



AGENDA For Parks & Open Space Map Update Subcommittee Meeting
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Friday, September 22, 2023
Lithia Park Admin Office
340 S. Pioneer Street – 1:00 pm.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of minutes for May 1, 2023
- III. Additions or Deletions to Agenda
- IV. Public Forum
- V. Review Open Parks & Open Space Map Recommendations
- VI. Review of Map Summary and Narrative
- VII. Subcommittee Recommendations to Parks Commission
- VIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

**MINUTES FOR
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Parks & Open Space Map Update Subcommittee
May 1, 2023
340 S. Pioneer Street – 9:30 AM**

Present: Commissioners Landt, Eldridge; Analyst Kiewel, Eric Hansen, Katie Larsen, Torsten Heycke

Absent: Director Black, JoAnne Eggers

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Landt called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- II. **Approval of minutes for September 27, 2022** – Eldridge moved to approve minutes Heycke seconded – All approved.
- III. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda - None**
- IV. **Public Forum - None**
- V. **Review Parks & Open Space Map Recommendations** - Landt stated that rather than change the City Comprehensive Plan a narrative will be added to the updated map. City Council will hopefully approve of the new map and verbiage.

The subcommittee reviewed the map and agreed on the following updates:

- Update to reflect the Palen Property has now been acquired by APRC.
 - The subcommittee discussed the removal of Billings Ranch from the map except for the riparian areas, which are outside the Urban Growth Boundary. Eldridge would like to add the Billings ranch as an example in the narrative regarding the goals.
 - Added additional property for trail connectivity that connects trails through the watershed. (15)
 - Bottom of Wrights Creek property (6) leave on the plan
 - Keep property Bear Creek riparian/floodplain segments from Nevada Street to North Mountain Ave. (E) on plan
 - Eldridge suggested adding text regarding Imperatrice property as a potential trail system
 - Map will be updated when any new properties are acquired.
- VI. **Subcommittee Recommendations to Parks Commission** – APRC will be updated in the May study session meeting.

Motion: Eldridge moved that the subcommittee accept the parcels that have been removed from the plan as discussed. Seconded by Larson.

Discussion – none

Vote: All Yes

Next meeting will review the property addition with the narrative language.

Eldridge would like to see the drainage and creeks layer added to the map.

Landt stated that staff will review the Trails Master Plan with the Parks and Open Space Map for consistency.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.
Tara Kiewel, Administrative Analyst

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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 reviewed and approved by City Council. The last official update of the Plan was done in 2002.

In preparation for the 2002 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 on 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 exceptions of the Mistletoe (Croman) 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 deemed 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/or are land and easements that provide trail connectivity. The 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.

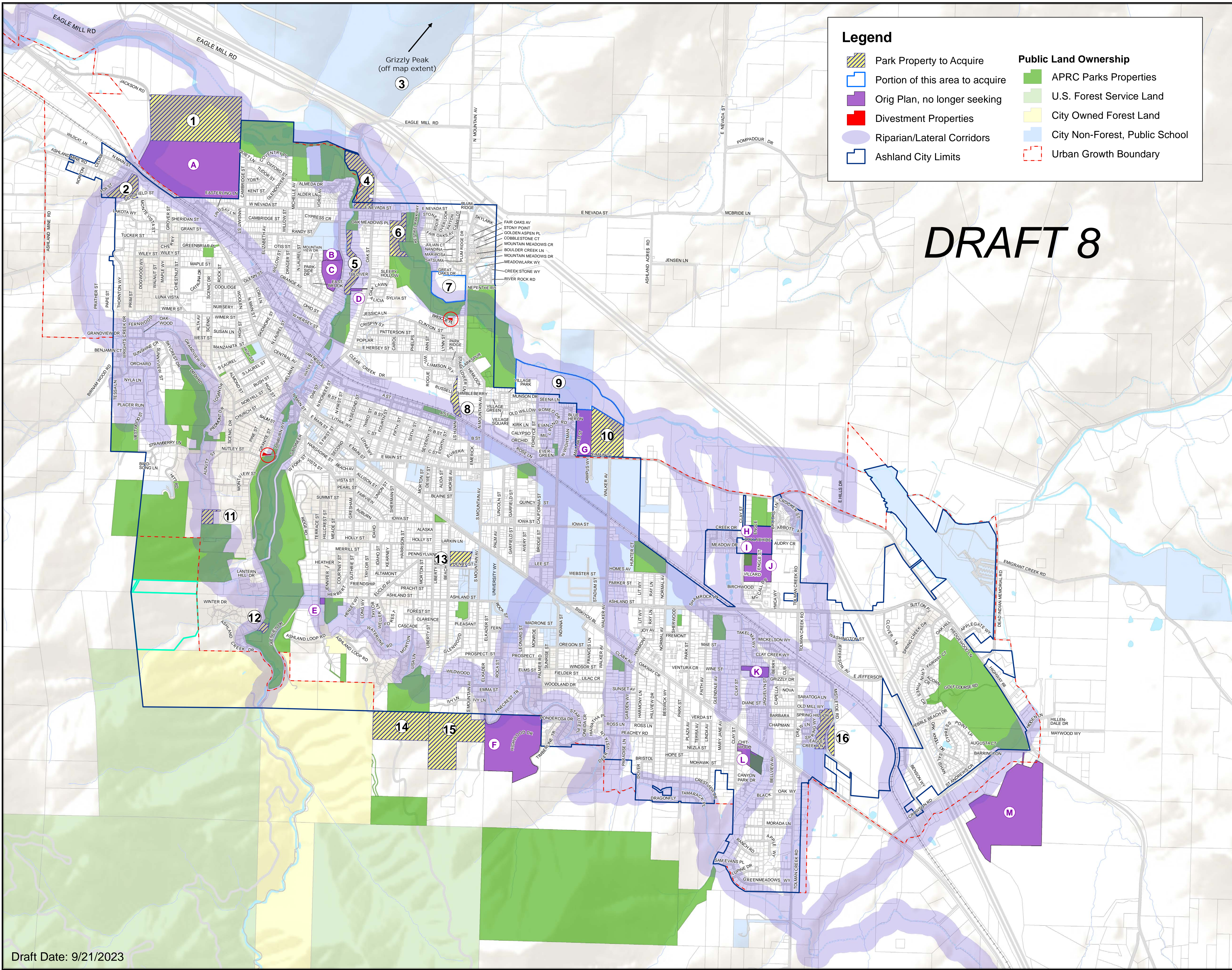
Properties Designated Purchase or Easements and Projected Use

- (#1) **Billings Property.** North part of property for possible sports fields.
- (#2) **Wright's Creek Corridor.** Trail corridor and protection for riparian 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) Riparian area.**
- (#9) **Bear Creek riparian/floodplain corridor from NMP to I-5 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 Lithia Park. Only private property on east side of Granite above Nutley not part Lithia Park. Lithia Park Master Plan recommends purchase of property.
- (#13) **Lincoln School.** Critical to goal of neighborhood park within ¼ mile of all residents. Many low-income residents in the area.
- (#14 & #15) **Upper Liberty St/Ivy Ln Forest/Urban Interface.** Connects southern residential neighborhoods with trail network.
- (#16) **Tolman Creek/Mistletoe Road Area.**

Properties removed from the plan

- (A) **Billings Property southern portion**
- (B & C) **Helman Street Property**
- (D) **Helman to Oak partial corridor**
- (E) **Cottle Phillips tiny portion to the West**
- (F) **Upper Elkader/Roca Cannon**
- (G) **Willow Wild school site**

- **(H, I, J) Property on lower Clay Street**
- **(K) YMCA**
- **(L) Chitwood Property on Upper Clay Street**
- **(M) Crowson Road Extension**



Legend

	Park Property to Acquire		Public Land Ownership
	Portion of this area to acquire		APRC Parks Properties
	Orig Plan, no longer seeking		U.S. Forest Service Land
	Divestment Properties		City Owned Forest Land
	Riparian/Lateral Corridors		City Non-Forest, Public School
	Ashland City Limits		Urban Growth Boundary

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Parks, Trails, and Open Space Program 2023-2033

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