Suzanne Arlie Park Master Plan

October 2020

Acknowledgements

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Section 1: Introduction, Purpose, and Background

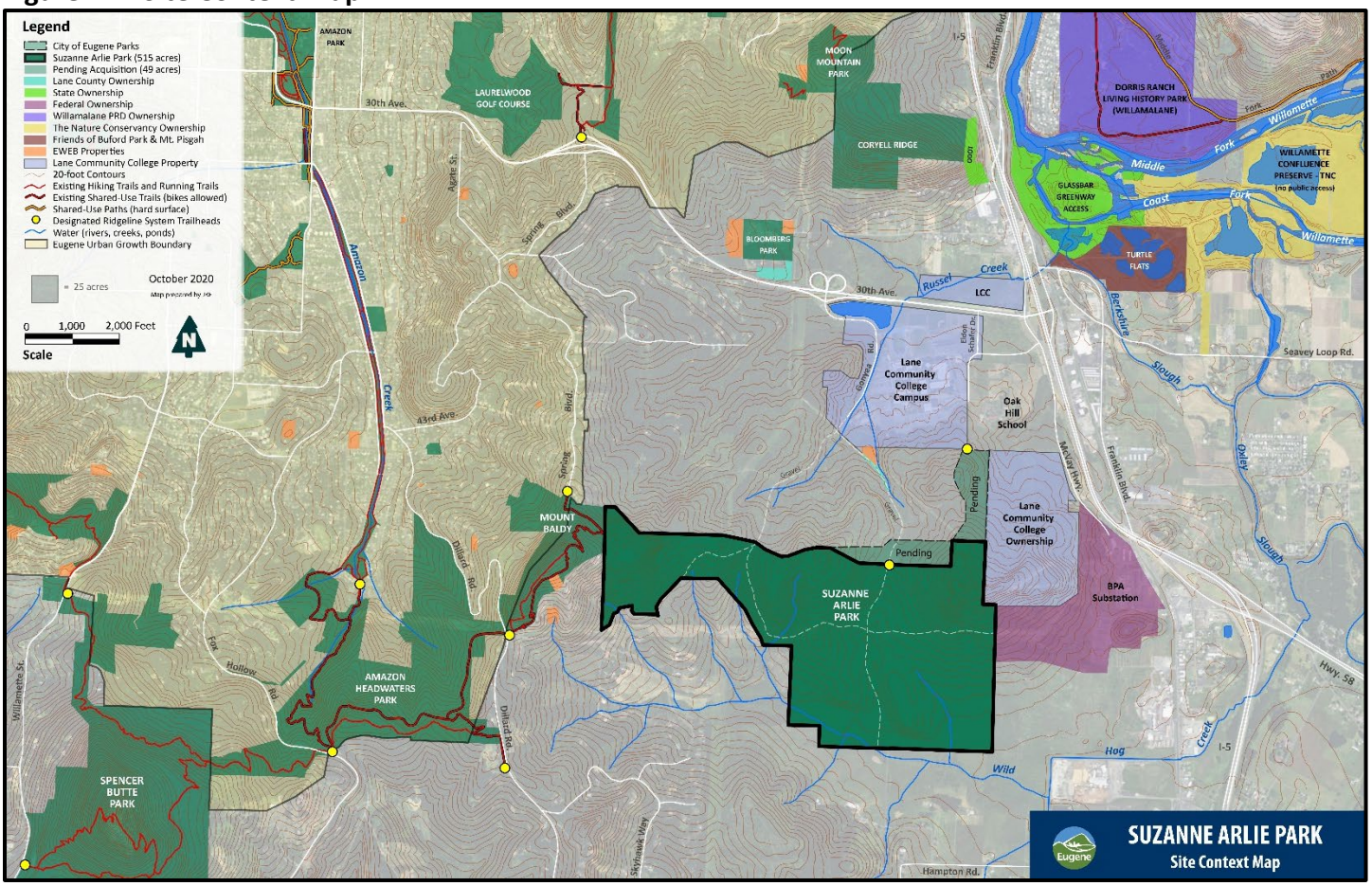
1.1 Introduction

Suzanne Arlie Park (SAP) is situated to the south and east of the Eugene city limits (see Figure 1-1) and was acquired by the City of Eugene (City) in two separate land transactions in 2008 and 2011 totaling 515 acres. An additional 49-acre acquisition of land extending north toward Lane Community College is now pending (see Figure 1-2). Suzanne Arlie Park is now the largest single park in the City's system and was purchased with the aim of accommodating the planned eastward extension of the Ridgeline Trail network, conserving high-value native habitat, and providing a large site for a wide range of nature-based recreational activities and facilities. In 2010, the City completed the *Eastern Ridgeline Extension Master Plan* for the initial 200-acre parcel that was acquired in 2008. Because the additional acquisitions have more than doubled the size of the park, the 2010 Master Plan became outdated and will be replaced by this Master Plan. Content from the 2010 Master Plan has been incorporated into this plan where applicable.

Other than the existing gravel roads crossing the site, there are currently no facilities, on-site parking, or formal trails and the park receives few visitors. Over the past decade, the City has primarily focused on management efforts related to invasive species control, improvements for maintenance access, debris removal, installation of boundary markers, and fuels reduction efforts.

Park visitors contemplate the beauty and potential of Suzanne Arlie Park. A planned Ridgeline Trail extension through the park will connect Spencer Butte (seen in the distance) to Lane Community College and eventually further east to Mount Pisgah.

Figure 1-1: Site Context Map



1.2 Park Vision and Master Plan Highlights

The vision for Suzanne Arlie Park is intended to be an aspirational statement about the park's future character and uses. The vision was drafted to reflect direction from the City's *Parks and Recreation System Plan* (2018) and *Eugene Trails Plan* (2018) along with input received from the public, interest groups, regional partners, and Parks and Open Space planning and natural resources staff.

> ***Suzanne Arlie Park serves as an oasis for people and wildlife alike, providing opportunities for visitors to refresh their minds, bodies, and spirits. The park accommodates a network of interconnected trails for users of all abilities, and functions as a major community hub for compatible nature-based recreation and outdoor education. The park preserves a rich mosaic of regionally significant habitats that are managed to support a diversity of native vegetation and wildlife, while providing a stunning scenic backdrop for visitors.***

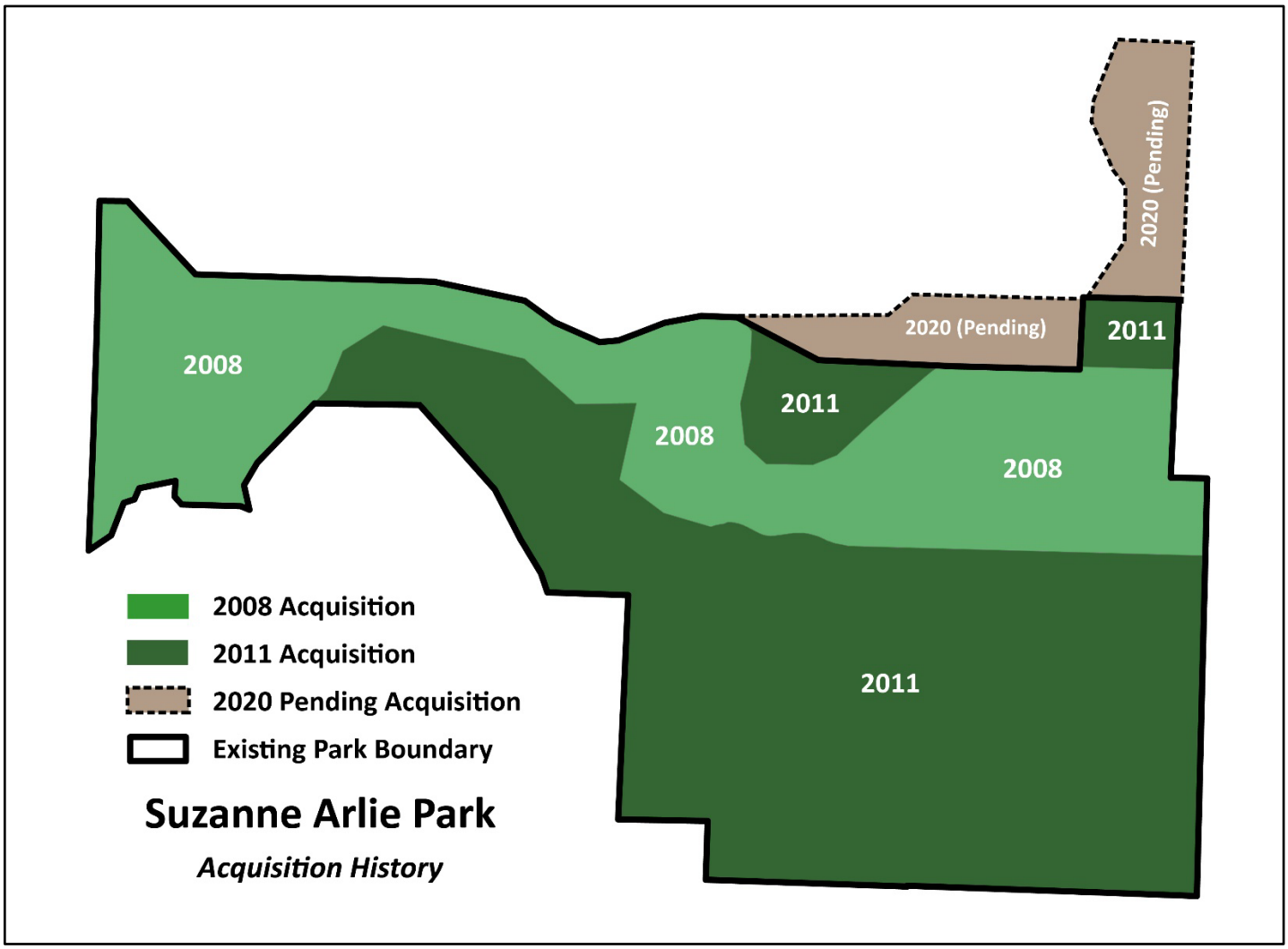
In support of this vision, the Master Plan proposes significant park improvements to be implemented over the next 20 years. The draft plan proposes approximately 14 miles of new trail to serve pedestrians and mountain bikers alike with multiple loop options providing access to the park's points of interest and viewpoints. Proposed park facilities include a primary parking area, a pavilion for staging educational and recreational activities, a 55-acre mountain bike park, an 18-hole disc golf course, a nature play trail, a site history interpretive area, restrooms, and a group camping area for City

sponsored events. Substantial habitat management efforts have already begun, and will continue to improve conditions for native vegetation and wildlife while reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire. The proposed facilities and habitat management actions are shown on the Master Plan Diagram (Figure 4-6), the Desired Future Conditions Vegetation Map (Figure 4-7), and described in more detail in Section 4.

1.3 Acquisition History and Landscape Context

The City of Eugene purchased the first 200 acres of what is today Suzanne Arlie Park from Arlie & Company in 2008. This initial acquisition extended along a relatively narrow band of ridgetop approximately a mile and a half in length between Mount Baldy and land owned by Lane Community College. The primary purpose of this initial acquisition was to accommodate the long-planned extension of the ridgeline trail and preserve habitat found along the corridor. In 2011, the City took advantage of an opportunity to purchase an additional 315 acres, also from Arlie & Company, extending the park south toward Wild Hog Creek with some smaller patches added along the ridge top. The park boundary now contains significant areas of high quality oak habitat, plus a substantial area of wet prairie on the flatter southern edge. An additional 49 acres of land along the northeast boundary of the park is in the process of being acquired. This area will accommodate better trail access to Lane Community College, protect additional oak habitat, and will accommodate a planned parking area and more space for the proposed disc golf course and mountain bike park.

Figure 1-2: Acquisition History Map



1.4 Master Plan Purpose and Timeframe

The content of the Suzanne Arlie Park Master Plan is based on direction provided by numerous existing related plans and studies, evaluation of site opportunities and constraints, community desires expressed through public involvement, input of key stakeholders, and City staff and consultant expertise. The Master Plan is intended to provide a vision which will guide decisions and priorities relating to access, recreational development, and habitat management within the park over a 20-year timeframe. Additionally, it is hoped that the plan will raise public awareness of and interest in the park, provide guidance to balance multiple interests, and help support funding applications for future development and habitat management. Proposed park improvements and management actions have been prioritized (see Section 4) based on community interests, cost, and urgency. However, the timeline for implementation will ultimately be based on available funding and staff resources.

Figure 1-3: Suzanne Arlie Park Context Perspective

1.5 Policy Direction and Related Plans, Reports, and Inventories

A number of key plans, reports, and inventories have been conducted specifically for the area that is now Suzanne Arlie Park or provide relevant direction from a City, regional, or statewide perspective. These resources have been considered during the development of this Master Plan and are itemized in Appendix F.

From the State perspective, the 2019 *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* has identified walking/hiking on trails and paths as the most popular recreational priority in the state and in Lane County. The 2016 *Oregon Conservation Strategy* identifies oak woodlands, grasslands (including prairie and oak savanna), wetlands, riparian, and aquatic habitats as being a high priority for conservation activities in the Willamette Valley. All of these habitat types are present at Suzanne Arlie Park.

Regionally, the area that is now Suzanne Arlie Park has been highlighted in a number of visioning efforts including the 2003 *Eugene Springfield Rivers to Ridges Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Study* and the 2008 *Ridgeline Open Space Vision*. These vision documents emphasize the park area as being a critical link for providing connectivity for trails and habitat along the 20-mile Ridgeline Corridor between Fern Ridge Reservoir and Buford Recreation Area. Additionally, the park area was highlighted for the presence of high quality oak and prairie habitat.

From a local perspective, the 2018 *Eugene Trails Plan* specifies a major trail network at Suzanne Arlie Park including mountain bike facilities and a three-mile extension of the Ridgeline Trail with connections from Mount Baldy and Lane Community College. The 2018 *City of Eugene Parks and Recreation System Plan* identifies eastward extension of the Ridgeline Trail through Suzanne Arlie park as well as habitat restoration efforts along the Ridgeline corridor as priorities. Lastly, the 2010 *Eastern Ridgeline Extension Master Plan* had specified that the Ridgeline Trail and other shared-use trails, mountain bike features, disc golf, and limited overnight group camping be accommodated in the original 200 acres of the park (now expanded to 515 acres).

1.6 Adaptive Management

The City of Eugene will utilize an adaptive management model at Suzanne Arlie Park, as it does in other natural area parks, to gauge the success and effectiveness of restoration and enhancement activities to adjust future management actions. Adaptive management is a systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs. In an adaptive management approach, management actions are documented as they occur and then monitored over a period of time. The interpretation of monitoring results is then used to modify and improve management practices and techniques, and to identify unforeseen problems that need to be addressed. The Adaptive Management Diagram (see Figure 1-4) shows the cycle that is typical of an adaptive management approach.

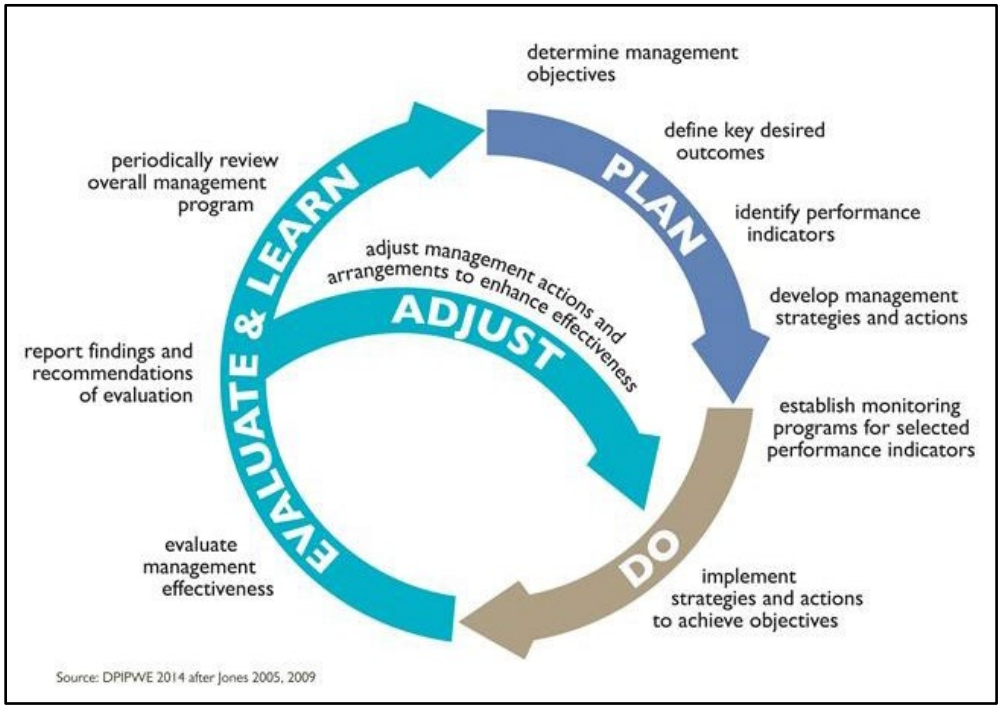


Figure 1-4: Adaptive Management Diagram

1.7 Public Outreach

In an effort to introduce the public to this new park and to collect input to guide development of the Master Plan, a number of public outreach techniques were utilized:

Public Meetings

An initial public open house was held on May 10, 2016 at the Eugene Public Library. The focus of this kickoff meeting, which was attended by just over one hundred people, was to provide an introduction to the history and existing conditions of the park, an overview of the planning timeline, and an announcement of upcoming site tours. A second public open house was held on scheduled for December 9, 2019 with the focus of presenting a preliminary draft of the Master Plan and provide opportunity for members of the community to speak with City staff and provide feedback. This meeting was attended by approximately 150 people.

Public Surveys

Two web-based surveys were used to collect public input during key phases of the planning process. Both were designed as a tool to collect input from interested parties and were not intended to provide random sample, statistically valid, data. The first survey was open from early June through mid-July of 2016 and focused on getting general input on potential facilities and desired habitats. A total of 617 individual responses were collected from this first survey (see results in Appendix C). A second survey was open between November of 2019 and February of 2020 and focused on collecting input on a draft version of the Master Plan and the proposed facilities and habitat management. A total of 401 responses were collected from this second survey (see results in Appendix G).

Web Postings

Background information including analysis maps, early Master Plan drafts, and plan appendices were posted on City's web page for review. This site also included public survey links and City of Eugene contact information.

Interested Parties Email List

An interested parties email distribution list was established in 2008 during the initial master planning process, with additional names collected at the workshop and through the project web page. The list currently has over 500 email addresses. Periodic project updates and workshop announcements are sent to this email group.

Guided Site Tours

Two guided site visits to the park were offered to the public on May 21 and June 11, 2016. A total of 45 participants spent approximately three hours walking a portion of the park and were provided with an overview of the ecology and history of the site. Additionally, City staff have provided tours to a number of interest groups and through the City's Saturday Park Walk program.

A guided site tour in 2016

Section 2: Site History and Current Conditions

2.1 Historical Context

2.1.1 Native American Influences

Humans have occupied the Willamette Valley for many thousands of years and the echo of their long presence and can still be indirectly observed at Suzanne Arlie Park through the vegetation. Most indigenous inhabitants of the southern Willamette Valley belong to the Kalapuyan family who significantly influenced the vegetation by initiating frequent seasonal burning of understory vegetation to improve conditions for hunting, gathering, and possibly travel (Johannessen, 1971). These frequent fires are believed to be the major disturbance factor that maintained open savanna and prairie conditions throughout much of the Willamette Valley by limiting the invasion of less fire-resistant shrubs and conifer species such as Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). After Euro-American settlers moved into the valley beginning in the mid-1800s, the practice of large scale seasonal burning was halted and much of the savanna and prairie-dominated landscapes across the valley were gradually overtaken by conifers or converted to agricultural and urban uses. Suzanne Arlie Park is one of the increasingly rare locations in the valley where large patches of these once dominant vegetation communities still exist, although in a degraded condition.

The Kalapuyan people are known to have used at least 50 species of plants found in prairies and savanna for food and fiber (Christy et al. 2011). The oldest archeological evidence of habitation in Willamette Valley have been found in the form of camas ovens and charred camas bulbs dating back to 7,750 years (Sultany et al., 2007).

Some direct evidence of Native American presence in the area of Suzanne Arlie Park does exist in the form of two concentrations of chert and obsidian flakes (known as lithic scatters) that were documented just outside of what is today the park boundary during a cultural resource survey of the area that was conducted by Heritage Resource Associates, Inc. in 2002. The exact location of these finds are not included in this plan in order to help protect the resource from possible disturbance. The cultural survey team noted that access to much of the area now contained within Suzanne Arlie Park was not possible due to poor ground visibility from thick vegetation, so it's quite possible that additional evidence of Native American site use could be observed in the future.

2.1.2 Euro-American Settlement History and Structures

Based on the findings of a 2002 Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) conducted by Heritage Research Associates, Inc. along with aerial photo interpretation and on-the-ground observations, several structures and their out-buildings are known to have occupied the area now contained within the park boundary. Most of these structures seem to have been oriented around homesteading and agricultural uses and only a few remnants, such as the chimney pictured to the right, are evident today (see section 2.3.2 for detail on historical aerial photo interpretation).

Remains of a 1920s-era homestead

The oldest such structure known to have existed on the site is noted on the 1853 GLO survey with the name "S. Sovern" and was located on the southwest flank of the small hill located on the south side of the park. An 1861 GLO land survey for the area indicates ownership in that same area by "Silas Severin" (different spelling or individual than indicated on the 1853 survey). Lane County Historical Society records indicate the Severin homestead was 320 acres in size. An 1854 census indicated 18 head of cattle and oxen on the farm along with four children. No remains of this structure are obvious in that location today. Another homestead was located along the north-south road. Based on findings from CRS, the homestead was likely occupied beginning in the 1920s. A grove of trees marks that spot in the 1936 aerial photo and it is possible that the house is still standing at that time, but obscured by the trees on the photo. Further research would be needed to determine the original homesteader's name and date of occupation and eventual abandonment. All that remains of that homestead today is a brick and stone hearth and chimney, a low stone wall, a dry stock pond, and a small outbuilding which is thought to be either a cellar building or pumphouse.

The remains of an outbuilding located near the chimney

Abandoned lap-sided pump house

A 1905 "Bungalow" has been noted on the eastern side of the park according to the City of Eugene's historic sites database, but appears on the 1936 aerial photo only as a disturbed area, with no structure present at that time. There is no obvious surface evidence of this structure at this location today. Another 1920s era house with outbuildings was located just to the southwest of the park property and was accessed by the road that currently parallels Wild Hog Creek. All that remains of this homestead is a small pumphouse which is located just within the park property.

A few additional undocumented structures can be observed on the 1936 aerial photo including a small cluster of buildings along the road just to the north of the site and what looks like a small barn or out-building near the center of the park. No surface evidence of these structures remain today. Lastly, a more modern manufactured home was located on top of the small flat-topped hill on the south side of the park for a short time starting in the mid-1990s. This structure was in poor condition when the City purchased the property and removed shortly thereafter. See Figure 2-1 (Existing Conditions Map) and Figure 2-7 (1936 Aerial Photo) for approximate location of the structures mentioned above.

Mount Baldy Park
Mt. Baldy Ln
Baldy Ridge
1,058'
884'
West Saddle
906'
East Saddle
893'
Proposed Expanded Park Boundary
Transmission Lines
Lane Community College Property
Split Rock Hill
990'
Branch
Toadpole
Gas Line
Electrical Transmission
Electrical Transmission Lines
701'
Homestead
Federal Land (BPA)
Skyhawk Way
Wild Hog Creek
Scharen Rd.
1,200
1,100
1,000
900
800
700
600
500

Legend

- Suzanne Arlie Park (515 acres)
- Other City of Eugene Park Land
- Lane Community College Property
- Federal Land (BPA)
- 20-foot Contours
- High Points
- Existing Soft-Surface Trail (Shared-Use)
- Seasonal Creeks
- Paved Roads
- Gravel Roads
- Property Lines
- Hydric Soils (possibly wetland)
- Large Habitat Snags
- Existing Ephemeral Ponds (seasonal)

Historical Structures

1. 1920s Era Homestead Ruins
2. Former Mobile Home Site (removed)
3. Pump House Shed (present)
4. Ca. 1850 Severin Homestead (approximate, no remnants)
5. 1905 Bungalow (approximate, no remnants)

One Acre

Figure 2-1

December 2019

Map prepared by JKE (Aerial Photo: July 2017

0 500 1,000 Feet

Scale

N W E S

SUZANNE ARLIE PARK

Existing Conditions and Site Features

Eugene

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2.2 Landform and Hydrology

2.2.1 Topography

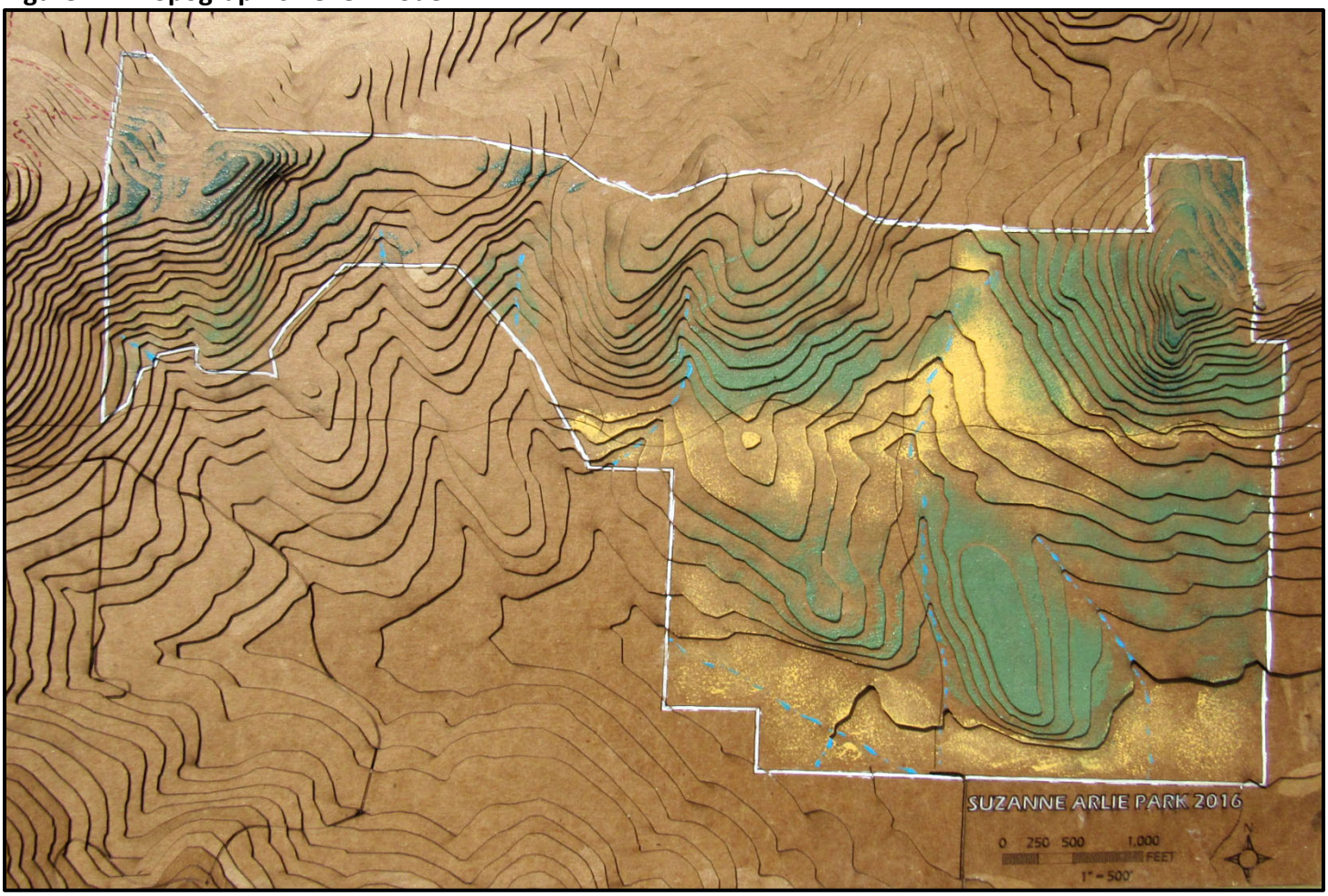
The northern boundary of the park generally runs along an unnamed ridgetop that extends eastward from Mount Baldy (elevation of 1,233 feet). This ridge, which separates the Russel Creek watershed to the north and Wild Hog Creek watershed to the south, includes several high points or hilltops with elevations from west to east of 1,058 feet, 884 feet, 893 feet, 906 feet, and 990 feet (see Figure 2-1: Existing Site Features and Conditions Map). The westernmost hilltop is referred to as Baldy Ridge since it is part of a continuous ridgeline extending to the east from the summit of Mount Baldy. The easternmost hilltop is referred to as Split Rock Hill due to the presence of several exposed rock formations near the summit and numerous rocks and boulders on its flanks. Split Rock Hill is not an official USGS name, but adopted as a descriptive term during the master planning process. The main body of the park drops away from this ridgetop toward the south in a series of rolling ridges and small drainages. Slopes in this area of the site range between 15 to 50 percent. The steepest slope is located below the east side of Baldy Ridge in an area of past slide activity, with a well-defined scarp located above the slide area (see Figure 2-4: Geology Map). The slope of the park gradually lessens to the south as the topography descends toward the nearly flat alluvial plain of Wild Hog Creek where average slopes are less than one percent in places (see Figure 2-2: Topographic Relief Model). The flat topography in this area, combined with heavy clay soils, results in poor drainage with standing water and saturated soils present over much of this area during the rainy season. The lowest elevation located on the very southeast corner of the park is about 500 feet.

The full 1.5-mile west-east extent of Suzanne Arlie Park (viewed from the south)

The southern edge of the park is relatively flat.

Much of the park consists of a series of ridges and rolling hills.

Figure 2-2: Topographic Relief Model



Source: The topographic relief map pictured above was built by Casey Howard of the University of Oregon Department of Landscape Architecture in 2016 and uses a contour interval of 20 feet.

Conifer-covered Split Rock Hill on the eastern end of the park (drone photo by Paul Gordon)

2.2.2 Geological Features

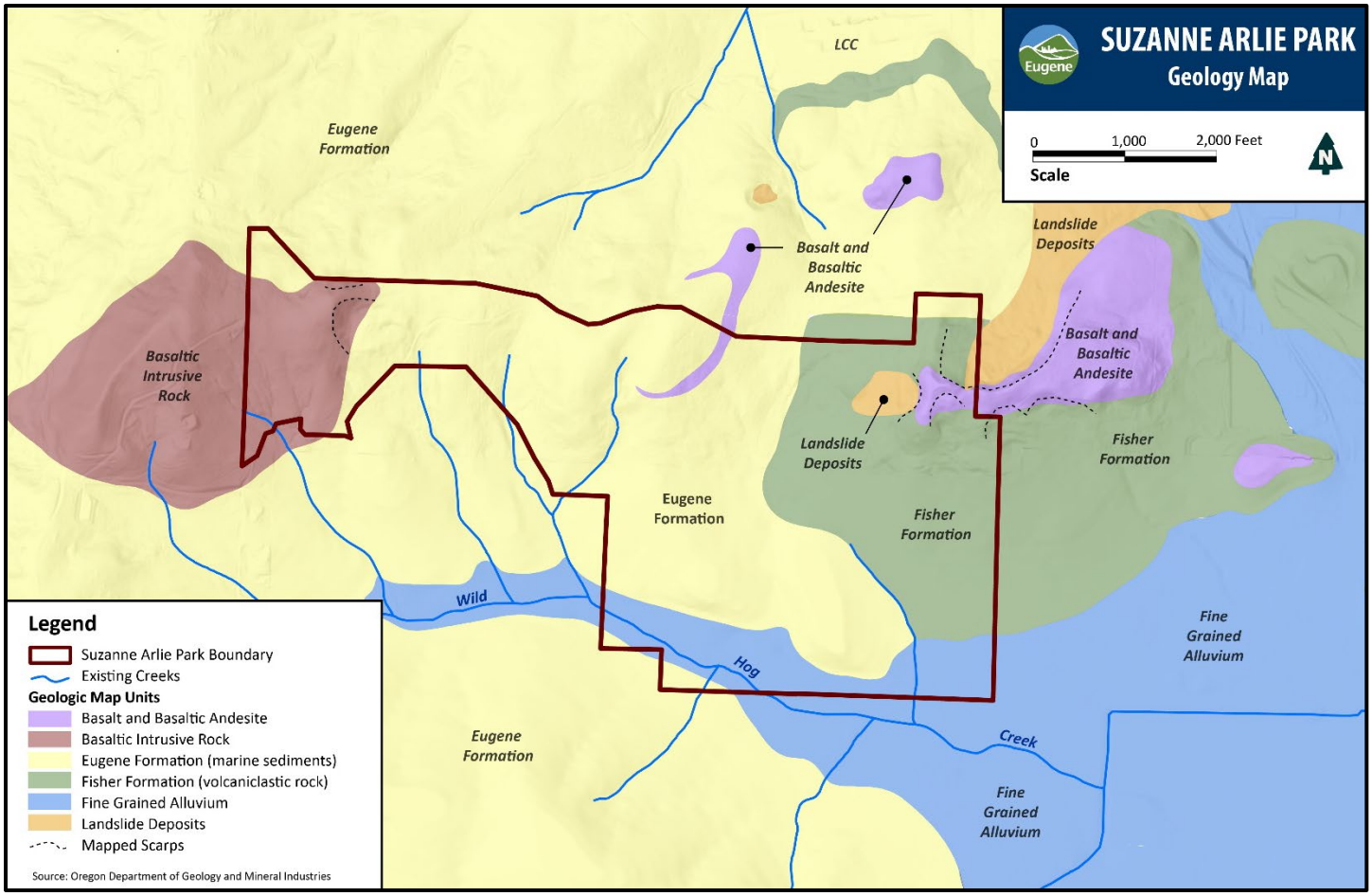
Suzanne Arlie Park and the surrounding area contains a highly diverse mix of geologic features including older marine sedimentary rock, basaltic formations, and more recent alluvial and landslide deposits. The marine sediments, known as the *Eugene Formation*, formed over a period of several million years and rock containing shell impressions can be found in some areas of the park. Intrusive basaltic rock pushed up into the Eugene formation over an extended period of time and has been exposed through erosion in several spots across the park, particularly along Mount Baldy Ridge and on Split Rock Hill. Evidence of landslides and landslide deposits can be found in several areas of the park (see Figure 2-4: Geology Map). In more recent geologic times, Wild Hog Creek has deposited extensive alluvium and continues to do so today, with the creek gradually cutting away at the Eugene Formation to the north and south of the Creek.

Figure 2-3: Geologic Map Units

Geologic Map Unit Name	Origin	Age	Acres
Fine Graveled Alluvium	Sediments	Recent	51.4
Landslide Deposits	Mixed grained sediments	Holocene and Pleistocene (~2 million years to recent)	7.5
Basaltic/Basaltic Andesite	Volcanic	Oligocene/Miocene (~5-34 million years)	8.9
Basaltic Intrusive Rocks	Intrusive rock	Oligocene/Miocene (~5-34 million years)	44.7
Eugene Formation	Marine sediment	Eocene/Oligocene (~33-36 million years)	273.2
Fisher Formation	Volcaniclastic rocks	Eocene/Oligocene (~23-56 million years)	129.6

Source: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Figure 2-4: Geology Map



Exposed basalt near the summit of Split Rock Hill

Shell fossil imprints in Eugene Formation found on the south side of the park

2.2.3 Soils

Based on U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) data, Suzanne Arlie Park contains a mix of soils with a total of thirteen mapped soil units present. This is a result of the complex geology and topographic variation found on the site. As this data relates to the Master Plan, the key distinction is whether NRCS has classified the soil as "hydric" or "non-hydric". Hydric soils are poorly drained, indicate the historic or current presence of wetland conditions, and are typically avoided when siting facilities along with other factors such as steep slopes. The park contains four soil types that are classified as hydric totaling 123 acres, all located on the southern half of the site and associated with Wild Hog Creek and its tributaries (see Figure 2-1: Existing Conditions and Site Features Map and Figure 2-5: Soils Map). The remaining 329 acres of the park contains soils classified as non-hydric including approximately 5 acres mapped as "rock" near the ridgetop (see Soils Map). Although not mapped as such, there are likely hydric inclusions within some areas of the non-hydric map units.

2.2.4 Surface Hydrology and Wetlands

The main ridgeline that runs along the northern edge of Suzanne Arlie Park is the break point between two small watersheds, both which eventually drain into the Willamette River to the east. Approximately 55 acres of the park drains northward into the Russel Creek basin, while the majority of the site drains south southward into the Wild Hog Creek basin. There are no perennial creeks within the park and intermittent Wild Hog Creek is typically dry by mid-summer. Although a formal wetland delineation has not been conducted for the park, based on the presence of hydric soils and observed seasonal hydrology and wetland plant species, approximately 123 acres of the site are wetland. Most of the site's wetlands are found in the flatter areas around Wild Hog Creek and

Wetland prairie in the flat southern edge of the park

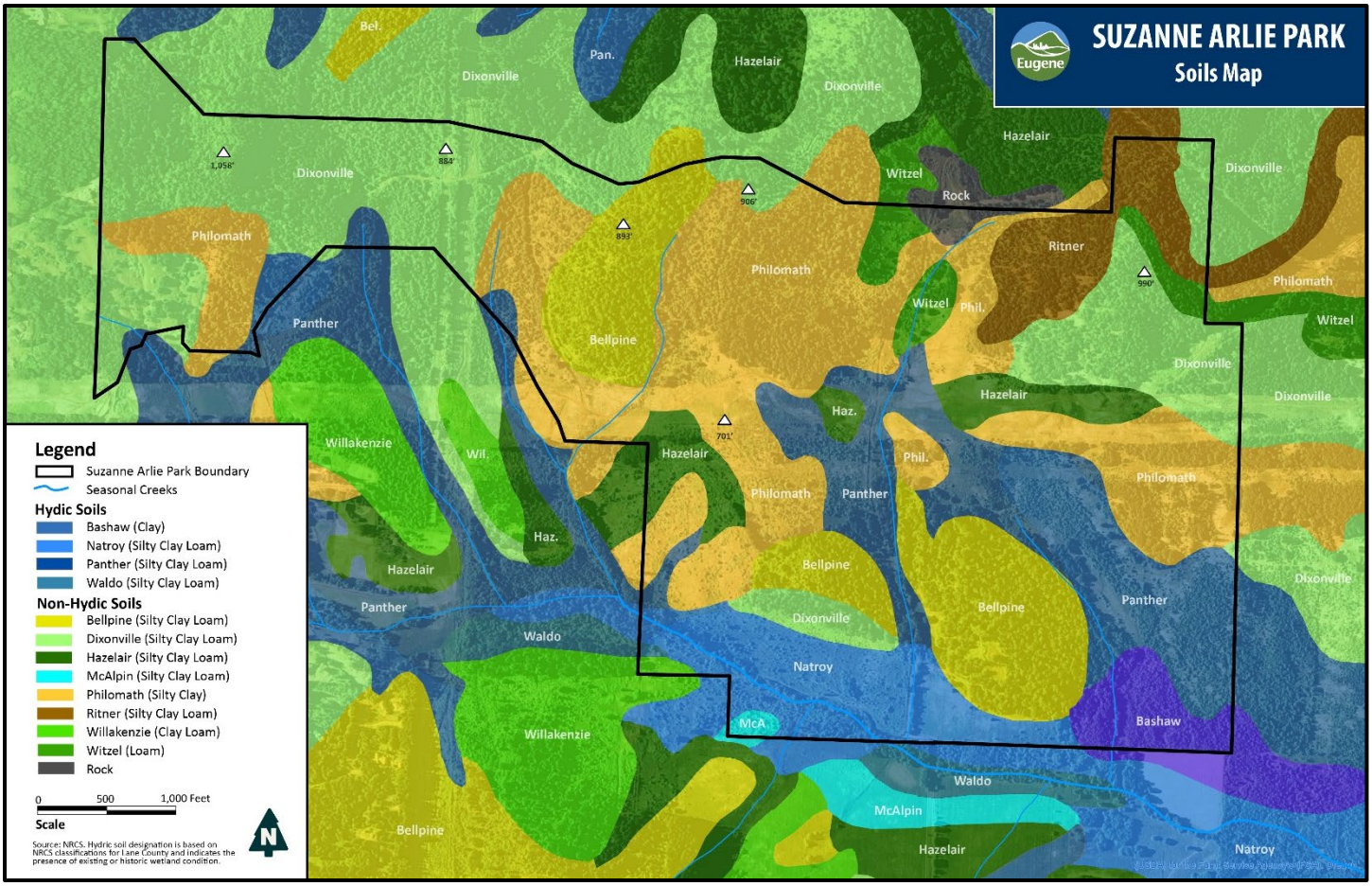
are seasonal with standing and flowing water up to one-foot in depth present during the wet season and typically becoming dry by late spring (May or June).

Additional wetland areas can be found along some of the site's drainages and are often lined with willow thickets. Finally, several shallow ephemeral ponds can also be found in the park (see Figure 2-1: Existing Site Features and Conditions Map). A few of these small seasonal ponds were created through natural processes, but most formed due to past human activities such as logging road construction or pits dug to test for suitability for building. The western-most ponds located at the base of Baldy Ridge appear to have formed behind landslide deposits. A pond located on the "Tadpole Branch" of Wild Hog Creek formed behind a logging road which blocks flow in the creek. Two small ponded areas are located along the "Homestead Branch" of Wild Hog Creek and were likely dug by early settlers to provide water for livestock. The remaining ponds are all small and are likely former stock ponds dating back to the time when livestock grazed the site. Regardless of their origin or size, these ponds all provide important habitat for the life cycle of native amphibians such as the northern red-legged frog, the Pacific tree frog, Northwestern salamanders, and long-toed salamander. The seasonality of these ponds prevents non-native bull frogs from establishing.

Homestead Branch of Wild Hog Creek

This small pond located along the "Tadpole Branch" of Wild Hog Creek is an example of several ephemeral ponds within the park. These seasonal ponds provide suitable habitat for native amphibians.

Figure 2-5: Soil Map



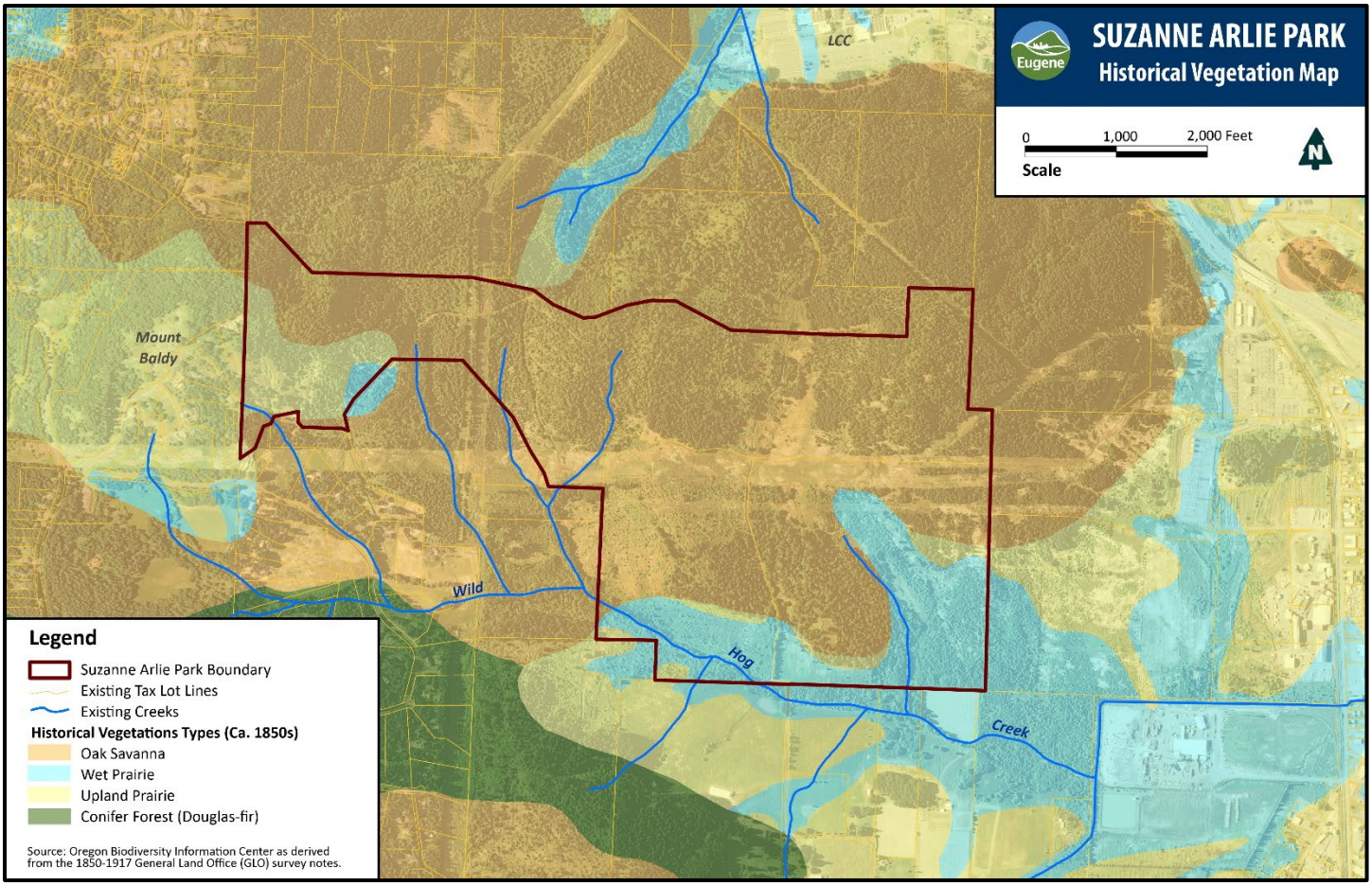
2.3 Vegetation and Wildlife

2.3.1 Historical Vegetation Patterns

The General Land Office (GLO) survey notes of the 1850s provide the best available written record of the pre-Euro American settlement vegetation patterns for the Willamette Valley. As part of the Public Land Survey System, the federal government commissioned cadastral surveys which included documentation of vegetation communities and other significant features present at the time. At the time of the Willamette Valley GLO surveys, the native plant communities were presumably grazed to some extent by free-ranging livestock brought in by early settlers, but otherwise were largely undisturbed through other activities such as road building, drainage, tilling, or urban development (Christy et al. 2011). The GLO maps were translated into a digital format for the Willamette Valley in the 1990s.

The GLO map data indicates the area that is today Suzanne Arlie Park and much of the surrounding lands were historically dominated by a relatively open landscape consisting of oak savanna, wet prairie, and upland prairie (see Figure 2-6 Historical Vegetation Map). Wetland and upland prairie can be differentiated by the dominant grass species noted on the land surveys. Roemer's fescue (*Festuca roemeri*) generally indicated the presence of an upland prairie and tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) indicated the presence of a wet prairie.

Figure 2-6 Historical Vegetation Map

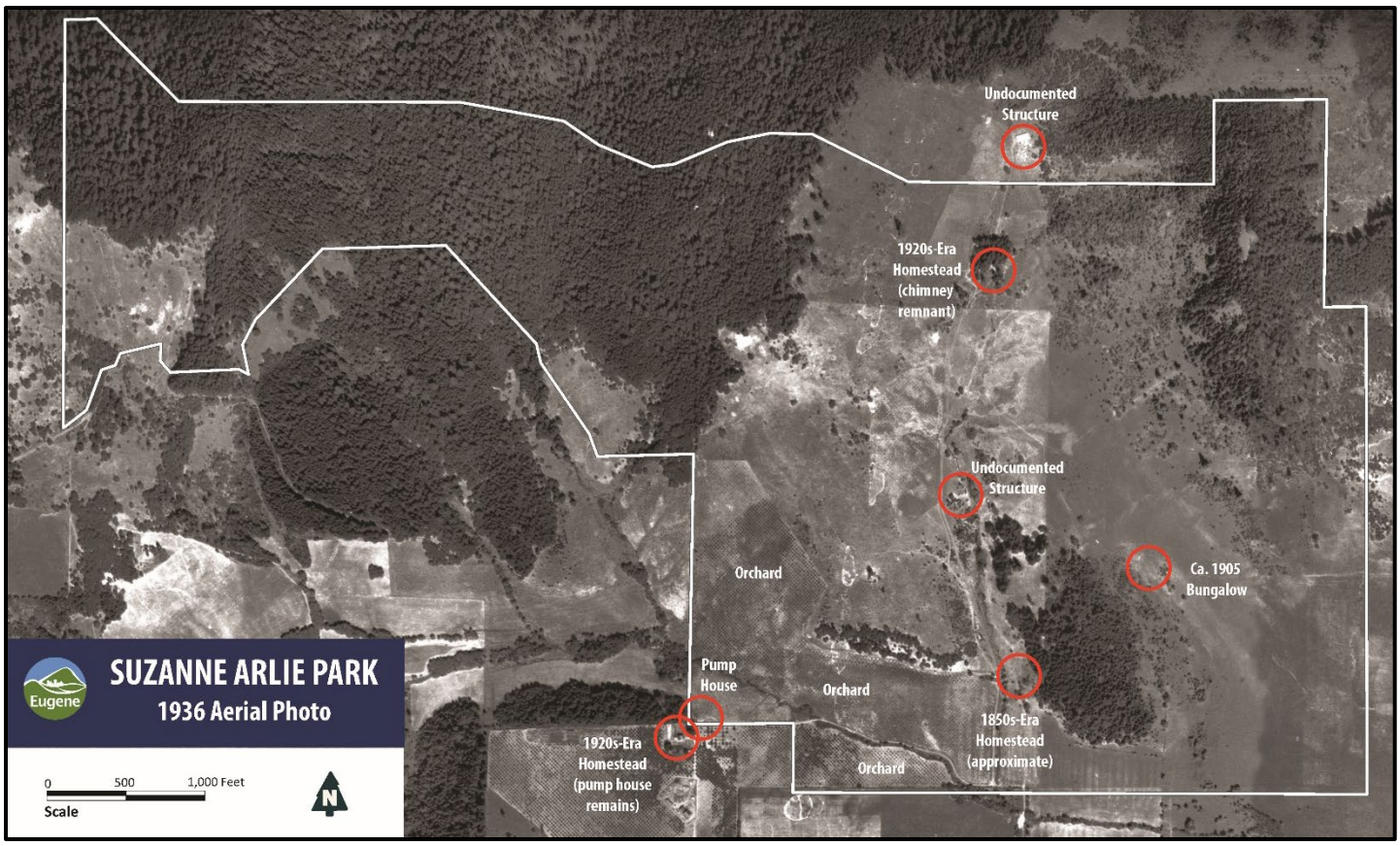


2.3.2 Interpretation of Historical Aerial Photos

Historical aerial photos can be useful for documenting development patterns and changes in vegetation communities over time. A sequence of historical aerial photos can be found Appendix A.

1936: The earliest known aerial photo of the area was flown in August of 1936 (see Figure 2-7). This photo shows much of the western half of the site in a wooded or forested condition with the exceptions of two patches of open savanna. The eastern half of the site is in a more open condition and shows signs of settlement and agricultural activities including newly planted orchards and numerous livestock trails indicating regular grazing. Woodland and savanna conditions are present on the hill in the northeast corner of the site and on the smaller hill near the southern edge of the site. A road is seen running north-south through the entire site and a second runs parallel to Wild Hog Creek (both present today). Several structures are evident along this north-south road. A long narrow building, most likely a barn, and another smaller structure can be seen just to the north of the current park boundary. A grove of trees can be seen in the location of the homestead remains (chimney), although the house is not visible on the aerial photo. It is possible that it is still standing in 1936, but hidden within the trees. Another small structure can be seen on the east side of the road, just north of the small hill. There is no evidence of the 1850s-era homestead on the photo. Another 1920s era homestead located just to the southwest of the site is visible and clearly occupied at this time.

Figure 2-7 1936 Aerial Photo



A summary of observations from key time periods are described below. The full set of historical aerial photos is included in Appendix A.

1960: This aerial photo depicts a very similar pattern of vegetation and land uses to what was observed in the 1936 aerial photo, with the exception of some expansion of the woodland on the northern edge of the site and a cleared BPA power corridor running east-west. An additional road is shown accessing the site from the north near where a gravel road exists today.

1968: This aerial photo reveals additional areas of clearing for new transmission lines and a gas line (north-south). The south orchards appear to have been converted to pasture. Evidence of a recent logging operation and associated logging roads are seen across the northwestern portion of the site. Much of the conifer cover appears to have been removed and many of the deciduous trees (oaks) left standing.

1979: This aerial photo shows much of the logged area has reforested and tree and shrub cover (presumably blackberry, Scotch broom, hawthorn, and pear) encroaching into some of the pastures, which could indicate that grazing had been curtailed.

2000: This aerial photo shows that much of the central portion of the site had been logged again and tree and shrub growth continued to expand into many of the open areas that were formerly in agricultural use. Several large patches of invasive Scotch broom can be seen in full flower. A manufactured home is shown on top of the flat hill on the south side of the site (now removed) along with an associated access road.

2.3.3 Existing Vegetation Communities

Suzanne Arlie Park contains a diverse mosaic of vegetation communities that were mapped by City staff in 2015 using a combination of aerial photo interpretation, field observations, and results of a 2009 Salix Associates plant survey for the area of the initial acquisition. For the purposes of this plan, the vegetation mapping completed in 2015 is considered the "Existing Condition". However, it should be noted that the City has undertaken significant vegetation management efforts since that time, resulting in change of vegetation types in some areas.

The park includes a diverse mix of vegetation including prairie, oak savanna, oak woodland, and conifer forest, all pictured in this aerial view looking north with Split Rock Hill in the upper right (photo by P. Gordon).

The most common existing vegetation type mapped is "shrubland/recently logged", covering nearly half of the site. These areas consists of former pasture, orchard, or recently logged forest land that has become overgrown with a significant patches of non-native trees and shrubs such as blackberry, cherry, hawthorn, and pear. The next most common vegetation communities include oak woodland, oak-conifer woodland, and oak-conifer forest. The itemized by acreage and percent cover in Figure 2-8 below and location of these vegetation communities is shown on the *Existing Vegetation Communities Map* (Figure 2-9), with more detailed mapping units show in Appendix H.

Figure 2-8: Existing Vegetation Communities and Land Cover (2015 condition)

Existing Vegetation Communities*	Canopy Cover	Existing - 2015 (acres)	Percent of Total Park Area
Grasslands (Oak savanna, up. prairie, wet prairie)	0-30%	82	16%
Oak Woodland	31-70%	61	12%
Riparian Forest/Flowing Water	31-100%	5	1%
Mixed and Conifer Woodland/Forest	31-100%	112	22%
Shrubland/Recently Logged	variable	247	48%
Gravel Roads	none	8	1%
Total	**-**	**515**	**100%**

* *Maintained utility easements are in place over approximately 32 acres of the site. The easement areas are*

Grasslands: Covering approximately 82 acres of the site, grasslands include oak savanna, upland prairie, and wet prairie. Grasslands are defined as areas with a tree or shrub canopy of between 0 and 30 percent. Grassland that contains widely scattered tree cover (up to 30%) is considered savanna. Much of the site's grassland areas were once grazed and are generally dominated by non-native pasture grasses although some areas with patches of a higher quality native grass and forb composition present.

Oak Woodland: Oak woodland is present on approximately 61 acres, mainly on the slopes of Split Rock Hill along with some other smaller patches scattered throughout the park. Woodland is defined as having a canopy of between 31 and 70%. Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryanna*) is the dominant tree species in these areas, with smaller quantities of

California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) intermixed. Douglas-fir or other conifer species have generally not established the areas currently mapped as oak woodland. Although the understory of these oak woodlands are often dominated by concentrations of non-native pasture grasses, some native shrubs, grasses, and forbs are present.

Shrubland/Recently Logged: This vegetation community covers approximately 247 acres (at the time of the 2015 mapping effort) and is categorized as a transitional habitat where woody vegetation has become established within former pastures, orchards, or logged areas. Invasive non-native trees and shrubs such as Armenian blackberry (*Rubus vestitus*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), English hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), and domestic pear (*Pyrus communis*) are common in these areas. It should be noted that significant vegetation management activities have occurred in many of these areas (2015-present) including removal of blackberry thickets, Scotch broom, and non-native trees.

Riparian Forest/Flowing Water: Mixed riparian forest covering approximately 5 acres is found in a narrow band of vegetation located along Wild Hog Creek. Wild Hog Creek typically becomes dry during the summer months.

Wetland prairie on south edge of property following a 2017 fuels reduction (brush clearing) project

Upland prairie patch on the upper slopes of Split Rock Hill

Oak Savanna near East Saddle

Oak woodland on the west side of Split Rock Hill

Mixed conifer forest located on the west slope of Baldy Ridge

Mount Baldy Park

Mt. Baldy Ln

Skyhawk Way

Pending Acquisition

Pending Acquisition

Pending Acquisition

Scharen Rd.

Wild Hog Creek

MCW
MCF
Sh/RL
OCF
OCW
OW
OS
U
UP
WP
CF
RF

Legend

- Suzanne Arlie Park
- Seasonal Creeks
- Gravel Roads
- Ephemeral (Seasonal) Ponds
- Large Habitat Snags

2015 Vegetation Communities:

- Upland Prairie (UP)
- Wet Prairie (WP)
- Maintained Utility Easements (U)
- Oak Savanna (OS)
- Oak Woodland (OW)
- Shrubland/Recently Logged (Sh/RL)
- Maple-Conifer Woodland (MCW)
- Oak-Conifer Woodland (OCW)
- Oak-Conifer Forest (OCF)
- Maple-Conifer Forest (MCF)
- Riparian Forest (RF)
- Conifer Forest (CF)

One Acre

Figure 2-9

November 2019

Map prepared by JKE
(Aerial Photo: 2017)

0 500 1,000 Feet

Scale

N W E S

Eugene

SUZANNE ARLIE PARK

Existing (2015) Vegetation Map

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2.3.4 Ecological Significance

Within the broader Willamette Valley, Suzanne Arlie Park is considered a priority site for habitat conservation due to its size, proximity to other conserved natural areas, and the fact that it contains a number of vegetation communities that have been identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW, 2016) as high priority conservation targets ("Strategy Habitats"). Strategy Habitats found in the park include oak woodland, grassland (including savanna and upland prairie), wetland, and flowing water/riparian. The park is also contained within a mapped "Proposed Core Conservation Area (CCA)" for oak and prairie habitat that was identified in the *Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan* (March 2020). This planning process proposed several large CCAs across the Willamette Valley where oak and prairie conservation and management efforts would be concentrated. Additionally, the park is fully contained within a Synthesis Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) as designated by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC's COA map combines data from six Willamette Valley-wide conservation assessments in 2014 to identify the locations of important areas for habitat protection and restoration. The COA map depicts the potential of Suzanne Arlie Park (red circle) to contribute to broader conservation objectives for the valley (see Figure 2-10).

The ecological significance of Suzanne Arlie Park and adjoining lands is also reinforced locally in the *Rivers to Ridges Vision* (2003) and the *Ridgeline Area Open Space Vision and Action Plan* (2007). Both vision documents highlight the conservation value of this area and propose an interconnected system of parks along the ridgeline to the south of Eugene for habitat and recreational benefits.

Figure 2-10: Synthesis Conservation Opportunity Area Map

2.3.5 Observed Wildlife

As a result of the wide range of habitats within the park, a diverse assemblage of wildlife species occurs at Suzanne Arlie Park. No formal wildlife surveys have yet to be conducted, but the following noteworthy sightings of native wildlife have been recorded on the site since it was first acquired by the City:

- Acorn woodpecker
- Oregon vesper sparrow
- Western bluebird
- Slender-billed nuthatch (white-breasted)
- Lazuli bunting
- Great-horned owl
- Western screech owl
- Pileated woodpecker
- Western kingbird
- Black bear (observed by City staff and park visitors on several occasions)
- Black-tailed deer (common)
- Bobcat (captured by trail camera on several occasions)
- Common gray fox (captured by trail camera on several occasions)
- Cougar (reported by neighbors in the area just to the south of the site)
- Townsend's chipmunk
- Coyote
- Camas pocket gopher (possible, needs confirmation)
- Striped skunk (captured by trail camera on several occasions)
- Western gray squirrel
- Red-spotted Garter Snake
- Pacific tree frog
- Gopher snake
- Orange-legged furrow bee colony

Acorn woodpecker (C. Kerst)

Bobcat recorded on trail camera in the park in 2016 (J. Krueger)

Pacific tree frog in park (J. Krueger)

2.3.6 Important Habitat Features

In addition to the mosaic of native vegetation communities, a number of important habitat features are found throughout on the site. Of particular value are a number of shallow ephemeral ponds (see Existing Site Features and Conditions Map). Some of these small seasonal ponds were created through natural processes, but most were created over the last century by human activities. Regardless of their origin, these ponds provide some of the only standing surface water present on the site, critically important habitat for the life cycle of native amphibians and also as a water source for mammals. The seasonality of these ponds prevents non-native bull frogs from establishing.

Ephemeral pond near the southern edge of the park

Additionally, a number of very tall and large-diameter open-grown Douglas-fir snags can be found across the site and provide excellent perching and nesting habitat for species such as red-tailed hawks and pileated woodpeckers. These trees, sometimes referred to as "wolf trees," initially established in an open condition so have many branches and limbs and were often passed over during logging since they do not produce good lumber. As they die and begin to decay, these trees continue to provide excellent habitat for wildlife as snags while they decay, including nesting cavities for birds, mammals, and bats, and forage for woodpeckers.

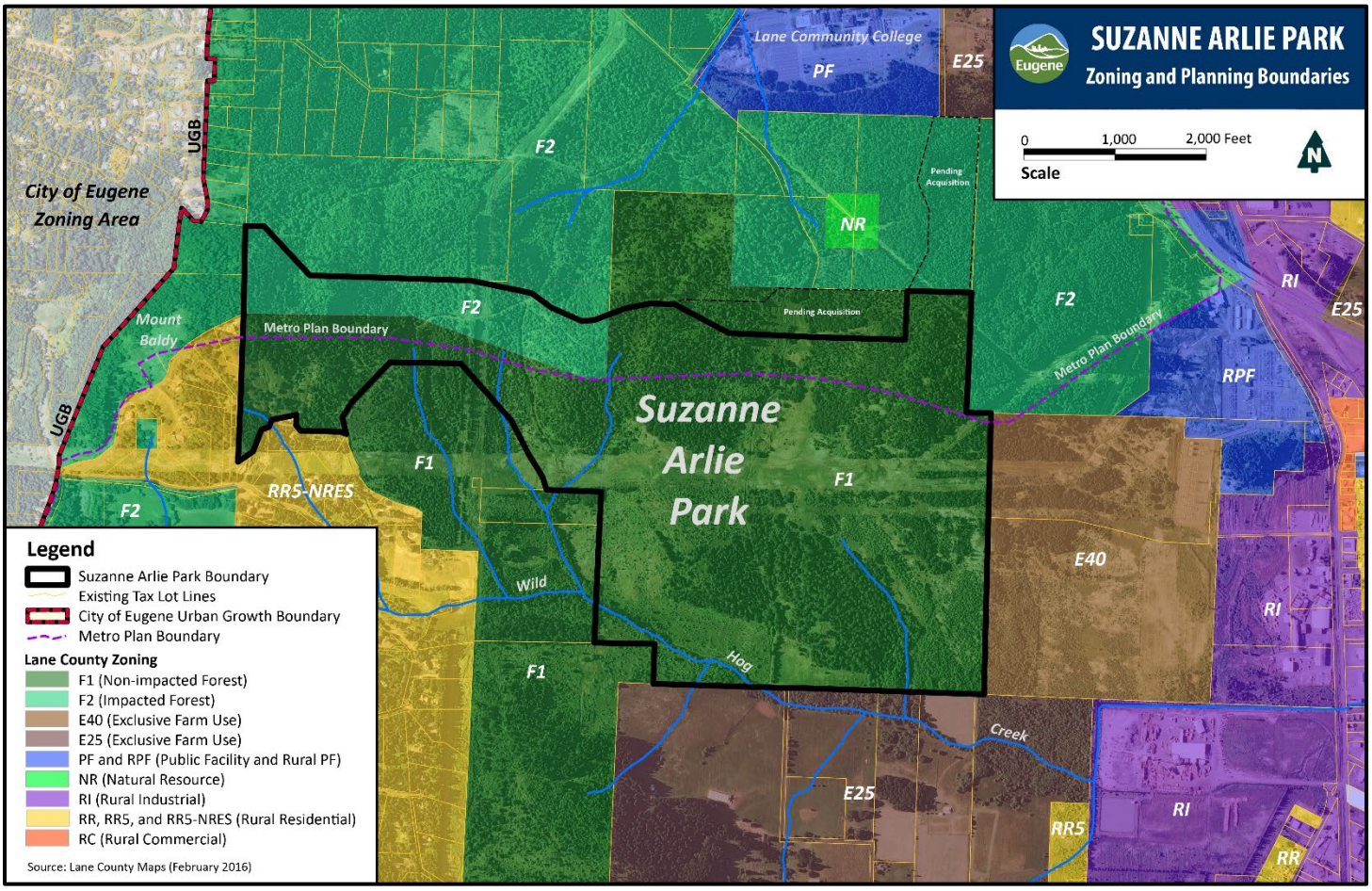
Examples of large open-grown Douglas-fir snags found in Suzanne Arlie Park

2.4 Planning Context and Easements

2.4.1 Planning Context and Lane County Zoning

The full extent of Suzanne Arlie Park lies outside of Eugene's current Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Because of this, Lane County zoning code currently applies to the land within the park and many of the proposed facilities in this master plan will ultimately need to go through the County's land use and development permitting system for approval prior to construction. The majority of the park is zoned F1: Non-impacted Forest, with a smaller area zoned F-2: Impacted Forest (see Zoning and Plan Boundaries Map). The primary difference between these forest zones is that no new residential dwellings are allowed on F1 zoned lands whereas they could be permitted under F-2 zoning under certain circumstances. All lands immediately adjacent to the park are also governed by the Lane County zoning code and include lands zoned E-40 and E-25: Exclusive Farm Use to the north and south, F-2: Impacted Forest to the north, and RR5-NRES: Rural Residential to the south and west. Urban development in the area around the park will likely be very limited in the coming years due to rural zoning limitations and location outside of the UGB. However, much of the F2 zoned land to the north of the park is in the process of begin re-zoned for rural density residential use by the landowner and may be developed for large lot home sites in the coming years.

Figure 2-11: Zoning and Planning Boundaries Map



2.4.2 Easements

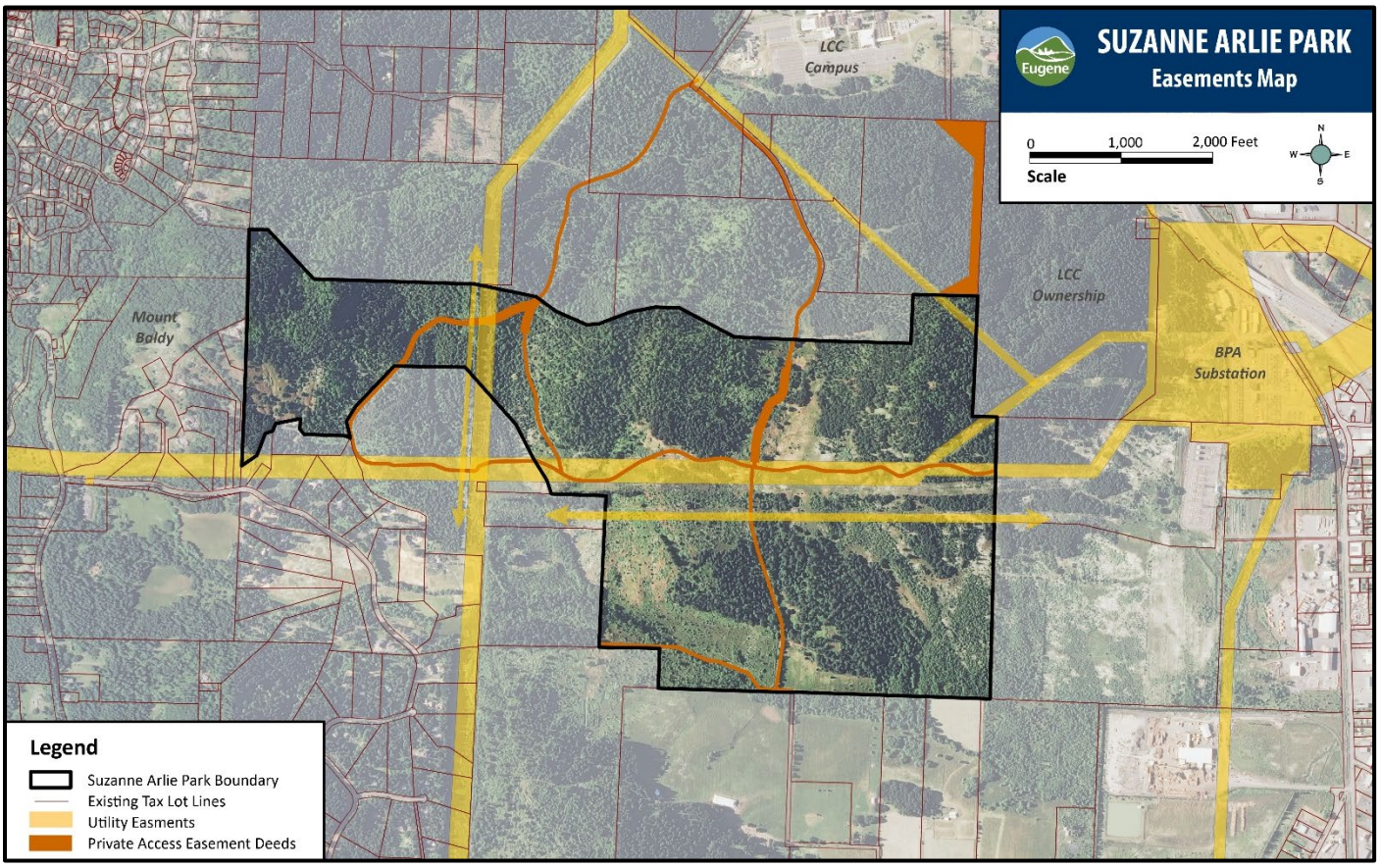
There are two general types of easements associated with Suzanne Arlie Park. A summary of what is permitted within these easements is listed below, but the original easement agreement should be consulted for detail (See Figure 2-12).

Access Easements: A series of access easements are in place along the roads that provide access to or are located in the park. Generally speaking, these easement agreements allow both the City and the owner of the properties to the north permanent access onto these roads for City management access and for access to privately owned lands which may be developed in the future. A public access easement along the road that runs between Gonyea Road and East Saddle is currently being negotiated and would allow general public access to the proposed parking area.

Utility Easements: An extensive series of utility easements cross the site to accommodate BPA, Pacific Power, and EWEB electrical transmission lines along with a gas utility line that runs north-south across the park. Under these easement agreements, the various utilities are permitted to access the park in order to maintain their infrastructure as needed. Maintenance activities typically involve periodic removal of trees and other woody vegetation, road repair, and replacement and maintenance of utility lines and underground gas lines. Generally speaking, non-structural park facilities such as trails and parking areas are permitted within these easement areas, but permanent structures are not.

Utility easements are a prominent feature in the park

Figure 2-12: Easements Map



2.5 Access, Roads, and Utilities

2.5.1 Roads and Access Points

There are currently three primary road access points into Suzanne Arlie Park. From the south, maintenance access can be gained directly from the end of Scharen Road which runs to the park boundary on public right-of-way. From the north, there are two access roads that extend into the park, both originating at Gonyea Road near Lane Community College. These two roads split a short distance after leaving Gonyea Road by LCC and both cross privately-owned land for approximately two-thirds of a mile before entering the park at two points (West Saddle and East Saddle) approximately a half mile apart. Use of these roads is permitted through easements established with the private landowner to the north and south of the site, which allow the City and utility providers to access the park for management activities. A public access easement along the road to East Saddle is in the process of being negotiated. After entering the park, the easternmost road continues straight to the south where it intersects the BPA powerline road and then Scharen Road. The westernmost road enters the park and then splits, extending to the southwest before leaving the property (the lower portion of this road is seasonal) and to the southeast as an all-season road where it intersects with the BPA powerline road. The powerline road extends east-west through much of the park and was re-graveled by BPA in 2014 to better accommodate all-season access. On the southern end of the park, an all-season road extends to the top of a small hill and another seasonal road runs parallel to Wild Hog Creek. The Wild Hog Creek road is not readily passable during the wet season. In total, approximately 14,500 linear feet of all-season roadway and 2,300 linear feet of seasonal roadway are located within the park boundary.

The main north-south access road, which dates back to the early settlement of the area.

2.5.2 Utilities

There are currently no electrical, water, or other utilities that serve the park directly. There is evidence that electricity was once extended into the northern homestead (chimney remains) and the mobile home at the top of the small hill in the southeast corner of the park. The mobile home was served by a well, now abandoned. As described earlier, major BPA and Pacific Power electrical transmission lines cross the site in several locations and an EWEB transmission line cuts across the northeast corner of the park. These electrical transmission lines are carried by a combination of large steel lattice towers and smaller wood poles which are highly visible features within the park. Additionally, a buried gas line runs across the western portion of the park.

Most of the utility easements contain all-season roads which can accommodate both maintenance and recreational access.

2.6 Recently Completed Site Management

Following the acquisition of Suzanne Arlie Park, the City has primarily focused management efforts on installation of boundary markers, improvements for site security and maintenance access, debris removal, invasive species control, and fuels reduction efforts. These site stabilization actions aid in preparing the site for safe, long-term public access and use, as well as taking significant steps toward restoring on-site habitats and reducing the threat of severe wildfire.

Since 2015 the City has utilized *Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance* funding provided by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to embark on a major hazardous fuels reduction effort in several natural area parks including the treatment of approximately 250 acres within Suzanne Arlie Park. This included mowing, cutting, grinding, and hauling of non-native trees (pear, cherry, and hawthorn) and shrubs (blackberry and Scotch broom) and thinning conifers and other trees in oak habitats. Work has incorporated both ecological considerations for native habitats and professional guidance from BLM fuels management staff on effective hazardous fuels reduction treatments. The result has been the creation of a landscape-scale fire break that will assist wildfire response agencies to better intercept and stop a catastrophic wildfire before it could continue westward into the forested, more residential sections of Eugene; to improve safety for wildland firefighters, to reduce risk to nearby rural residences, industry, and LCC; and to decrease the severity of a fire and associated smoke should a fire occur. The City has provided staff to oversee the vegetation clearance on the site and has funded annual follow-up maintenance to prevent re-establishment of the cleared vegetation.

Contractor removing non-native vegetation from a prairie

The hazardous fuels reduction work has had two additional significant benefits for the park. First, it has initiated restoration of regionally rare upland prairie, wet prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland more quickly and over a much larger area of the site (approximately half the site in four years) than the City could have completed with current staff and funding levels for habitat management alone. Legacy Oregon white oak trees over one hundred years old have been released from shrub and tree encroachment, additional native plant species have been discovered throughout the site, and oak-associated wildlife have been observed in areas of the site where they had not previously been known. Second, clearing of dense vegetation across the site has facilitated access for planning and construction of recreational facilities. In fall of 2017, the City and local partners implemented ecological burns on two small prairie areas to help reduce fuels and improve habitat.

Oak savanna just after blackberry thickets and other non-native trees and shrubs were cleared.

Section 3: Opportunities and Constrains

The natural ecosystems found at Suzanne Arlie Park are an important part of our local landscape and provide numerous benefits to our community. The varied habitats support native plant and wildlife populations and provide a host of ecosystem services from flood storage to pollinator support. This natural setting of the park provides an outstanding opportunity for community members to experience nature and recreate in close proximity to the urban environment. Accessible native habitats provide people with a connection to nature and sense of place, offer educational opportunities, and improve our health by providing a convenient venue for outdoor activities. A list of opportunities and constraints related to habitat, recreation, education, and management shown below was developed for consideration during this master planning process.

3.1 Habitat

Opportunities:

- Several small patches of uncommon to locally rare plant species are found scattered throughout the site's prairies, and in a few other notable locations including the oak woodland near Split Rock Hill.
- The site contains large, contiguous areas of rare native habitats including oak woodland, grasslands, wetlands, and riparian forest.
- Because of its relatively large size, the site has the ability to function as an “anchor habitat,” providing viable habitat conditions for larger wildlife species such as coyote, black bear, cougar, and bobcat.
- The site is proximate to and adjoining several other permanently protected natural areas that contain similar high-value vegetation communities such as prairie, savanna, and woodland and connectivity for wildlife.
- Stands of Oregon white and California black oak of various age classes and densities are present across the site, forming large blocks of viable habitat for oak savanna and oak woodland dependent wildlife.
- A number of small ephemeral ponds are located across the site and provide important habitat for the life cycle of native amphibians. The seasonality of these ponds prevents non-native bull frogs from establishing.
- A number of large open-grown Douglas-fir trees (“wolf trees”) and dead standing snags are present on the site and provide excellent perching and nesting habitat for birds including raptors, owls and woodpeckers.
- The site’s south and west facing slopes, shallow soils, and exposed bedrock provide good habitat for reptiles.
- Several types of invasive plant species that are problematic elsewhere in the valley such as English ivy and false brome are currently present in relatively small quantities and could still be controlled before becoming more widely established.
- Recent and planned hazardous fuel reduction efforts provide additional benefits of controlling invasive species and rejuvenating oak and prairie habitats.
- Seasonal streams on the site contribute to the site’s habitat values.
- None of the streams on the site appear to have been altered significantly in terms of channelization and straightening with the possible exception of the southern portion of the Homestead Branch of Wild Hog Creek.

Constraints:

- Highly invasive plant species cover large areas of the site. These species will continue to expand without intensive management.
- The presence of nectar-producing native forbs, on which many insects depend, is currently very limited.
- Many of the remnant open-grown oaks are heavily encroached upon by thickets of shrubs and small trees.
- No formal surveys for mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, or invertebrates have been conducted.
- Exact locations of important habitat features such as legacy oaks have not been comprehensively mapped.
- Some site boundaries are not secure and unauthorized vehicles regularly enter the site, endangering populations of rare plants, compacting wetland soils, impacting habitat, and posing a risk of fire during dry times of year. Illicit mountain bike trails are being constructed and also have the potential to impact important habitat areas.
- Various groups use the park as an off-leash dog area, impacting wildlife habitat quality.
- Illegal harvest of Oregon grape plants/roots is causing habitat damage.
- Illegal access by motorbikes and off-highway vehicles is causing habitat damage.

3.2 Recreation

Opportunities:

- The large size of the park could accommodate numerous recreational facilities that meet long-standing community needs such as a disc golf course, a mountain bike park and mountain bike trails, barrier free trails for users of all abilities, nature play, overnight group camping opportunities, and a pavilion to stage events and house equipment.
- The relatively gentle topography on the southern half of the site could easily accommodate a network of barrier free trails with a grade of 5% or less.
- The vertical drop of approximately 600 feet from the summit of Mount Baldy into the center of Suzanne Arlie Park would provide exciting opportunities for the mountain bike trail network.
- Degraded plant communities on some portions of the site allow for more intensive recreational uses.
- Mild slopes on portions of the site could easily accommodate all types of trails.
- The site's varied habitats, viewpoints, and wildlife viewing opportunities will provide an outstanding visitor experience and an opportunity to experience nature in close proximity to the city.
- The site will accommodate a substantial extension of the planned ridgeline trail.
- Portions of the existing road network could be used to accommodate segments of the trail network at limited cost.
- The flat hilltop on the south edge of the site could function well as a group camp area if desired. The existing gravel road provides good access for maintenance and services related to recreational use.
- The park is large enough to allow visitors to easily escape the urban setting and find solitude and quiet.

Constraints:

- There are currently no formal trails or public facilities of any type on the site.
- Legal public access routes into the park are currently very limited.
- The two gravel roads that provide maintenance access to the park from the north (via Gonyea Road) cross privately owned land and are not open to the general public. An access easement is currently under development.
- User groups are constructing their own trails before the City can go through the appropriate siting and layout.

3.3 Education

Opportunities:

- The site has great potential for use as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages with opportunities for the study of native ecosystems, habitat restoration, and human history.
- The remnants from early homesteading provide a unique educational opportunity.
- The site's proximity to Lane Community College and University of Oregon makes it an ideal location for natural resource related study and research projects.
- Some of the oak and prairie habitats present on the site provide a visual example of the typical pre-settlement Willamette Valley vegetation conditions (pre-1850s).

Constraints:

- There are currently no formal facilities and limited access for education and research.

3.4 Management Access

Opportunities:

- The network of graveled roads provides all-season access to key points across the property.
- The gravel roadways that run across the site provide good access for firefighting equipment if needed and function well as a firebreak for controlled ecological burns.

Constraints:

- There is currently not an on-site water source (ponds or hydrants) for use in the event of a wildfire.
- The gates controlling access onto the site located at the end of Gonyea Road and on Scharen Road have multiple padlocks and are often improperly locked, left open, or vandalized, allowing uncontrolled vehicle access.
- Lack of proper gates or unlocked gates along the BPA corridor often allow illegal vehicle access onto the site.

Section 4: Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Prioritized Actions

4.1 Plan Structure

The purpose of this section of the Master Plan is to provide direction for the development of proposed facilities and for the management and enhancement of the habitats at Suzanne Arlie Park. The plan uses the following hierarchy:

Vision: An aspirational statement about the park's future condition (see Section 4.2).

Desired Future Conditions (DFCs): A quantification of desired future facilities and trails (see Section 4.3) and the extent of desired future habitat types (see Section 4.4).

Goals: Goals are broad statements which reflect the community's desired facilities and preservation/management of the site's vegetation communities. Goal categories used in this plan include:

- Goal 1: Recreational Trails
- Goal 2: Recreational and Educational Facilities
- Goal 3: Park Access, Infrastructure, and Maintenance
- Goal 4: Preservation, Restoration, and Management of Native Habitats

Objectives: Each goal category includes a set of supporting objectives which direct implementation of specific site activities over the next twenty years (2020-2040).

Proposed Actions: Actions specify the detailed steps of how each objective will be achieved. Each action is prioritized to assist in park development phasing and habitat management implementation. Actions and priorities may change over time based on future public input, funding availability, emerging threats, and the adaptive management process.

4.2 Vision for Suzanne Arlie Park

The vision is intended to an aspirational statement about the park's future character and uses. The vision described below was drafted based on direction from the City's *Parks and Recreation System Plan* (2018) and *Eugene Trails Plan* (2018) along with input received from the public, interest groups, regional partners, and Parks and Open Space staff. Goals, objectives, and actions listed later in this section are consistent with this broad vision for the park.

Suzanne Arlie Park serves as an oasis for people and wildlife alike, providing opportunities for visitors to refresh their minds, bodies, and spirits. The park accommodates a network of interconnected trails for users of all abilities, and functions as a major community hub for compatible nature-based recreation and outdoor education. The park preserves a rich mosaic of regionally significant habitats that are managed to support a diversity of native vegetation and wildlife, while providing a stunning scenic backdrop for visitors.

4.3 Desired Future Conditions for Recreational Trails and Facilities

Suzanne Arlie Park will accommodate a range recreational trail types and compatible nature-based recreational facilities and park amenities. The mix of trails and types of facilities proposed were determined based on needs identified in the *Eastern Ridgeline Extension Master Plan* (2010), *Eugene Trails Plan* (2018), and the *Parks and Recreation System Plan* (2018) along with extensive input provided by the public and interested parties during this master planning process (see Appendix D: Public Survey Results). Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) are intended to be used as guidelines and should be flexibly applied based on more detailed design work and additional site knowledge. Desired futured conditions for recreation and public facilities are listed in Figure 4-1 below.

Figure 4-1: Desired Future Conditions for Recreational Trails and Facilities

Facilities	Desired Future Condition

Soft-Surface Recreational Trails
 	
Note: Total trail miles shown will likely vary based on further analysis and refinement of proposed routes.
 	
(See Figure 4-9 for breakdown)
	• A total of 14.4 miles of interconnected soft-surface recreational trails:
	  ○ 3.4 mile segment of new Ridgeline Trail (including LCC and Mount Baldy).
	  ○ Approximately 4.8 miles of mountain bike optimized trail (including trails within the mountain bike park). Note: Approximately 12.4 miles (86%) of the park's proposed trail network will be open to mountain bike use.
	  ○ Approximately 1.8 miles of shared-use trail (in addition to Ridgeline Trail)
	  ○ Approximately 1.7 miles of barrier free trail
	  ○ Approximately 0.2 miles of explorer trail
	  ○ Approximately 0.3 miles of nature play trail (see category below)
	  ○ Approximately 2.2 miles of trail routes on existing gravel roads

Disc Golf	• An 18-hole disc golf facility sited on approximately 30 acres
Mountain Bike Park	• A designated area for mountain bike facilities such as pump track, technical trail features, stacked loop trails with varying levels of difficulty, skills area, and bike cleaning station sited on approximately 55 acres
Nature Play	• Approximately 0.3 miles of nature play trail with associated themed nature play stations (A nature play trail is designed to create a fun, challenging, and safe route for children to follow and explore while experiencing the natural environment and would include unique play elements such as stepping-stones, obstacles, balance logs, swings, boulders, whimsical signs, etc.)
Viewpoints	• Multiple views and vista points accessed by the future trail system • Cleared viewpoints from Split Rock Hill and Baldy Ridge
Parking	• A primary parking area for up to 50-100 vehicles
Signage	• An informational kiosk for display of maps, park rules, and interpretive materials at the main parking area • Wayfinding signage at all trail junctions • Boundary markers along the perimeter of the park to limit accidental trespass onto neighboring properties • Interpretive signage at key locations around the site to interpret cultural and ecological resources
Structures	• Pavilion to house events, educational activities, and store recreational and habitat management equipment • Restroom near parking area and pavilion (style to be determined) • Covered picnic/food prep structure at group camping area • Restroom at group camping area as needed (may be portable)
Group Camping	• A designated area for reserved group camping (City Recreation program use with potential to expand). Future facilities may include designated camping spots, a shelter, tables, running water, etc.

4.4 Desired Future Condition for Vegetation Communities

Native habitats in the park will be managed to maintain a mosaic of vegetation communities, with priority given to preserving, expanding, and enhancing target habitats. Target habitats in the park include grassland (upland prairie, wet prairie, and oak savanna), oak woodland, and riparian forest/flowing water (see Figure 4-2) and associated plant and wildlife species. Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) are intended to be used as guidelines and should be flexibly applied within an adaptive management framework. Areas where hazardous fuels have been removed will be maintained in an open condition to continue to provide a fuel break on the landscape for community safety in the event of catastrophic wildfires. The following table describes the approximate extent of the DFCs for each vegetation community within the park. Other habitats found on site include various combinations of forest and woodland (see Figure 4-3).

Figure 4-2: Priority Vegetation Communities and Desired Future Conditions

System Targets	Desired Future Conditions
Grasslands (upland prairie, wetland prairie, and oak savanna) OCS strategy habitat	• Grassland habitat will expand and include a mix of prairie and oak savanna conditions. • Management will benefit associated plant and animal species. • Target tree canopy in these areas will be between 0-30 percent. • Understory will be maintained to limit colonization by woody vegetation such as Douglas-fir, bigleaf maple, and incense cedar and non-native invasive species such as Scotch broom, pear, cherry, blackberry, and English hawthorn. • The herbaceous layer will be enhanced as feasible to increase abundance and diversity of native grasses and forbs to benefit of native pollinators, birds, and other species. • Protection of populations of locally rare or uncommon native plants will be prioritized and also considered when siting recreational facilities. • Open-grown, large-diameter Oregon white oak, California black oak, and Ponderosa pine will be protected along with occasional open grown Douglas-fir trees (wolf trees).
Oak Woodland OCS strategy habitat	• Oak woodland habitat will expand. • Management will benefit associated plant and animal species. • Target tree canopy will be between 31-70 percent. • Area will be maintained to limit colonization by shade producing woody vegetation such as Douglas-fir, bigleaf maple, and incense cedar and invasive species such as false brome, English holly, English hawthorn, sweet cherry, Scotch broom, and blackberry. • Ladder fuels will be removed or controlled.
Riparian Forest/ Flowing Water OCS strategy habitat	• Riparian vegetation will be preserved along Wild Hog Creek. • Management will benefit associated plant and animal species. • Target tree canopy will be 90-100 percent. • Riparian forest will be maintained to limit colonization by invasive species such as false brome, English holly, English hawthorn, sweet cherry, Scotch broom, and blackberry.

Figure 4-3: Other Vegetation Communities and Desired Future Conditions

Non-Target Systems	Desired Future Conditions
Maple-Conifer Woodland **Maple-Conifer Forest** **Conifer Forest**	• Maple-conifer woodland will be maintained to provide some openings for sun penetration to promote a diverse native understory with a target tree canopy between 50-70 percent. • Conifer forest on Split Rock Hill will be maintained with some habitat snag creation for wildlife and open views. Tree canopy will be between 71-100 percent. • All areas will be maintained to limit colonization by invasive species such as false brome, English holly, English hawthorn, sweet cherry, Scotch broom, and blackberry.

A comparison of the Existing versus desired future conditions vegetation communities and cover is shown below (see Figure 4-4).

Figure 4-4: Existing and Desired Future Conditions of Vegetation Communities and Cover

Existing Vegetation Communities	Canopy Cover	Existing - 2015 (acres)	Desired Future Condition (acres)
Grasslands (Oak savanna, up. prairie, wet prairie)*	0-30%	82	260
Oak Woodland	31-70%	61	164
Riparian Forest/Flowing Water	31-100%	5	5
Mixed and Conifer Woodland/Forest	31-100%	112	78
Shrubland/Recently Logged	variable	247	0
Gravel Roads	none	8	8
Total	**-**	**515**	**515**

**Utility easements will be maintained as prairie, savanna, or wet prairie habitat in the future as feasible.*

Looking west across the park with Spence Butte and Mount Baldy in the distance (photo: Paul Gordon)

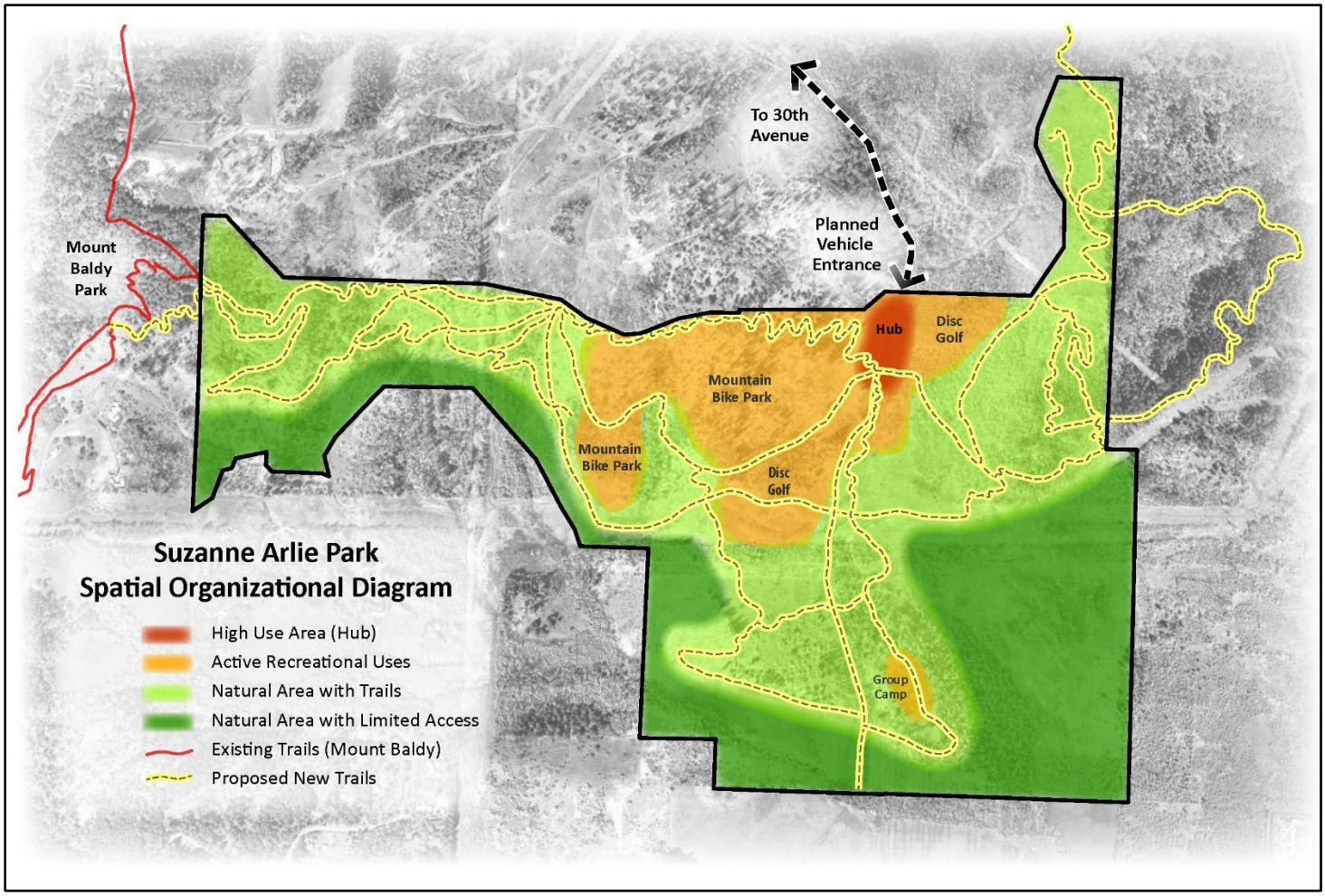
4.5 Spatial Organization of Proposed Facilities

The proposed facilities and their siting along with the habitat management actions proposed in the Master Plan attempt to strike a balance between community recreational use and conservation values. Large areas of the park are designated for native habitat and a low-density trail network, while some areas will be used for more concentrated recreation purposes (see Figure 4-5). While habitat quality in areas containing concentrated recreational uses will be affected to some degree, it is hoped that significant habitat restoration and enhancement efforts proposed throughout the park will help offset those impacts, and facilities will be sited and built prioritizing sustainability and minimizing habitat impacts. A set of guiding principles have been established to guide park development and protect valuable natural resources.

Guiding Principles for Facility Siting:

- Create a "hub" area where major built park amenities such as on-site parking, rest rooms, informational kiosks, and pavilion are concentrated.
- Cluster major developed recreational uses around the hub area to provide both ease of access by users and concentrate potential natural resource impacts.
- Avoid siting facilities and trails in areas containing sensitive habitat features such as wetlands, streams, or high value plant and wildlife populations.
- Provide an outstanding trail user experience by providing access to viewpoints and other points of interest; providing access to a range of native habitats for variety and educational purposes; providing trails with multiple loop options; and providing equity and access to the trail system to users of all abilities.
- Construct trails and facilities using sustainable siting and construction techniques to create highly-durable park amenities that limit ongoing maintenance costs and prevent impacts to park resources.

Figure 4-5: Suzanne Arlie Park Spatial Organization Diagram



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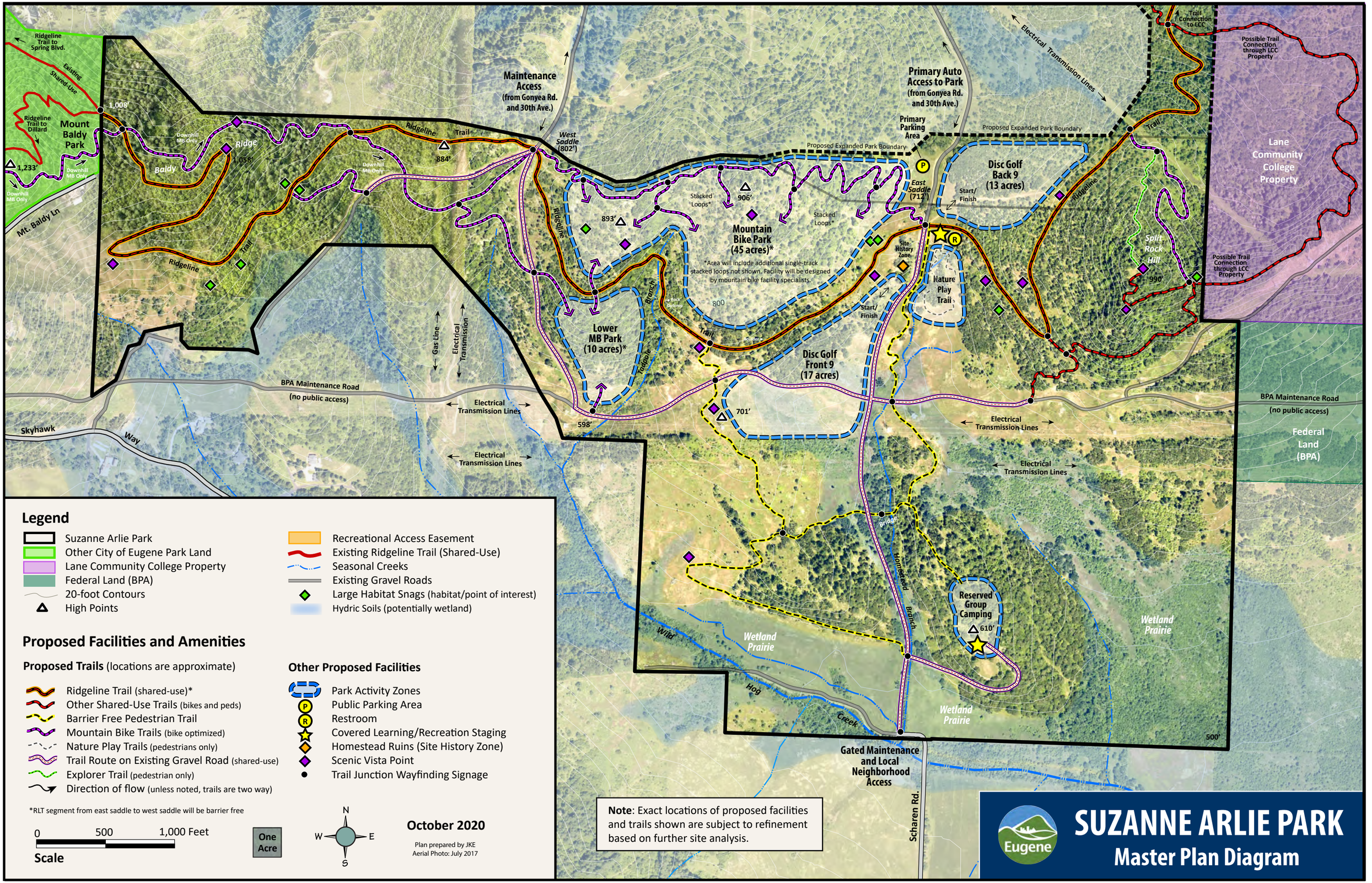

Legend

- Suzanne Arlie Park
- Other City of Eugene Park Land
- Lane Community College Property
- Federal Land (BPA)
- 20-foot Contours
- High Points
- Recreational Access Easement
- Existing Ridgeline Trail (Shared-Use)
- Seasonal Creeks
- Existing Gravel Roads
- Large Habitat Snags (habitat/point of interest)
- Hydric Soils (potentially wetland)

Proposed Facilities and Amenities

Proposed Trails (locations are approximate)

- Ridgeline Trail (shared-use)*
- Other Shared-Use Trails (bikes and peds)
- Barrier Free Pedestrian Trail
- Mountain Bike Trails (bike optimized)
- Nature Play Trails (pedestrians only)
- Trail Route on Existing Gravel Road (shared-use)
- Explorer Trail (pedestrian only)
- Direction of flow (unless noted, trails are two way)

*RLT segment from east saddle to west saddle will be barrier free

Other Proposed Facilities

- Park Activity Zones
- Public Parking Area
- Restroom
- Covered Learning/Recreation Staging
- Homestead Ruins (Site History Zone)
- Scenic Vista Point
- Trail Junction Wayfinding Signage

0 500 1,000 Feet

Scale

One Acre

N W E S

October 2020

Plan prepared by JKE
Aerial Photo: July 2017

Note: Exact locations of proposed facilities and trails shown are subject to refinement based on further site analysis.

SUZANNE ARLIE PARK
Master Plan Diagram

Mount Baldy Park

Mt. Baldy Ln

Pending Acquisition

Pending Acquisition

Pending Acquisition

Wild Hog Creek

Scharen Rd.

Legend

- Suzanne Arlie Park
- Seasonal Creeks
- Gravel Roads

Desired Future Vegetation Communities:

- Grasslands (oak savanna and prairie)
- Oak Woodland
- Riparian Forest/Flowing Water
- Mixed and Conifer Woodland/Forest
- Retain Habitat Snags
- Retain Ephemeral Ponds (possibly enlarge)
- New Vernal Pool Creation*

*Exact location to be determined based on further analysis

See Appendix H for a more detailed breakdown of DFC vegetation types.

One Acre

June 2020

Figure 4-7

Map prepared by JKE
(Aerial Photo: July 2017)

0 500 1,000 Feet

Scale

N W E S

Eugene

SUZANNE ARLIE PARK

Desired Future Conditions Vegetation Map

4.6 Examples of Proposed Facilities

A pavilion will accommodate educational programs, gatherings, and storage of park related equipment (pavilion example from Grand Prairie Texas).

An 18-hole disc golf course will be integrated into the natural setting of the park and cover approximately 30 acres (Stewart Pond disc golf course in west Eugene pictured).

A designated mountain bike park will meander through oak woodland and savanna on approximately 55 acres near East Saddle. The area will be designed based on input from the local mountain bike community and will include a system of stacked mountain bike optimized trails with a range of technical features to serve riders of all abilities (Valmont Bike Park in Boulder, Colorado pictured)

4.7 Examples of Proposed Trail Types

A new 3.4-mile segment of the Ridgeline trail will extend through the park between Mount Baldy and Lane Community College (Ridgeline trail between Dillard Road and Fox Hollow Road pictured)

1.7 miles of designated barrier free pedestrian trails will be located primarily in the southern side of the park and will be designed to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, including mobility limited community members (barrier free trail at Delta Ponds pictured).

A network of mountain bike optimized trails covering approximately 4.8 miles will wind through the park, connecting to the existing mountain bike accessible trail in Mount Bald Park and the planned mountain bike park.

4.8 Goals, Objectives, and Prioritized Actions

Prioritization Categories

Developing facilities and managing habitat at Suzanne Arlie Park will be a long-term commitment and may require funding from multiple sources including existing and future park bonds, grants, or donations, or through volunteer efforts from community members. The goals and objectives listed below describe the facilities and improvements proposed for implementation over the next twenty years. The prioritization categories listed under each objective are intended to guide general sequencing, but these may change based on input from the adaptive management process, funding availability, and emerging threats (see Figure 4-8: Goals, Objectives, and Prioritized Actions Table.

Prioritization Categories

I	Short Range (highest priority): Will be undertaken as soon as possible (1-5 years)
II	Medium Range: Will be implemented when funding is available (6-10 years)
III	Long Range: Will be implemented over a longer period of time due to the complexity or cost of the task or is dependent on other actions being completed first (11-20+ years)
RM	Regular Maintenance or Management Activity: Performed on an annual or biennial basis
Vol	Volunteer Project Opportunity: Proposed action that could be suited for implemented by volunteers or friend's group under the guidance of City staff

Figure 4-8: Goals, Objectives, and Prioritized Actions Tables

Goal 1: Recreational Trails

Develop a diverse and interconnected network of trails that serves a variety of user groups, is compatible with the park's habitat values, accommodates a major extension of the Ridgeline Trail, accesses points of interest, and traverses a variety of habitats (see Figure 4-5: Master Plan Diagram and Figure 4-9: Proposed Trail Classification, Mileage, and User Groups).

Objectives and Proposed Actions	Priority	Notes
Objective 1a. Ridgeline Trail Corridor: Extend the Ridgeline Trail as a shared-use facility approximately 3.4 miles eastward across the park from Mount Baldy and north to Lane Community College.		
• Action: Complete on-the-ground route refinement and apply for construction funding (2020 Oregon Recreational Trails Program and other sources).	I	Route refinement and on-the-ground delineation will occur in 2020/2021.
• Action: Construct the Suzanne Arlie Park portion of the Ridgeline Trail as a shared-use facility (bicycles and pedestrians) with easy grade (less than 8%) and all-season surfacing and drainage.	I	The ETP recommends a shared-use trail with a 36-48" standard width and gravel base between Mount Baldy and the LCC campus.
• Action: Coordinate with Lane Community College (LCC) about trail connections between LCC and the park and trailhead parking facilities at the college.	I	Discussions underway.

• **Objective 1b. All Additional Trails**: Construct network of approximately 11.0 miles of additional trails within the Park to access areas of interest, create loop options, and provide a variety of user experiences.		
• Action: Site and construct approximately 4.8 miles of **mountain bike optimized trail**. Trails will be sited to provide alternative parallel routes to proposed shared-uses trails, provide more diverse and challenging terrain, disperse system use, and create additional loop options for mountain bikers. Significant mountain bike optimized trail mileage will be constructed within the designated 55-acre Mountain Bike Park, but alignments will be designed separately (see Objective 2c), so these are not currently shown on the Master Plan Diagram.	I-II Mount Baldy to East Saddle segment will be priority I	The ETP recommends a 18-24" width with natural surfacing (gravel or armoring if necessary) with turns and grades designed specifically for mountain bikes with multiple stacked loops and a range of difficulty to accommodate beginner to advanced riders. Note: A total of 12.2 miles of trail will be open to mountain bikes within the park including designated mountain bike optimized trail, shared-use, and gravel roads.
• Action: Site and construct approximately 1.7 miles of **barrier free** (universal access) trail. Barrier free trails are designed to be usable by all, without separation or segregated access for people with disabilities.	II-III, Vol	Barrier free trails have an average grade of 5% or less (maximum of 8%), 36" tread with wider passing zones, and are surfaced with highly compacted gravel to accommodate wheeled mobility devices during all seasons and avoid tripping hazards. Mountain bikes will not be permitted on these specially surfaced trails.
• Action: Site and construct an additional 1.7 miles of **shared-use trail** with easy grade (less than 10%) and all-season surfacing and drainage. Note: This includes a possible one mile shared-use trail extension that could pass through the adjoining LCC property to the west and would be developed in collaboration with LCC.	II-III, Vol	Trails will be designed for pedestrians, but will be a shared-use facility (pedestrians and bikes).
• Action: Site and construct a 0.2 mile pedestrian-only **explorer trail** to the summit of Split Rock Hill. An explorer trail is a pedestrian-only route with steeper grade and more demanding terrain.	RM Existing	This trail will follow the route of an existing user trail with minimal improvements.
• Action: Site and construct approximately 0.3 miles of **nature play trail** (see Objective 2e for more detail on nature play facilities that will be located along the trail).	II-III	Exact trail siting will be determined based on the Nature Play facility design.
• Action: Utilize 2.2 miles of existing **gravel access roads** as a shared-use trail to create additional loop options and improved surfacing. Roads are all currently used for site maintenance and utility access.	RM	Road segments are currently open to use by bikes and pedestrians, but surfacing needs improvement in some areas (3/4-minus gravel may be added in areas where loose angular rock makes footing difficult).
• Action: Continue to evaluate options for limited future **equestrian** access to the park. Equestrian support facilities are not currently proposed for the park, so users would originate from neighboring properties if access is permitted in the future.	-	Equestrian trails are not proposed in the Eugene Trails Plan (2018) and not currently permitted by in any park under existing City park regulations.

Figure 4-9: Proposed Trail Classifications, Mileage, and Users Groups

		Miles of Trail Open to User Groups		
Trail Classification	**Miles Proposed**	**Pedestrians**	**Mountain Bikes**	**Barrier Free**
Ridgeline Trail*	**3.4**	**3.4**	**3.4**	**0.9**
Shared-Use**	**1.8**	**1.8**	**1.8**	**0.0**
Mountain Bike Optimized***	**4.8**	**0.7**	**4.8**	**0.0**
Barrier Free	**1.7**	**1.7**	**0.0**	**1.7**
Explorer	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Nature Play	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Gravel Access Roads	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**0.5**
Total:	**14.4**	**10.3**	**12.2**	**3.1**

* Includes off-site segments connecting to the existing Ridgeline Trail at Mount Baldy and the extension to LCC.
** Includes proposed off-site segment from Split Rock Hill through LCC property.
*** Includes an estimated 2 miles of mountain bike optimized trail contained within the Mountain Bike Park area.

Goal 2: Recreational and Educational Facilities

Provide compatible recreational and educational facilities that allow community members to recreate and learn in a natural setting while limiting impacts to the ecology of the park. Proposed facilities have been clustered to limit overall habitat impacts (see Figure 4-6: Master Plan Diagram).

Objectives and Proposed Actions	Priority	Notes
Objective 2a. Pavilion. Provide a multi-use pavilion to accommodate educational programs and activities, gatherings, and storage of park-related recreational equipment and educational materials (see Master Plan Diagram).		
• Action: Work with City Recreation staff, potential local user groups, and interested citizens to refine size, facility function, desired amenities, and location.	I-III	
• Action: Design facility, generate cost estimate, and seek funding.	II-III	
• Action: Construct pavilion.	II-III	Construction schedule will be based on funding availability.
Objective 2b. Disc Golf. Develop an 18-hole disc golf course on approximately 30 acres (see Master Plan Diagram).		
• Action: Design preliminary course layout. Course will be sited to limit impacts to sensitive habitat and significant trees, limit ongoing maintenance needs, and provide an outstanding user experience.	I-II, Vol	Work closely with local experts and members of the Eugene Disc Golf Club.
• Action: Test, adjust, and construct course.	II-III	Course will be laid out and tested before pads and baskets are permanently installed. Course may be implemented in phases.

Objective 2c. Mountain Bike Park. Design and construct a mountain bike park within the 55-acre designated area (see Master Plan Diagram) to provide features such as stacked loops with varying levels of difficulty, technical trail features, pump track, bicycle cleaning station, etc.		
• Action: Work with local mountain biking interests to define desired features and possible configurations and seek funding for design phase.	I	Design specialist would work with City staff, Disciples of Dirt (DOD) and other interested parties in identifying desired local facilities.
• Action: Design mountain bike park and seek funding for construction.	II	Contract with experienced mountain bike park design group.
• Action: Construct and open mountain bike park.	II-III	Mountain bike area could be constructed in phases depending on available funding. The upper trail along the ridgetop on the north edge of the bike park is a Priority I trail.
Objective 2d. Group Camping Area. Design and construct a reservable group camping area within the defined location on the flat hilltop in the southeast corner of the park. The group camping area may initially be used to host overnight groups associated with the City's Recreation Program and expanded for use by other approved groups in the future.		
• Action: Work with local interest groups to determine size, configuration, and facilities to be included.	II-III, Vol	Facilities could include running water, rest rooms, picnic tables, and a small covered shelter.
• Action: Design group camping area and seek funding for construction.	II-III, Vol	Volunteers could help develop conceptual designs.
• Action: Construct and open group camping area.	II-III	Volunteers could assist with site preparation.
Objective 2e. Nature Play. Design and construct a nature play trail to provide a unique and interactive experience for children and adults.		
• Action: Work with local interest groups to determine size, configuration, and features to be included.	II-III, Vol	Volunteers could potentially develop conceptual designs.
• Action: Design nature play area and seek funding for construction.	II-III	
• Action: Construct and open nature play trail.	II-III, Vol	Construction of nature play elements could be phased based on available funding/resources. Volunteers could assist with construction.
Objective 2f. Site History Zone. Utilize the area around the homestead ruins to interpret this natural and human history of the site including geology, Native American uses and management, homesteading, and past use of natural resources.		
• Action: Retain the homestead ruins (chimney, root cellar, stock pond, retaining walls, and planted trees) for future interpretation.	II-III, RM	Evaluate homestead ruins to determine possible safety hazards and preservation needs.
• Action: Develop an interpretive plan for the area which would address natural and human history and use of the site.	II-III, Vol	Volunteers could potentially develop conceptual designs. Tribal representatives, Lane County Historical Museum, and others could partner on interpretation.
• Action: Implement the interpretive plan and associated site improvements.	II-III, Vol	This could include interpretive signage, flyers, display of historical aerial photos, etc. Development may be phased.

Objective 2g. Restroom Facility. Provide an adequate restroom facility to serve park visitors (see Master Plan Diagram).		
• Action: Provide public restrooms in conjunction with parking area development.	I-III	Type of restroom will be determined based on further research and funding.
Objective 2h. Signage and Park Information: Install way-finding and informational signage and maps to provide clear and safe public access.		
• Action: Install wayfinding signage at key locations including trailheads and all trail junctions.	I-III	Install as trails are developed
• Action: Install an information kiosk at the planned East Saddle parking area. The kiosk will be used to display maps, park rules, special notices, and interpretive information.	I	Install as a component of the parking area project.
• Action: Consider adding interpretive opportunities throughout the site.	II-III	
Objective 2i. Additional Facilities: Evaluate need for incorporating additional compatible recreational and educational facilities in the future. New facilities should be consistent with vision for the park and have limited impacts to the park's natural resources.		
• Action: Work with key City staff, community members, and interest groups to consider the need for additional park facilities and amenities. Additional facilities that have been discussed as potentially appropriate for the park, but not currently in the Master Plan include: ○ hammock grove ○ canopy walk ○ climbing trees ○ tree swings ○ temporary or permanent art installations (themed for the sites history or natural features) ○ benches ○ Drinking water	II-III	City of Eugene Parks and Open Space and Recreation staff will evaluate and determine suitability.

Goal 3: Park Access, Infrastructure, and Maintenance

Provide safe and convenient community access to park for recreational and educational activities along with suitable access for public safety response and maintenance and management activities.

Objectives and Proposed Actions	Priority	Notes
Objective 3a. Public Access: Establish adequate public access onto the park property by road and trail (see Master Plan Diagram).		
• Action: Provide a 3,500 linear foot paved public access road from Gonyea Road (near LCC) and the east side of the park.	I	This road will also be the primary access point for both public and maintenance access. Access easement negotiations are underway.
• Action: Utilize the existing gated gravel road to access onto the west side of the park from Gonyea Road.	RM	The City currently holds an easement on this road which allows for maintenance activities, but not currently for general public access.
• Action: Utilize the gated access point from Scharen Road to access the south end of the park for maintenance activities. This will also serve as a public access point for nearby residents.	RM	This access point will be open to the public, but is not considered primary park entrance and will not include a parking lot.
• Action: Work with adjacent property owners near the southwest corner of the park to explore establishing future maintenance and emergency access to the park via Skyhawk Way.	I-II	
Objective 3b. Establish Adequate Public Parking. Create on-site parking and improve nearby Ridgeline Trail parking areas.		
• Action: Construct a primary on-site parking area (near East Saddle) to initially accommodate approximately 50-100 vehicles, with future expansion to be determined based on use.	I	Initially, this parking area may be graveled, then paved at a later date.
• Action: Formalize a parking agreement with LCC to allow trail users to park in the college's southeast parking lot when accessing the planned trail that will be built along the City easement between LCC and the park.	I	Discussions underway
• Action: Monitor parking usage at nearby Ridgeline Trail access points including Dillard Road and Spring Boulevard to determine if additional parking options or expanded parking areas are needed to safely accommodate future use.	II-III	This would likely be part of a system-wide Ridgeline Trail parking study.

• Action: Work with neighbors to minimize any negative parking impacts at the Ridgeline Trail parking area at the end of Spring Boulevard or along Scharen Road if use increases over time.	RM	These two areas are not intended to be primary public access points to Suzanne Arlie Park.
• Action: Over the long term, consider establishing a secondary on-site public parking area on the northwest edge of the site (near West Saddle) if needed and feasible. This could serve as a secondary access point to the park and the Ridgeline Trail.	III	A public access easement on the existing gravel road running from Gonyea Road to the saddle would need to be acquired.
Objective 3c. Park Boundary and Trespass. Address unauthorized/illicit site use and clarify park boundaries to limit accidental trespass onto adjacent private lands by park users.		
• Action: Install official City of Eugene Parks and Open Space boundary markers along the perimeter of the park to clarify the extent of the park and limit unintentional trespass onto neighboring properties.	I	Mostly complete
• Action: Install gates, boundary signage, and fencing (wildlife friendly) where necessary to prevent unauthorized access to the park by OHVs from BPA easements, Scharen Road, and neighboring properties and to limit unintentional trespass by park users.	I	OHV trespass is currently occurring and being addressed
Objective 3d. Wildfire Management: Maintain and manage Suzanne Arlie Park in a way that reduces potential for unintentional wildfires and provide adequate access for emergency response.		
• Action: Continue to control invasive shrubs and trees, and thin forest areas in conjunction with habitat management efforts to reduce intensity of an unintended wildfire.	RM	Significant brush clearing and thinning efforts from 2016-2019 have begun to reduce wildfire risks.
• Action: Mow grass areas on and immediately adjacent to the gravel access roads, parking areas, structures, and group camping area prior to the beginning of fire season to prevent tall grasses and invasive shrubs from carrying fire.	RM	Follow requirements for mowing fuel breaks.
• Action: Use prescribed fire as a management tool for maintaining low fuel loads in restored areas.	RM	This technique was first used at the park in 2018 and is compatible with habitat management objectives.
• Action: Coordinate fire response plans with key organizations including Goshen Rural Fire Protection District, Eugene-Springfield Fire, Oregon Department of Forestry, and LCC/Oak Hill School.	RM	The park is within the Goshen Rural Fire Protection District service area.

Goal 4: Preservation, Enhancement, and Management of Native Habitats

Preserve, enhance, and manage native habitats at Suzanne Arlie Park to benefit native plant and wildlife species and to support public appreciation and learning. A special focus will be on target vegetation communities including upland prairie, wetland prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland (see Figure 4-4: Desired Future Conditions Vegetation Map).

Objectives and Proposed Actions	Priority	Notes
Objective 4a. Upland and Wetland Prairie: Restore, preserve, and enhance upland prairie habitat and improve native plant composition over time (see Desired Future Conditions Map).		
• Action: Enhance prairies in areas currently mapped as shrubland (see Existing Vegetation Map) through removal of encroaching trees and shrubs.	I	Significant areas of prairie are in the process of being cleared of woody vegetation through ongoing fuels reduction (2016-present).
• Action: Control invading trees and invasive shrubs on an ongoing basis through best management practices. These include routine mowing, controlled ecological burning (see Objective 3d), and herbicide application to prevent further re-sprouting.	RM	Frequency and type of treatment will be based on level of woody vegetation encroachment and annual weather patterns. Avoid work during bird nesting (spring/early summer)
• Action: Manage existing patches of high-quality prairie to preserve existing native composition and diversity.	I, RM	Management would include mapping of important native plants (including rare species) along with implementation of Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) to limit invasive species colonization in these high quality areas.
• Action: Enhance native grass and forb species over time.	II-III, RM	Enhance through implementation of invasive species control and management actions combined with supplemental overseeding of native grasses and forb diversity patches.
• Action: Use controlled ecological burning to decrease woody vegetation abundance and remove thatch in prairie areas.	RM	Where feasible, use ecological burning as a tool every 3-5 years to manage prairie habitat. Mowing could be used as an alternate to burning if needed (time to avoid bird nesting during spring/early-summer).
Objective 4b. Oak savanna: Restore, preserve, and maintain oak and pine savanna habitat and improve native composition over time (see Desired Future Conditions Map).		
• Action: Remove and control invading trees and shrubs in designated savanna areas (see Desired Future Conditions Map). Target savanna canopy cover should be 5-30% with legacy oaks preserved.	I, RM	Significant areas of savanna are in the process of being cleared through ongoing fuels reduction (2016-present).
• Action: Enhance native grass and forb composition over time.	II-III	Enhance through invasive species control and management actions combined with supplemental overseeding of native grasses and forbs.

Objective 4c. Oak woodland: Restore, preserve, and enhance oak woodland habitat and improve native composition over time (see Desired Future Conditions Map).		
• Action: Restore oak woodland and oak conifer forest (see DFC Vegetation Map) through thinning and removal of native and non-native trees and shrubs. Target canopy cover should be 30-90%.	I-II, RM	Target habitat-altering non-native trees and shrubs including English hawthorn, Scotch broom, blackberry, domestic pear, sweet cherry, etc. Areas of oak woodland are in the process of being thinned through ongoing fuels reduction (2016-present).
• Action: Thin encroaching native tree species, particularly where they are near or within the dripline of mature open-grown oaks. Strategically retain some conifers, especially where appropriate for Western gray squirrel habitat.	I-II, RM	Thinning will remove or snag selected tree species including Douglas-fir, grand fir, bigleaf maple, incense-cedar, Oregon ash and Scouler's willow to restore desired canopy cover and release open-grown oaks. Ponderosa pine and Pacific madrone will be retained as a component of oak woodlands.
• Action: Enhance native shrub, grass, and forb understory over time.	II-III	Enhance through invasive species control and supplemental overseeding of native grasses and forbs and shrub planting.
• Action: Protect legacy, open-grown large diameter (20" or greater DBH) Oregon white oaks or California black oaks and take steps to support establishment of new oak seedlings. [Action also applies to oak savanna areas under Objective 4c]	RM, Vol	GPS locations of legacy oaks (volunteers or UO students could be utilized to GPS legacy oak locations). Newly emerging oak seedlings should be field located and temporarily marked with flagging or posts to avoid inadvertent loss during maintenance activities.
Objective 4d. Riparian Forest: Retain and enhance riparian forest along Wild Hog Creek (see Desired Future Conditions Map).		
• Action: Target non-native trees and shrubs contained within the riparian forest for removal where feasible.	II-III, RM	
Objective 4e. Conifer Forest, Mixed Conifer Forest, and Mixed Conifer Woodlands: Retain existing conifer forest, mixed conifer forest, and mixed conifer woodland and allow natural succession to occur in these areas (see Desired Future Conditions Map).		
• Action: Target non-native trees and shrubs for removal where feasible.	II-III	
• Action: Thin or snag selected trees to create and maintain scenic vista points from Baldy Ridge and Split Rock Hill.	II-III, RM	
Objective 5a. Habitat Features: Provide additional habitat features and implement species-specific management actions to benefit native wildlife where appropriate (in addition to those vegetation community-specific actions proposed under objectives 4a-4e above).		
• Action: Construct additional vernal pools (see Desired Future Conditions Map) and small ephemeral ponds throughout the park where opportunities exist to meet the habitat needs of native amphibians. These would ideally be integrated into wetland areas and along drainages with relatively flat topography and designed to retain water through May or early June.	II-III	Enhance seasonal ponds and pools to provide habitat for native amphibians and reptiles.

• Action: Place logs and rock piles in existing and future ephemeral ponds and vernal pool areas to improve conditions for native amphibians and reptiles.	I-III	
• Action: Create habitat for native pollinators (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds) associated with prairie and savanna by integrating patches of nectar producing forbs and shrubs into prairie, savanna, and oak woodland areas, and maintaining some areas of bare ground for nest sites.	II-III	Plant additional nectar producing native forbs and shrubs in woodland areas, especially after ground disturbing management activities.
• Action: Enhance grassland bird habitat by maintaining/integrating scattered patches of native shrubs (shrub islands) within the larger expanses of prairie. The shrubs provide singing perches for species such as Western meadowlark, Oregon vesper sparrow, and Western bluebird.	II-III	
• Action: Maintain and create new habitat snags across the park to provide habitat for cavity-nesting bird species such as pileated woodpecker, slender-billed nuthatch, and Western screech owl and perches for raptors.	I-II, RM	
• Action: Leave downed trees and snags in place as habitat features where they do not pose a public safety threat or block trails. Where hazard trees must be removed, consider reducing snag height as an alternative to complete removal. Current research indicates optimal snag height is between 25-35 feet, with several branches between 1-3 feet in length retained.	RM	Snags provide habitat for cavity nesting species and provides food for a wide range of birds including owls and woodpeckers. Fallen trees also provide excellent habitat for reptiles, small mammals, and insects such as bumblebees.
• Action: Remove all internal fencing and work with adjacent property owners to replace barbed wire fencing along property boundaries with more wildlife friendly fencing types.	RM	
Objective 5b. Proactive Invasive Species Control: Limit establishment or spread of highly invasive non-native species at Suzanne Arlie Park where feasible using an Early Detection, Rapid Response approach.		
• Action: Consult with the Oregon State Weed Board, Upper Willamette Cooperative Weed Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Agriculture, Western Invasives Network, and the Native Plant Society of Oregon – Emerald Chapter on identifying emerging invasive species threats.	RM	City regularly coordinates with these groups on emerging threats.

• Action: Implement Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) protocols for highly invasive plants and insects identified within the park or neighboring properties.	RM	EDRR targets and removes invasives before they become widespread. At Suzanne Arlie Park these species currently include false brome, English ivy, vinca (near chimney homestead), meadow knapweed, Canada thistle, and reed canarygrass.
• Action: Follow the City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to guide methods used to control of invasive non-native vegetation.	RM	
Objective 5c. Utility Corridors: Collaborate with BPA, EWEB, and NW Natural Gas to manage the vegetation contained within their utility easements to limit impacts to native wildlife and protect the park's habitat values by controlling highly invasive non-native vegetation in these easements.		
• Action: Locate and review the official easement agreements with BPA, EWEB, Pacific Power, NW Natural Gas, etc.	I, RM	Consider creating formal maintenance agreements between the utility providers and the City to maximize protection of habitat values within these corridors and schedules maintenance activities to reduce habitat impacts during critical seasons (e.g., bird nesting in spring/early summer).
• Action: Control highly invasive non-native vegetation within transmission corridors to prevent spread into adjacent habitats.	RM	

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Suzanne Arlie Park Master Plan

October 2020

Appendices

Appendix A: Historical Aerial Photos

Appendix B: General Land Office (1850s) Survey Maps

Appendix C: Public Survey Results (2016)

Appendix D: Guiding Principles for Trail Siting and Design
(excerpt from the 2018 Eugene Trails Plan)

Appendix E: Rivers to Ridges Oak Habitat Flyer

Appendix F: Related Plans, Studies, and Inventories

Appendix G: Public Survey #2 Results
(feedback on draft Master Plan)

Appendix H: Detailed Vegetation Maps -
Existing and Desired Future Conditions