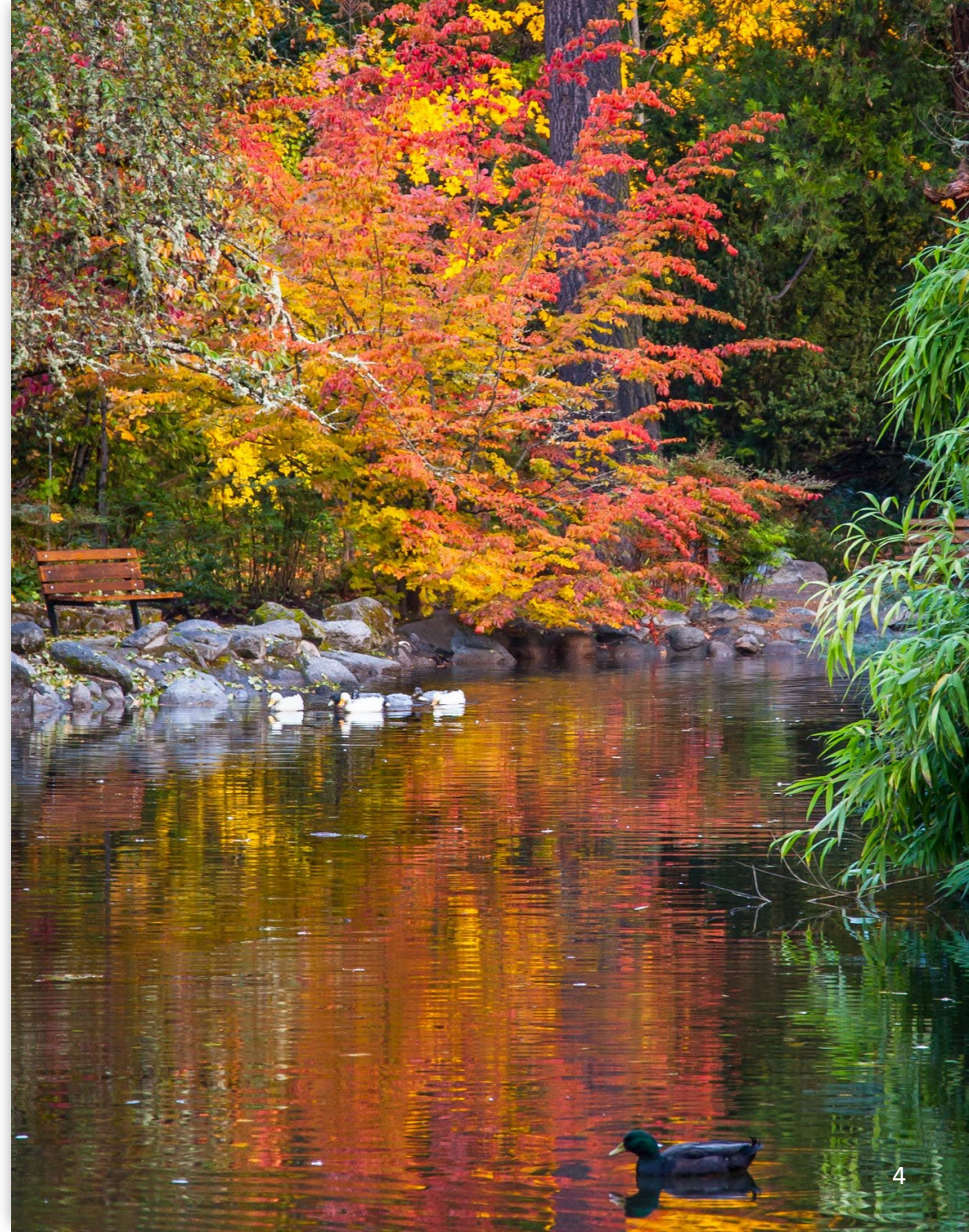
- Lands identified for future purchase do not focus on the creation of parks.
- The update emphasizes:
 - protection of significant natural areas like streams and riparian areas
 - Lands on the wildland urban interface critical for fuels management
 - trail connectivity (either through outright purchase, donation, grants, or easements)

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Subcommittee Recommendations

The Subcommittee is recommending roughly **200 acres of property** that had been formerly identified for purchase be **removed** from the Map.

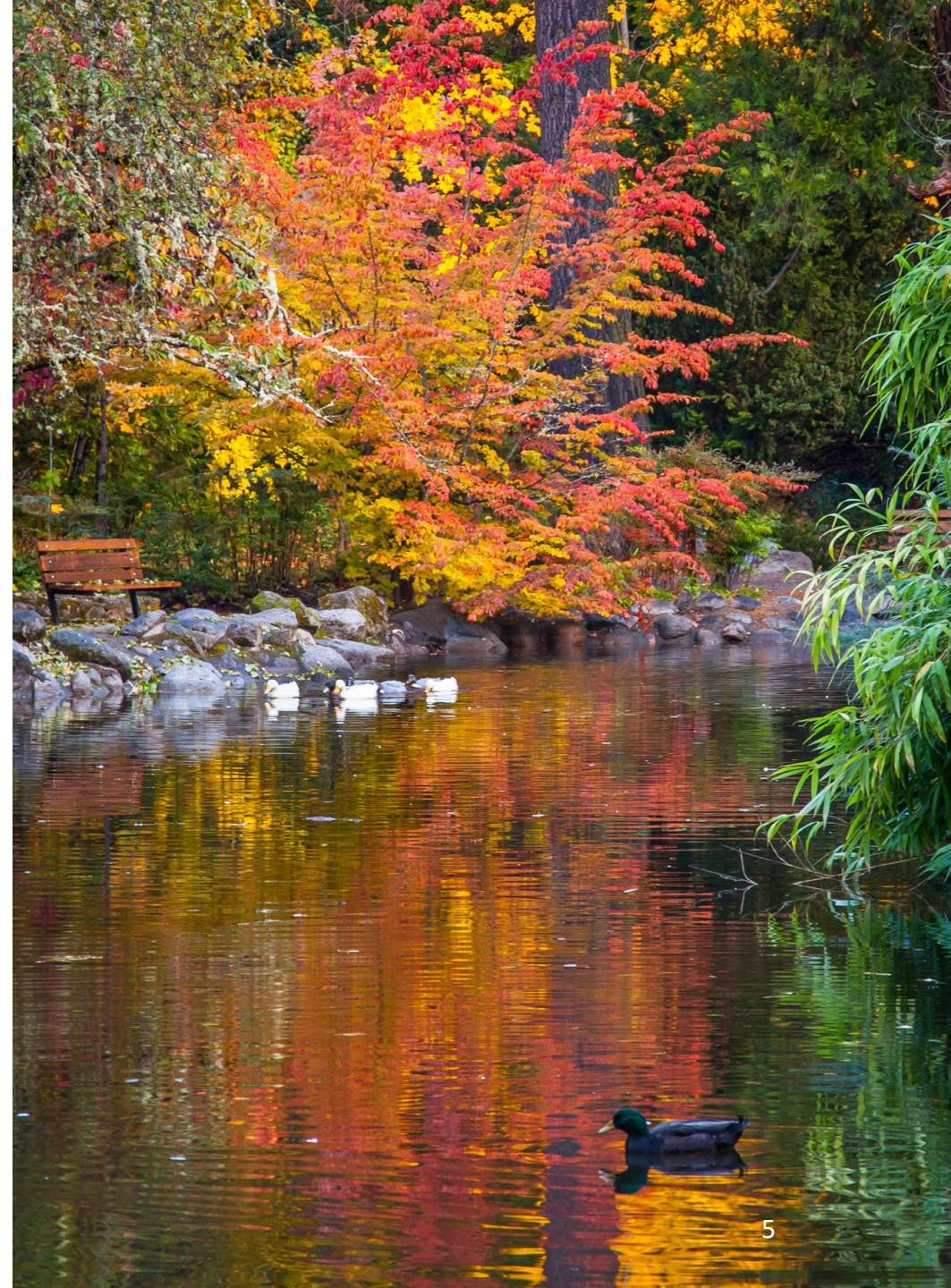
- (A)* Billings Property southern portion – only northern portion of property has potential for sports fields
 - (B & C) Helman Street Property – within quarter mile of Ashland Creek Park
 - (D) Helman to Oak partial corridor – no longer available as corridor
 - (E) Cottle Phillips tiny portion to the West - developed
 - (F) Upper Elkader/Roca Cannon - developed
 - (G) Willow Wind school site - Ashland School District owned
 - (H, I,) Property on lower Clay Street – developed
 - (J) YMCA- divested
 - (K) Middle Clay- Park within a quarter mile
 - (L) Chitwood Property on Upper Clay Street – developed
 - (M) Crowson Road Extension – no longer needed no plans to expand OKGC
- *Letters are the property highlighted in purple on the map



Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map Update

Properties Designated Purchase or Easements and Projected Use

- (#1) Billings Property. North part of property for possible sports fields and protection for riparian zone
- (#2) Wright's Creek Parcel. Trail corridor and protection for riparian zone.
- (#3) Grizzly Peak. Conservation easements on the south slopes of Grizzly visible from Ashland would not only protect iconic view visible from most of Ashland, but would also reduce development pressure on rare and sensitive flora and on large mammals.
- (#4 & #5) Ashland Creek Corridor – Year-round stream, significant wildlife habitat and potential pedestrian/bicycle connection
- (#6) Nevada St to North Mountain Ave. (Bear Creek Corridor) Riparian area.
- (#7) Property across from Riverwalk. Riparian area.
- (#8) Willows area trail connection (RR property) Acquire riparian area.
- (#9) Bear Creek riparian/floodplain corridor from east of North Mountain Park. Significant wildlife habitat, natural area that is potentially a part of the Greenway extension.
- (#10) Walker Ave. East Main Street. Possible sports fields
- (#11) Talent Irrigation Ditch Segment
- (#12 & #13) West side watershed (Hitt Road) Trail connectivity.
- (#14) 440 Granite Street. Surrounded on three sides by Lithia Park. Only private property on the east side of Granite above Nutley not part Lithia Park. Lithia Park Master Plan recommends purchase of property.
- (#15) Lincoln School. Critical to goal of neighborhood park within ¼ mile of all residents. Many low-income residents in the area.
- (#16 & #17) Upper Liberty St/Ivy Ln Forest/Urban Interface. Connects southern residential neighborhoods with trail network.
- (#18) Tolman Creek/Mistletoe Road Area.

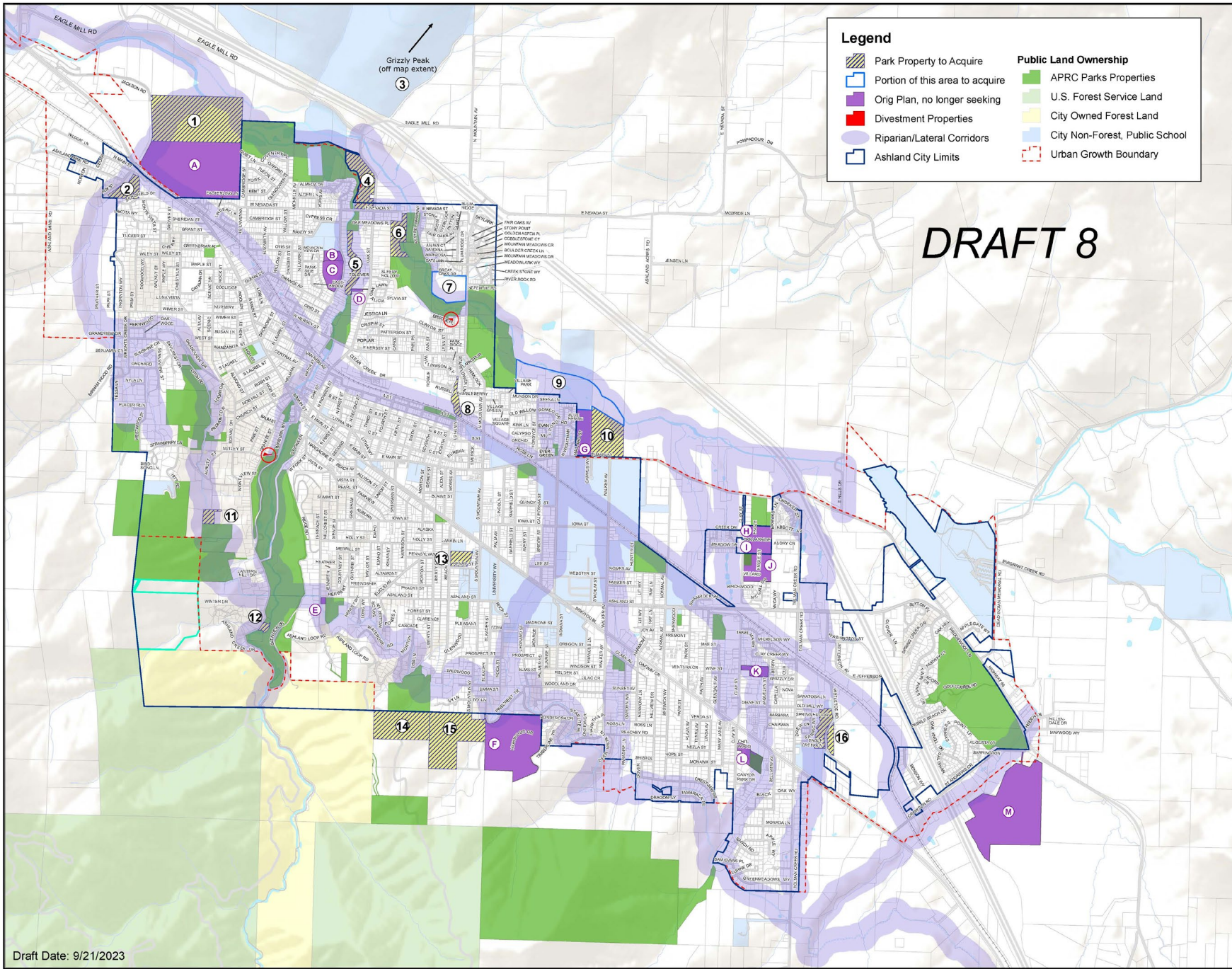


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Possible Motion

I move to recommend the Parks, Trails and Open Space Map Update and summary language, as presented, for review by Planning Commission and consideration by City Council.





Parks, Trails, and Open Space Program 2023-2033

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A goal of the Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC), Board of Commissioners (the "Commissioners") is to update the Parks, Trails & Open Space Plan (the "Plan") every ten years. Although a "Light Update" was done by APRC in 2012, it was not revised and approved by City Council. The last official update of the Plan was done in 2002.

In preparation for the 2023 update, APRC held a series of community meetings to gather input from citizens on updating the 1991 plan. Following the meetings, Commissioners developed an updated Plan map that included changing the name of the program to the "Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan". For the 2023 update, a Parks, Trails and Open Space Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee") was formed by the Commissioners to review the Plan and make recommendations. The Subcommittee has prepared the 2023 update and that body has recommended the 2023 Plan for approval by the Commissioners and City Council. There have been seven APRC meetings where public input was solicited. This Plan was approved by Commissioners XXXX and by City Council XXXX.

The current situation with Ashland's park land is very different than in 1991 when the Comprehensive Plan was first developed and approved by City Council. In 1991, Ashland had less park land per capita than Roseburg, Medford and Klamath Falls. Now, after 30-plus years of effort, Ashland's per capita park land ranks it among the State's leaders. It has been determined that procurement of land for developed parks is no longer a high priority. Additionally, because City legislation accompanying the Plan specifically mandated that no land would be obtained by condemnation, originally more property than needed was in the Plan to ensure sufficient land could be acquired from willing sellers. For the reasons stated and after careful review by the Subcommittee and approval by APRC Commissioners, XXX acres of property projected for purchase from the 2005 Plan map has been removed from this updated 2023 Plan.

One of the goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan is to have a neighborhood park located within a 1/4 mile of every resident living inside the current city limits. With the exception of the Madeline (Cowan) neighborhood, fully developed sections of the city where no open lands exist, and areas in the urban forest interface characterized by large lots where Commissioners have determined that the benefits are not great enough to justify the costs, sufficient property has been obtained to meet this goal. If the City's boundaries are expanded, additional property may need to be identified for example, a part of the Billings Ranch and acquired to meet the neighborhood goal.

The majority of properties left on the Plan for future purchase provide protection of significant natural areas like streams and riparian areas and for acre land and easements that provide trail connectivity. This connectivity goal is to secure land, through outright purchase, donation, grants, or easements, on which to develop a trail system that would provide connecting links to neighborhoods and additional trails throughout the City and surrounding area for non-motorized, recreational use. Efforts to accomplish this goal will be advanced through collaboration with other organizations, such as the Ashland Woodland and Trails Association, Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy.

Properties Designated Purchase or Easements and Projected Use

- (#1) Billings Property. North part of property for possible sports fields.
- (#2) Wright's Creek Corridor. Trail corridor and protection for riparian area.
- (#3) Grizzly Peak. Connect riparian easements on the south slope of Grizzly visible from Ashland would not only protect scenic view visible from most of Ashland, but would also reduce development pressure on rare and sensitive flora and on large mammals.
- (#4 & #5) Ashland Creek Corridor. Year-round stream, significant wildlife habitat and potential pedestrian/bicycle connection.
- (#6) Nevada St to North Mountain Ave. (Bear Creek Corridor) Riparian area.
- (#7) Property across from Riverwalk. Riparian area.
- (#8) Willow area trail connection (BR property) Riparian area.
- (#9) Bear Creek riparian/woodland corridor from NMP to J5 crossing. Significant wildlife habitat, natural area that is potentially a part of the Greenway extension.
- (#10) Walker Site. East Main Street. Possible sports fields.
- (#11) Talent Irrigation Ditch Segments.
- (#12) 440 Granite Street. Surrounded on three sides by Lathia Park. Only private property on east side of Granite above Nalley not part of Lathia Park. Lathia Park Master Plan recommends purchase of property.
- (#13) Lincoln School. Critical to goal of neighborhood park within 1/4 mile of all residents. Many low-income residents in the area.
- (#14 & #15) Upper Liberty St/ly La Forest/Urban Interface. Connects northern residential neighborhoods with trail network.
- (#16) Telusian Creek/Madeline Road Area.

Properties removed from the plan

- (A) Billings Property southern portion
- (B & C) Helman Street Property
- (D) Helman to Oak parcel corridor
- (E) Cottis Phillips (the portion to the West)
- (F) Upper Elbader/Roca Cannon
- (G) Willow Wild school site
- (H, I, J) Property on Lower City Street
- (K) YMCA
- (L) Chitwood Property on Upper Clay Street
- (M) Crownson Road Extension