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Clackamas Regional Center Area Plan

Exhibit E:

Phillips Creek Greenway Framework Plan

To be adopted by reference

Clackamas Regional Center Area Plan

Phillips Creek Greenway Framework Plan



Overview:

Philips Creek is a year around stream flowing through a rapidly growing area of unincorporated Clackamas County and through the Clackamas Regional Center Area. Philips Creek provides a unique opportunity to integrate existing natural features into an intensifying urban setting, and restore one of the few remaining creeks in the area. During the planning process for the Clackamas Regional Center Area plan, Philips Creek has consistently been identified as a significant design and open space component. The Draft Plan for the Clackamas Regional Center Area recommended a concept for a greenway and trail along the Philips Creek Corridor.

What is a Greenway?

Greenways are linear vegetated corridors often associated with rivers and streams that can be shared by humans and wildlife. Designation of the Philips Creek greenway does not presume that the entire corridor will come under public ownership; but does encourage consistent management by both public and private landowners to maintain ecological integrity. The Philips Creek Greenway is intended to include continuous public access, as well as rehabilitation of wildlife habitat and restoration of the stream's storm drainage functions.

A greenway along Phillips Creek will contribute the following to the Clackamas Regional Center Plan Area:

- Provide an important linkage to other parks and trails;
- Raise public awareness about the importance of urban streams and natural systems;
- Enhance habitat and recreational opportunities;
- Add value to future adjacent development; and
- Serve as a featured amenity that will promote community pride and stewardship in the Clackamas Regional Center Area.

Restoration of Phillips Creek is at a sensitive juncture. The role Phillips Creek will play in the future is being determined today as this area experiences rapid growth and plans for additional densities. Basic recognition of this important resource will define the community's goals of integrating the greenspaces and natural environments into the urban fabric of the Regional Center. This framework plan will be the initial step to long term restoration, preservation and integration of Phillips Creek into the urban environment.

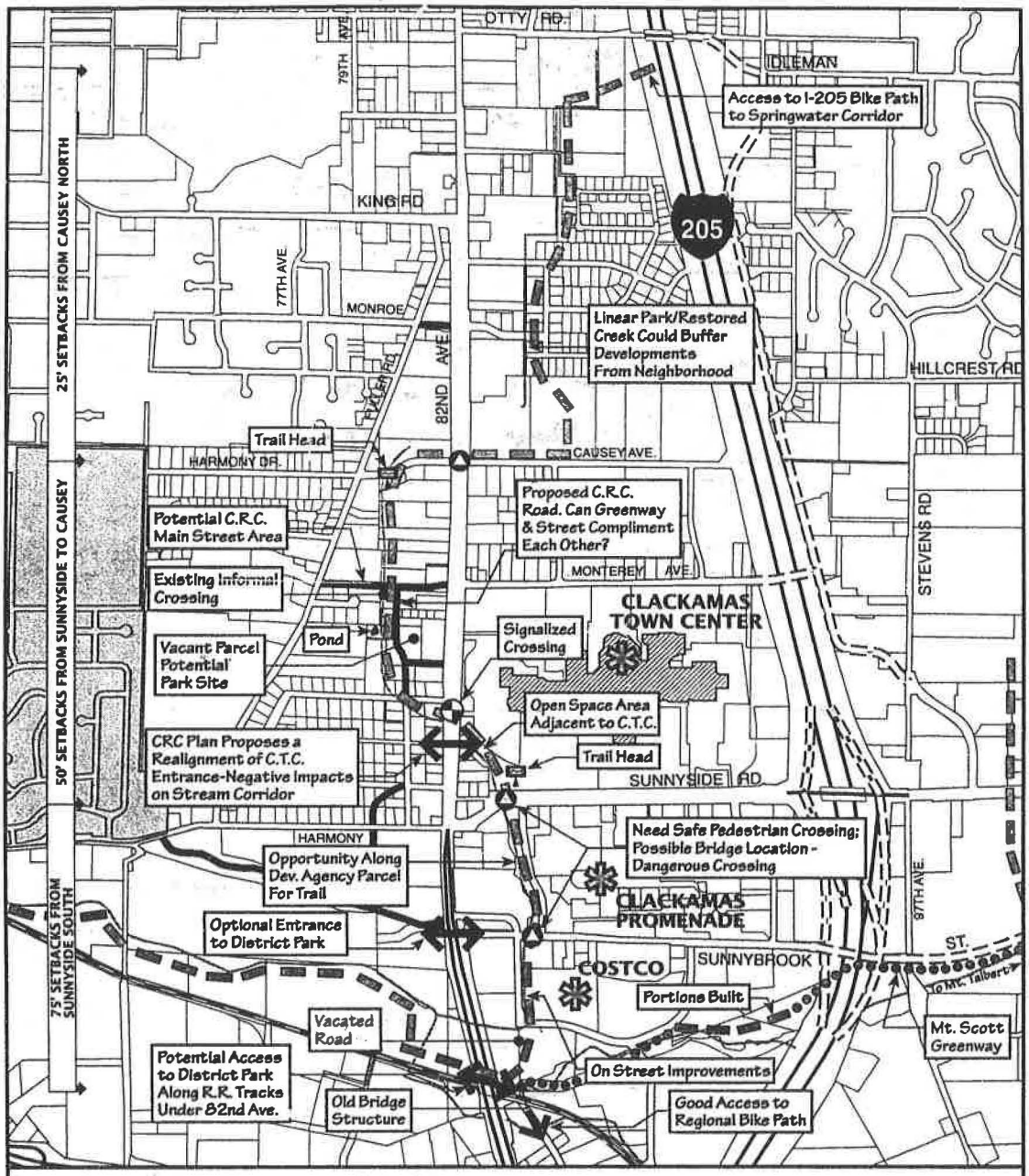
Purpose of the Framework Plan:

Today Phillips Creek remains largely in private ownership. Development of a public greenway will be a challenging component of the Clackamas Regional Center Plan. The Phillips Creek Greenway Plan establishes a framework for that discussion. The Phillips Creek Framework Plan is the first step toward the creation of the Phillips Creek Greenway. This plan provides a vision and strategy for the Greenway by:

- Setting goals to guide future management of the creek;
- Addressing opportunities in the public involvement process;
- Identifying key players or "cooperators", and partnerships;
- Highlighting improvements and enhancements that balance natural qualities with the urban environment;
- Supporting other Clackamas Regional Center Area planning efforts currently underway; and
- Identifying actions for acquisition of land necessary for the creation of the Greenway.

Implementation:

This plan recommends an important framework for action. It will be implemented by many parties, however, it is important that the lead roles be established. It is recommended that the overall lead for management and coordiantion be the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District. Land use planning, actions and implementation should be led by Clackamas County Planning. The Parks District should lead trail development and other design related work.



MAP 1: Phillips Creek Greenway Issues & Opportunities Map

Clackamas Regional Center Plan Proposed Roads

Potential Greenway Alignment

Goals:

The following draft goals are identified to guide the planning and implementation of the greenway concept. These goals complement the goals and planning principles established in the Clackamas Regional Center Area Planning Process.

Protect and Enhance Environmental Values

The Phillips Creek Greenway will:

- Protect fish and wildlife habitat
- Increase biological diversity
- Protect water quality and storm water management by increasing drainage, filtering and storage/retention functions of the water system functions of the water system
- Serve as a linkage to other habitats

Provide Community Access

The Phillips Creek Greenway will;

- Link parks and open spaces (ex. District Park, Mt. Talbert Park, Springwater Corridor)
- Provide opportunity for passive recreation
- Provide connections between parks as well as urban attractions
- Provide a safe environment
- Include a continuous pedestrian path within the greenway

Preserve a Greenspace and Public Amenity Within an Urban Environment

The Phillips Creek Greenway will;

- Provide added value to promote Greenway oriented development
- Create linear-park amenities for park-deficient neighborhoods
- Provide a highly visual attractive setting for plazas and small scale parks
- Promote community pride and stewardship

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Actions to Achieve the Goals:

The development of the Phillips Creek Greenway hinges on the participation of the community and partnering agencies to work together to achieve an outcome attaining the goals established in this framework plan. The following "actions" are a combination of suggested land use regulations and non-regulatory tasks that would work together to implement the plan.

Protect and Enhance Environmental Values

To achieve this goal the following actions and policies should be considered:

- Establish setbacks from the high water line to protect riparian areas
- Seek funding to complete a comprehensive stream bank restoration project
- Acquire sensitive stream habitat
- Identify opportunities to establish significant natural habitat areas to the Phillips Creek Greenway

Provide Community Access

To achieve this goal the following actions and policy should be considered:

- Encourage the Phillips Creek Greenway to be included in local planning documents.
- Integrate the Phillips Creek Greenway with existing and proposed roadway linkages
- Establish design standards or guidelines for Phillips Creek Greenway path that balances both the need to protect habitat and provide adequate trail use
- Create local access to the greenway via pedestrian and bike paths
- Identify potential location for accessways or trail heads
- Identify properties for acquisition
- Plan for greenway linkages to regional greenway and trail systems such as the Springwater Corridor, Mt. Scott Trail and the I-205 bike path
- Plan for Greenway linkages to park and natural area destinations such as Mt. Scott Creek, and the North Clackamas District Park

Preserve a Greenspace and Public Amenity Within an Urban Environment

To achieve this goal the following actions and policies should be considered:

Involvement of the Community:

- Work with citizens to form a "Friends of Phillips Creek" non-profit organization
- Encourage public participation in natural and recreation resource management decisions related to the greenway
- Provide educational opportunities to enhance understanding, enjoyment and informed use of natural, cultural, and recreational resources
- Provide and promote opportunities for the public to engage in stewardship activities. Cooperative efforts between "Clackamas County" and private non-profit groups, community groups, schools and other public agencies should be encouraged
- Provide opportunities for technical assistance to private owners for stewardship of components to greenway system
- Work with regional, state, federal, non-profit and private partners to facilitate stewardship and educational opportunities
- Encourage incentives for enhancement activities.

Design of the Greenway:

- Require screening of unsightly equipment or other uses
- Establish design standards or guidelines for trail development
- The paved portions of the trail shall conform with the standard multi-use path specifications developed for this greenway and utilize ecosystem "friendly" materials for trail development
- Mitigate noise, and odor of adjacent development shall be considered.
- Safety of the user shall be considered in the design of the trail (e.g. adequate lighting and "eyes on the trail")
- Establish a signage plan which uses a consistent image
- Coordinate and facilitate planning, funding, acquisition, design, development, construction, operations and maintenance of the Phillips Creek Greenway
- Where buildings border the Greenway, consideration will be given to design that is compatible with the Greenway.

Description of needed Greenway improvements

The proposed Philips Creek Greenway can be divided into eight segments, all of which have, or can be restored to have, different characteristics and improvement needs. A pathway paralleling Philips Creek is a common element to all segments – a continuously pathway along the Philips Creek Greenway is an objective of this Framework Plan.

SEGMENT A: VACATED AMBLER ROAD

Description: *This segment is located near the confluence of Phillips Creek with Mt. Scott Creek. A warehouse facility is located to the east. The exact location of the creek is unclear. A vacated road leads to Mt. Scott Creek and continues over an abandoned bridge. Two storm water detention ponds are located near this location. These ponds are fenced off but offer a natural setting as well as some habitat for wildlife such as ducks. 82nd Avenue is located to the west but is built on a very tall embankment. Southern Pacific Rail Road track is located on the south side of Mt. Scott Creek.*

Needed Greenway Improvements:

- Use portions of vacated road to establish connection to Mt. Scott Creek trail system. This would allow access to the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District Park under 82nd Avenue.
- The storm water retention ponds maybe improved to serve as better wildlife habitat or interpretive opportunities.
- This portion of the greenway will be off-road along the vacated portions of Ambler Road. This section is currently used by the tenants of the warehouse facility for outside storage.
- Old bridge over Mt. Scott Creek may serve as future connection to all points south.
- Signs are important because this area may serve as a secondary access to the District Park.
- Acquire appropriate right-of-way.

SEGMENT B: AMBLER ROAD

Description:

This segment of Phillips Creeks runs parallel to Ambler Road. The Costco store and office building access roads are built at a 25 ft. setback from Phillips Creek. The road is busy. The creek has a narrow riparian fringe.

Needed Greenway Improvements:

- Streambank enhancement
- Any pedestrian improvements in this section need to be along Ambler Road. The logical place for improvements is the west side of the road. Onstreet improvement should include sidewalks and bike lanes on Ambler.
- Signing is important in this segment since the Greenway does merge with the street system.

- Bicycles will need to use Ambler Road's bike lanes along this section.

- A critical pedestrian crossing is located at the intersection of Sunnybrook and Ambler. This intersection is under construction and will be signalized. When complete it will incorporate a 10' scored concrete cross walk.

SEGMENT C: 84TH AVE

Description:
This segment is located along a 40' strip of land that is currently zoned Open Space Management (OSM). This linear parcel is owned by the Clackamas County Development Agency. Phillips Creek is located within a deep wooded swale below a grassy bluff running parallel to 84th Ave. This is an unobstructed section of the Creek. To the west of Phillips Creek is the new Sheriff/Clackamas County Community College complex and a PGE substation. Mature trees enhance the character of this site.

Needed Greenway Improvements:

- Trail construction along this section will be relatively easy because the site is located on public property and is zoned OSM.

- Access to the stream is difficult due to the steep banks.

- The grassy bluff running parallel to 84th is conducive to trail development.

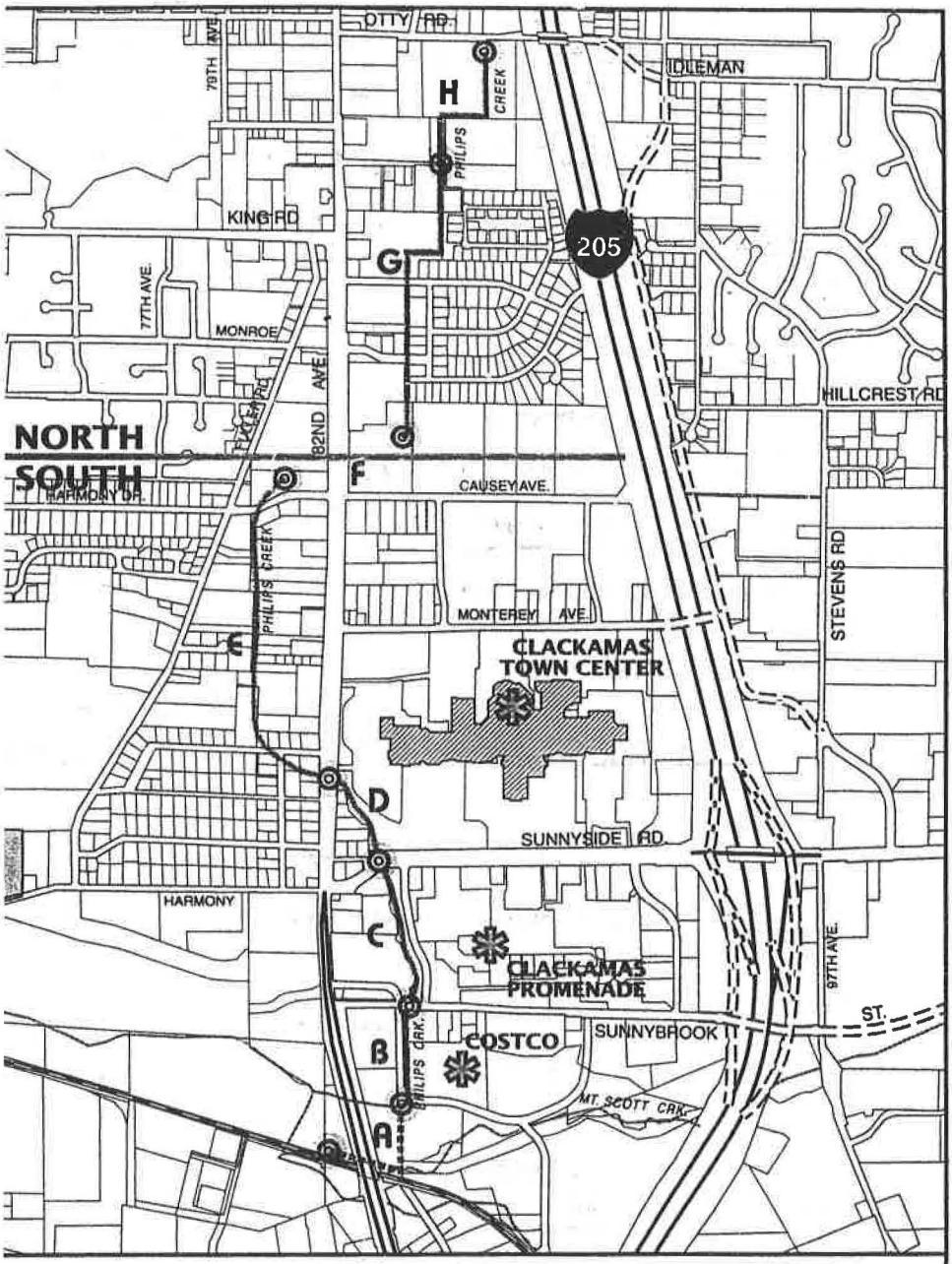
- Decisions on the crossing of Sunnyside Road should be based on consideration of:
  - Minimizing out of direction travel for the pedestrian
  - Minimize grade changes
  - Creating and enhancing connections to the Clackamas Town Center mall and the Clackamas Promenade

SEGMENT D: Clackamas Town Center

Description:
Phillips Creek is located in the southwest corner of the Clackamas Town Center site. This short section has a large, natural vegetated area buffering the view of the parking lot. Mature trees contribute to a park-like setting. This site has great opportunity for Greenway development due to its natural setting.

Needed Greenway Improvements

- McDonalds' drive-through and parking lots have compromised the integrity of the west stream bank. Screening and stream bank enhancement is recommended. Replacement of existing structures should consider facilities that are compatible with the Greenway.
- The existing signalized intersection at the Clackamas Town Center would provide a safe crossing of 82nd Ave.
- Pedestrian access from the lower area (near McDonalds) up to the Clackamas Town Center parking lot should be planned to link the Greenway trail with the mall and connect to a potential, future civic use in the southwest corner of the mall parking lot.
- A trail should be provided along the greenway from Sunnyside to 82nd Avenue.
- Pedestrian crossing where Philips Creek passes under Sunnyside Boulevard is a concern, since the location has poor visibility and will not be signalized. Other alternatives for pedestrian crossings, or connection of the greenway trail to signalized crossings, should be considered.



AP 2: Phillips Creek Greenway Framework Plan
Study Sections

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SEGMENT E: Fuller Triangle

Description:
Phillips Creek runs by commercial development, houses and apartments in the Fuller Road Triange. The creek is in a concrete culvert through the Denny's parking lot. From there, the creek runs north through relatively undeveloped parcels. Adjacent development such as apartments and a U-Haul facility are located near the creek. Dense vegetation borders the creek. A make shift bridge crosses the creek near where the proposed Monterey Extension would be built. Small ponds exist to the west of the creek bed. The creek goes into a culvert under the Ross Center. This shopping center has an on-site, fenced storm water detention pond.

Needed Greenway Improvements

- Vacant land along the creek should be acquired for Greenway, trail, and park or open space use.
- Redevelopment of large parcels of land may provide an opportunity to showcase the Greenway.
- The Preliminary Discussion Draft Plan recommends that 80th Avenue be extended north to the Monterery Extension then west to Fuller Road. Right-of-way acquisition for the road improvement could facilitate purchase of the Greenway portion.

SEGMENT F: 82nd Ave.

Description:
Phillips Creek is located in a culvert through the Ross Center and through the Cub Foods Shopping Center.

Needed Greenway Improvements:

- Identify where the creek goes under ground. Investigate voluntary opportunities to "day-light" and enhance the creek
- The pedestrian access could merge with Causey Avenue's sidewalks and bike lanes at this point. Users could safely cross 82nd Avenue at the existing signal.
- Signs are important in this segment to direct users to the north section of the Greenway.
- Encourage the County to develop incentives for enhancement of the creek.

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SEGMENT G: BOYER MEADOWS

Description:
Phillips Creek is in a grassy swale for this section of the Greenway. The creek emerges from the culvert behind Cub Foods. There is no riparian vegetation. This unsightly section of creek is primarily dry during the summer months. The creek is located in an open concrete culvert through the Burlington Coat Factory site. A chain link fence was installed to keep children from falling into the creek here.

Needed Greenway Improvements:

- An opportunity exists to enhance and develop a Greenway along Phillips Creek in this area. A Greenway could be established in the Boyer Meadows neighborhood to help buffer the neighborhood from adjacent commercial development. Stream bank enhancement could improve the degraded quality of the creek in this segment, and improve the drainage and wildlife habitat functions of the creek, as well as provide an amenity for the neighborhood.

- A Greenway trail along this portion of the creek could be designed with community input as part of a master-planning project. Special attention should be paid to lighting and neighborhood safety in the design of the trail.

- This section may be appropriate for a series of weirs that would result in a gradual stair-stepping of the creek course. The purpose of the weirs would be to slow water flow and reduce streambank erosion, and down cutting.

SEGMENT H: ORCHARD LANE NORTH

Description:
This section of creek heads north and makes a right turn behind the Home Depot development. Home Depot relocated the stream, providing localized stream bank enhancement.

Needed Greenway Improvements:

- Additional streambank enhancements

- The Greenway could access the I-205 bike path at this location. The I-205 bike path could provide the needed link to the Springwater Corridor.