



Twenty Years of Accomplishments and the 2023 Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh Report

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Twenty Years of Accomplishments and the 2023 Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh Report

Appendix A

Rivers to Ridges Refresh Partner Outreach Questionnaire Responses



Rivers to Ridges Refresh Partner Outreach Questionnaire Responses

October 6, 2020

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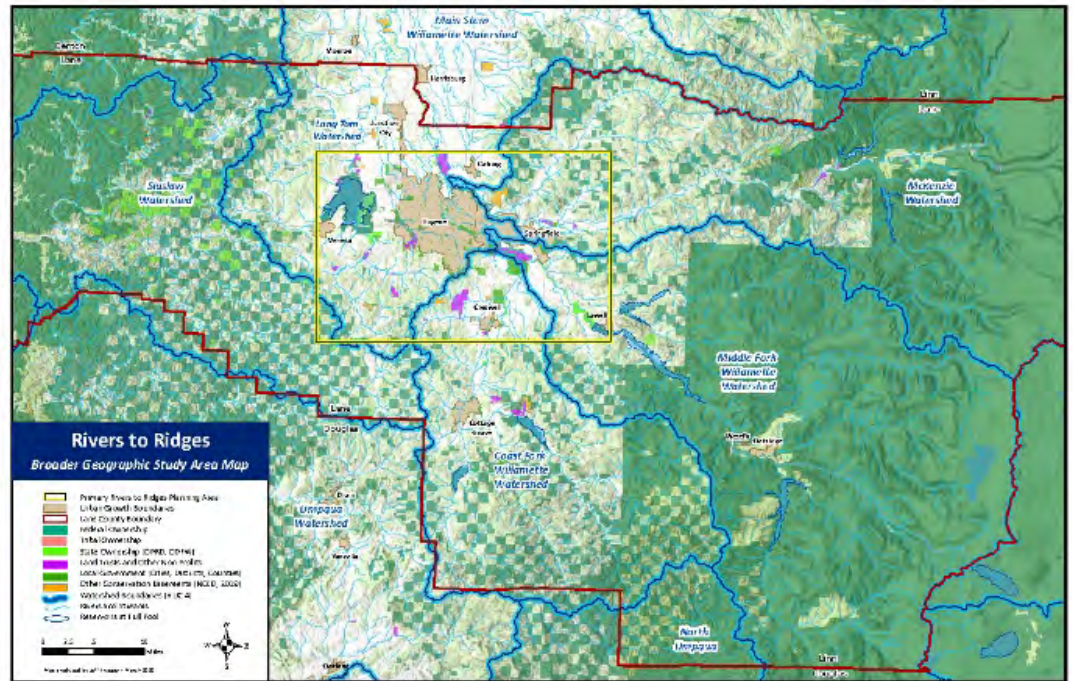
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Background and Purpose

Refresh Process

At its December 2019 annual meeting, the R2R Executive Team agreed to launch a vision “Refresh” process starting in 2020 with a target completion date of 2022 (twentieth anniversary of the R2R vision). This two-phase effort will initially work with partner organizations to evaluate a much [broader regional geography](#) of the southern Willamette Valley. The second phase, starting in 2021, will focus on updating the 2003 R2R metro area-focused vision and will involve a robust public process that will celebrate twenty years of accomplishment and shape the vision for the next twenty years.



Partner Outreach and Purpose of Questionnaire

From July through August 2020, each of the seventeen partner organizations were contacted individually and asked to provide written responses to five questions. Responses will be used to inform the R2R vision refresh process and also highlight individual partner organization initiatives and priorities for the coming years. Responses listed are verbatim and sorted by partner organization (alphabetically). Responses were provided by R2R partnership staff representatives for each organization and do not necessarily represent an organization’s official position.

Questionnaire responses are sorted into the following five categories:

1. Proposed core value statement and guiding principles
2. Your organization’s strengths and accomplishments
3. Your organization’s anticipated focus in the coming years
4. The Rivers to Ridges vision for the next twenty years
5. Potential future partner organizations

The questionnaire narrative and questions are in **blue text**, partner name is in **red**, and partner responses are in **black text**.

Compilation of Partner Responses

Question #1: Feedback on Proposed Core Value Statement and Guiding Principles

Overview: The proposed Core Value Statement and Guiding Principles listed below were developed by the Refresh sub-group and are based on compilation direction provided in the current R2R vision document, input from the R2R Implementation Team, and review of relevant local, state, and federal guidance. The Guiding Principles are intended to provide high-level direction for the refinement and implementation of the R2R vision and to provide a comprehensive framework for future open space planning efforts in our region. The “Core Value Statement” is intended to serve as an umbrella that applies to all three guiding principles and addresses use of a partnership approach and desire to create an open space network that provides benefit to all members of the community.

Please review the proposed Core Value Statement and Guiding Principles and answer questions 1a and 1b that follow:

Core Value Statement (Draft, June 2020)

The Rivers to Ridges partnership believes that a broad and inclusive coalition of partners and community members is essential for conserving and caring for our region’s open space network and natural systems and that all members of the community should benefit from the ecosystem services and access to nature that the system provides.

Guiding Principles (Draft, June 2020)

Three overarching principles have been developed to guide refinement and implementation of the Rivers to Ridges vision and to provide a framework for future habitat and public access planning efforts in our region.

Principle 1: Sustaining a Healthy Environment

A regional network of interconnected natural areas will:

- Sustain viable and resilient ecosystems that support stable populations of native plants and wildlife,
- Provide a range of other ecosystem services such as the protection of air and water quality, and
- Preserve regionally threatened habitat types (wetlands, flowing water/riparian, oak woodlands, oak savannas, and prairie).

Principle 2: Connecting People and Nature

Safe and convenient access to nature and outdoor recreational opportunities will:

- Promote physical and mental well-being,
- Strengthen social and cultural connections through shared outdoor experiences,
- Provide educational opportunities to promote appreciation and understanding of our region’s ecology and unique sense of place, and
- Benefit our local economy (business recruitment, tourism, and reduced health care expenses).

Principle 3: Managing the Urban-Rural Interface

Careful management of the lands and waters at the urban-rural interface will:

- Provide defined and attractive gateways into our southern Willamette Valley communities,
- Preserve functioning ecosystems in proximity to urban centers,
- Protect scenic quality,
- Reduce threat of catastrophic wildfire in the urban-wildland interface,
- Support economically and ecologically viable working lands (farms and forests), and
- Facilitate well-planned urban growth.

Question 1. Do you have specific comments or edits on the Core Value Statement or Guiding Principles as written above? Is there anything critical missing or in conflict with your organization mission?

City of Eugene Response:

- Track changes and comments on three guiding principles submitted and will be integrated.

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

- As a watershed council we have a more specific mission. As current members, we understand we will not “fit in” to every aspect of the vision. No additional comments on guiding principles at this time.

Friends of Buford Park Response:

- Principle 2: we should consider investments to remove barriers of access to natural areas and recreational resources with a focus upon water based recreation.
- Principle 2: leaves out an equity and inclusion piece. While it is stated in the Core Value Statement, it’s not stated among the guiding principles. I also would encourage a statement that is more overt in the recognition of Indigenous peoples/First Nations.
- Principle 3: let us definitively state a commitment to protect and enhance sources of drinking water as well as protection of local fisheries and access to fish as a means of personal sustenance and growth of local business.

Lane County Parks Response:

- Core Statement: add “parks” to the second line so it reads “our region’s parks and open space network” to recognize the breadth of lands the partnership is concerned with. It might read better if broken into two sentences, the second sentence starting with “all members of the community”. This would help to emphasize the last portion of the statement as well.
- Guiding Principle 2: the listed bullet points are good, the introductory statement might be expanded to say “Safe, convenient, and equitable” access to nature and outdoor recreational...”
 - First bullet – add “for all citizens” to the end to emphasize the importance of benefitting everyone
 - Consider adding another bullet – something about engaging the public by providing opportunities for people to become stewards and be involved in other hands on activities. Many partners have volunteer programs and this might help to better fold in collaboration around volunteering in the partnership. Especially because many volunteers volunteer for more than one partner or program.
 - Consider adding another bullet about ADA accessibility, both increasing level of accessibility in our facilities and providing information on where these accessible facilities are located. This is one of the strategies in the Lane County parks Master Plan and is probably identified in others.
- Guiding Principle 3: Like I have said previously, using this phrase makes it appear that Rivers to Ridges is involved in land use planning. A word like “stewarding” is much closer to the intent of the guiding principle. We like many of the bullet points here however, and are actively working toward some of these strategies, such as fuels reduction in parks within the WUI. I would remove or drastically revise the bullet point “facilitate well-planned urban growth”, as only a few partners have any organizational nexus with facilitating urban growth. Providing expertise to design, build, and maintain “green infrastructure” might be a better way to communicate this one.

Long Tom Watershed Council Response:

The Core Value Statement is a good draft. But, I hope the core value statement and guiding principles can remain a draft. I think they should be a very rough draft at this time for the opportunity to acknowledge all people and cultural needs in relating to our shared landscape. Can we do more?

McKenzie River Trust Response:

Core Value Statement – I like it in general. As I read “broad coalition of partners and community members”, though, it does bring up the question of how community members will participate in R2R. MRT fully supports that R2R benefits should be spread across the entire community and that from a DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) perspective, this should be at the forefront; in the core value statement. But is the core value statement also stating that community members are also part of the R2R process? If so, does R2R need to develop some sort of feedback process?

Principles – Overall, I am extremely happy to see this brought into 3, easy to remember principles, down from the 10 or so that currently exist. Some thoughts:

- Climate change resilience will be a major focus of our organization in the coming years, and I assume many of the other R2R partners. I just don’t see climate change in here. I could see it placed into the core value statement as one of the main stressors leading us to protect habitat and manage the WUI, or I could see it woven throughout the principles.
 - Principle 1, bullet 3: We always prefer the word “conserve” over the word “preserve”. Nitpicky, I know.
 - Principle 2: I would prefer a more explicit DEI statement in here. One idea: “Ensure that connection opportunities are available to the entire population, especially communities that have been underserved or had barriers to access.” In an ideal world, we would also include language about Tribal engagement, but I don’t think we have the relationships to do that at this time...sounds like a good IT project for 2021!
 - Principle 3: Delete the last bullet point...too much baggage. R2R may inform urban growth discussions, but let’s not make ourselves a party to the process.
- Principle 3 overall question: Does this lose relevance with an expanded service area?

McKenzie Watershed Council Response:

I believe that the Core Value Statement should reflect that partners recognize that people of color and marginalized communities have not historically had equal access to natural resources/ecosystems services, and to the multiple benefits that outdoor recreation and spaces provide. The focus on a broad-based collaborative in the current vision statement is good and well-written. An updated version with an acknowledgement of past and current inequities and a commitment to working to address them is appropriate.

The three Principles are good and still relevant I believe, though adding specific language around equity and equal access, consistent with the value statement would be a good revision to Principle #2.

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

- No additional comments

Mount Pisgah Arboretum Response:

The Core Values Statement looks good and aligns very well with MPA's mission and objectives. This seems like a natural evolution of the organization's focus. For this to be more than a statement, it will be critically important to immediately identify and connect with potential partner organizations representing diverse interests. I have some concern that many of these organizations may be scaling back to focusing on core objectives post-COVID, and R2R may not immediately fit with the needs of their community—it may take some time to build this coalition.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Response:

Principle 1: change "threatened habitat types" to sensitive or regionally important.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

- It is implied but suggest noting in Principle 3 that a benefit of preserving "functioning ecosystems in proximity to urban centers" will be that the ecosystem services that those areas provide will benefit the urban centers. The fourth bullet about wildfire threat is an example but not the only one. E.G. recharging ground water for cities like Springfield; improved air quality; flood attenuation in the metro area; etc.)
- OPRD supports all of these values and guiding principles. There is nothing in conflict, however, our mission also focuses on protecting our cultural heritage, both historic and prehistoric. This goal has not been part of R2R's mission, which is fine. It will remain one of our core values however. The key way it will play out in projects will be our attention to protecting archaeological resources and finding a balance when that work is in conflict with natural resource goals.
- Finally, I would like to see more explicit language around "welcoming", or some active focus on addressing cultural/social/policy barriers that may implicitly or explicitly exclude people from working for R2R, recreating in R2R areas, or participating in R2R events (e.g. BIPOC, ADA, LGBTQ, etc.)
- Maybe add language under Principle 2, bullet 2 "Strengthen social and cultural connections through shared outdoor experiences" i.e. "Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in outdoor recreation by recognizing and eliminating barriers for underserved communities."

The Nature Conservancy Response:

Perhaps there is a better term to use than "ecosystem services". The basic intent of the term are those natural functions that provides benefits to nature and people.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Response:

Principle 2 does not explicitly speak to 'diversity and inclusion'. No mention of cultural resource values, tribal interests – where would this fit?

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Response:

"Principle 3: Support economically and ecologically viable working lands (farms and forests)" – We want to be clear that most BLM managed lands require us to balance the mandates of FLPMA and the O&C Act. We strive to provide multiple uses on BLM managed lands, and provide for a sustained yield of timber. The west Eugene wetlands is not O&C lands (no timber harvesting).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Response (specific to WVNWRC):

Though it's likely implied, do you think there is any utility in adding a statement under Principle 1 that contains something along the lines of "including all types of land ownerships" to ensure that public, private, NGO, residential, agricultural, forestry, industrial, and urban lands are included?

Willamalane Parks and Recreation District Response:

We concur with the proposed Core Value Statement and Guiding Principles. They align with WPRD's Comprehensive Plan and mission.

Willamette Resources & Education Network Response:

Core value statement suggested edit:community members in *lifelong learning which is essential for* conserving...

Education should be represented as an essential characteristic and should have a better representation in the Core Values statement. It is at the center of our conservation and restoration efforts through professional development trainings, best practices, outreach, the use of data and scientific research to make sure what we are doing is sustainable. It is also how we convey to others that what we are doing is important. People should have a sense of their role in the natural community and how they can improve it. We believe that through education, people will have a greater access and greater commitment to their local ecosystem and that education can take many forms.

Perhaps making a stand-alone guiding principle for Community, Communication, and education. We should also explore how to make inclusivity actionable in our guiding principles and the mechanisms to include and enfold outreach. How do we foster lifelong learning and engagement? The more the community feels encouraged to be involved with R2R's work, the greater the opportunity for stewardship.

How do we define "healthy environment"?

Question #2: Your Organization's Strengths and Accomplishments

Question 2. *Please list a few of the strengths you feel your organization brings to the R2R partnership and what are a few of your organization's major accomplishments over the past two decades? Please use the Guiding Principle categories to organize your comments. If the Guiding Principle topic does not apply to your organization just write "not applicable".*

City of Eugene Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

The City of Eugene has completed several projects to enhance, restore, or protect ecosystems, species, and air and water quality. In total an estimated 1,105 acres of habitat have been enhanced or restored. A few examples include:

- Acquisition of over 1500 acres
- Restoration and enhancement of over 300 acres of wetland habitat in west Eugene through the City's Wetland Mitigation Bank Program;
- Restoration and enhancement of 150 acres of wetland, pond, and riparian habitat including over two miles of Willamette River side channel at Delta Ponds;
- Restoration and enhancement of upland habitat in the Ridgeline Park system including Wild Iris Ridge, South Eugene Meadows, Hendricks Park, Suzanne Arlie Park, Murray Hill, and Moon Mountain.
- Over the past 20 years, the use of green infrastructure to treat stormwater has grown in both the public and private sector. Our Stormwater Development Standards and BMPs prioritize green infrastructure over other methods. In 2018, the Green Infrastructure Section was established in Parks and Open Space partially in recognition of the increased use of vegetated stormwater facilities to better treat urban run-off, the importance of urban street trees, and the contribution of both to local quality of life.
- During this time period, Eugene Parks and Open Space has received conditional Salmon-Safe Certification and the city is now identified as a Bee City USA.

Connecting People to Nature:

The City of Eugene has developed several new trails in the last twenty years (~13 miles) and maintains many miles of hard surface paths and soft surface trails. Notable examples include:

- A system of trails and paths at Delta Ponds which support both localized, accessible recreation and non-motorized transportation opportunities through both hard paths and soft surface trails was completed with interpretive signs describing the restoration and enhancement efforts that took place and the natural history of the area,
- Constructed the upgraded trail and steps to the summit of Spencer Butte providing safer access to the summit and protecting butte habitat from further degradation from the dispersed access;
- Westernmost terminus of the Ridgeline Trail System was completed at Wild Iris Ridge.

In addition, the City hosts monthly First Saturday Park Walks to provide free, guided introductions to local natural areas. Eugene's parks and natural areas are also used by local educational organizations like WREN, Nearby Nature and Whole Earth Nature School to conduct educational programming for people of all ages.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

The City of Eugene participates with partners on several efforts focused on the connections across the urban-rural interface and interjurisdictional influences of natural resource and habitat projects. Specifically, the City works with Lane County, Junction City and City of Springfield staff on issues related to the management of stormwater and improvement or protection of water quality across jurisdictions both upstream and downstream of the city. Eugene Parks and Open Space recognizes the risk of catastrophic wildfire and has been able to leverage funding from the federal Bureau of Land Management to reduce fuel loads on several parks in the Ridgeline which span the urban-

rural interface. These projects have served multiple purposes of reducing fuel loads, improving habitats, and opening up overgrown areas for public and emergency access.

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Due to our participation in the IT group, we were able to include instream, riparian, and oak habitats in key areas throughout the watershed. Building on lesson learned from partners in this process, designs for new projects were more effective and impactful and the amount of work was increased in the Coast Fork Willamette watershed.

Connecting People to Nature: Increased tours through the FOG group and at a more hyper local level at project sites to educate people on the need and benefits for restoration and provided an example of working lands and ecological priorities working in tandem. YCC crew.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: Increased our time working with local ranchers and farmers, joined City planning committees in both the incorporated cities in our watershed to ensure that input is given when and where decisions are made.

Friends of Buford Park Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

- Friends are a keen advocate for conservation and restoration.
- Friends excel in restoration project planning and implementation.
- Friends nurture partnership with local business that innovates new practices and diversifies sources of available funding.
- Friends is a dynamic grassroots organization adept in recruiting and mobilizing skilled volunteers to advance complex projects.

Key Accomplishments:

- Spearheaded landscape based approaches to project planning in the upper Willamette River pioneering a practice of large scale floodplain restoration (Sorenson and South Bottomlands + Lower Coast Fork - Turtle Flats restoration).
- Implementation of multiple large scale prairie-savanna-woodland restoration projects in highly visible areas oriented along popular trails visited by 10-100's of thousands of people annually. (Upper Canyon Creek - Or White Oak Demonstration Project, Fawn Lily, Meadowlark East, and Meadowlark South Management Units).
- Development of native plant materials program with a prioritization of acutely local genetics (GMPA).
- Restoration of fire as a primary tool of stewardship available for land managers.
- Acquisition of the Willamette Confluence Preserve.
- Maintenance and improvement of the HBRA trail system.

Lane County Parks Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Most of our work on this has taken place at HBRA, and is done with partners. The HBRA Habitat Management Plan provides Desired Future Conditions and lays out a work plan for achieving the vision.

Connecting People to Nature: Our volunteer program is designed to be integrated into the natural areas program and provide a vehicle for hands on stewardship activities for the public. Volunteer park adoption is a primary vehicle for volunteer engagement. Providing access to water bodies (rivers and lakes) is a major focus of Lane County Parks. We operate several campgrounds within the R2R area, which are the closest-in camping facilities to the county's

centers of population. Many of our parks have developed day-use areas that provide opportunities for family and community gatherings in a rural, outdoor setting.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: Our habitat stewardship work at HBRA, both completed and planned, exemplifies many of the strategies organized under this principle, and thus is an excellent demonstration site for restoring Willamette Valley landscapes. We have smaller habitat restoration projects either implemented or planned (including fuels reduction work) in several additional parks.

Long Tom Watershed Council Response:

The Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) is a nonprofit with the mission of improving water quality, habitat, and watershed health through the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members. For more than 22 years LTWC has worked with community stakeholders -- primarily private landowners -- to assist them in voluntarily improving habitat, and since 2007 our Uplands Restoration Program alone has partnered with 17 rural landowners to improve more than 1,500 acres. Since 2005, we've partnered with landowners to remove more than 40 fish passage barriers, opening up four whole drainages for instream and riparian fauna migration.

The Long Tom Watershed is the original homeland of a diverse Indigenous population, many of whom identify as Kalapuya, and we recognize that LTWC has not done enough to meaningfully engage Indigenous people in our work throughout much of our history.

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

Our work to teach people how to steward land and water on private lands has been reported as valuable to many sectors of the community. We connect people with high quality environmental data, multiple avenues for learning and action, and in dialogue with others. This conversation and action serves to bridge many of the traditional gaps between types of stakeholders.

Building on existing connections, LTWC has increased our effort in the last 3 years to build relationships with Tribal members and staff, elders, and Native educators. Our efforts have provided a foundation of relationships and understanding from which to build, including around collaborative funds seeking, prescribed fire capacity building, and support on the land for Native youth and families in our community.

Connecting People to Nature:

Our work with stakeholders from many perspectives simultaneously is a strength that builds a community approach to local watershed stewardship.

We've connected people to the watershed with volunteer citizen science: Cindy's WQ monitoring and the cutthroat migration study.

We've worked to improve Monroe's drinking water quality, connecting Eugenians to their actions/impacts and to their downstream neighbors.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

Our connections with many rural landowners is a great strength in connecting urban people to lands that work for conservation, farming, and forestry. We are increasingly using those connections to facilitate support for Indigenous peoples to gather.

We epitomize bridging the rural urban interface. It's what the LT watershed and LTWC are all about. Also bringing city folk out to volunteer on farmers habitat and WQ projects. Much of the oak/prairie work is in the WUI.

McKenzie River Trust Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: MRT is a regional land trust that has protected 6,839 acres in Fee title and Conservation Easement acquisitions, of which 4,453 acres are located within the Willamette Valley. In the Willamette Valley, MRT has primarily focused on protecting riparian areas, wet prairies, and oak habitats. As a non-profit specializing in real estate transactions, MRT has the ability to add to lands and waters within the R2R network, or assist other organizations in adding lands to their portfolios. MRT sets its conservation priorities with the assistance of partners such as watershed councils, EWEB, R2R, and many other agencies and organizations.

Connecting People to Nature: Over the past 4 years, MRT has added an education and outreach coordinator, volunteer coordinator, and communications manager in order to increase our ability to connect people to the outdoors through tours, events, and volunteer opportunities (at least until COVID-19 hit). This newly added capacity provides us the opportunity to partner with more organizations than in the past, and could lend itself to joint events/volunteer opportunities with R2R partners. Some highlights over the last 10 years include the annual Living River/Get outdoors day event at Green Island which draws between 600 to 1,000 people a year, the formation of the Friends of Finn Rock Reach near the town of Blue River, and partnerships with Lane County at Heilman Park.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: MRT relies heavily on its partners for the restoration and management of the 2,200 acres of land it owns within the Willamette Valley. Some highlights include: the restoration of Green Island which has resulted in the removal of revetments and planting of over 600 acres to riparian forest, working with the McKenzie Watershed Council on several properties, including riparian forest restoration at the Berggren Watershed Conservation Area, working with the Long Tom Watershed Council on several properties along Coyote Creek, and partnering with the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council at Creswell Butte and Native Oaks Ridge.

McKenzie Watershed Council Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

The work of the MWC is largely focused on in-stream and riparian habitat restoration with public and private landowners. This work, specifically with the USFS on large-scale floodplain restoration projects, is specifically intended to reestablish and enhance natural processes that create and maintain habitat for native species and protect water quality. Like work taking place in the on the Middle Fork, Siuslaw, and Deschutes watersheds these projects are pushing the envelope on what is possible with river restoration and floodplain reconnection projects. This work is particularly important for listed fish and may help be a local option for mitigating the impacts of climate change (hold water on the land longer, attenuate floods, potentially sequester carbon).

Our work with EWEB, MRT, UWSWCD, and others in the Pure Water Partners program is providing a systematic approach to engaging private landowners on the McKenzie River and providing a means for maintain long-term relationships and partnerships in a way that was not feasible with previous grant-driven funding. This work is largely focused on conserving and enhancing riparian habitat to protect water quality and habitat for native species.

Connecting People to Nature:

Pre-Covid I would have said that our youth education programs Salmon Watch and WATERS were organizational strengths. These programs have historically engaged up to 1,500 youth annual in approximately 40 field trips to see native salmon spawning and a range of field-based projects centered on local restoration and conservation lands. Salmon Watch depends on a robust volunteer effort that creates a shared experience connecting youth to local professional and interested citizens. The WATERS program is particularly valuable in connecting youth to local efforts to conserve and enhance land here in the Upper Willamette Basin. In 2018 and 2019, the MWC sponsored a conference for WATERS students in

partnership with LCC, Lane ESD and local school districts. Both conferences brought together over 100 local students to share their work. Unfortunately, the dual challenges of Covid and a shifting funding landscape leaves the viability of both programs in question. The MWC is currently working with other local watershed councils, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, and the McKenzie River Trust to reimagine shared and coordinated environmental education programming. This work will take place throughout the 2020-21 school year.

The MWC strives engage private landowners and the public in our work through a combination of public meetings and tours. Historically, the MWC held 8-9 public meetings a year in both Springfield and Leaburg. While most of these meetings were lightly attended by the public, certain topics like fire have drawn as many as 50 individuals. These meetings provide a forum for engaging the public and/or targeted audiences in a wide range of relevant topics, connecting them the local environment. The MWC also holds 2-3 public tours each year, primarily focused on local restoration projects. These events provide an ideal forum for Q/A and engaging people in conservation and restoration priorities.

Our restoration work provides ongoing and, in some cases, very significant contracts to the local work force. The large-scale floodplain restoration projects are typically 6 to 7 figure contracts. While the 4 large projects to date on Deer Creek and the South Fork McKenzie River have gone to out-of-area contractors (Portland and Sweet Home-based business), all provide direct local benefit through either sub-contracts to local business for log-hauling and other services, lodging (in Blue River and McKenzie Bridge), supplies and materials sourced from local business.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

While there is likely some PWP overlap here, mostly our work is N/A under this category.

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

- Rivers and Floodplains - MFWWC is committed to restoring processes and function to our rivers, particularly through floodplain restoration. Since 2017, we've restored 70 floodplain acres in the upper watershed.
- Oak and Prairie – Since 2017 MFWWC has worked with Willamalane to restore oak and prairie habitats in the lower watershed, including at Dorris Ranch and Thurston Hills Natural Area. Additionally, we have worked with private landowners from Jasper to Fall Creek on smaller scale oak and prairie projects.

Connecting People to Nature:

- Volunteer events – restoration and stewardship work parties, fish rescue
- Community talks – *Fermenting Ideas* – where community members can explore topics of science, restoration, culture, and all things watershed-related in partnership with local businesses
- Youth education – K-12 culturally sustaining education that connects all students to nature, including career technical experience for high schoolers
- Tours – pre and post project tours to restoration sites

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

- Reducing community fire risk in the wildland-urban interface through oak and prairie planning and restoration

Mount Pisgah Arboretum Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: MPA has preserved and enhanced habitat on a 209-acre site which includes threatened oak savanna, oak woodlands, wetlands, and riparian systems, and hosts rare and threatened species of plants and animals.

Connecting People to Nature: MPA's primary mission is engaging people with nature. To that end we've installed and continue to maintain over 7 miles of trails, host two annual festivals that engage thousands of people in celebrating local ecology, serve 3,000 K-5 students annually on field trips, host 500-1,000 attendees in nature walks and workshops, and have installed four permanent interpretive exhibits for self-guided learning and exploration.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: Mount Pisgah Arboretum serves as the main gateway to the Howard Buford Recreation Area. The Seavey Loop community serves as the gateway to Mount Pisgah Arboretum, and MPA has spent decades fostering good relationships with many of our neighbors, including by supporting farmers in opposing attempts to expand the Springfield Urban Growth Boundary into the neighborhood.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

- The Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP) has made a significant investment through fee-title acquisitions, conservation easements, and stewardship costs in the R2R region. Over 8,500 acres have been protected with support from the WWMP, an investment of over \$45 million.
- ODFW has purchased and managed over 500 acres within the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.
- ODFW manages and completes research for numerous fish and wildlife species. R2R partners have relied on ODFW for assistance with species specific surveys (e.g. Oregon chub); technical assistance with restoration projects (e.g. Finn Rock, Willamette Confluence); and technical support for partner grant funding.

Connecting People to Nature:

- Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP)- Provides citizen volunteer participation in achieving the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish management objectives. STEP support public education programs within schools (e.g. salmon egg program).
- Wildlife Areas – Fern Ridge Wildlife Area provides opportunities to hike, view nature, fish and hunt.
- ODFW Volunteer Program – Region Wildlife Volunteer Programs, STEP, Volunteer Hosts, Anger Education Program, Hunter Education Program, and Outdoor Skills Education Program.
- ODFW Wildlife and Fisheries Student Internships – annual paid internships to undergraduates.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

- ODFW manages and owns lands at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area which provides a substantial buffer (5,794 acres) between Eugene and the rural communities to the west. ODFW manages fish and wildlife within the urban-rural interface.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

- OPRD owns and manages several properties in the R2R area, especially along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River.
- OPRD properties are managed to balance a variety of objectives including protecting and providing outstanding natural areas.
- OPRD partners with R2R collaborators and others to restore and maintain high quality natural areas.
- Examples include floodplain restoration at Glassbar Island State Park (with FBP), at Elijah Bristow (with MFWWC), and other park properties in the region.

Connecting People to Nature:

- OPRD properties are established to provide recreation opportunities for visitors to enjoy and learn about our rich cultural/natural history. We welcome a wide variety of types of recreation and are continuously striving to improve sustainable access and to include and welcome historically underrepresented park users.
- OPRD's focus on the Willamette River Greenway properties has been elevated to help break down barriers of recreational opportunities on the Willamette River and to foster educational opportunities related to safety, value of resources and youth along with elevating resource protection.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

- This is not a focal area of OPRD specifically, however, serving the current and future generations of Oregonians is explicitly described in our mission. This area of the southern Willamette Valley has a dense population centered in both urban and rural areas throughout the R2R area. We serve this population, and visitors from outside the area, explicitly.

The Nature Conservancy Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Habitat restoration and management – on the ground and technical expertise.

Connecting People to Nature: TNC has conducted educational outreach, tours, and trainings for the public as well as conservation stakeholders.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: The three large acquisitions and restoration projects TNC has undertaken in the last 15 years are all in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). All three have undergone oak restoration and fuels reduction work. TNC has also supported multiple acquisition projects in the R2R area that have ultimately ended in ownership of another partner.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

- Land base includes broad array of habitats, including 'best of the last' Willamette Valley wet prairie; restored upland prairie (both habitat for recovering endangered plants and animals). Examples of oak, conifer forest. Substantial contributions to ESA recovery and downlisting (Oregon chub, Bradshaw's lomatium, Fender's blue butterfly, prairie species); regional prescribed fire partnership; prairie restoration and management methods.
- Terrestrial Stewardship staff maintains expertise, demonstrates leadership, in land management including ecological restoration, invasive species management, wildlife management with emphasis on Northwestern pond turtle, purple martin, other species. Recovery planning and implementation for ESA (Endangered Species Act) species associate with prairie habitat.
- Aquatic Stewardship work includes contributions to Oregon chub recovery and management; anadromous fish work to compensate for effects of dams. Annual fall deep lake drawdown at Fall Creek allows juvenile salmon to migrate downstream, also allows for sediment movement which would otherwise be blocked by the dam.
- Water management includes measuring temperature and trying to meet TMDLs, flow targets improve summer water quality downstream of dams, e-flows (environmental flows) mimic a more natural hydrology and providing a stable/abundant water supply in the face of climate change predicted conditions.

Connecting People to Nature:

- Dams have minimized flooding in the Willamette Valley since the 1950's, which have altered how and where people use the landscape. Without flood risk management, many of the current river-side trails would not be possible or would need to be constantly re-built. Agricultural production would also be different without flood reduction and stored water supply.

- Recreation Operations staff maintain developed Corps parks at Dorena, Cottage Grove, Fern Ridge, Dexter, Lookout Point, Fall Creek. Opportunities include campgrounds, day use areas, trails, access to lake surface for water-based recreation.
- Outreach and interpretation in Corps-managed parks, and local youth through school programs and field trips
- Most Corps land is open to public entry, including natural areas.
- Comprehensive youth crew program, employing high school aged participants in stewardship activities and environmental education to encourage the next generation of constituents for functioning ecosystems. Currently includes relationships with Kalapuya High, Kennedy High, Lane Metro Youth Corps, Lane Youth Services, Coast Fork Willamette Watershed youth corps.
- AmeriCorps and Student Conservation Association members reach adult community members to hone and expand skills and awareness.
- Real Estate Outgrant partners (Lane County, State Parks) manage recreation in additional developed parks at Fern Ridge, Dorena, Dexter, Fall Creek.
- ODFW Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, licensed to operate on Corps fee title lands, provides youth and adult hunting experience unavailable elsewhere in the R2R planning area.
- Expanding cultural resource program and building relationships with Tribes. Formally documenting traditional cultural landscapes with Grand Ronde, but still unknown for other Tribes in the region. Need to formalize traditional uses of natural resources (gathering, harvesting, tending plant materials, etc.) to allow for collection while protection sensitive resources.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

Shoreline and Boundary programs formalize relationships with neighbors, mostly private small town & sub-rural/hobby farm small-holders.

- Additional boundary interaction with large timber interests, federal land management agencies.
- Fire safety in rare cases where neighbors have insufficient distance from structures to manage their own firebreaks.
- Some opportunity for oak release and resiliency management on Corps managed lands.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: 80% of BLM lands are in Late Successional Reserves or Riparian Reserves; we managed several dozen Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in Lane County; we conducting aquatic and terrestrial restoration work annually across our public lands and actively work to protect endangered species.

Connecting People to Nature: Environmental education work at the McGown Creek environmental education center, west Eugene wetlands, and with local schools.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: Partnering with ODF and others in fuel reduction projects and community wildlife action plans; providing economic stimulus via BLM's O&C lands;

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Response (specific to WVNWRC):

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Through the Partners Program, the WVNWRC is able to support our R2R partners on habitat restoration projects, which includes technical assistance on habitat restoration and management, utilizing refuge-owned equipment on restoration projects, and prescribed fire support.

Connecting People to Nature: The WVNWRC includes more than 11,000 acres across three refuges where visitors can enjoy what the Service calls the Big Six Public Uses: wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, interpretation, fishing, and hunting. While the refuges are outside of the R2R geography, the benefits cited under this principle are far reaching and serve to compliment R2R objectives.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: The primary contribution that the WVNWRC brings to this principle is support of habitat restoration projects that reduce hazardous fuels as well as the ability to support prescribed fire.

Willamalane Parks and Recreation District Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Providing parks and natural areas. Both Parks and Natural Areas provide ecosystem services that support a healthy population. WPRD provides recreation programming, so directly working with people to be healthier, partnerships with a variety of other outside organizations.

Accomplishments:

- Broadening our partnerships to get more work done effectively, including watershed councils, BLM, State Parks
- Implementing restoration projects that improve habitat
- Acquiring and developing natural area parks
- Managing natural area parks
- Increased focus on trail development, that has enabled the public to get out and be more active in our parks and natural areas
- Grants for restoration work to improve the quality of our natural areas

Connecting People to Nature: Our parks, trails and natural areas, provide places for people to connect to nature. Our Organization has also partnered with other Orgs like Watershed Councils to host tours, science pubs all in an effort to get people better connected to nature.

Our rec programs include classes that get people and youth outside. Our Org has done a lot of social media work to also try and connect people to nature, inviting them out to our natural areas, showing photos of cool species, encouraging scavenger hunts.

Our Volunteer coordinator is always getting volunteers to help with weed removal and hosting events. We work with Boy Scouts on Eagle Scout projects, including 4 bridges over the last 3 years that have improved trail systems.

Accomplishments:

- Our recreation program will be doing more than ever in the coming years to connect youth and adults to our natural areas and rivers, including mountain biking at Thurston Hills natural Area and Accessing the Willamette River for canoe and water safety.
- Construction of the Middle Fork Path and Mill Race Path
- Acquisition and development of Thurston Hills Natural Area

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

Our Organization has one major park; Thurston Hills Natural area that is on the Urban-rural interface. We have and will continue to do large amounts of Hazardous fuel reduction to reduce the risk of fire on this site on the rural urban interface. In other locations where appropriate, our Org is trying to soften the transition and provide opportunities at the urban edge to access other trail systems or natural areas.

Accomplishments:

- collaboration with TEAM Springfield to facilitate new development consistent with WPRD comp plan, City of Springfield comp plan, and Metro Plan
- partnered with City of Springfield to purchase and/or develop key new recreation facilities, such as Middle Fork Path, Mill Race Path, and Thurston Hills Natural Area. Have also partnered with SUB and Springfield Public Schools to deliver other key parks within the UGB.
- Acquired Harvest Landing, Clearwater Park from Lane County. Entered into long-term management agreement with City of Springfield for McKenzie Weyerhaeuser Natural Area (aka Oxbow property).

- Updated comp plan in 2012, and incorporated several priority projects previously identified through R2R.
- Continued partnership with City of Eugene to collaboratively manage Whilamut Natural Area, a key gateway and open space for both communities.

Willamette Resources & Education Network Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

- WREN provides legitimate use
- Promote the preservation of wetland ecosystems and their service values
- Share partners' conservation and restoration projects with interns, students, local families.
- Assist in monitoring endangered and sensitive species, surveying endangered Fender's Blue Butterfly in the WEW
- Staff and interns pick up trash in the WEW

Connecting People to Nature:

- Provide educational opportunities that promote appreciation, understanding of local ecology, and unique sense of place. Bring learners and future environmental leaders to the wetlands.
- Create CTE connections for interns and students for future career pathways in the field of conservation/restoration/sustainability
- Develop and facilitate events and summer programs in about the WEW
- Focus on volunteerism; giving back to the WEW
- Develop standards-aligned curriculum about Stormwater systems and wetland connections for Lane ESD.
- Publish educational articles and news that features projects in the WEW
- Collaborate with partners to incorporate data and projects into programs and curriculum

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

- Preserve functioning ecosystems in proximity to urban centers: monitoring sensitive species, picking up trash, promoting wetland ecosystem service values to learners, community members, bringing thousands of youth to the wetlands to learn every year.
- Using fire ecology education to manage the urban-rural interface.

Question #3: Your Organization's Anticipated Focus in the Coming Years

Question 3a. Based on your organization's mission and recent planning efforts, what do you anticipate your primary focus will be in the coming years as it relates to advancement of the R2R vision?

City of Eugene Response:

In coming years, Eugene Parks and Open Space will be implementing our 2018 Parks and Rec System Plan which includes projects consistent with the R2R guiding principles such as continuing to enhance and restore habitats, creating a more livable community, and increasing access to parks and open space for all community members. The focus will include taking care of what we have as well as expanding into new areas and building new facilities (parks, trails, mountain bike facilities and other recreation amenities). We will continue to address hazardous fuel loads in the wildland-urban interface and will be implementing a new wetland mitigation bank. As a City we will be updating our Stormwater Basin Management Plans and continuing to implement projects to improve water quality and address hydrologic modification. The City also has an updated Climate Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions and increase the City's resiliency to climate change. The City is in the midst of an Urban Reserves project to identify potential lands for future urban growth boundary expansion beyond 2032. This directly impacts the urban-rural interface and will take into account open space, farm, and forestry needs as well as housing, schools, parks, and jobs in planning for potential urban expansion. Master planning for development of the recently adopted Clear Lake Urban Growth Boundary expansion is underway and will include transportation and stormwater infrastructure, parks and schools.

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Outreach in the drinking water source protection areas is currently underway that will lead to developing a suite of projects dedicated to improving drinking water in the CF watershed. Focusing outreach efforts towards working land and upland prairie and oak habitats. Planning efforts in the Lower Coast Fork to model and design projects along the river to increase channel complexity and hydrologic function.

Connecting People to Nature: Continuing our Science on Tap presentation at our local restaurants and sharing watershed based regionally relevant educational topics. Offering employment to local teens to exposing them to networking opportunities with NR professionals, bringing cash into the local economy by providing new jobs, training the next generation of NR professionals.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: Education of landowners on the urban rural interface on optional and best practices to allow them to be more resilient to fire risk and continue to prioritize working on working lands.

Friends of Buford Park Response:

- LCF Floodplain restoration planning (TA) and resulting projects along 12+ miles along the Lower reach of the Coast Fork Willamette River including investments at the Confluence of the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River, within the HBRA (North Bottomlands, Arboretum, and South Bottomlands)
- Implementation of the HBRA Habitat Management Plan including the restoration of 500 acres of prairie and savanna, 500 acres of oak woodland, and the enhancement of an additional 1000ac => resulting in the stewardship of priority habitats sustained through the implementation of large scale ecological burns (100-200+ ac/yr)
- Improve access to the Willamette Water trail and water based recreation
- Improve access to local natural areas via mass transit
- Increased availability of locally sourced, locally produced native herbaceous seed representing diverse species associated with prairie, savanna, woodland, and floodplain habitats.

Lane County Parks Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Implementing the HBRA HMP, partnering to plan and implement smaller habitat improvement projects in other parks and natural areas as resources allow. See Strategies under Goal 5 (“Protect Resources”), such as 5.1, 5.6, and 5.9 in the LCP Parks Master Plan. Providing compatible public access is a focus.

Connecting People to Nature: Volunteer adoptions, volunteer events, partnering with other organizations such as watershed councils. Provide more and improved trails incl. ADA access. Improve trailheads, signage, website, etc. See Strategies under Goal 2 of the LCP Parks master Plan (“Connect”), such as 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, etc. , as well as 5.15, in the LCP Parks Master Plan. Providing compatible public access is a focus.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: Managing fuels in prairie and oak habitats, and habitat restoration in general, at HBRA and certain other parks are our main contribution here.

Long Tom Watershed Council Response:

We’ve drafted a statement that builds on our mission, which articulates our commitment to do more and to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Long Tom Watershed Council: The health of the watershed is inextricably linked with the contributions of all people. LTWC recognizes the disproportionate impacts systems of oppression have on People of Color and Indigenous People. We believe the organization’s strength depends on breaking down implicit, systemic inequities. We strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment that grows our collective wisdom.

We are in a time of learning, acknowledging, and reorganizing to draft organizational practices and policies that reflect cultural competence/ethnorelativity. We are actively learning what meaningful Tribal partnerships look like for our organization and partnerships in the southern Willamette Valley; and we are beginning to work to decolonize work on the land and with each other.

We are continuing our work with multiple non-traditional partners toward clean water and fish and wildlife habitat restoration; more deeply connecting and fulfilling this work by integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion.

McKenzie River Trust Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Continued acquisitions in the R2R area of areas for projects that have habitat or green infrastructure benefits. Continued partnerships with EWEB and the PWP (Pure Water Partners) to support acquisition within the McKenzie River Watershed. Potentially greater involvement in oak and prairie areas in the area south and southwest of Eugene during the remaining lifespan of the BPA’s Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program.

Connecting People to Nature: Growth of the volunteer program and the Volunteer Land Steward work to increase people’s connection to the area while providing stewardship capacity.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: Continued partnerships with the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network on MRT lands within the R2R service area

McKenzie Watershed Council Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We anticipate a continue focus on large-scale floodplain restoration projects in partnership with the USFS, MRT, ODFW and other, as well as ongoing work through the PWP as our the MWC's focus in the coming years. I do see the scope of this effort changing to a wider geographic area through established partnership through the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network and other partnerships. I would also like to see more of a shift to climate resilience projects or reimaged monitoring/research elements in existing projects (i.e. floodplain reconnection).

Connecting People to Nature:

I would love to reimage how we, as both an individual organization and as a collaborative (either R2R, UWSN, etc.) engage with diverse, underserved communities, and non-traditional partners. I believe that we need to do significantly more to ensure that our work is relevant going forward in the face of the reality of past and current inequity, changing demographics, and climate change

The cooperative effort to reimagine local environmental education, ideally through a DEI lens, may be one potential way to implement that priority.

I would also like to see a more cooperative approach to volunteer and outreach events across the entire Upper Willamette in the coming years. Working with other watershed councils and the MRT to accomplish this will likely be a priority for the MWC.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

Through the PWP, the MWC is now working with the EWEB, LTWC, SUB, Cities of Springfield, Cities of Eugene, Willamalane, and others to bring the LTWC's Trout Friendly Landscapes to Springfield as a way to manage stormwater and protect water quality. This effort is being aligned with the PWP and will likely be rebranded. This is an exciting opportunity to address a priority local water quality threat (as repeatedly identified by EWEB), engage new communities (urban) and potential provide an format for implementing diversity and equity priorities.

The UWSWCD work to develop a tax-base includes a priority to provide funds for fuels reduction in the Urban-Rural interface. While much of this potential work is uncertain it is an exciting opportunity to address a very real local need.

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

- Rivers and Floodplains - MFWWC is committed to restoring processes and function to our rivers, particularly through floodplain restoration. We are currently in the planning phase of floodplain restoration at Elijah Bristow State Park (expected to begin in 2023) and are involved in the Willamette Confluence Preserve future planning, as well as other riverine sites in the lower Middle Fork.
- Oak and Prairie - We are currently in the process of planning oak and prairie restoration with private landowners on a 650+ acre parcel called Jasper Prairie. Lastly, as with our floodplain work, our oak and prairie work occurs throughout the watershed, including in Oakridge with a vision for a Community Forest and south of Oakridge in the Rigdon landscape working with the USFS and community.

Connecting People to Nature:

- Volunteer events – restoration and stewardship work parties, fish rescue
- Community talks – *Fermenting Ideas* – where community members can explore topics of science, restoration, culture, and all things watershed-related in partnership with local businesses
- Youth education – K-12 culturally sustaining education that connects all students to nature, including career technical experience for high schoolers
- Tours – pre and post project tours to restoration sites

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

- Reducing community fire risk in the wildland-urban interface through oak and prairie planning and restoration
- Working with the Oakridge Air partnership on education, outreach, and home heating upgrades to improve air quality for residents and visitors of Oakridge and Westfir.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Work with partner organizations to engage in mid-size restoration projects, particularly in wetland and floodplain areas. Support the implementation of the HBRA Habitat Management Plan.

Connecting People to Nature: Continue with the implementation of MPA's site interpretation plan, reimagine the K-5 field trips program, expand formal adult education opportunities, remove barriers to site accessibility

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: Enhance relationships with neighbors, and improve vegetation management to reduce fire danger.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

The Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program expires in 2025, efforts to work with partners on fee title acquisition and conservations easements will continue as the program reaches the agreement conditions.

Connecting People to Nature:

ODFW is continuing to expand upon programs to keep people connected to nature; specifically, through the R3 Program (Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivate).

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

Oregon State Parks will continue to provide ecosystem services as a byproduct of open space and intact habitats. We will remain committed to protecting resilient ecosystems that support native populations of plants and animals, including rare habitats. Additionally, ecosystem services, such as improved water quality, are included in our restoration proposals and projects. In the near future, OPRD will not likely be looking to expand our land base in the area, but that could always change and OPRD will evaluate opportunities as they arise.

Connecting People to Nature:

OPRD will continue to focus on connecting people to nature with an increasing focus on welcoming new and historically underserved communities.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

Again, OPRD's focus is not explicit to the rural-urban interface although we recognize that our primary customer base has been from communities. Our role will be to adapt proactively in ways that sustain the natural, historic, cultural, scenic and recreational values of our properties, as local urban/rural areas grow and evolve.

The Nature Conservancy Response:

Responses under question 3b.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

- Results of current ESA consultation on anadromous fish and continued advancement of fish passage improvements will be a major driver of Corps prioritization and management decisions at all levels.
- Continue to 'maintain and enhance ecosystem function' per Army Corps Environmental Stewardship regulations.
- Emphasis on ESA recovery; maintaining Critical Habitat; managing to sustain rare species to prevent listing; post-delisting management; increasing understanding plus sustaining and enhancing important management-dependent habitats. These particularly include wet and upland prairie, oak, wetlands, and floodplain/riverine habitat.
- Target organisms include, but are not limited to, Northwestern pond turtle, salmonids, Oregon chub, pollinators, shorebirds, and other birds.
- Continue integrated weed management program: maintaining and strengthening partnerships to work beyond Project boundaries, limit environmental damage by existing invasives, eradicate new species; prevent new invasions.
- Continue to innovate flow management methods to benefit biodiversity (see Fall Creek, above and Sustainable Rivers, below)

Connecting People to Nature:

- Continue encouraging low-impact visits to natural areas consistent with maintaining ecosystem function.
- Seek funding for ADA compliance in developed recreation areas. Replace aging infrastructure. Continue outreach and interpretation programs.
- Continue to expand relationships, interactions, and stewardship with Tribes on all natural and cultural resources, including water quality.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

- Continue boundary and shoreline management.
- Increase efforts on urban wildland interface, improve resiliency and safety in particular; create defensible buffers around structures; evaluate existing vegetation and reduce fuels when possible.
- Working lands: maintain agricultural water withdrawals and municipal/industrial water supply, per State and BOR permits.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: We will continue to manage our reserve lands for ecosystem health. We will continue burning and restoration activities at the west Eugene Wetlands.

Connecting People to Nature: We are actively developing new environmental education curriculum to be used at various locations on BLM public lands. We are also hoping to make major investments in environmental education infrastructure (Red House at West Eugene Wetlands) to provide better educational forum.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: We will continue to invest in fuels reduction work in locations where it will have the most impact. We hope to construct 8.5 miles of new non-motorized trails in Thurston Hills, and hope to undertake recreation planning in the Shotgun OHV Area. We will continue to conduct sustained yield timber harvest.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Response (specific to WVNWRC):

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: This guiding principle has been, and will likely continue to be, the top priority for the WVNWRC. In particular, the following components with a focus on oak and grassland associated birds as well as federally listed species.

- Sustain viable and resilient ecosystems that support stable populations of native plants and wildlife,
- Preserve regionally threatened habitat types (wetlands, flowing water/riparian, oak woodlands, oak savannas, and prairie).

Connecting People to Nature: The WVNWRC considers all of the components of this principle to be benefits of our Visitor Services Program at the refuges. While the refuges themselves are currently outside of the R2R geography, we consider the benefits of the refuge to people to be far reaching. In addition, we hope that the contributions of the Partners Program indirectly benefit this principle by improving the quality of habitat that people visit within the R2R geography.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: The WVNWRC Partners Program benefits the following three components:

- Preserve functioning ecosystems in proximity to urban centers,
- Reduce threat of catastrophic wildfire in the urban-wildland interface, and
- Support economically and ecologically viable working lands (farms and forests).

Willamalane Parks and Recreation District Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment: Continuing to manage properties for habitat and natural resource values to sustain ecosystem services. Continuing to implement habitat restoration projects. Continuing to build compatible recreation and habitat management. Develop management and master plans for each natural area. Identify and prioritize opportunities for additional natural area acquisition. Continued partnership with City of Springfield and non-profit organizations to support increased green infrastructure. Seek opportunities to strengthen collaboration with public health organizations, such as Lane County.

Connecting People to Nature: Continued expansion of the recreation program offerings and development of trails at Thurston Hills Natural Area, increased focus on partnerships and environmental education. Increasing the amount of interpretive information available so the public can learn about our parks and natural areas on their own. Design and implement new education and interpretative programs for youth and marginalized populations. Explore opportunities to foster greater awareness of Native American cultures and their historic presence and land management practices in our region. Seek to establish an east-west multiuse path network along the McKenzie, connecting east and west portions of Springfield on the north side of Hwy. 126.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface: Continued efforts to manage fuels at Thurston Hills to minimize the likelihood of a fire spreading to the neighborhoods to the north. Developing trail systems that can connect to bigger trail systems, developing gateways when entering the community. Complete phased replacement of filbert orchards at Dorris Ranch to sustain is agricultural heritage and role as an important rural reserve and recreation site.

Willamette Resources & Education Network Response:

Connecting People to Nature:

- Work with R2R and tribal partners to modify and adapt Fireworks! Curriculum for the southern Willamette Valley
- Continue to develop Stormwater curriculum for the City of Eugene and Lane ESD.
- Work on Educational planning committee with Willamette Stewardship Network

- Working with WEW BLM partners
- Working with Public Land Stewards
- Connecting adults to the wetlands through Wetland Wanders
- School district programs, long term engagement with schools
- Community outreach and programs and events
- College and career hiring interns working toward professional careers in conservation/education/ecology/etc.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

- Continue to assist with monitoring sensitive species in the WEW and helping with Fenders Blue surveys
- Picking up garbage in the WEW
- Provide interns to assist with field work

Question 3b. Are there any exciting projects or geographic focus areas your organization will be concentrating on in the coming years?

City of Eugene Response:

With the pending completion of the Suzanne Arlie Park Master Plan, we will be launching into trail and mountain bike park development in the coming years. In the next couple years, we will also be completing construction of the new Riverfront Park which will transform a formerly industrial portion of the riverfront into a vibrant urban park. We are also working on development of the Santa Clara Community Park which will serve as a community hub and anchor for future park and community center development. Eugene Parks and Open Space is investigating other options for park acquisition and development north of Beltline and close to the Willamette River. The City is also planning for a creek restoration project on the Amazon that returns a current concrete channel to a more natural state.

In development projects across the City, we continue to install green infrastructure to better mimic natural hydrology and treat stormwater run-off. The City is looking to implement a more regional approach to green infrastructure where possible creating a positive neighborhood amenity that is also more effective and efficient. The updated Climate Action Plan contains a goal to increase urban tree canopy cover to 30% by 2030. The City's urban tree canopy currently is ~23%. It will take a concerted effort to reach this goal. The City also continues to construct and enhance opportunities for low emission transportation including bike lanes, separated bike facilities, signaled crosswalks, etc. which promote a more livable, healthy community.

Eugene Parks and Open Space in concert with other public works partners at the City are interested in conducting ecosystem services analyses to inform upcoming master plan efforts and future project prioritizations. We would also like to improve online access to information about our parks and trails possibly through an online map and other digital media.

Lastly, with the events of this summer and the ongoing racial reckoning, this feels like a watershed moment in many ways to address systemic racism in our organization and practices. As an organization, the City is embarking on efforts to understand, change, and abolish as needed the policies, practices, and culture within the City that uphold our inherited system of bias and privilege. We are striving to create a more welcoming, positive environment for black, indigenous, and people of color.

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

- In Mosby – floodplain restoration and connectivity.
- Lower CF – Oak habitat and working lands, floodplain restoration and connectivity.
- Upper CF – working lands, riparian restoration, drinking water protection.
- Row river - riparian restoration, floodplain restoration, oak habitats and working lands.

Friends of Buford Park Response:

- See responses listed under question 3a.

Lane County Parks Response:

- HBRA in particular really seems to be achieving a critical mass in terms of actually achieving the potential that has been evident for the park for decades.

- We operate a number of parks on land managed by the Corps of Engineers. Many of the facilities are aging and provide opportunities to re-envision the park uses and designs to address the future needs of the public.
- Achieving regional habitat connections and public connections (off of highways and other than automobiles) is something we would like to focus on if the opportunities to partner emerge.
- We would like to focus in particular on ways that underserved communities can better benefit from our parks.
- We expect to play a role, as yet undefined, in the Willamette Confluence Preserve.

Long Tom Watershed Council Response:

- Investing our time in foundational understanding of Tribal history, law, and marginalizing narratives with our partners in the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network, and deepening our learning collectively to formalize a commitment to reorienting our approach to land and water work to center Indigenous people and Tribes.
- To forward prescribed fire capacity building efforts with partners in the southern and middle Willamette Valley along with statewide and regional partners with proven experience in implementing prescribed fire. To create a fire and fuels program for the southern Willamette Valley that is cross boundary in effect, partnering across Tribal, private, and public lands to reduce hazardous fuels and manage a fire-adapted landscape for human safety, ecological integrity, and community health.
- Improving habitat and opening aquatic passage on the Long Tom River between Fern Ridge and the Willamette confluence to benefit Chinook, trout, eels/lamprey and people.
- Pesticide monitoring to support urban and agricultural areas making informed decisions to reduce contaminant load in Amazon Creek and Long Tom River, and thus the receiving waters of the Willamette River.
- Urban stormwater retrofit projects to reduce pollution and protect drinking water in multiple areas.
- Habitat improvement projects along the mainstem Long Tom River and Willamette River from Eugene to Corvallis; in upland oak, prairie, and wetland habitats in priority areas - Coyote Creek, Spencer Creek, lower Long Tom, Ferguson Creek, and Fern Ridge subbasins.
- Citizen engagement meetings and tours with stakeholders from many perspectives engaging in dialogue and action.

McKenzie River Trust Response:

Over the next 5 years, projects within the R2R service area that MRT will be focusing on will be:

- Major floodplain restoration project within the Finn Rock Reach area near the town of Blue River on the McKenzie River.
- Likely ownership of the TNC's Willamette Confluence property and working with partners to explore further restoration opportunities, management scenarios, and public access possibilities.
- Rewriting Green Island's land management plan and taking a fresh look at public access possibilities.
- MRT will be developing a DEI strategic plan that could result in new partnerships, acquisition priorities, access goals.
- MRT will have a greater climate change lens when evaluating projects. This may lead to the prioritization of projects that provide green infrastructure in the face of climate change impacts.

McKenzie Watershed Council Response:

The MWC will begin a planning process in late 2020, in collaboration with a range of partners including the USFS, MRT, ODFW and others, focused on a concept call the Middle McKenzie. We define this project area as the river reach from Horse Creek downstream to Ennis Creek, and includes the lower portion of the South Fork McKenzie River downstream from Cougar Dam. The MRT-owned Finn Rock Reach property, USFS lands, and several private industrial timber parcels present an opportunity to reconnect floodplain habitat and enhance in-stream condition on

a very large-scale. We have conceptually identified up to ten projects with varying levels of viability in this area. Some projects are well underway with permitting completed (South Fork McKenzie River) and others (Finn Rock Reach) currently being planned. This concept has the potential to establish 10-15-year strategic and collaborative approach to aquatic restoration on the McKenzie River.

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

- Upper Middle Fork / Rigdon Landscape
- Lower Middle Fork (Dexter Dam to Springfield)
- Within these geographic scopes, we will primarily focus on floodplain and oak/prairie restoration

Mount Pisgah Arboretum Response:

Primarily those mentioned in response to question 3A. Additionally, we expect to be involved in providing educational programming on the Willamette Confluence Preserve.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

- Our partnership with MFWWC at Elijah Bristow to restore floodplain connectivity throughout the park will be a large, multi-year planning effort. This project will likely be the largest and most significant (in terms of cost, planning, impact on the park, etc.) that OPRD will undertake in the R2R area.
- OPRD will also be working to rebuild itself organizationally in the coming years after we begin recovering economically from the impacts that COVID-19 has had on our agency.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Response:

- The Northeast Coyote Unit at Fern Ridge WA will be phased out of agriculture and restored to wet and upland prairie habitats starting fall 2020. Working with Ducks Unlimited and the Long Tom Watershed Council, 190 acres will be restored by 2025.
- The potential addition of 145 acres to the South Coyote Unit at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.
- The revised Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Management Plan will be competed and approved by the ODFW Commission.
- ODFW is in the initial phases of developing a Habitat Division that will support and strengthen ODFW's longstanding commitment to habitat restoration and improvement. Establishment of the Habitat Division will hinge on funding and approval by the Oregon Legislature and Governor.

The Nature Conservancy Response:

TNC Oregon is creating a 4-year strategic plan that addresses fiscal years 2022-2025. The Nature Conservancy recognizes that the scale and severity of the environmental threats facing us today require a paradigm shift in how we conduct worldwide conservation work. TNC's Shared Conservation Agenda lays out a roadmap for conservation actions to promote a world where nature and people thrive. The Nature Conservancy is now focused around two core themes within the Shared Conservation Agenda:

1. Ensure healthy oceans, freshwater and lands
2. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Oregon's four-year plan will explicitly embed climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, indigenous peoples, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) into our conservation planning processes. It will also include clear and measurable conservation intermediate results and outcomes so we can evaluate progress and impact. It will include equitable conservation outcomes and be clear about the evidence base for each conservation strategy.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Response:

- Applicable to all principles: master plan revisions (focus on recreation, habitat restoration, and overall land management). Current timeline Coast Fork (Cottage Grove and Dorena) now through 2022; Long Tom (Fern Ridge) from 2021 to 2023; Middle Fork Willamette (Dexter, Lookout Point, Fall Creek, and Hills Creek) from 2022 to 2024; McKenzie (Blue River and Cougar) from 2024 to 2026.
- Willamette Valley Project Environmental Impact Statement for the continued operations and maintenance of the 13-dam system, plus the Willamette bank protection system (a series of revetments along the mainstem and major tributaries). There are a dozen cooperating agencies on this effort, including Tribes, federal and state government. The resulting NEPA action and ESA fish consultations have the high potential to drive future water conditions, budgets, other actions.
- Sustainable Rivers Project is an Army Corps and Nature Conservancy partnership that allows for research, study, and implementation of operational changes to dam management to achieve more ecologically sustainable flows downstream. The Willamette Valley Project has already made some changes and will renew that effort beginning this year. More at:
<https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/sustainableivers/sites/willamette/>
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/protect-water-and-land/land-and-water-stories/sustainable-rivers-project/>

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Response:

None listed

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Response (specific to WVNWRC):

- The WVNWRC will continue to support many of the R2R members that are engaging in oak and prairie restoration. In particular:
- New properties acquired by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife around the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.
- The Salyers Family and Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council at Creswell Oaks.
- Capacity for prescribed ecological burns within the R2R geography.
- Restoration of the Camp Creek property that was just acquired by the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.
- Restoration of populations of federally listed species.

Willamalane Parks and Recreation District Response:

- Possible connections to the Confluence Property and perhaps to the Eugene Ridgeline trail System (at Confluence/Coryell Ridge area)
- Trail connection to the Thurston hills via Middle Fork Path or Virginia daisy and the haul road or something else following along Jasper Road to Mount Vernon
- Comprehensive plan update 2022
- More trails at Thurston Hills Natural Area
- Development and increased public access at Allen property (Dorris Ranch)
- Connecting trails at Thurston Hills to BLM trails

- Possible extension of the multi-use path system to High Banks road
- Improvements to off street path network in Springfield (Moe Mountain?)
- Georgia Pacific Natural Area and the Middle Fork of the Willamette River
- Potential strategic property acquisition near Harvest Landing and Thurston Hills Natural Area
- Partnership with City of Springfield to purchase and development riverfront park in Glenwood

Willamette Resources & Education Network Response:

We will continue to focus our work on the importance of the West Eugene Wetlands. This will include wet prairie, upland, and mixed oak savannah ecosystems.

Question #4: The Rivers to Ridges Vision for the Next Twenty Years

Question 4. *In an ideal world, what types of accomplishments would you like to see the R2R Partnership as a whole achieve over the next two decades (think big)?*

City of Eugene Response:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...continuing to fill in the gaps in our open space system with a continued focus on connecting habitats and people to those habitats. Expand the connected open space vision to include potential connections to Creswell, Cottage Grove, Oakridge, Corvallis, and the coast to include trail and path connections. We've spoken at Parks and Open Space about the concept that everyone's front door could be a trailhead meaning you can walk in your neighborhood amongst treed and vegetated spaces to reach your destination.

We would like to see some expansion of open space visioning and implementation to the north and west of Eugene to include a conceptual Nature Park North consisting of connected open space along the Willamette and McKenzie rivers. We're also interested in focusing partner energies on an agricultural belt, thinking about opportunities to promote agritourism and culinary tourism to include local producers, restaurants, breweries and wineries.

We think there is opportunity to continue to expand opportunities to learn from each other and other voices not currently in the partnership to create a thriving, diverse and equitable community including a stewardship/restoration economy with sustainable, well paying "green jobs". The partnership could play a role in bringing together different perspectives and approaches to land management to improve people's connection to the land and the cultures present across the landscape. This approach would be additive to our existing approaches to restoration and stewardship to continue to protect and improve land, water and air for the community in the southern Willamette Valley. This could, and maybe should, take the form of a separate process and set of outcomes from the R2R vision refresh.

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward creating additional corridors of oak and prairie habitat from east to west.

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward creating a bike trail connecting the row river trail to Oakridge.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward working with local officials to create support incentive programs to keep working lands working or providing input in land use planning efforts.

Friends of Buford Park Response:

- Annual Fire Festival
- Upper Willamette Adventure Trolley

Lane County Parks Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...Complete land conservation and habitat restoration/stewardship at priority sites identified in the 2003 vision document – plus additional sites that have emerged since then (such as Callis, C-Bow Ranch, etc.)

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...Completing connections between parks and along rivers/lakes and along the ridgeline to achieve the 2003 vision, plus new sites. Increase capacity to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to relieve pressure on popular parks such as Spencer Butte and Mt. Pisgah, which are vulnerable to overuse.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...recognizing that land within UGB's (and eventually urban reserves), when developed, will benefit from open space conservation and restoration – future growth also provides opportunities for creative conservation.

Long Tom Watershed Council Response:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- Equity, diversity, and inclusion and restructuring our collaborative work to reflect cross-cultural support and communication in action for a healthy, shared landscape and community.
- Consistently engaging people in the ongoing learning process of how we can best work in community for a healthy watershed.
- Rebuilding a sense of common landscape with increased opportunity to share and steward land and water resources, and have reciprocal relationships between groups and to the land.

McKenzie River Trust Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- Protecting almost all of the floodplain upstream of Eugene/Springfield, removing as many revetments as possible, which will simultaneously restore salmonid habitat, provide water quality benefits, and provide flood storage at a time where climate change will bring about greater flood events as we transition away from snow events during the winter.
- Quintupling prescribed fire capacity for fuels mitigation and oak/prairie habitat management, necessary as climate change causes massive Douglas-fir die off.
- The formation of multiple community forests that are managed for carbon benefits.

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- Greater Tribal involvement across area in determining acquisition priorities and management guidelines; properties whose primary access is dedicated to indigenous uses.
- The creation of smaller “wild” areas spread throughout the R2R urban areas that may not be managed for viable habitat, but will provide greater access to natural areas.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- Quintupling prescribed fire capacity for fuels mitigation and oak/prairie habitat management, necessary as climate change causes massive Douglas-fir die off. The formation of multiple community forests that are managed for carbon benefits.(I know, mentioned these before, but it is both categories)

McKenzie Watershed Council Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

I like the idea of an expanded boundary that extends up into the tributaries. This is where most of the significant habitat restoration and conservation opportunities are located and where our focus current lies. It would be interesting to engage R2R partners in strategic planning and development process currently taking place through the PWP and the Middle McKenzie concept. A process that connects the significant conservation accomplishments in the urban core over the past 20 years to current and developing work farther up the tributaries would be an ideal outcome and set the framework for a truly collaborative regional approach.

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

Work going forward must be grounded in DEI values and principles. I would like to see R2R find a way to take the work of individuals organizations and partnerships (UWSN) and engaging that throughout its priorities, planning, and application. I believe that this should be the top priority for R2R going forward.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

I do not have a clear vision for this topic but it seems like an ideal way to engage communities and people that have traditionally not been aware of or supported local conservation work.

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...authentically recognizing, understanding, and incorporating Indigenous history, culture, and values in the planning work. Providing a safe place where all community members see themselves as part of this work.

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...moving away from a Cartesian view of humans and nature, identifying and removing barriers for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color community members to safely access nature, and either supporting or co-creating experiences with diverse community groups in a way that values and prioritizes their needs and desires.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...educating community members about Indigenous use and land management of the Willamette Valley and how the removal of that relationship has placed our communities at risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...effectively addressing the pressures of an increasing userbase in order to balance the needs of conservation and restoration.

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...developing a more unified curriculum for environmental education at multiple grade levels.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...increasing access to open spaces in underserved areas of the community, and building capacity for more prescribed burning within the vision area.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

*We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...
...obtaining funding to support large scale acquisition and restoration projects.
...water quality and quantity protection and improvement.*

Connecting People to Nature:

*We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...
...continue connecting existing paths, trails, and conservation lands.*

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

*We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...
...working with local planning efforts to minimize impacts to important habitats and wildlife/fish species.*

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...aligning management and work in large regional hub areas (like the Willamette confluence). We would also like to see continued improvement in collaborative work that builds on the strengths of each of the partners so that our collective impact is increased.

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...improving messaging and outreach so that partner efforts are not duplicated and messaging is more aligned among all partners. It would be valuable to also refresh some of the trail connectivity planning from the original R2R plan (and expand it beyond trails to include interpretation, marketing etc.). I think this is an area where R2R is weakest in terms of alignment across partners. Similarly, integrating social and recreational connectivity goals with restoration goals more explicitly would benefit the region and improve our achievement of this objective.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ... looking at and communicating the value of the broad suite of ecosystem services that the R2R partnership is providing the community. Fire resilience is one example among many.

The Nature Conservancy Response:

Connecting People to Nature:

*We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...
a museum similar to the high desert on the river focused on water and watersheds*

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Response:

These answers reflect both agency perspectives and those of respondents as community members.

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- Substantially more acreage dedicated to habitat connectivity particularly prairie and oak systems, but also riverine habitat and wetlands.
- Current connectivity efforts emphasize plants and invertebrates. Consider aquatic species (turtles, mussels, fish) and meso-predators/other large vertebrates that are neglected or despised. Find ways to reduce the high level of wildlife roadkill in both urban and rural areas, through signs, education, over- and underpasses, etc.
- Emphasize dark sky principles in all restoration and development projects to protect biodiversity and quality of life. Retrofit projects to reduce, and plan future projects to limit light pollution. Utilize dark sky BMPs. Plan for dark sky connectivity throughout the area.
- Floodplain to channel connectivity, off-channel storage, room for channel migration (see Sustainable Rivers initiative) of rivers and streams through conservation or agricultural easements, land acquisition, public education to create/increase tolerance.
- Better stewardship of urban wild areas; better management of unhoused populations that can negatively affect water quality, ESA prairie plants and other vegetation, increase wildfires, and reduce recreation opportunities for the more fortunate. This may require explicitly incorporating social service needs of the unhoused community in management and development plans.

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- A water trail system to rival the current bike and hiking system.
- Increased non-motorized connectivity, both on land and water, to include additional terrestrial trail connectivity
- Be an economic driver to create jobs through eco-tourism or maintenance of systems, safe parking, etc.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- Adequate floodplain buffers removed from development; along with administrative changes to preclude development in floodplains.
- Improved water quality in urban areas, particularly the Amazon Canal, through education (drains to stream, chemical runoff) and physical buffers (stormwater management, land acquisition, etc.). Improve connectivity and flow with bottomless culvert and other eco-friendly replacements.
- Map, then provide connectivity and improved water quality for Eugene's South Hills springs and seeps. Monitor landowner use of water supply for landscaping, hobby farming, etc. and promote water conservation if needed.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward partnering with BLM on more restoration activities. We already work closely with the watershed councils, and we'd love to expand that capacity with R2R.

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward partnering with BLM on environmental education at new locations, like the McGown environmental education center and the Thurston Hills area.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward partnering on fuels reduction work in the urban interface and responsible use of public lands (fire, responsible shooting, etc.)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Response (specific to WVNWRC):

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ... Long term capacity to manage habitat on protected and partnering private lands. This includes invasive species and ecological succession management.

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ... continuing to engage children of a broad spectrum of socioeconomic backgrounds to appreciate and care about their environmental resources.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ... continuing to pursue conservation and partnerships on a variety of land ownership types.

Willamalane Parks and Recreation District Response:

Sustaining a Healthy Environment:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- Collective Impact, acres conserved, restored, improved, managed, burned, quantification of the economic and environmental benefits of R2R work, something about the value that the R2R partnership brings to the community, better understanding amongst the public of the work that R2R does in the community
- Contributing to creation of a statewide or regional carbon off-set/trading system that could be utilized to fund additional natural area acquisition and management
- Partnering to establish a regional job creation program focused on conservation and natural area management that could serve as a means of providing reliable income for marginalized populations

Connecting People to Nature:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- Expand partnerships that actually engage with getting people out to these locations to appreciate the efforts of the R2R partners. Increasing the diversity of people using these parks, trails and natural areas, especially underrepresented groups. Directly working with groups to host tours and get people out to these spaces. Improving interpretive information at various sites so that the public can better appreciate the value of this work. Supporting further investment in outdoor education at the state level (e.g., Outdoor School). Creating a youth conservation corps that would serve as a basis for introducing children and young adults to natural resource management and stewardship.

Managing the Urban-Rural Interface:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

- Conservation, smoothing the transition, using open space and parks as a buffer or transition point between urban and rural. Balance goals of both areas, support fuel reduction and trails that go through rural areas to connect various urban and rural trail systems. Increase tourism from urban areas to rural areas through efforts like the East Lane County Bicycle connectivity project or through Lane County's Bicycle and

Pedestrian Master Plan effort. Developing better trail, gravel, and other connections between small communities in rural Lane County.

Willamette Resources & Education Network Response:

We would like to see the R2R partnership work toward ...

People better understanding the connectivity of the system in which we live. What does it mean to be healthy, not just as a practice? Better convey why we have an interactive trail system. For people to better understand that it's not just about restoring a landscape, it's about connecting people with the environment in which they live and each other. We would like to see R2R better convey this message or making the message less visceral. Secondly, with more ideas and more voices we have the better our rate of survival. Bringing more diverse partners to the table will be important in achieving this.

Question #5: Partner Organizations

Question 5. *If the R2R Partnership were to consider expanding its membership in the coming years, are there any organizations you would recommend be considered? Think in terms of gaps in current partnership function, expertise, or geography.*

City of Eugene Response:

- Willamette Riverkeepers
- Nearby Nature
- Whole Earth Nature School
- Agriculture
- Tourism: Travel Lane County, Eugene Cascades to Coast
- Tribes
- LatinX representation
- Other organizations representing POC in the outdoors or environmental movement
- LCOG
- More recreation focused partners

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

- LRAPA
- NAACP
- ODF
- UWSWCD
- NRCS
- FSA
- Lane Families for Farms & Forestry
- City of Cottage Grove
- Umpqua National Forest?
- Latino Professionals Connect

Friends of Buford Park Response:

- Walama Restoration Project
- Nearby Nature
- Whole Earth Nature School
- Local Recreation Advocates (biking, boating, fishing)
- Tribes

Lane County Parks Response:

- Organizations that facilitate access to outdoor recreation and natural areas for minority and underrepresented groups.
- A greater role in the partnership for volunteer coordination
- Improved links to individual Youth Crew providers such as NWYC and Lane-Metro/Looking Glass
- Engage organizations such as Huerto de la Familia, not necessarily as formal partners but to start to identify opportunities for collaboration.
- There are a number of nature education organizations in the area, only a few are currently partners, but we should engage all of them to find ways to more effectively collaborate.

Long Tom Watershed Council Response:

- Tribal liaison(s) for the geography
- United Way? (volunteers, community knowledge)
- SWCD (especially if tax base gained)
- NAACP
- Umpqua Oaks Partnership

McKenzie River Trust Response:

- OAT – Oregon Agricultural Trust – new land trust based out of Salem, but working statewide for the preservation of farmland. Very new and still forming their priorities, but is being run by stellar people. May be good partners for Seavey Loop and northern loop protection.
- Tribal representatives – maybe not from any, one tribe, but someone connected into Indigenous needs....Joe Scott and Kirby Brown come to mind....Confederated Tribes of the Siletz recently bought property and have local education staff.
- POC organizations: perhaps ask Portland’s Latino Outdoors for ideas, or reach out to local climate justice advocates.

McKenzie Watershed Council Response:

- We do not have a specific list of suggested potential members but think strongly that there should be a low bar for participation if other groups are interested.
- Potential members include the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District.

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Response:

- Indigenous voices – including but not limited to tribes
- Groups working with those most affected by climate change, reduced water quality, and negative environmental & social impacts (e.g., NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee, Beyond Toxics)
- Groups working at the intersection of houselessness and community wellness (e.g., Cahoots/White Bird)
- Groups working with BIPOC community members to provide connections to nature (e.g., Huerto de la Familia)

Mount Pisgah Arboretum Response:

- Centro Latino and/or other organizations representing the Latinx community
- Tribes
- NAACP
- An organization working with the unhoused community
- Nearby Nature

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Response:

- NRCS
- SWCD
- ODF

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

- EWEB/SUB – Utility corridors affect the landscape and water is central to our communities. Both of these organizations could help R2R pivot toward an increased focus on ecosystem services and broaden access to the communities we serve (including increased access to underserved communities).
- Not sure about membership but certainly involving Tribes, USFS, City of Springfield, Willamalane, DSL, and possibly the Office of Tourism (Willamette River Recreation Studio) may be worthwhile.

The Nature Conservancy Response:

- A group representing people of underserved communities

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Response:

- USFS Willamette National Forest (Middle Fork, maybe McKenzie Ranger Districts), Umpqua National Forest (Cottage Grove Ranger District)
- Tribes, particularly those who manage land, also based on their interest and capacity
- EWEB – for water quality, urban interface, Leaburg recreational area
- ODF, for wildland/urban interface, working lands (NRCS, SWCDs, OSU extension already connected as support for other R2R partners, but may be too technical or narrowly focused as R2R partner)
- Small cities especially with interest in water quality and quantity, but also recreation as economic advantage (e.g., bike path at Cottage Grove)

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Response:

- Large private industrial timber owners (Weyerhaeuser, Giustina, etc) and/or AFRC
- U.S. Forest Service
- Soil and Water Conservation District
- LRAPA
- ODF

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Response (specific to WVNWRC):

- The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians have just purchased over 500 acres through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. This will be their first experience restoring and managing oak and prairie habitat in the Willamette Valley.

Willamalane Parks and Recreation District Response:

- Disabled/Adaptive recreation groups - Universal Access Trails representation
- USFS
- ODF
- Peace Health/public health groups
- Tribal representation
- Social equity lens- groups that represent underrepresented groups

Willamette Resources & Education Network Response:

- Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Siletz Tribe
- NW Youth Corps
- Arts community/ Lane Arts Council
- HULT Center for the Performing Arts (communicate through speakers/art/outreach)
- Lane Historical Society (enhancing the context of our community-making it bigger- strong inter-ties and synergies. Art/bike trips.



Twenty Years of Accomplishments and the 2023 Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh Report

Appendix B

Rivers to Ridges Assessment of Progress (2003 – 2020)

Rivers to Ridges – Proposed Future Park and Open Space Area and Features from 2003 Vision Document
Assessment of Progress as of 2020 (September 18, 2020)

2020 Status Categories: Significant Progress or Complete; Some Progress; Limited or No Progress

Proposed in the 2003 Rivers to Ridges Vision Document						
Site Name	Time Frame	Purpose/Guiding Principle	Size or Length	Potential Partners	Comments	2020 Status of Proposed Element
Potential Open Space Anchors						
Amazon Headwaters	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenic Quality• Recreation and Education (trail connection, proximity to schools)• Connectivity (connects Kinney Park to Ridgeline trail and Spencer Butte)• Habitat• Waterway and Wetland	5-25 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eugene	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 57 acres conserved in Amazon Headwaters combined:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 40-acre Amazon Headwaters (Eugene) – AKA Green○ 17-acre Erin Noble Headwaters (easement donation)
Camas Swale Floodplain	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenic Quality• Habitat (wetland prairie restoration potential)• Waterway and Wetlands• Community Buffer	1,000-2,000 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• American Farmland Trust• Lane Soil Conservation District• Natural Resource Conservation Service• Lane County• ODFW• USFWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outside UGB• Wetland mitigation potential	Limited or No Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small area of the Creswell Oaks easement falls within this area (see below) – no public access
Camas Swale Upland Prairie/ Savanna	Long-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat (oak/pine savanna, upland prairie)	500-1,000 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• McKenzie River Trust• Lane County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,619-acre Creswell Oaks easement (Center for Natural Lands Management) – no public access
Coburg Hills	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenic Quality (viewshed protection)• Recreation and Education (potential trail system and vista points on public lands)• Habitat (oak savanna and prairie; rare plant and animal species)• Connectivity (consolidate and provide access to existing public lands)	3,000 to 10,000 acres (including BLM lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lane County• City of Springfield• City of Eugene• McKenzie River Trust• Weyerhaeuser Company• Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)• Bureau of Land Management (BLM)• Willamalane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently a high priority Forest Legacy Program area.• Highly visible slopes from most of metropolitan area.• Habitat for federally endangered Fender’s blue butterfly.• Outside UGB	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,269-acre Coburg Ridge Preserve (TNC easement) – no public access
Coyote Creek Wetlands	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connectivity (with Fern Ridge Reservoir and West Eugene Wetlands)• Recreation and Education• Habitat (wetland and riparian)• Rivers, Waterways, and Wetlands• Community Buffer	1,000-1,500 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. Fish and Wildlife• Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife• The Nature Conservancy• Lane County• Eugene• NRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential restoration of lower Coyote Creek• Valuable bottomland gallery forest• Outside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 963 acres conserved combined:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 237-acre Coyote Prairie (TNC transfer to Eugene)○ 500-acre Coyote Creek Conservation Properties (ODFW)○ 38-acre Coyote Creek Meadows (MRT easement) – no public access○ 188-acre Coyote-Spencer Wetlands (MRT) – no public access
Golden Gardens	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation and Education (proximity to urban area; potential municipal golf course)• Habitat (restoration potential)• Wetlands	200 acres (including land currently in City ownership)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eugene• Lane County• Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will be addressed in Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan update• Outside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 224 acres purchased (City of Eugene)

Proposed in the 2003 Rivers to Ridges Vision Document						
Site Name	Time Frame	Purpose/Guiding Principle	Size or Length	Potential Partners	Comments	2020 Status of Proposed Element
Green Island	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ConnectivityHabitatRivers, Waterways, & WetlandsRecreation and Education	800-1,200 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">McKenzie River TrustUSFWSNRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Salmon habitatFloodplain restoration	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">1,055 acres fee title acquisition by McKenzie River TrustSignificant riparian and floodplain restorationAggregate pond restoration (reconnect to old McKenzie channel)MRT hosts public events and tours
Lower Coyote Creek/ Long Tom Confluence	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connectivity (Fern Ridge Reservoir)Recreation and EducationHabitat (wetland and riparian restoration and enhancement potential)Rivers, Waterways, and Wetlands	50-100 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Long Tom Watershed CouncilNRCSU.S. Fish and Wildlife ServiceLane CountyCorps of Engineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approximately 415 acres of conservation easements by McKenzie River TrustSignificant riparian and floodplain restoration
Middle Fork/Coast Fork Confluence Area	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityRecreation and EducationConnectivity (links Buford Recreation area with Dorris Ranch, the Springfield public lands along the Middle Fork Willamette, Springfield Mill Race, and future ridgeline trail connections)Habitat (habitat protection and restoration potential)Rivers, Waterways, and Wetlands	500-1,500 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lane CountyMcKenzie River TrustBonneville Power AdministrationOregon Department of Fish and WildlifeArmy Corps of EngineersOregon State ParksSpringfieldWillamalane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outside UGBValuable habitat restoration/enhancement potentialFloodplain protection	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">1,270 acres fee title acquisition by The Nature Conservancy62 acres fee title acquisition by Friends (Turtle Flats)Over 630 acres of floodplain and riparian restoration completed by TNC, Friends, OPRD, MFWWC, CFWWCTNC and Friends hosts guided site tours
Regional Sports Complex (Springfield)	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recreation (active)	20 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WillamalaneSpringfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">Facility including fitness center, courts, and climbing wall completed.Turf fields and playground completed.Facility named Bob Keefer Center
Russell Creek Wetland	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityRecreation and EducationHabitatConnectivityWetland	18 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneState of Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjacent to proposed armoryJunction of three proposed trailsState ownership	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approximately 25 acres of wetland in LCC ownership
Short Mountain	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityRecreation and Education (possible trail and vista points)ConnectivityHabitat (savanna and riparian)	300-500 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lane CountyMcKenzie River TrustFriends of Buford ParkOregon State Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consists of the summit and slopes to the Coast Fork Willamette River.Outside UGB	Limited or No Progress [verify with CFWWC and MRT] <ul style="list-style-type: none">No land conservation completeVery limited evaluation of propertyWill reassess property during vision update process
Thurston Hills	Long-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality (viewshed protection)Recreation and Education (potential trail system and vista points on public lands)Habitat	1000 to 3,000 acres (including BLM lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lane CountyCity of SpringfieldBLMMcKenzie River TrustWillamalane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Highly visible slopes from Springfield.Includes portion of Potato HillIncludes BLM LandsPrimarily outside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">665 acres purchase by WillamalaneSeveral miles of hiker and mountain bike optimized trail constructed with additional trail segments planned for adjacent BLM propertyTrailhead parking and facilities constructed on Main StreetHabitat restoration including invasive species control and woody vegetation removal

Proposed in the 2003 Rivers to Ridges Vision Document						
Site Name	Time Frame	Purpose/Guiding Principle	Size or Length	Potential Partners	Comments	2020 Status of Proposed Element
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connectivity (consolidate and provide access to existing public lands)				
Upper Spencer Creek Prairie and Oak/Pine Savanna	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityHabitat (oak savanna and upland prairie)Recreation and Education (potential connections to ridgeline trail system)	500-1,500 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">U.S. Forest Service (Forest Legacy Program)City of EugeneLane County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Could connect to ridgeline trail systemOutside UGBRare ecosystem (oak savanna/upland prairie)	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">290-acre Andy Reasoner Wildlife Preserve conservation easement held by McKenzie River Trust194-acre South Eugene Meadows acquired by the City of EugeneMajor thinning and habitat restoration efforts implemented on both properties
Vitus Butte	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality (viewshed)Recreation and Education (potential trail system and vista points on public lands)Habitat (oak savanna and prairie; rare plant and animal species)Connectivity (to EWEB path)	10-20 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WillamalaneSpringfieldEWEB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inside UGB	Limited or No Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">No land conservation completeHousing has been constructed on targeted south and west slope areaEWEB has long owned the summit of the butte which is occupied by the water filtration plant, with some forest on the north side and woodland on the southwest side
Willamette/McKenzie River Confluence Area	Long-range (currently in active use for aggregate extraction)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ConnectivityRecreation and Education (future trails, river access)HabitatRivers, Waterways, and Wetlands	1000-2,500 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lane CountyCity of EugeneU.S. Fish and WildlifeMcKenzie River TrustBPA, NRCSSand and Gravel operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes area to old McKenzie/Willamette ConfluencePrimarily Outside UGBWithin the Willamette River Greenway	Limited or No Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">No land conservationAggregate operations still active in much of this areaLong-term liability concerns about purchase of the deeper gravel pits due to potential for river captureSome future potential acquisition/restoration opportunities in areas with shallower pits
Greenways						
Eugene Ridgeline (Dillard/Skyline Park to Hendricks Park) <i>Note: Dillard/Skyline Park is known as Mount Baldy</i>	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ConnectivityScenic Quality (highly visible from much of south Eugene)Recreation and Education (extension of ridgeline trail system)	2.1 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EugeneMcKenzie River Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Primarily Outside UGB	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Land acquisition and a one-mile segment of constructed between 30th Ave. and Hendricks Park (known as the Ribbon Trail)A greenway or trail connection between 30th and Mount Baldy is unlikely due to development and parcelization
Eugene Ridgeline (Hendricks Park to Lane Community College via Moon Mountain)	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ConnectivityScenic Quality (highly visible from LCC basin)Recreation and Education (extension of ridgeline trail system)Habitat (wildlife corridor)	1.9 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EugeneMcKenzie River TrustLane CountyLane Community CollegeOregon National Guard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Primarily outside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">2020 purchase of Black Oak Basin to the west of Coryell Ridge by the City of Eugene has secured much of the route of this proposed greenway and trailNo formal has been constructed
Eugene Ridgeline (Dillard/Skyline Park to Lane Community College)	Long-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ConnectivityScenic Quality (highly visible from LCC basin)Recreation and Education (extension of ridgeline trail system)Habitat (wildlife corridor)	2.2 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EugeneLane CountyLane Community CollegeMcKenzie River Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">564-acre Suzanne Arlie Park purchased by the City of Eugene, clearing the way for the Ridgeline Trail extension between Mount Baldy and Lane Community CollegeMajor fuels reduction work completed (City/BLM)Suzanne Arlie Park Master Plan completed in 2020Master Plan proposes a total of 14 miles of shared-use, mountain bike optimized, and barrier free trailPartial funding secured for construction of the Ridgeline Trail between Mount Baldy and LCC by 2022/2023

Proposed in the 2003 Rivers to Ridges Vision Document						
Site Name	Time Frame	Purpose/Guiding Principle	Size or Length	Potential Partners	Comments	2020 Status of Proposed Element
Eugene South Hills Ridgeline (Blanton Road to Murray Hill)	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ConnectivityScenic Quality (highly visible from much of Eugene)Recreation and Education (extension of ridgeline trail system)Habitat (wildlife corridor)	4.6 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EugeneLane CountyMcKenzie River TrustU.S. Forest Service (Forest Legacy Program)EWEBThe Nature Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acquisition of portions currently underwayPrimarily outside UGB	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">255-acre Wild Iris Ridge purchased by the City of EugeneMajor thinning and habitat restoration efforts implementedApproximately 3 miles of trail constructed
South Hills Ridgeline (Murray Hill to Amazon Diversion Channel)	Long-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connectivity (west Eugene wetlands to ridgeline)Scenic Quality (highly visible from much of Eugene)Recreation and Education (extension of ridgeline trail system)Habitat (wildlife corridor)	5.1 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EugeneLane CountyMcKenzie River TrustU.S. Forest Service (Forest Legacy Program)The Nature ConservancyEWEB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outside UGBTNC interest in Upper Willow Creek area	Limited or No Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">34-acre Townsend Woods property purchase by the City of Eugene (adjacent to Green Hill Road)Still major gaps in this area for future Ridgeline Park and trail extension
Blueways						
Amazon Creek Martin Street Diversion Channel	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityConnectivityRecreation and EducationHabitatWaterways and Wetlands	9.2 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneCorps of Engineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjacent wetland restoration potentialInside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">Several channel enhancement projects completedMajor riparian planting and implementation of “green pipe maintenance” program3.5-mile running trail completed between Hilyard Street and Martin Street.Four bike/pedestrian bridges installed
Amazon Diversion Channel “A” Channel to Fern Ridge Reservoir	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityConnectivityRecreation and Education (potential Fern Ridge Bicycle Path route)HabitatWaterways and Wetlands	3.5 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneCorps of EngineersLane CountyU.S. Fish and Wildlife ServiceBLMODFW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjacent wetland restoration potentialOutside UGB	Limited or No Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Corps management protocols on flood control canals such as Amazon Diversion enacted and significantly restrict woody vegetation.No progress on Fern Ridge path extension (proposed for levee top)
Camas Swale	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityConnectivityRecreation and EducationHabitatWaterways and WetlandsCommunity Buffer (Metro area and Creswell)	4.5 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneCity of CreswellCorps of EngineersLane CountyU.S. Fish and Wildlife ServiceBLMODFW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjacent wetland restoration potentialAdjacent agricultural landsOutside UGB	Limited or No Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Corps management protocols on flood control canals such as Amazon Diversion enacted and significantly restrict woody vegetation
Coast Fork Willamette River	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityConnectivityRecreation and EducationHabitatRivers, Waterways, and Wetlands	12.6 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneCorps of EngineersLane CountyBLMODFWCoast Fork Watershed CouncilFriends of Buford ParkMcKenzie River Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corps of Engineers General Investigation Study underwaySalmon bearingOutside UGB	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">255-acre Wild Iris Ridge purchased by the City of EugeneMajor thinning and habitat restoration efforts implementedApproximately 3 miles of trail constructed
Lower Amazon Creek (“A” Channel)	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityConnectivityRecreation and Education	5.0 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneCorps of EngineersLane County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjacent wetland restoration potential	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Channel widening and side-channel construction project implemented at Wild Iris Ridge by BLM and City of Eugene

Proposed in the 2003 Rivers to Ridges Vision Document						
Site Name	Time Frame	Purpose/Guiding Principle	Size or Length	Potential Partners	Comments	2020 Status of Proposed Element
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">HabitatWaterways and Wetlands		<ul style="list-style-type: none">U.S. Fish and Wildlife ServiceBLMODFWLongTom Watershed CouncilNRCS		<ul style="list-style-type: none">329-acre Amazon Prairie site on the west side of Amazon Creek acquired by City of Eugene for future wetland mitigation bank funded restoration
Lower Coyote Creek (below reservoir)	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ConnectivityRecreation and EducationHabitatWaterways and Wetlands	3.8 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneCorps of EngineersLane CountyU.S. Fish and Wildlife ServiceBLMLongTom Watershed CouncilODFWLand Trusts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Potential for reconnection to historic channelValuable bottomland gallery forestFloodplain protectionOutside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">Several conservation easements along Lower Coyote Creek secured by McKenzie River TrustHabitat restoration projects implemented on MRT easements by MRT, Long Tom Watershed Council, and ODFW
Lower Long Tom River (below reservoir)	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ConnectivityRecreation and EducationHabitatRivers, Waterways, and Wetlands	2.1 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneCorps of EngineersLane CountyU.S. Fish and Wildlife ServiceBLMLongTom Watershed CouncilODFW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anadromous fish bearingPotential for reconnection to historic channelAdjacent wetland restoration potentialOutside UGB	Some Progress [CHECK IN WITH LTWC] <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lomatium Prairie conservation easement secured by McKenzie River Trust at the confluence of Coyote Creek and Long Tom RiverLong Tom Watershed Council implementation of habitat enhancements on private landsLTWC, ODFW, and Corps collaborating on planning for the low-head dam removal on the Long Tom River
Lower Mohawk River	Long-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HabitatRecreation and Education (canoe route)Rivers, Waterways, and Wetlands	3.7 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">McKenzie Watershed CouncilMohawk Watershed CouncilMcKenzie River TrustCorps of Engineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Salmon bearingOutside UGB	Some Progress [CHECK IN WITH MWC] <ul style="list-style-type: none">McKenzie Watershed Council implementation of habitat enhancements on private lands
McKenzie River	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality (highly visible river)ConnectivityRecreation and EducationHabitatRivers, Waterways, and WetlandsCommunity Buffer (Coburg and metro area)	19.8 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">McKenzie Watershed CouncilMcKenzie River TrustCorps of EngineersSpringfieldLane CountyWillamalane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Salmon bearingMunicipal water supplyOutside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete [Check with MWC] <ul style="list-style-type: none">McKenzie Watershed Council implementation of habitat enhancements on private landsSignificant land conservation by McKenzie River Trust including Chub Slough, Berggren, McKenzie Oxbow, and Finn Rock Reach
Middle Fork Willamette River	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality (highly visible river)ConnectivityRecreation and Education (potential route for Eugene to Pacific Crest trail)HabitatRivers, Waterways, and Wetlands	13.2 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SpringfieldCorps of EngineersLane CountyU.S. Fish and Wildlife ServiceBLMMcKenzie River TrustEugene to Pacific Trail GroupOregon State ParksWillamalane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Part of on-going Corps of Engineers General Investigation StudySalmon bearingOutside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete [Check with MFWWC] <ul style="list-style-type: none">Middle Fork – Coast Fork confluence floodplain restoration project implemented on 630 acres by TNC, Friends, ODFW, CFWWC, OPRD, and MFWWCConstruction of the 4-mile Middle Fork Path from Clearwater Park to Dorris Ranch by Willamalane
Rattlesnake Creek	Long-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Habitat	5.3 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ODFWCorps of Engineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Salmon habitat restoration potentialOutside UGB	[Check with MFWWC]
Spencer Creek	Mid-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connectivity (connects oak savanna areas to Coyote Creek/Fern Ridge wetlands)Habitat	8.5 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneCorps of EngineersLane CountyUSFWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Upper Spencer Creek passes through high quality oak savanna habitatOutside UGB	Some Progress [CHECK IN WITH LTCW] <ul style="list-style-type: none">13-acre Spencer Swamp purchased by City of Eugene

Proposed in the 2003 Rivers to Ridges Vision Document						
Site Name	Time Frame	Purpose/Guiding Principle	Size or Length	Potential Partners	Comments	2020 Status of Proposed Element
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rivers, Waterways, and Wetlands		<ul style="list-style-type: none">BLMODFWMcKenzie River TrustU.S. Forest Service		<ul style="list-style-type: none">225-acre Coyote-Spencer Swamp and Griffith properties conserved by McKenzie River Trust at the confluence of Spencer Creek and Coyote Creek
Springfield Mill Race	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityConnectivityRecreation and EducationHabitatRivers, Waterways, and Wetlands	3.9 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of SpringfieldWillamalaneCorps of EngineersLane County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inside and Outside UGBCorps of Engineer’s/City restoration project plannedStormwater treatmentMouth of Millrace is being relocated to Clearwater Park	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">Major restoration of flow, fish passage, and habitat along entire reach of the Springfield Mill Race by Willamalane, Corps, and MFWWCConstruction of the 3-mile Mill Race Path
Upper Coyote Creek	Long-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connectivity (to Fern Ridge Reservoir)Recreation and Education (canoe route)HabitatRivers, Wetlands, and WaterwaysCommunity Buffer	5.4 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corps of EngineersLane CountyU.S. Fish and Wildlife ServiceBLMODFWMcKenzie River TrustThe Nature Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjacent wetlands and floodplainOutside UGB	Significant Progress or Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">225-acre Coyote-Spencer Swamp and Griffith properties conserved by McKenzie River Trust at the confluence of Spencer Creek and Coyote Creek237-acre Coyote Prairie (TNC transfer to Eugene)500-acre Coyote Creek Conservation Properties (ODFW)Major habitat restoration efforts completed or underway on all properties listed aboveTrail improvements completed on the Coyote Creek Trail by ODFW
Willamette River Main Stem	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connectivity (Alton Baker Park, Skinner Butte Park, Island Park)Recreation and EducationHabitatRivers, Wetlands, and Waterways	15.0 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SpringfieldWillamalaneEugeneLane CountyCorps of EngineersU.S. Fish and Wildlife ServiceMcKenzie River TrustU.S. Forest Service (Forest Legacy Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Salmon bearingWillamette GreenwayInside and Outside UGB	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Major habitat restoration, floodplain restoration, fish passage, and path/trail projects completed at Delta Ponds by City of Eugene, ODFW, USFWS, and CorpsTwo Mile East Bank Path constructed along the Willamette River by City of EugeneSkinner Butte Trails improved and expandedFish passage and habitat restoration on Heron Slough (west side of Willamette River) by City of Eugene and Corps
Willow Creek (11th to 18th Ave.)	Short-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connectivity (Willow Creek Natural Area and Amazon Creek and wetlands)Recreation and Education (proximity to school, potential trail access)HabitatWetlands and Waterways	0.8 mile	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Nature ConservancyBLMCity of EugeneBPAUSFWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjacent wetlandsWatershed protectionProtection of hydrology for threatened and endangered speciesConnection to ridgeline trail systemInside UGB	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Acquisition of 68-acre property to the north of 18th AvenueStream and wetland restoration has been planned but not implemented
Agricultural Lands						
Between Junction City and Eugene UGBs	Short- range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality (agricultural lands)Community Buffer (between Eugene and Junction City)High quality agricultural soils	800-1,500 acres (including existing MWMC lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">American Farmland TrustNRCSEast Lane County Soil Conservation DistrictEugeneJunction CityLane CountyMcKenzie River Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Would include the planned MWMC poplar plantationProtection tools would maintain protection of farming practices.Outside UGB	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) property located on 600 acres of agricultural lands to the south of Junction City is being utilized as a poplar plantation irrigated with clean effluent.

Proposed in the 2003 Rivers to Ridges Vision Document						
Site Name	Time Frame	Purpose/Guiding Principle	Size or Length	Potential Partners	Comments	2020 Status of Proposed Element
Cedar Creek Area	Mid- range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality (agricultural lands)Recreation and Education (retaining the working landscape)Rivers, Waterways, and Wetlands	200-400 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of SpringfieldNRCSAmerican Farmland TrustMcKenzie River TrustEast Lane County Soil Conservation DistrictSpringfieldWillamalane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection tools would maintain protection of farming practices.Outside UGB	Limited or No Progress [verify with MWC, MRT, Willamalane]
Seavey Loop Area	Mid- range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality (agricultural lands)Recreation and Education (cultural resource; u-pick farms)	800-1,200 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">American Farmland TrustNRCSLane County Soil Conservation DistrictLane County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection would likely be in the form of conservation easements to maintain agricultural practices.Outside UGB	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">West Pisgah Community Visioning process with CFWWC, MRT, Friends, and landowners completed in 2019
South of Coburg	Mid- range	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality (agricultural lands)Community Buffer (Coburg- Eugene, in conjunction with the McKenzie River)	300-500 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of CoburgAmerican Farmland TrustNRCSEast Lane County Soil Conservation District	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection tools would maintain protection of farming practices.Outside UGB	Limited or No Progress
Community Gateways						
Airport (Green Hill Road and Airport Road)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of Eugene	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Green Hill Road and Airport Road are entries to the metro area for those arriving by air.	Limited or No Progress
Eugene North (Highway 99)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic QualityCommunity Buffer	In conjunction with protection of agricultural lands in this area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">American Farmland TrustNRCSLane County Soil Conservation DistrictEugeneJunction CityLane CountyMcKenzie River TrustMWMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This gateway would help retain the open space connection between Junction City and Eugene and likely take the form of working farms and agricultural land.	Limited or No Progress
Eugene West (Highway 126)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality (entry beatification)Wetlands	In conjunction with ridgeline trail, oak savanna, and wetland acquisition programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of EugeneBLMU.S. Fish and Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This gateway would likely take the form of a forested ridgeline (between oak hill and Murray Hill) and the wetland prairie landscape	Limited or No Progress
Eugene-Springfield North (I-5)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scenic Quality	McKenzie River corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">American Farmland TrustNRCSEast Lane County Soil Conservation DistrictEugeneJunction CityLane CountyMcKenzie River Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This gateway would announce the entry into the metro area from the north and would be defined by the McKenzie River's riparian forest and adjacent agricultural lands.	Limited or No Progress

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Site Name	Time Frame	Purpose/Guiding Principle	Size or Length	Potential Partners	Comments	2020 Status of Proposed Element
Eugene-Springfield South (I-5)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic Quality 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eugene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This gateway would announce the entry into the metro area from the south. 	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of the highly visible Coryell Ridge property by the City of Eugene will help maintain the visual quality of this Community Gateway area.
Springfield East (Highway 126)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic Quality 	McKenzie River corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Springfield Lane County McKenzie River Trust Oregon State Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This gateway would announce the entry into Springfield from the east and would be defined by the McKenzie River crossing and riparian forest. 	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thurston Hills Park trailhead and parking area was completed by Willamalane (situated on Highway 126 at the east entry to Springfield). Using the open space system, as was done here, is a good example of the Community Gateway concept.
Springfield South (Jasper Road)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic Quality 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Springfield Lane County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jasper Road is the entry to Springfield from the south and will likely become more heavily traveled in the future. 	Some Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of the highly visible Thurston Hills Park property by Willamalane will help maintain the visual quality of this Community Gateway area.



Twenty Years of Accomplishments and the 2023 Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh Report

Appendix C

Rivers to Ridges 2020 Refresh Work-Session Summary

Rivers to Ridges Refresh 2020 Work-Session Summary

Work-Session Date: Monday, September 20, 2021

Location: Dorris Ranch Living History Farm - Barn

Attendees: Dan Miller (NPS – RTCA), Taylor Bowden (NPS – RTCA), Philip Richardson (City of Eugene), Reilly Newman (CFWWC), Chris Vogel (ODFW), Fraser McDonald (Willamalane), Michelle Emmons (Willamette Riverkeeper), Jesse Kidd (Willamette Riverkeeper), Julia Fields (IAE), Sydney Nilan (UWSN), Shelly Miller (City of Eugene), Brett Henry (Lane County Parks), Jeff Krueger (JK Environments), Ed Alverson (Lane County Parks), Holly McRae (MRT), Ka-Voka Jackson (MFWWC), Emily Huckstead (CFWWC), John Mullen (OPRD), EllenThompson (WREN), and Wendy Jones (Corps of Engineers)

Summary: Prepared by Jeff Krueger with notes from Shelly Miller and Taylor Bowden

Work-Session Purpose: The half-day work-session focused on working through priority topics outlined in Phase 2 (2021) of the Refresh process. Topics included development of a community outreach strategy and break-out groups focusing on Partnership function and purpose; developing DEI strategies for the upcoming outreach; and park capacity issues. The meeting and break-out groups were facilitated by Jeff Krueger, Taylor Bowden (NPS), and Dan Miller (NPS).



Meeting Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:15 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 10:15 – 10:45 2. Work-Session Purpose, Agenda Overview, and Asset Mapping Overview**
- *Update on Refresh process and preview of final phase (2022)*
 - *Work-session purpose and agenda overview*
 - *Equity Mapping overview presentation*
- 10:45 – 11:30 3. Outreach Plan for 2022 Vision Refinement (Phase 3)**
- *Review list of potential outreach techniques/strategies*
 - *Preference voting (dots)*
 - *What are some core questions we should be asking the community?*
- 11:30 – 12:00 4. Break - Time to Catch Up or Go For a Walk**
- 12:00 – 1:00 5. Breakout Groups**
- Group 1: Partnership Function and Purpose [Dan]
 - Group 2: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategies [Taylor]
 - Group 3: Park Capacity Issues and Impacts from Human Uses [Jeff]
- 1:00 – 1:45 6. Breakout Group Report Back and Discussion and Wrap Up**

Summary of Key Work-Session Discussion

Outreach Plan for 2022 Vision Refinement (for Phase 3 outreach effort in 2022)

This full-group discussion was facilitated by Dan Miller. The three prompts asked and a summary of discussion is listed below:

Prompt 1: Who is our target audience for the upcoming outreach?

- Ensure a broad representation of the community (everyday people), not just the typical people who attend standard workshops and make sure everyone who is interested is able to provide input.
- Specifically target:
 - Traditionally unrepresented neighborhoods or neighborhoods where equity mapping indicates vulnerability hotspots (poor health factors, economic disparity, etc.).
 - Communities who have historically been underserved by the benefits of parks and open space (e.g., BIPOC community).
 - Existing organizations include the “stakeholder” groups that have been identified by the Implementation Team (this includes approximately 30 groups or organizations).

- Homeless population or advocacy groups for the homeless to determine options for positive contribution through stewardship of parks.
- Our younger population (K-12) since they will inherit the system. This could be done via existing programs such as WREN, watershed council youth programs, etc. instead of creating an all new mechanism.
- Rural community members.
- Public health organizations to develop strategies that make the connection between parks and open space and public health.
- Civic leaders whose understanding and support of R2R is key to implementation.
- Business community and economic development advocacy groups (Home builders, aggregate working group, chambers of commerce).
- Tourism (via Travel Lane County)

Prompt 2: Identify potential outreach strategies/techniques we should consider for the Refresh? (Responses submitted in pre-meeting questionnaire and at the work-session. Preferencing is based on group discussion and dotting exercise.)

- Highest priority techniques (based on dotting):
 - Attending stakeholder group meetings (get on agendas to present and ask for input) – Attend meetings in advance if possible or meet with group leader to gain an understanding of how the organization works.
 - Guided community walks (for interest groups and targeted neighborhoods)
 - One-on-one meetings with community leaders (build relationships)
 - Leverage existing POS public survey data (SCORP and existing system plans)
 - Public survey data – Consider tapping into existing data (e.g., SCORP and system plans) instead of going through the high expense of commissioning new surveys.
- Other possible techniques:
 - Online surveys
 - Pop up events in parks
 - Social media (utilize existing partner social media platforms – Partners promote Refresh)
 - Virtual meetings
 - Targeted small group meetings
 - In-person public meetings or forum
 - Tabling events
 - Press releases or other media coverage
 - Virtual charrette
 - Offer stewardship opportunities/training
 - Radio promotion (EARS)
 - Tabling at community events (go to where the people are)
 - Connect with people through recreational events
 - Branding
 - Incentives to participate (drawings, honorariums, etc.)
 - Targeted direct mailings
 - Having a paper option
 - Spiritual groups
 - Statistically valid surveys (expensive)

- Veterans
- Creating options for Spanish speakers
- Other general thoughts:
 - Rivers to Ridges is not a widely known partnership, but perhaps that's okay as long as community leaders, elected officials, and key stakeholder groups are aware and support the vision and its implementation.
 - Lay the groundwork for future Partnership expansion during the outreach process, but the purpose of the outreach is to celebrate success and seek input on shaping the updated vision.
 - Offer DEI training opportunities for R2R partnership staff and leaders.

Prompt 3: What are the core questions we should be asking the community?

- Do you know anything about the Rivers to Ridges partnership?
- Questions for stakeholder groups:
 - What does your group do and what are your big picture goals for the future (identify shared-interests)?
 - How would you like to engage in the R2R partnership in the future?
- What do you like most about our community's parks and open spaces?
- How do you currently use our local parks and open spaces?
- Are there things that prevent you from accessing or enjoying our local parks and open spaces?
 - I don't have good of transportation options
 - I have limited knowledge of where parks and trails are located
 - I feel unwelcome or unsafe
 - Other factors
- What are some things that that could be done to improve your use and enjoyment of our region's parks and open spaces?
- What specific activities do you like to do most when you're visiting a park or open space? Examples:
 - Picnic and gather with friends
 - Swim or water play
 - Walk, run, or hike for pleasure
 - Etc.
- If money were no object, how would you like to see our community improve its parks and open spaces over the next twenty year?

Breakout Group #1: Partnership Function and Purpose

Topic Description: The Rivers to Ridges Partnership operates under a Statement of Partnership that is now over a decade old with a greatly expanded number of Partner organizations. The Refresh process is a good opportunity to review our current structure and potentially refine.

This breakout discussion was facilitated by Dan Miller with Shelly Miller as note taker. The four prompts asked and a summary of discussion is listed below:

Prompt 1: What about the Partnership and governance structure works well?

- Partners work well together.
- There is a core mission and vision that has centered work of many partners and becomes an important means to focus attention of partner leadership, funders, and others on projects in the vision.
- Successful elements: having a regional open space vision and plan, sharing information and updates, and there is a fairly low barrier to join the partnership (flexible due structure)
- Like XT and IT structure. FOG is useful group to bring in a wider audience and potential new partners. There was a general agreement that folks miss the FOG field trips as those were a good opportunity to get to know others in the area doing similar work and learn lessons of success and challenges. The social connections are needed and have been missing over the last year and a half (COVID related).
- Prescribed burn team works well together: staff and equipment sharing, rotating roles to complete burns, permitting, outreach, etc.
- Having annual reports and brochures to share is helpful.

Prompt 2: What about the Partnership and governance structure is unclear or could be improved?

- Engagement of XT is challenging.
- Annual meeting seen as dull, not engaging.
- Groups of different sizes and with varying, competing missions can struggle to get attention of leadership for meetings. Annual engagement not enough.
- Facilitation of habitat project implementation such as equipment sharing would be helpful.
- Smaller organizations can find being part of R2R leadership (e.g., IT participation, social media, other sub-group lead) can be a burden for staff. Could we consider having a stipend or fund to compensate coordinators?
- Some concern was expressed about reaching out too far and getting too big.
- Caution was expressed that we need to hear what BIPOC-focused groups and individuals have to say about their experiences and what we can do to better serve their needs and desires before discounting partners as not being focused on the R2R vision. The vision may need to be reframed.
- Need to hear what potential new partners and underserved communities want from R2R.
- There may need to be more flexibility in the partner framework and application process. Could folks be partners without paying dues? Don't be too prescriptive about partner structure before talking to groups.

Prompt 3: What IT! sub-groups should be given highest priority in the coming years and which could be phased out? Are there others that we should consider adding?

- Could potentially sponsor short-term groups to tackle specific issues that would include broader grouping of organizations—for example, houselessness.
- Other potential longer term groups:
 - Unhoused, DEI, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Outreach and Education,
 - Potentially helpful to breakout groups based on government level (federal and state vs. local and non-profit)
 - Decolonization work needed, decolonize partnership structure. Could partners not exposed to this training benefit from it?

Prompt 4: Is there an opportunity for a tiered level of participation in the future as we try to broaden our representation (Partners and Friends)?

- Remain flexible in Partnership framework and application process.
- Wait to hear from potential partners prior to making decisions on what the relationships might look like.
- Don't be too prescriptive up front.

Breakout Group #2: Developing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategies

Topic Description: Consider values, challenges, and strategies to develop relationships and begin outreach with marginalized communities. Evaluating the R2R Partnership through a DEI lens by identifying creative ways we can give back to a diverse community.

Core Value Statement (developed in phase 1):

“The Rivers to Ridges partnership believes that a broad and inclusive coalition of partners and community members is essential for conserving and caring for our region’s park and natural systems and that all members of the community should benefit from and have safe and convenient access to open space.”



This breakout discussion was facilitated by Taylor Bowden. The three prompts asked and a summary of discussion is listed below:

Prompt 1: What are some challenges to outreach with marginalized communities?

- **Lacking internal representation**
 - The person doing outreach is an outsider to the community
 - Authoritative, intimidating figures/showing up in uniform
- **Workplace culture is unaccommodating and/or unsafe**
 - Difficult work environments- Fear of tokenization, microaggressions, etc.
 - Staff defensiveness against DEIJ criticism
 - BIPOC employee exhaustion and burn-out from the responsibility to educate others
 - Turnover for BIPOC employees
- **Colonial power structures**
 - Lack of decision-making power for BIPOC employees
 - Fear of retaliation against BIPOC's criticism
- **Cost of training/resources/time**
 - No dedicated funding for good outreach practices
 - Inconsistent DEIJ training
 - No dedicated DEIJ position to evaluate practices
- **Consistent messaging**

- Overpromising- unsure what can realistically be offered for participation
- Lack of consistent personnel assigned to outreach
- **Follow Through**
 - Motivation for marginalized people to participate in projects
 - Building lasting relationships with groups and individuals

Prompt 2: What are some strategies to address these challenges for our upcoming outreach and as we develop a refined vision (ways to begin to address these challenges)?

- **Lacking internal representation**
 - Mentorships for BIPOC internally amongst R2R partners
 - Having clear pathways for upward mobility of BIPOC employees
 - Prioritizing BIPOC-owned contractors
 - R2R as a platform to elevate BIPOC staff
- **Workplace culture is unwelcoming and/or unsafe**
 - Targeted educational training that addresses individual marginalized groups- LGBTQ+, the houseless, disabled, BIPOC, etc.
 - Full network DEI training required for all members and individuals
 - Making space for open and brave conversation in the workplace and community
 - More extensive training for people in high positions of power and decision making
 - DEI onboarding for new employees + youth education
- **Colonial power structures**
 - Remove Uniform Requirements during public engagement
 - Incorporating indigenous values in the workplace
 - Decolonizing organizational structures
 - Education about a project's site history and lands - including land acknowledgments
- **Cost of training/resources/time**
 - Funding DEI training and work by targeted grants
 - Incorporating DEI actions into grant fundings that are not specifically DEI related
 - Re-budgeting to include DEI a fund
 - Coming prepared, educated, and open-minded before reaching out
- **Consistent messaging**
 - Central DEI leadership position in R2R
 - Consider both short- and long-term benefits of participating communities
 - Inventory of benefits - each partner considers and lists creative ways they can give back to communities
 - Establish R2R central DEI goals and deadlines

Follow Through

- Employ facilitators who are accountable for outreach
- Showing up for communities when they need volunteers
- Being present for meetings and events in the community
- Building flexible and expansive relationships through community service hours

- Set clear and realistic short- and long-term goals for follow-through
- Schedule follow-through before reaching out-- where/when/how they will be re-engaged

Breakout Group #3: Park Capacity Issues and Impacts from Human Uses

Topic Description: Many of our parks and open space areas are currently experiencing negative impacts from overcrowding, unauthorized use, or inadequate facilities. This is negatively impacting the resource as well as the overall user experience.

This breakout discussion was facilitated by Jeff Krueger. The two prompts asked and a summary of discussion is listed below:

Prompt 1: *Based on your observations, and what do these impacts look like (i.e., "social" trails, illegal activities, heavy recreational use, lack of facilities, etc.)*

Responses submitted in pre-meeting questionnaire and at the work-session and sorted under two distinct categories of "Heavy Recreational Use and Capacity Issues" and "Unauthorized Uses, Vandalism, and Litter"

Heavy Recreational Use and Capacity Issues

- Spencer Butte: High levels of use and inadequate parking
- Howard Buford Recreation Area: High use on summit trail and at river access points; Social trails, braided trails, and switchback cutting, limited restroom options once on trail
- Portions of Ridgeline Trail: Inadequate trailhead parking (Wild Iris Ridge, Mount Baldy, Willamette Street, Spencer Butte)

Unauthorized Uses, Vandalism, and Litter

- Many undeveloped natural areas: Plant poaching (i.e., Oregon grape theft)
- Willamette River Corridor: Unauthorized camping, significant amounts of litter, and unsafe environment for park users
- Amazon Creek Corridor: Unauthorized camping, significant amounts of litter, and unsafe environment for park users
- Stewart Pond: Illegal camping and lack of facilities
- West Eugene Wetlands: Illegal camping, litter
- Ridgeline Trail: Rogue trail building
- Elijah Bristow and North Fork of Middle Fork: Illegal camping and garbage
- Clearwater, Aspen, Alton Baker boat ramp: Vandalism and heavy use

Prompt 2: *What are some strategies or approaches our Partnership should consider for addressing these negative impacts?*

Suggested strategies to address heavy recreational use and capacity issues:

- Provide increased recreational access and facilities in underutilized parks and open spaces in the region to take pressure off of over-capacity areas (disperse the use):
 - Build out planned park facilities and trails in undeveloped park area (e.g., Suzanne Arlie Park, Thurston Hills Natural Area, Santa Clara Park, etc.)
 - Provide access to alternate destination viewpoints besides Mount Pisgah and Spencer Butte (e.g., Suzanne Arlie Park, Vickery Park, Thurston Hills Natural Area, Coryell Ridge, Moon Mountain, Murray Hill, Quarry Butte, etc.)

- Provide better map and web resources (hard copy maps as well as digital maps for mobile devices) to make park and trail users aware of other recreational options in the region.
- Promote other lesser known trail options in the region.
- Improve walkability from neighborhoods to trailheads to help reduce parking needs.
- Improve public transportation options to area trailheads to help reduce parking needs and provide access options for those without a vehicle. Consider a “park and open space shuttle service” especially for heavy use periods such as summer and weekends. This could also be used by floaters/boaters as well to eliminate the need for a shuttle (Bend example).
- Provide adequate bicycle parking at water access points so that bikes become a viable shuttle an option for floaters and boaters.
- Develop a “funding opportunities” sub-group to better assess and take advantage of grant opportunities and untapped State/Federal funding sources to acquire additional parks and open spaces and to develop additional trails and park facilities.
- Formalize safe water access points and construct adequate facilities to serve recreational users and protect sensitive habitat.
- Provide adequate restroom facilities to avoid negative user experiences and to protect water quality.
- Improved kiosk signage and information at trailheads/waterway access points to request user actions to address impact issues; this might include information about spread of invasive species, trail etiquette, litter, etc. (Utilize national campaign materials already created for each of these - including Share the Trail, Play Clean Go, and Clean Drain Dry).
- Add boot brushes, fishing tackle recycling stations, boat and/or bike wash stations at key recreational access points to help stop invasive spread.

Suggested strategies to unauthorized uses, vandalism, and litter:

- Support ongoing regional efforts to address homelessness and to provide alternate shelter and/or designated temporary camping areas that do not impact natural areas or displace legitimate recreational users from parks.
- Support regional efforts to house the un-housed and provide high-quality services to assist community members in need.
- Place and maintain sanitation in key areas that are routinely affected by litter and latrines.
- Collaborate with local organizations on addressing community safety and mental health issues occurring in parks and open spaces (e.g., White Bird Clinic, Lane County Public Health, CAHOOTS).
- Consider a “clear and hold strategy” (City of Corvallis is currently employing) to relocate campers from sensitive natural areas such as the river corridors and into more suitable shelter, followed up with clean-up and restoration efforts, and re-introduction of legitimate recreational uses (activate the space). Regular site monitoring and a zero-tolerance policy on un-authorized camping would be important for permanently re-claiming those areas.
- Promote a “leave no trace” policy in all recreational use areas.
- Increase stewardship options for all community members to cultivate ownership:
 - Adopt a trail and adopt a park programs.
 - Opportunities for un-housed community to make positive contributions to area parks and open spaces.
 - School-based natural area adoption.
- Expand “park host” and “park ambassador” programs in the region to help deter public safety and resource protection problems and to provide park/trail/educational information to park users.

- Expand Park Watch to other areas outside of Eugene Parks to help promote safe access to natural areas.



Twenty Years of Accomplishments and the 2023 Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh Report

Appendix D

Rivers to Ridges Refresh – Equity Mapping

RIVERS TO RIDGES REFRESH: EQUITY MAPPING

This mapping of vulnerable populations around the project areas is a first step in addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice (DEIJ) in the R2R planning process. These maps have been compiled to help identify areas and populations in need of greenspace. This equity assessment uses census-data maps to understand which neighborhoods in Eugene/Springfield and surrounding cities are particularly vulnerable and which could greatly benefit by accessing openspace. The compiled maps include racial groups, income, environmental quality, and health/wellness. These maps provide insights for the Rivers to Ridges (R2R) project and suggest where project managers may extend their community outreach. These maps generalize demographic data; they are not necessarily representative of all vulnerable populations.

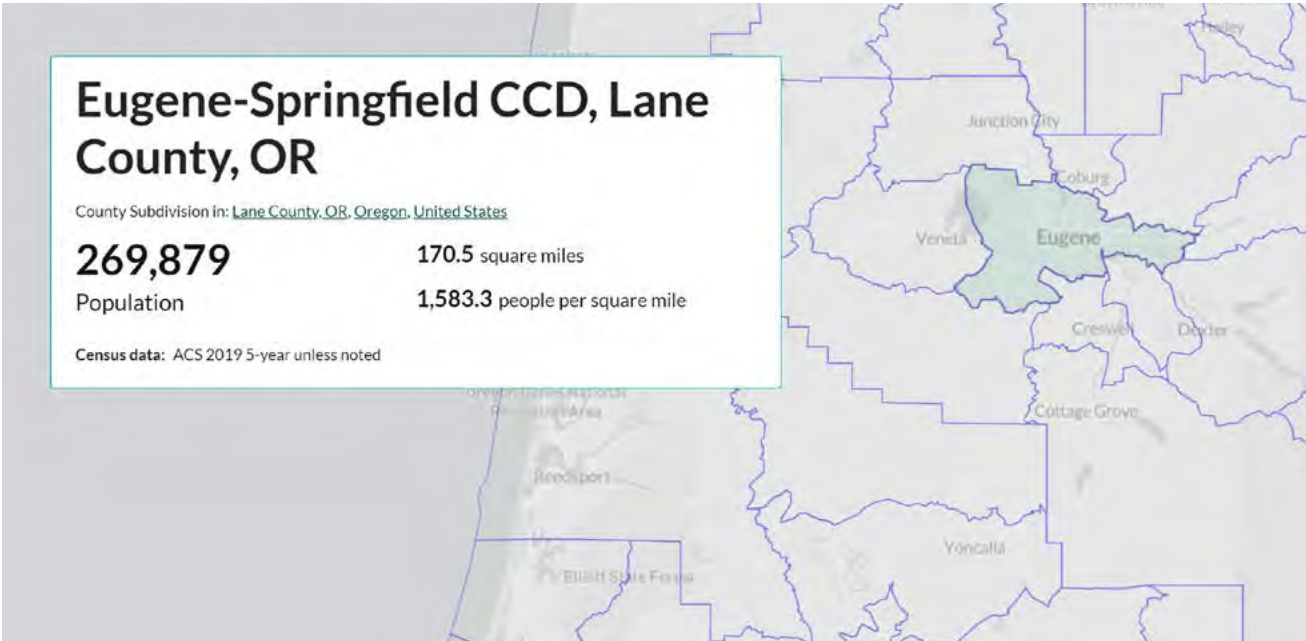


Prepared by National Park Service:
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation
Assistance Program, 2021

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CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS: EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD

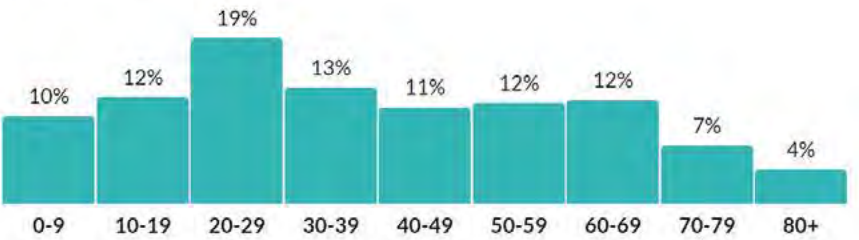


Age

36.5
Median age

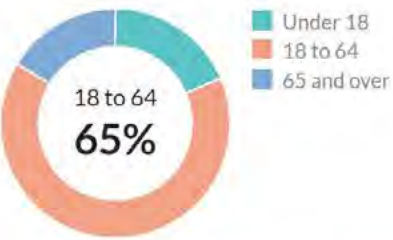
about 90 percent of the figure in Lane County: 39.4
about 90 percent of the figure in Oregon: 39.3

Population by age range



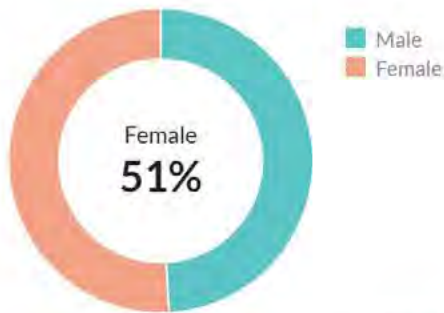
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Population by age category



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Sex



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Race & Ethnicity



* Hispanic includes respondents of any race. Other categories are non-Hispanic.

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Income

\$29,435
Per capita income

about the same as the amount in Lane County: \$29,705
about 90 percent of the amount in Oregon: \$33,763

\$51,572
Median household income

about the same as the amount in Lane County: \$52,426
about 80 percent of the amount in Oregon: \$62,818

Household income



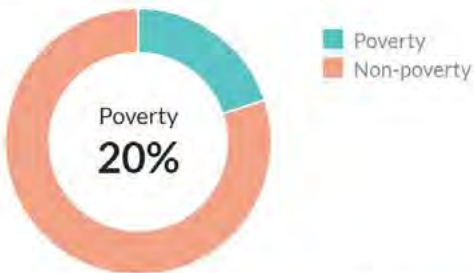
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Poverty

18.7%
Persons below poverty line

a little higher than the rate in Lane County: 17.6%
about 1.4 times the rate in Oregon: 13.2%

Children (Under 18)



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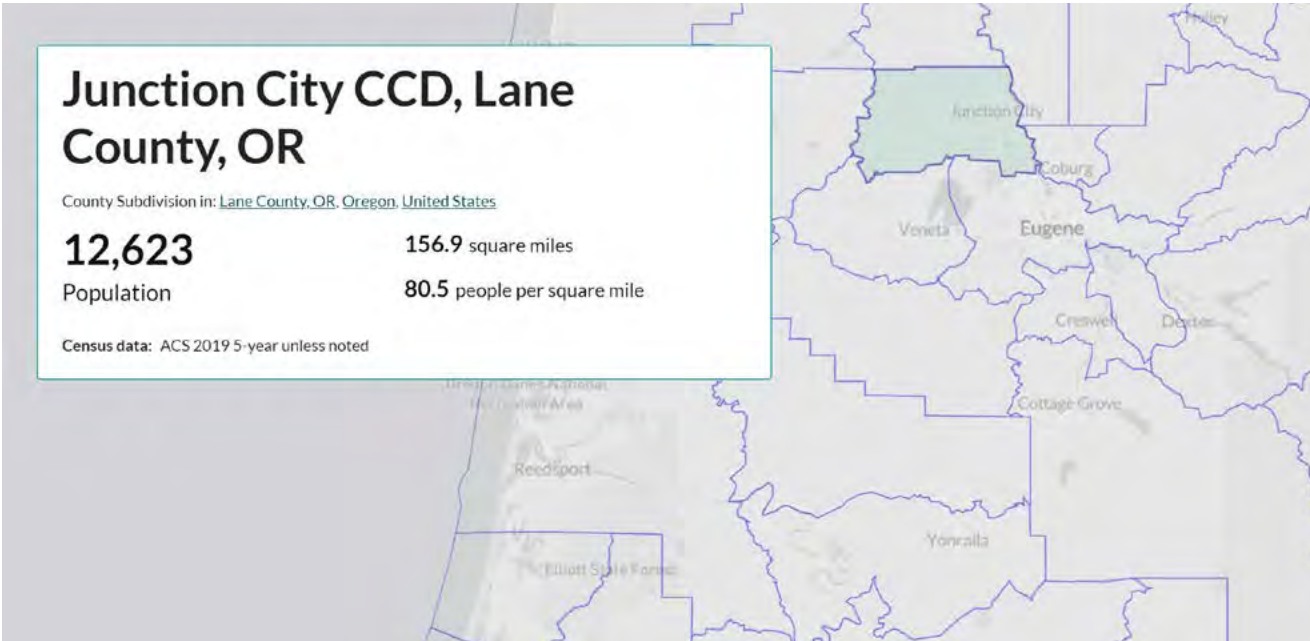
Seniors (65 and over)



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† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS: JUNCTION CITY



Age

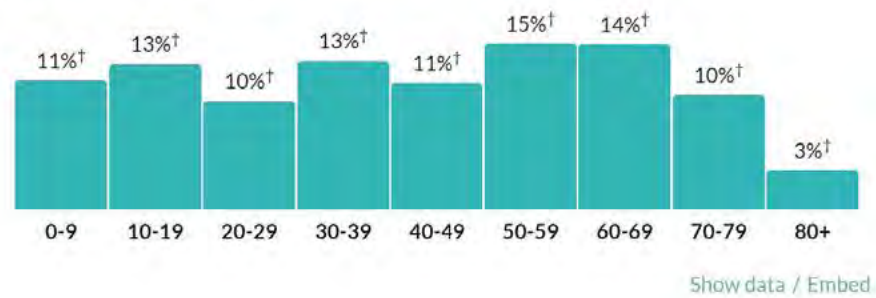
43.5

Median age

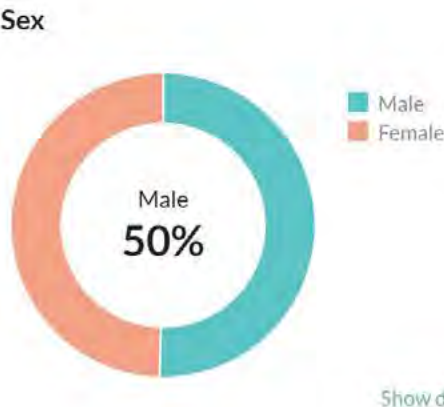
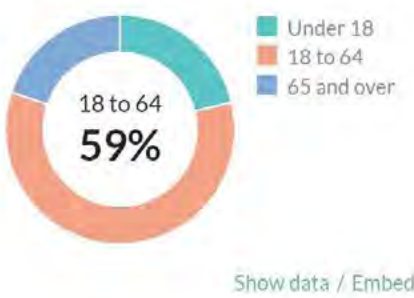
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about 10 percent higher than the figure in Oregon: 39.3

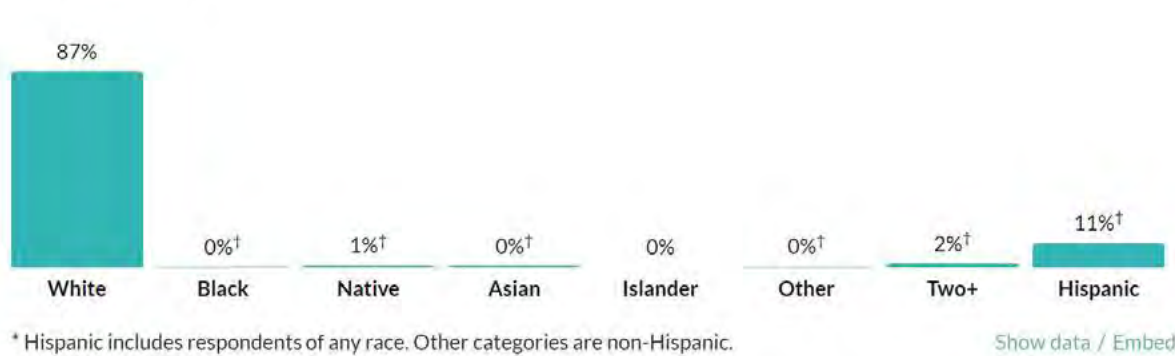
Population by age range



Population by age category



Race & Ethnicity



Income

\$35,373 ±\$9,576

Per capita income

about 20 percent higher than the amount in Lane County: \$29,705 ±\$599

a little higher than the amount in Oregon: \$33,763 ±\$197

\$57,723

Median household income

about 10 percent higher than the amount in Lane County: \$52,426

about 90 percent of the amount in Oregon: \$62,818

Household income



Poverty

14.3%

Persons below poverty line

about 80 percent of the rate in Lane County: 17.6%

about 10 percent higher than the rate in Oregon: 13.2%

Children (Under 18)



Seniors (65 and over)



† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

Badger Mountain CCD, Lane County, OR

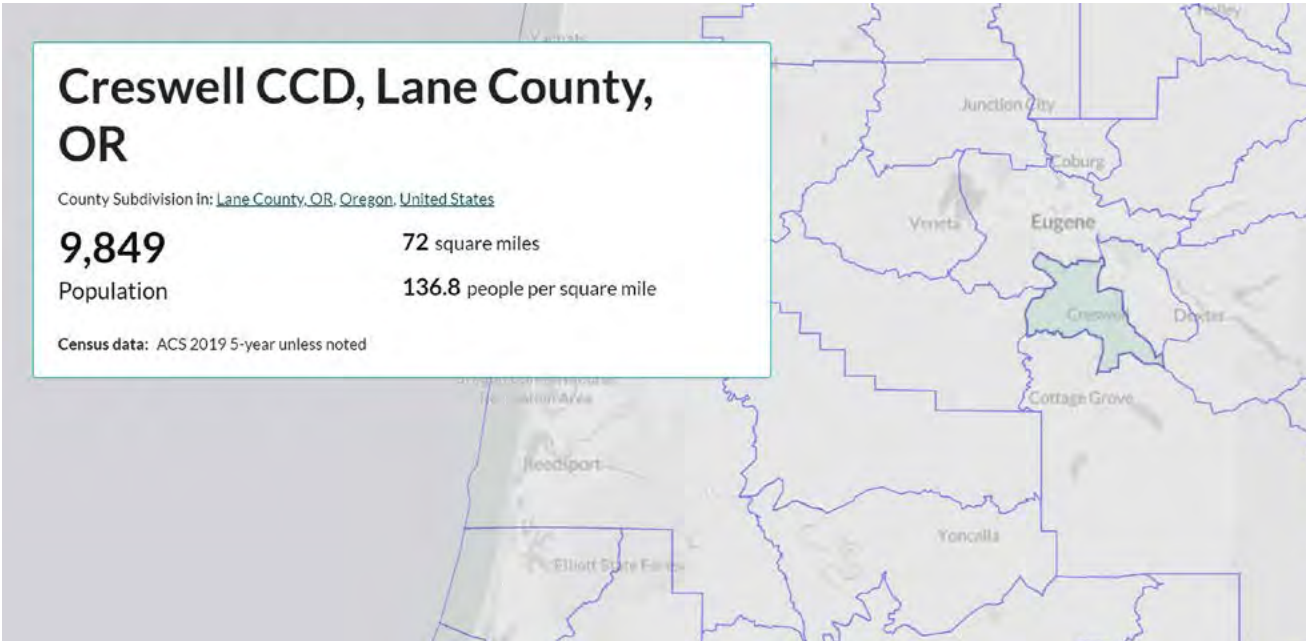
County Subdivision in: [Lane County, OR, Oregon, United States](#)

13,603	152.2 square miles
Population	89.4 people per square mile

Census data: ACS 2019 5-year unless noted

V

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS: CRESWELL



Age

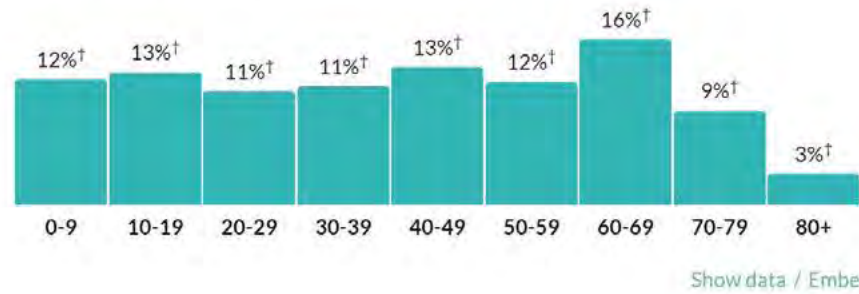
43

Median age

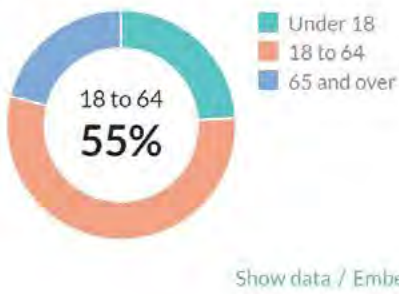
about 10 percent higher than the figure in Lane County: 39.4

about 10 percent higher than the figure in Oregon: 39.3

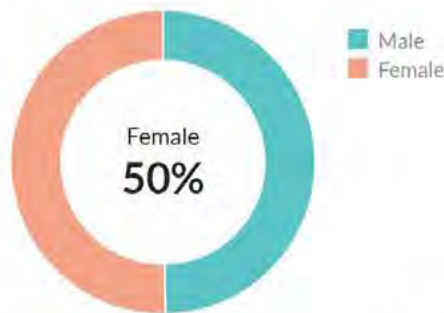
Population by age range



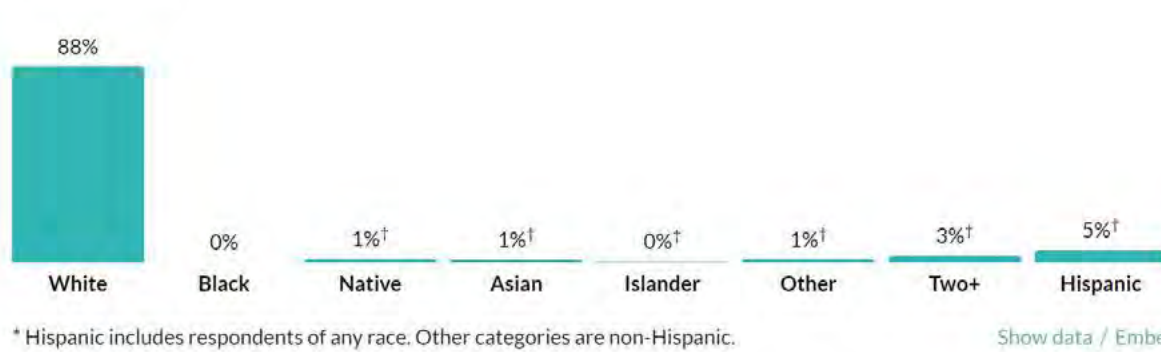
Population by age category



Sex



Race & Ethnicity



Income

\$33,986

Per capita income

about 10 percent higher than the amount in Lane County: \$29,705

about the same as the amount in Oregon: \$33,763

\$65,990

Median household income

about 25 percent higher than the amount in Lane County: \$52,426

a little higher than the amount in Oregon: \$62,818

Household income



Poverty

10.8%

Persons below poverty line

about three-fifths of the rate in Lane County: 17.6%

about 80 percent of the rate in Oregon: 13.2%

Children (Under 18)



Seniors (65 and over)



† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

Pleasant Hill CCD, Lane County, OR

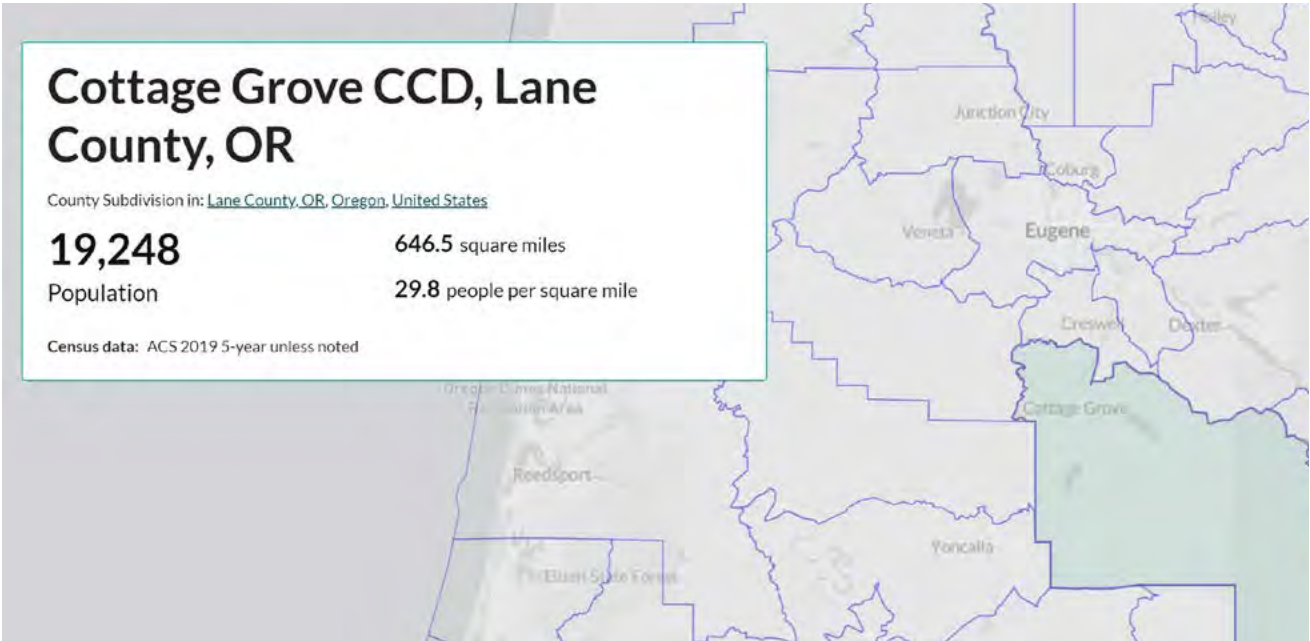
County Subdivision in: [Lane County, OR, Oregon, United States](#)

5,884	59.6 square miles
Population	98.7 people per square mile

Census data: ACS 2019 5-year unless noted

VII

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS: COTTAGE GROVE



Age

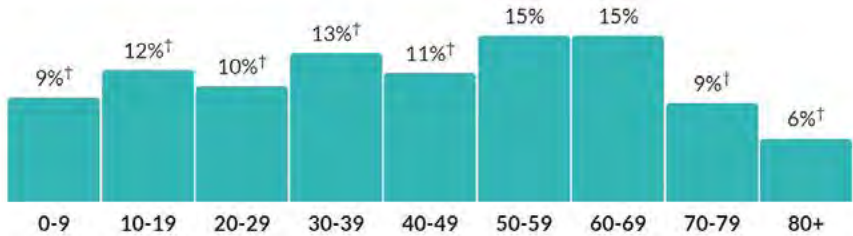
44.8

Median age

about 10 percent higher than the figure in Lane County: 39.4

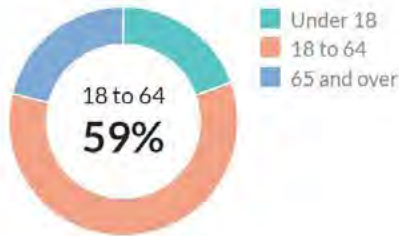
about 10 percent higher than the figure in Oregon: 39.3

Population by age range



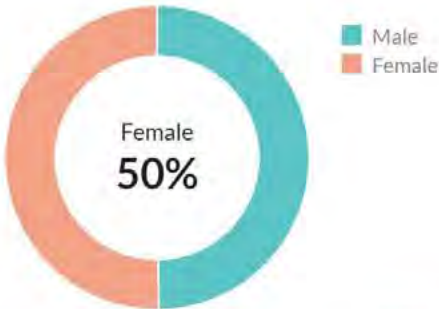
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Population by age category



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Sex



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Race & Ethnicity



* Hispanic includes respondents of any race. Other categories are non-Hispanic.

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Income

\$24,520

Per capita income

about 80 percent of the amount in Lane County: \$29,705

about three-quarters of the amount in Oregon: \$33,763

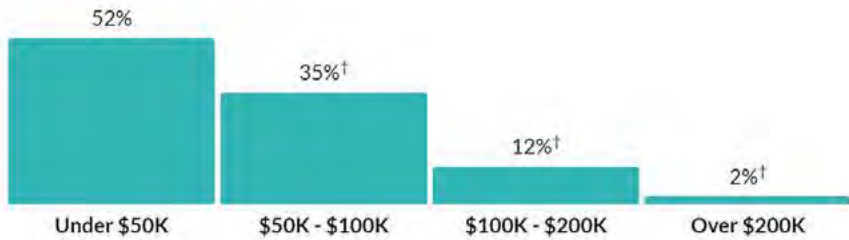
\$48,591

Median household income

about 90 percent of the amount in Lane County: \$52,426

about three-quarters of the amount in Oregon: \$62,818

Household income



Show data / Embed

Poverty

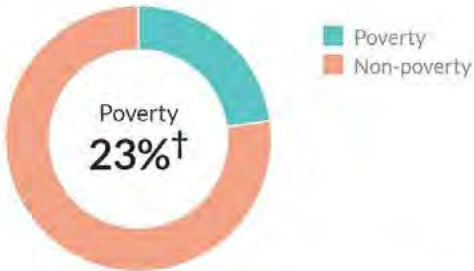
19.1%

Persons below poverty line

about 10 percent higher than the rate in Lane County: 17.6%

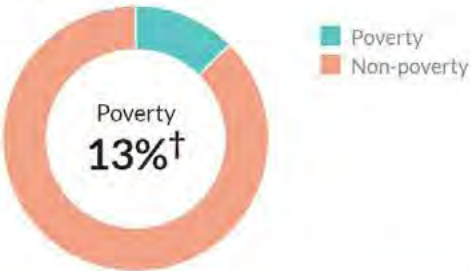
about 1.5 times the rate in Oregon: 13.2%

Children (Under 18)



Show data / Embed

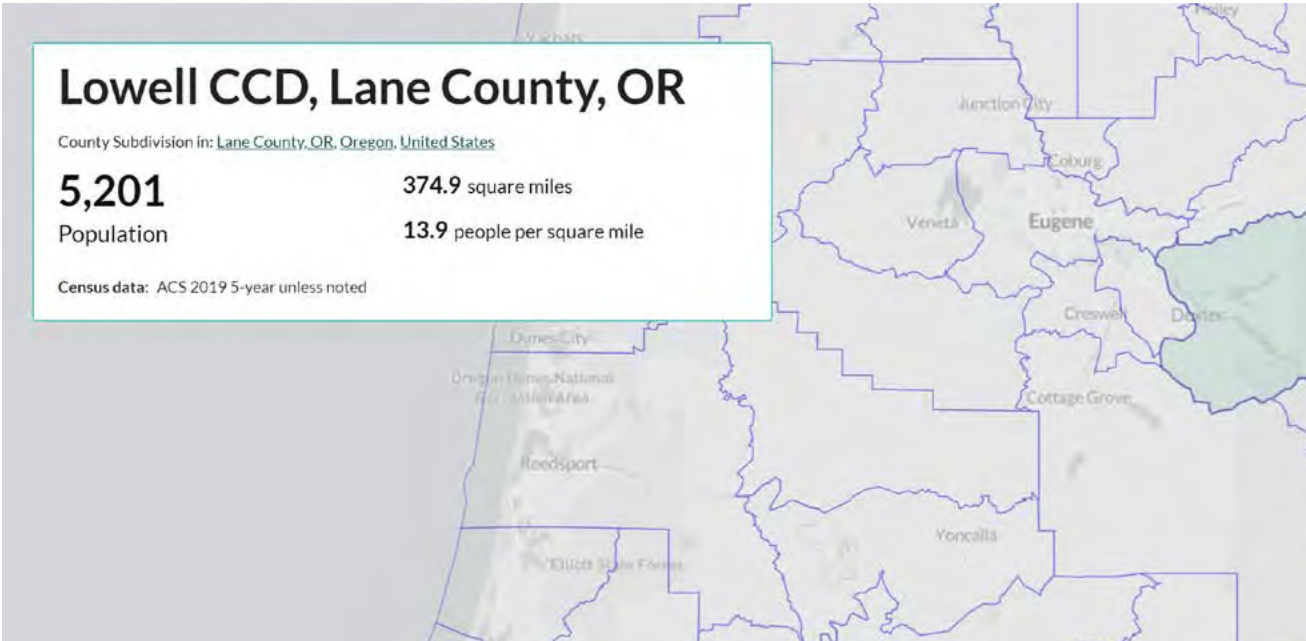
Seniors (65 and over)



Show data / Embed

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS: LOWELL



Age

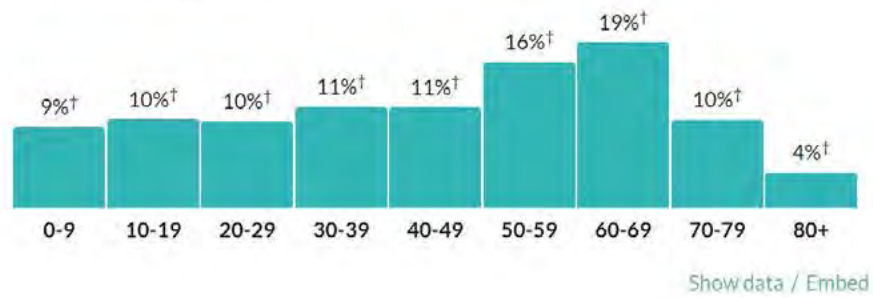
48.8

Median age

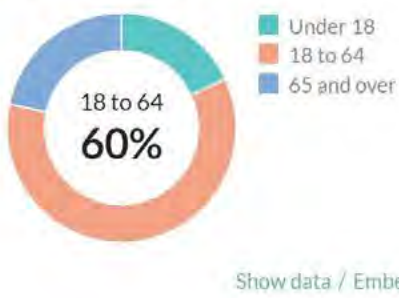
about 25 percent higher than the figure in Lane County: 39.4

about 25 percent higher than the figure in Oregon: 39.3

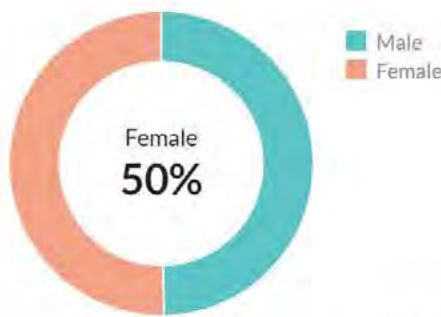
Population by age range



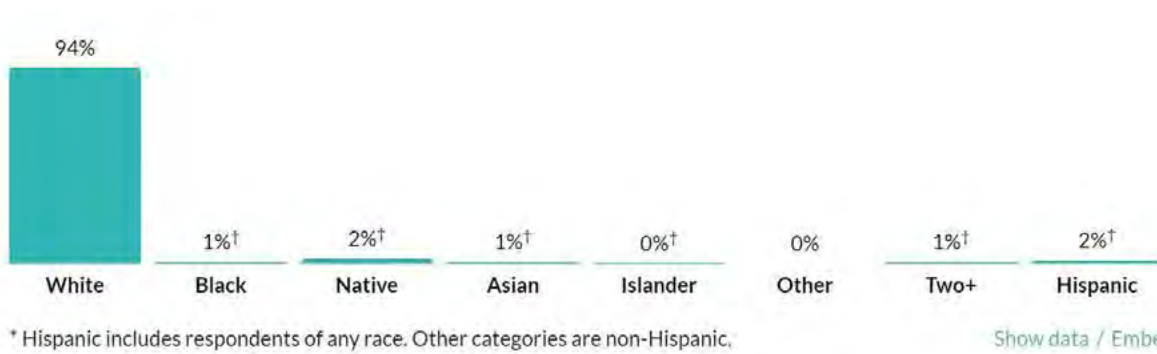
Population by age category



Sex



Race & Ethnicity



Income

\$30,714

Per capita income

a little higher than the amount in Lane County: \$29,705

about 90 percent of the amount in Oregon: \$33,763

\$58,804

Median household income

about 10 percent higher than the amount in Lane County: \$52,426

a little less than the amount in Oregon: \$62,818

Household income



Poverty

12.2%

Persons below poverty line

about two-thirds of the rate in Lane County: 17.6%

about 90 percent of the rate in Oregon: 13.2%

Children (Under 18)

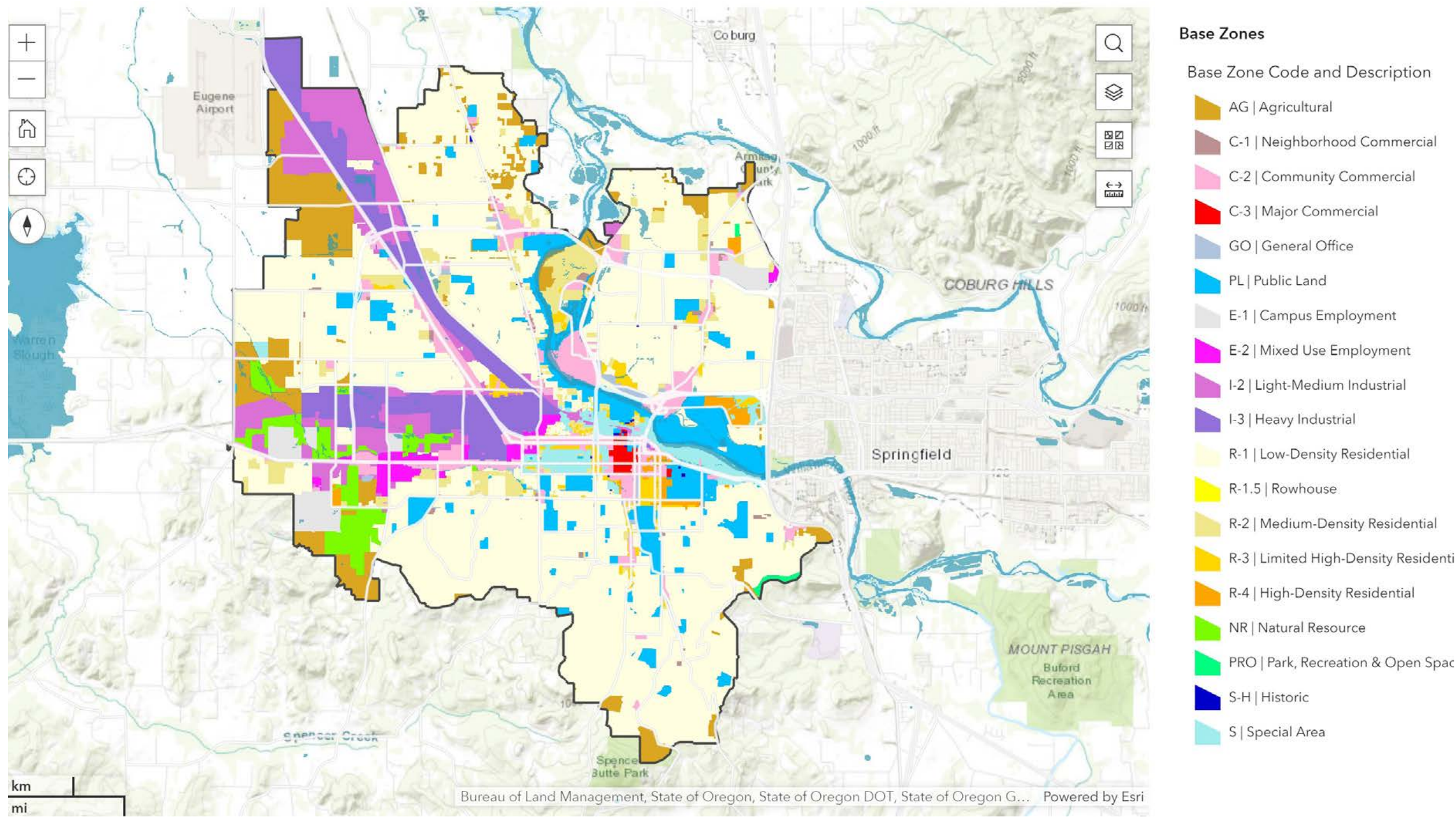


Seniors (65 and over)

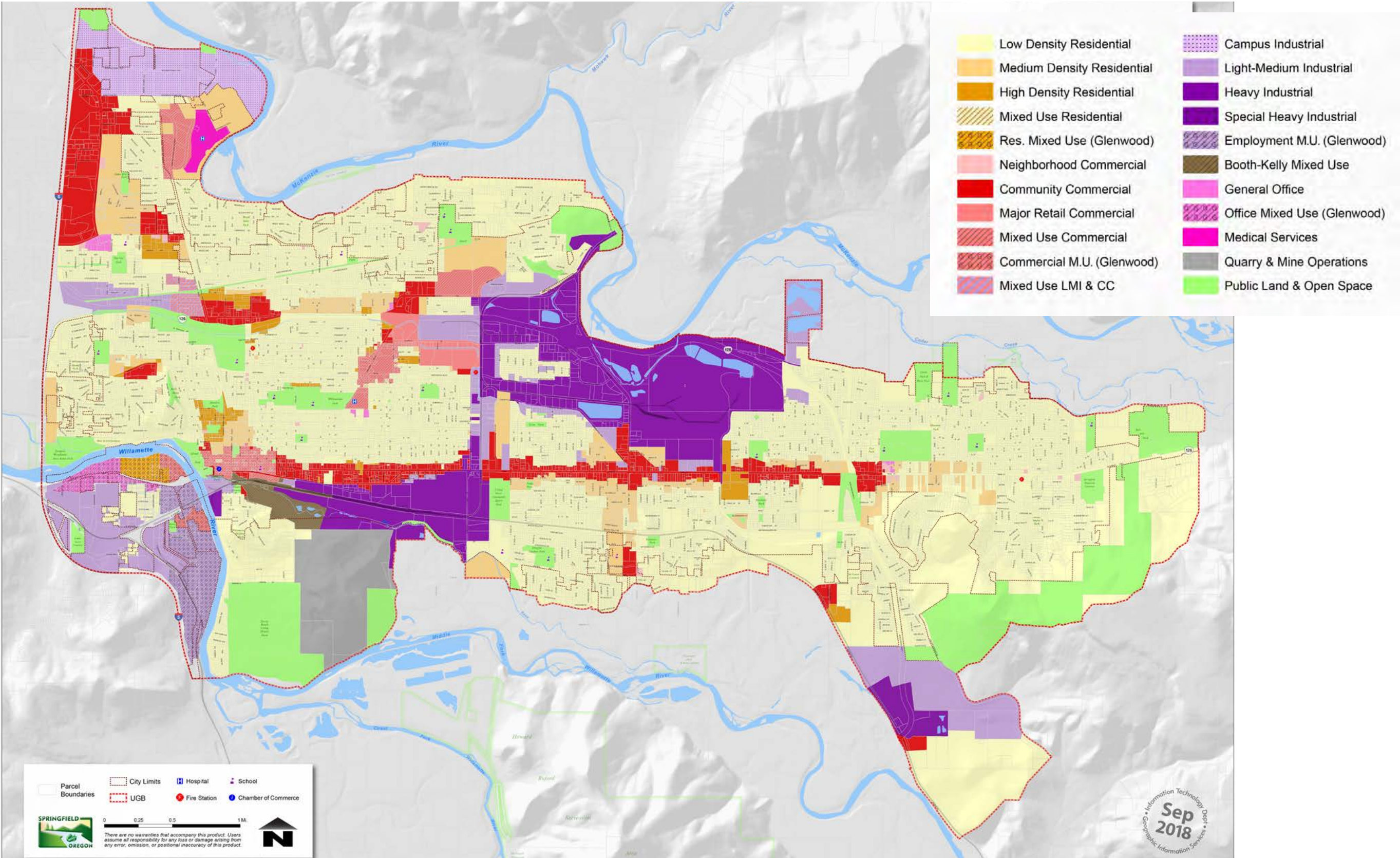


† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value. Take care with this statistic.

EUGENE ZONING

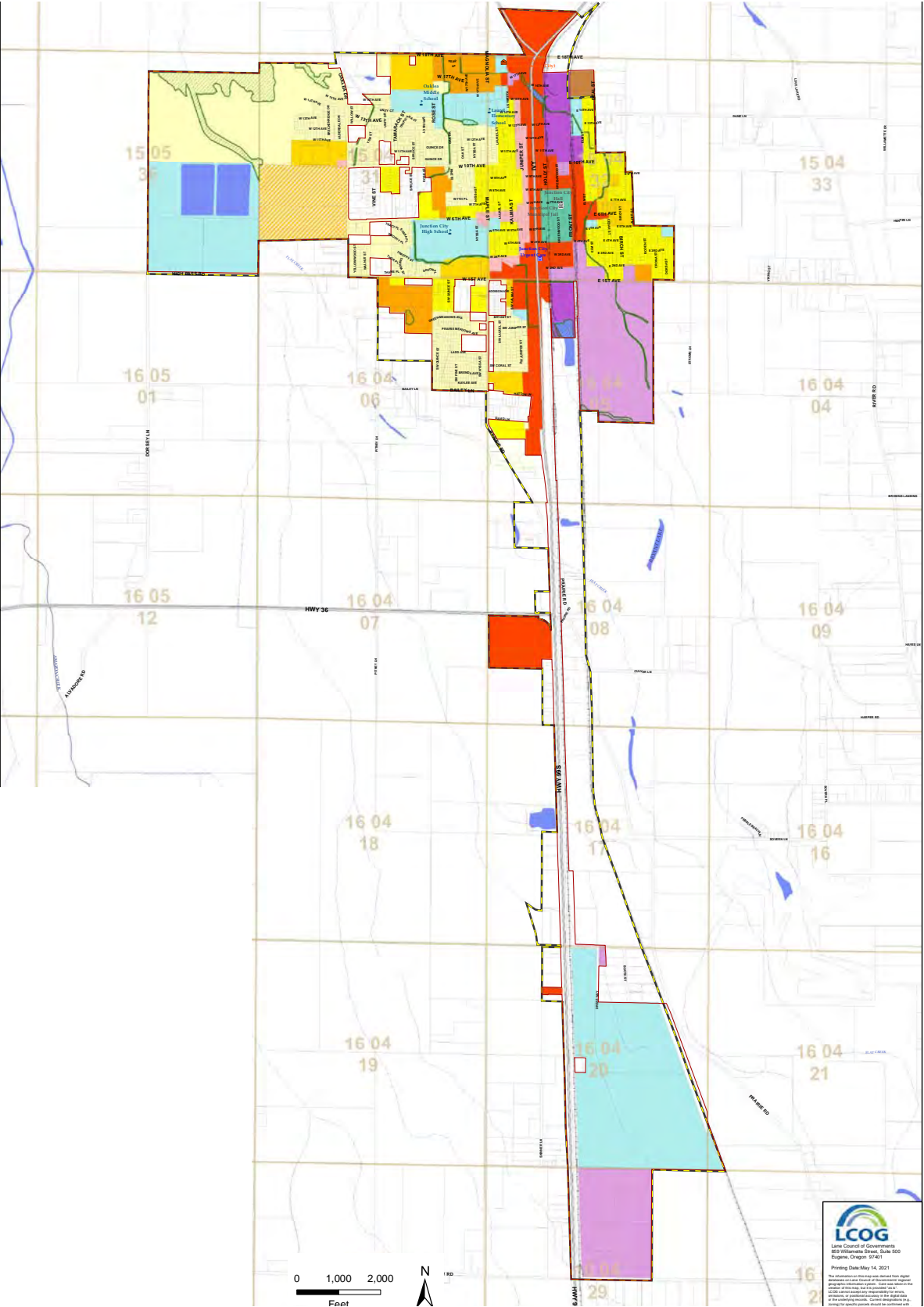


SPRINGFIELD ZONING



https://www.springfield-or.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/std_map_zoning.pdf

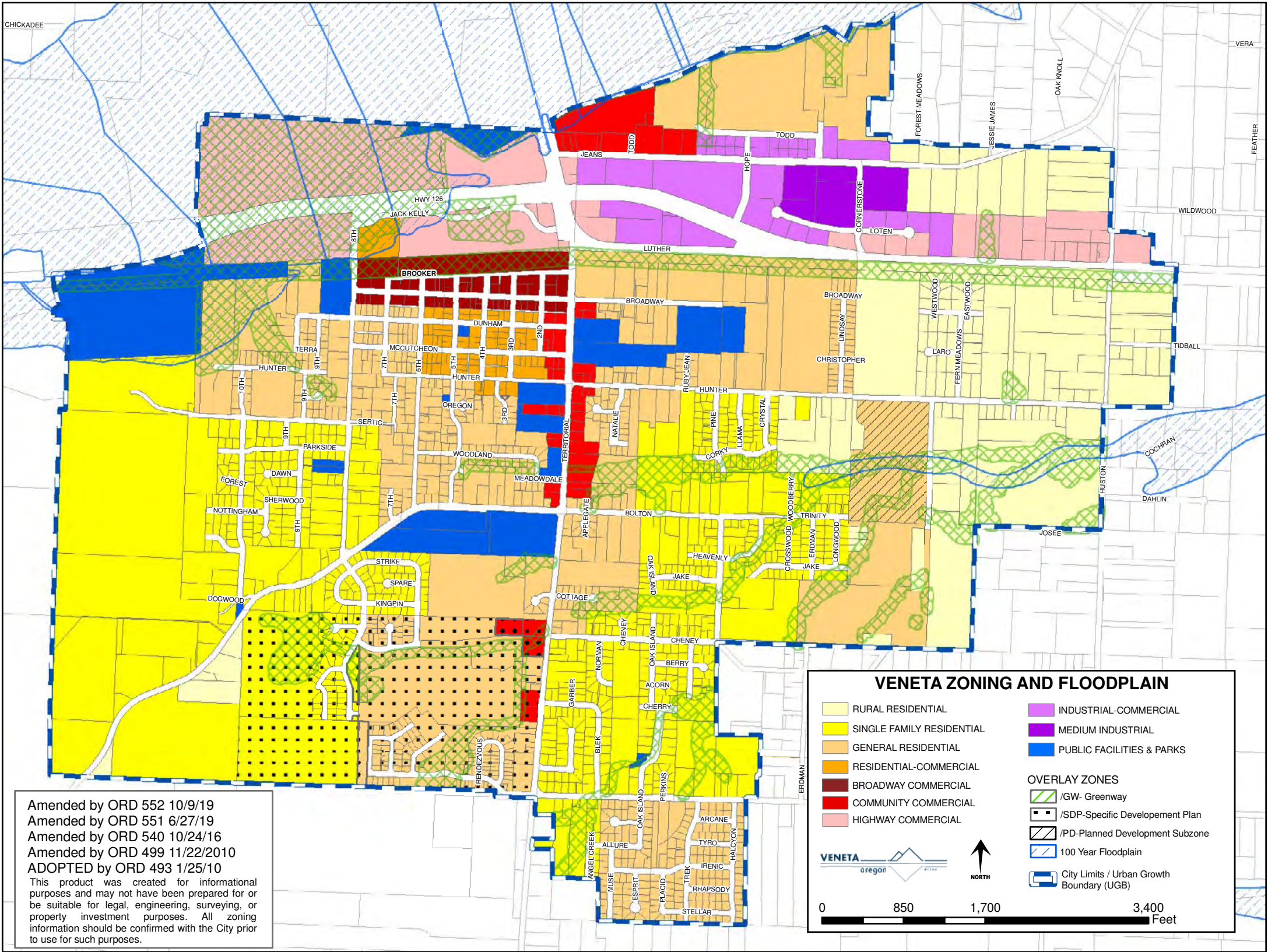
JUNCTION CITY ZONING



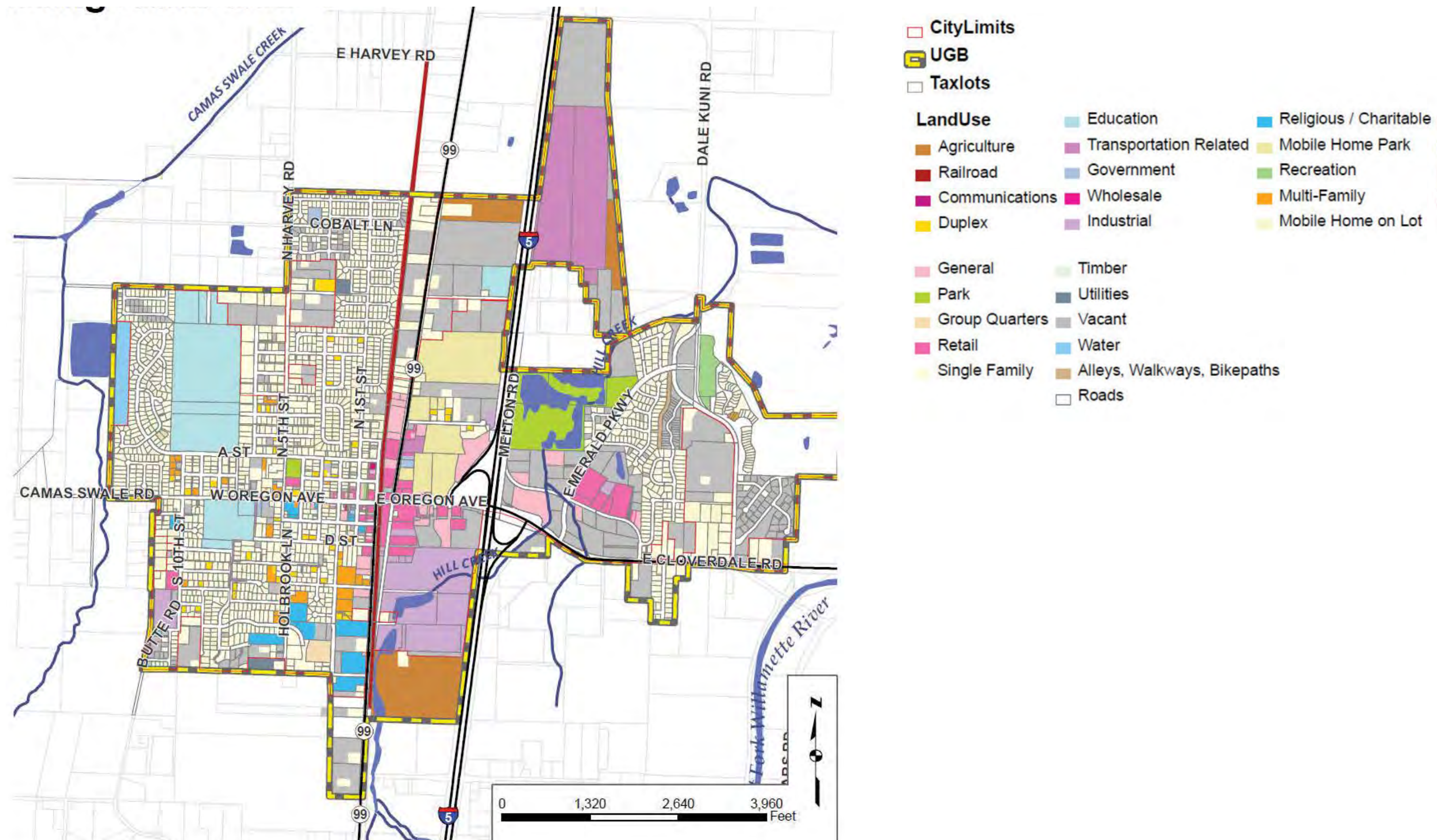
- AG, Agricultural
- PL, Public Land
- R1, Single Family Residential
- R2, Duplex Family Residential
- R3, Multi-Family Residential
- R4, Multi-Structural Residential
- Rx, Residential Mix TBD *
- CR, Commercial/Residential
- C2, Central Commercial
- GC, General Commercial
- M1, Light Industrial
- M2, Heavy Industrial
- Wetland Resource
- Overlay District (WRD)
- Parcel Boundaries
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary

https://www.junctioncityoregon.gov/vertical/sites/%7BE865F063-52B6-4191-89A3-FB88287BBBED%7D/uploads/junctioncity_zoning_2021.pdf

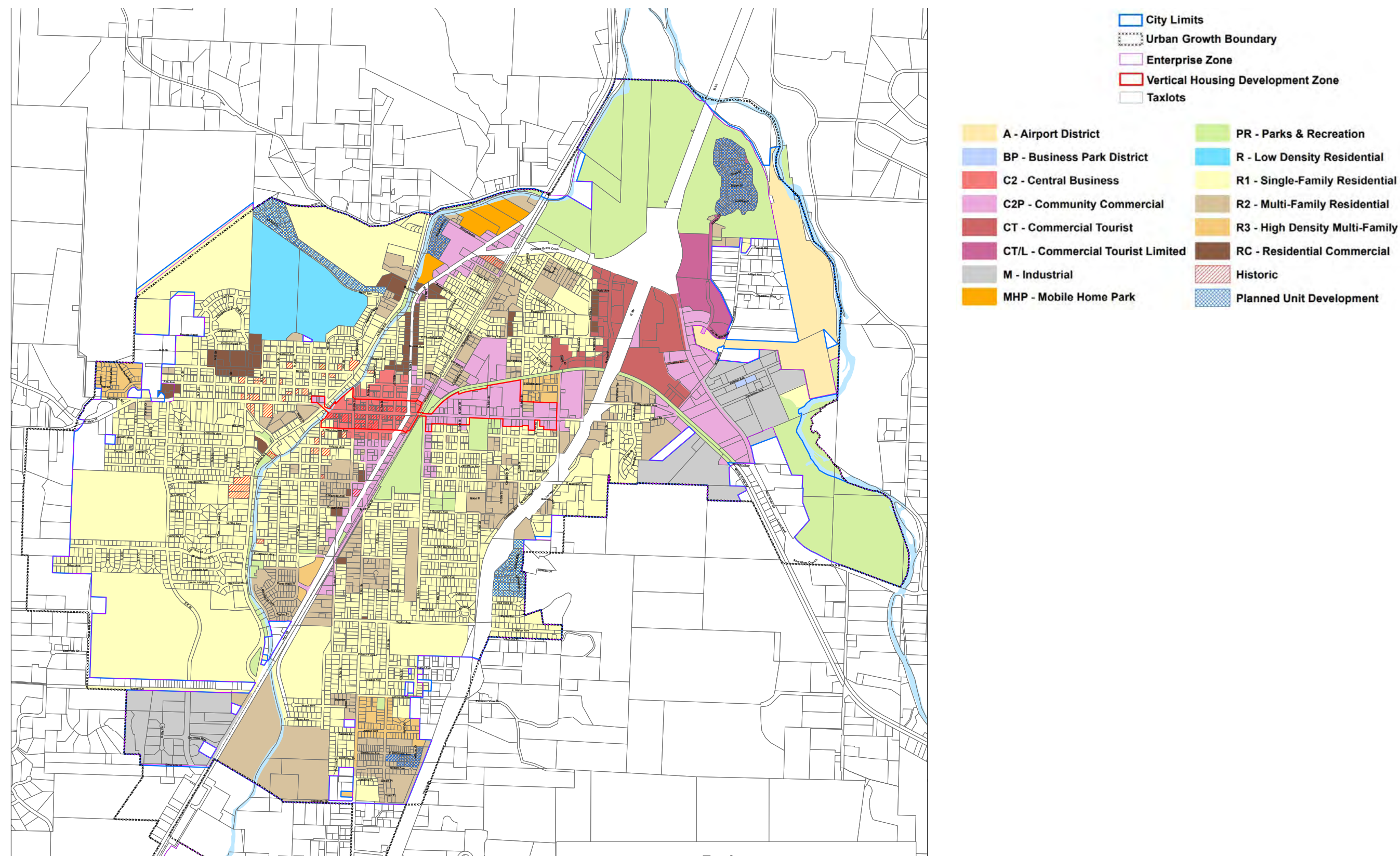
VENETA ZONING



CRESWELL ZONING

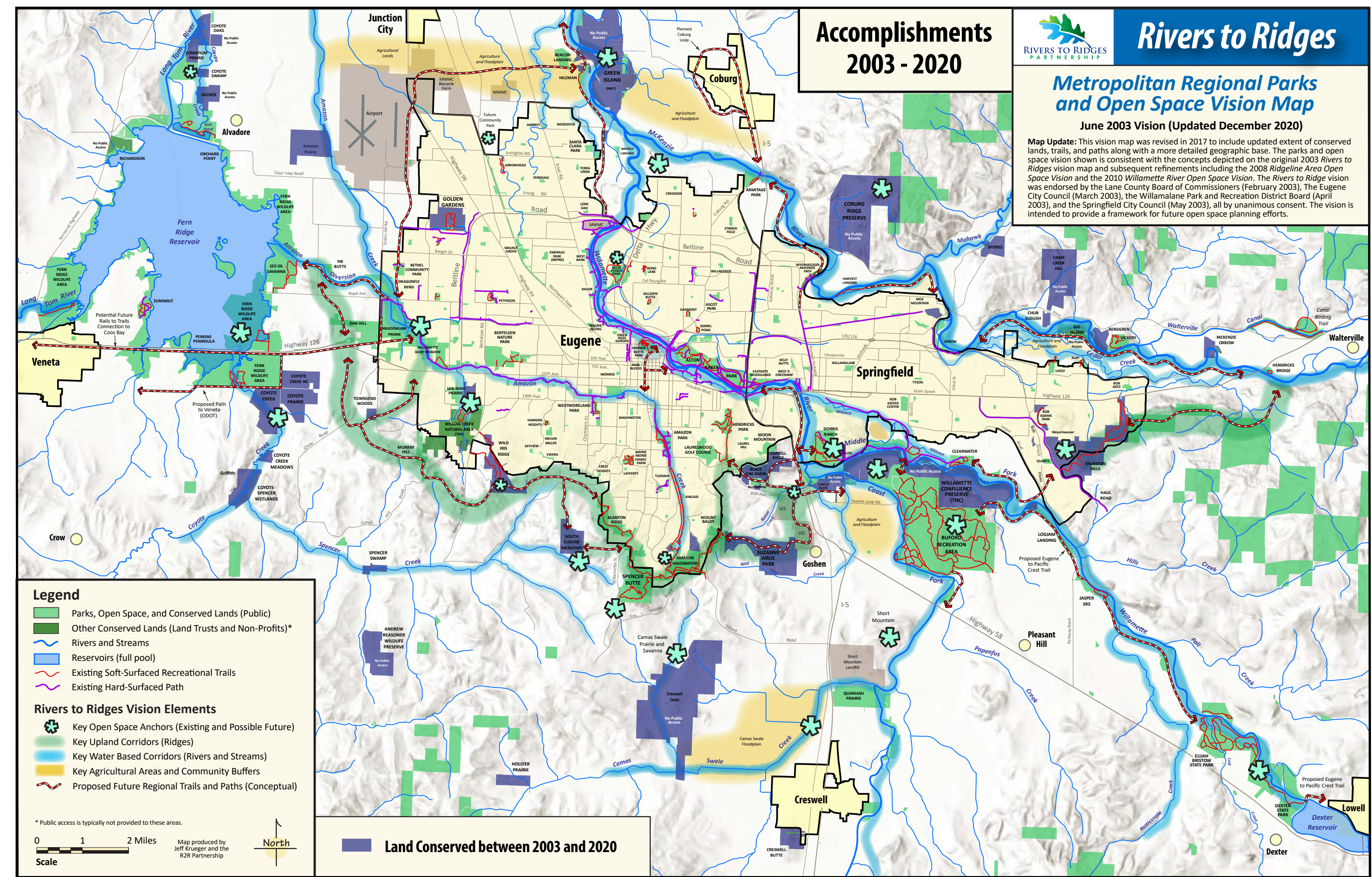


COTTAGE GROVE ZONING

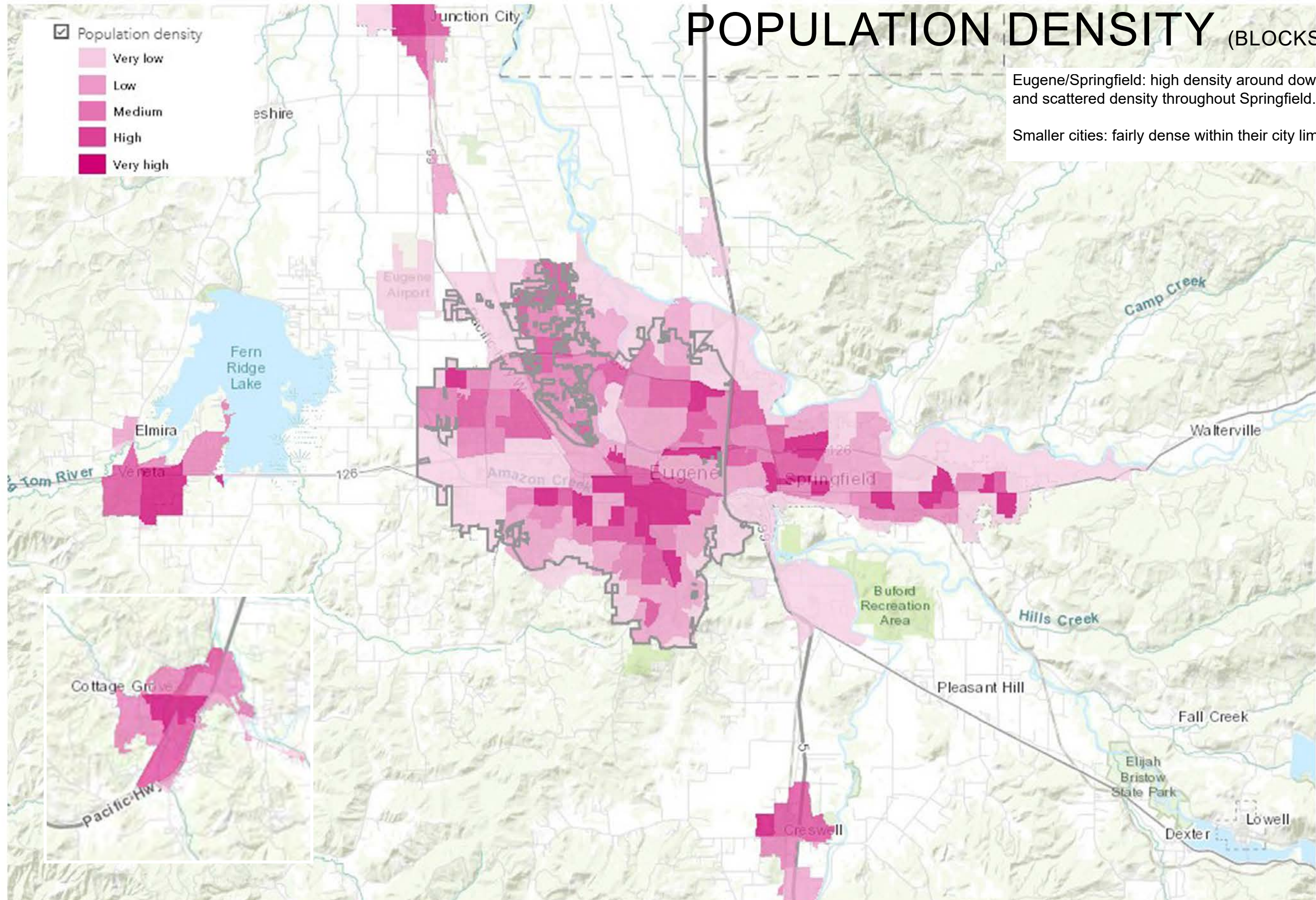


https://www.cottagegroveor.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/community_development/page/405/cg_zone_map_revs_032520_1.pdf

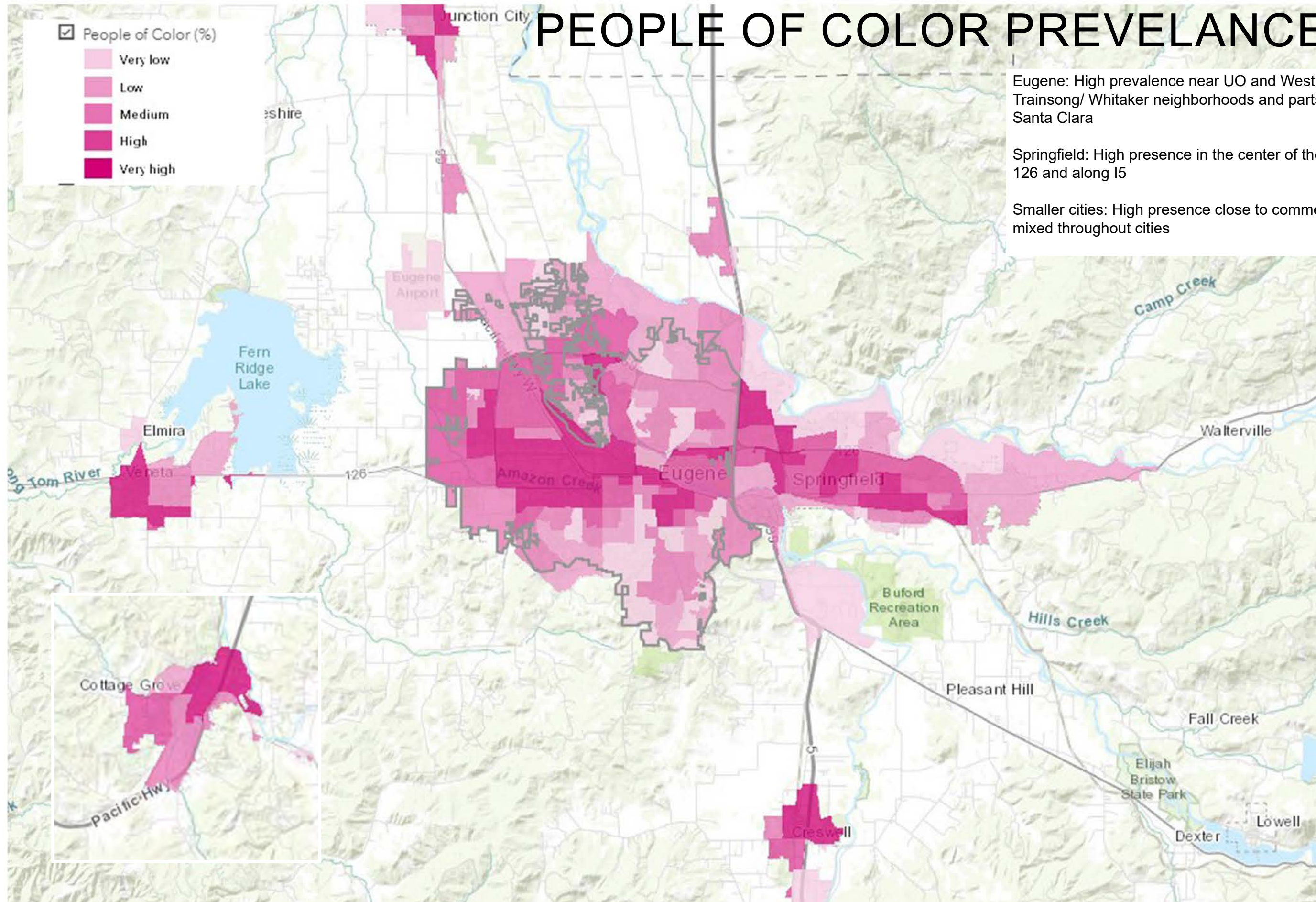
RIVERS TO RIDGES VISION MAP WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH 2020



POPULATION DENSITY (BLOCKS)



PEOPLE OF COLOR PREVELANCE



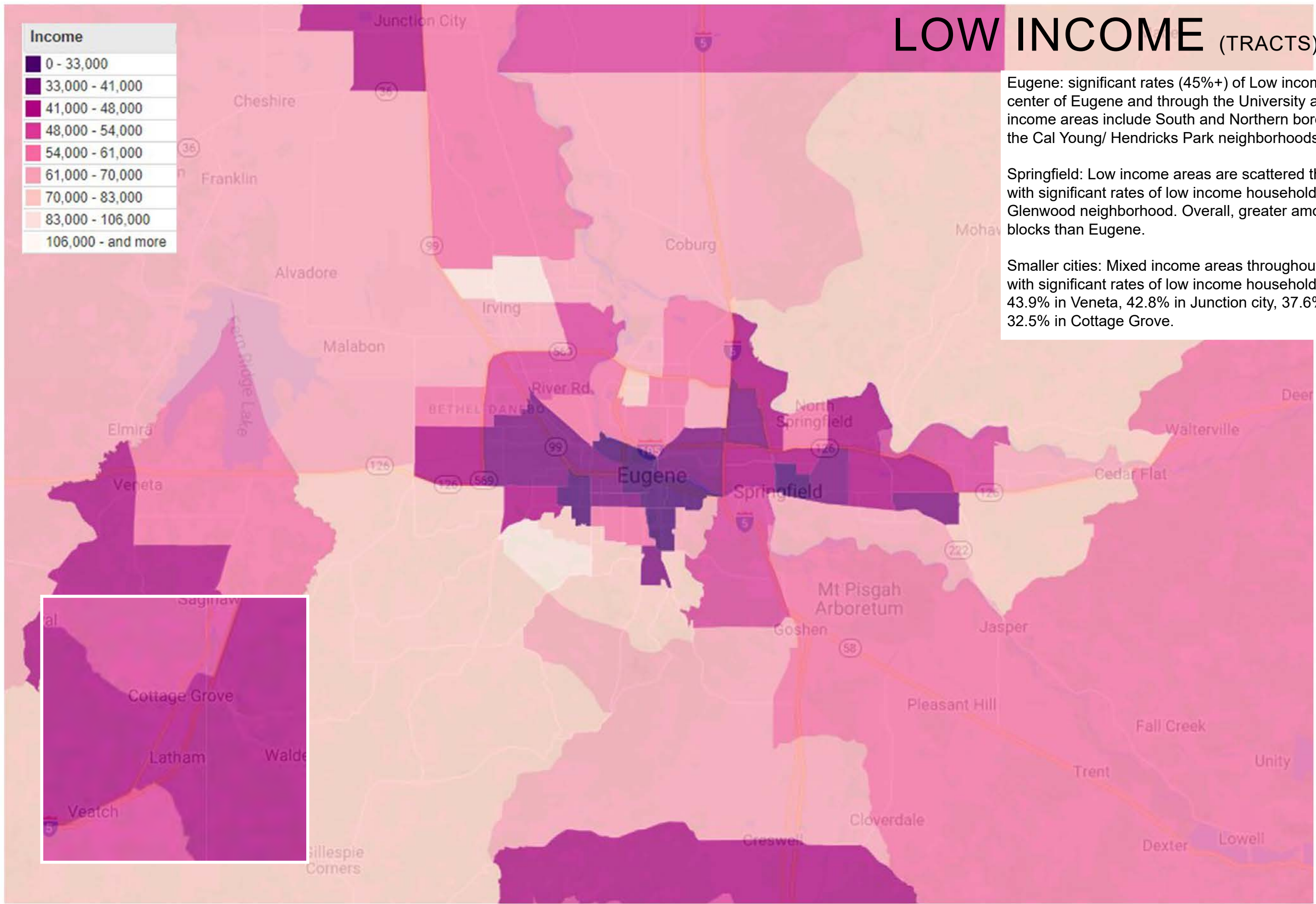
LOW INCOME (TRACTS)

Income	
0 - 33,000	
33,000 - 41,000	
41,000 - 48,000	
48,000 - 54,000	
54,000 - 61,000	
61,000 - 70,000	
70,000 - 83,000	
83,000 - 106,000	
106,000 - and more	

Eugene: significant rates (45%+) of Low income found along the center of Eugene and through the University area. Notably high income areas include South and Northern borders of Eugene, and the Cal Young/ Hendricks Park neighborhoods.

Springfield: Low income areas are scattered through Springfield with significant rates of low income households—up to 64% in the Glenwood neighborhood. Overall, greater amounts of low-income blocks than Eugene.

Smaller cities: Mixed income areas throughout, but some areas with significant rates of low income households - as much as 43.9% in Veneta, 42.8% in Junction city, 37.6% in Creswell, and 32.5% in Cottage Grove.



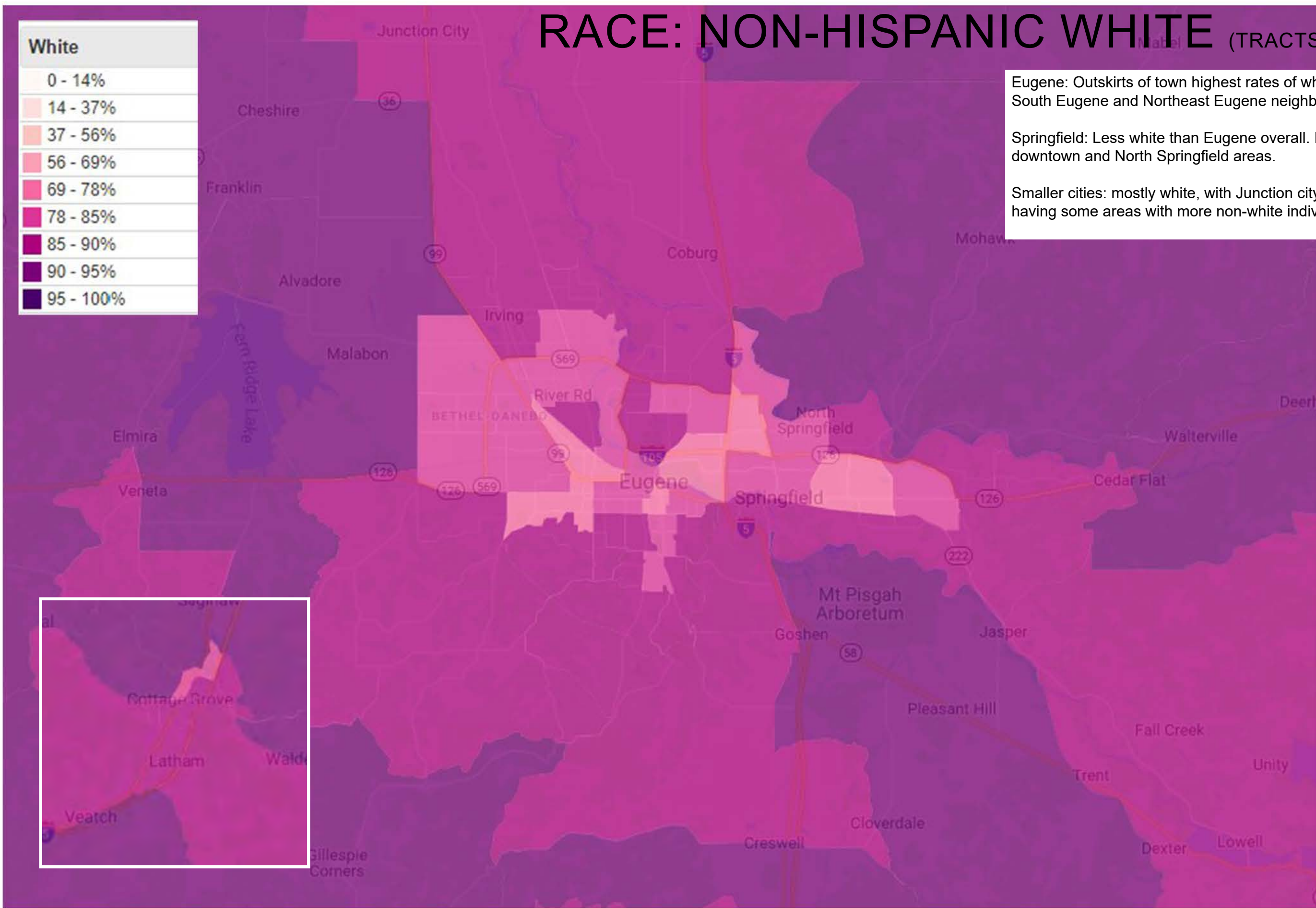
RACE: NON-HISPANIC WHITE (TRACTS)

White
0 - 14%
14 - 37%
37 - 56%
56 - 69%
69 - 78%
78 - 85%
85 - 90%
90 - 95%
95 - 100%

Eugene: Outskirts of town highest rates of white folks, including South Eugene and Northeast Eugene neighborhoods.

Springfield: Less white than Eugene overall. Most white folks in downtown and North Springfield areas.

Smaller cities: mostly white, with Junction city and cottage grove having some areas with more non-white individuals.



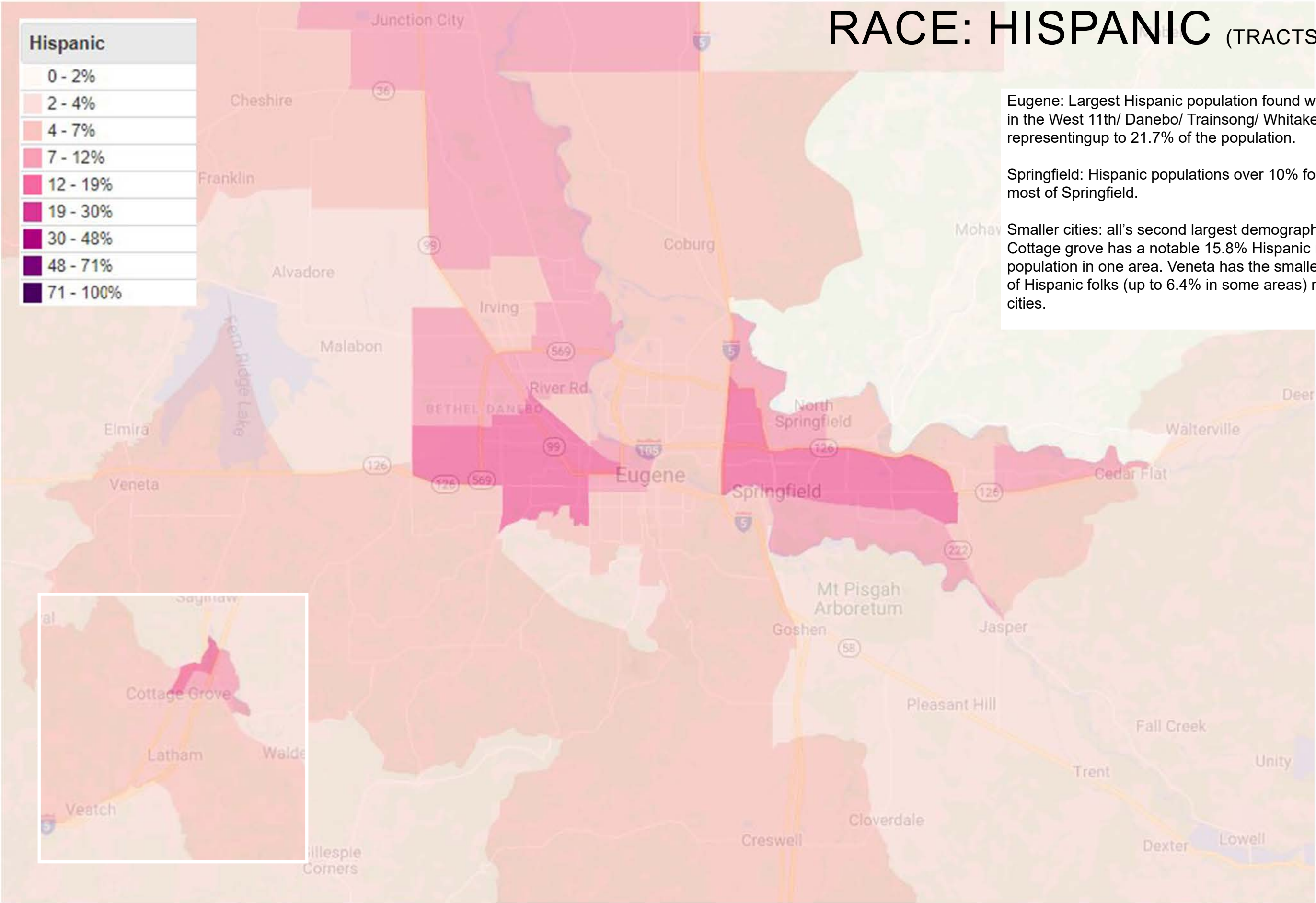
RACE: HISPANIC (TRACTS)

Hispanic
0 - 2%
2 - 4%
4 - 7%
7 - 12%
12 - 19%
19 - 30%
30 - 48%
48 - 71%
71 - 100%

Eugene: Largest Hispanic population found within West Eugene in the West 11th/ Danebo/ Trainsong/ Whitaker/ River Road areas representing up to 21.7% of the population.

Springfield: Hispanic populations over 10% found throughout most of Springfield.

Smaller cities: all's second largest demographic is Hispanic. Cottage grove has a notable 15.8% Hispanic representing the population in one area. Veneta has the smallest representation of Hispanic folks (up to 6.4% in some areas) relative to the other cities.



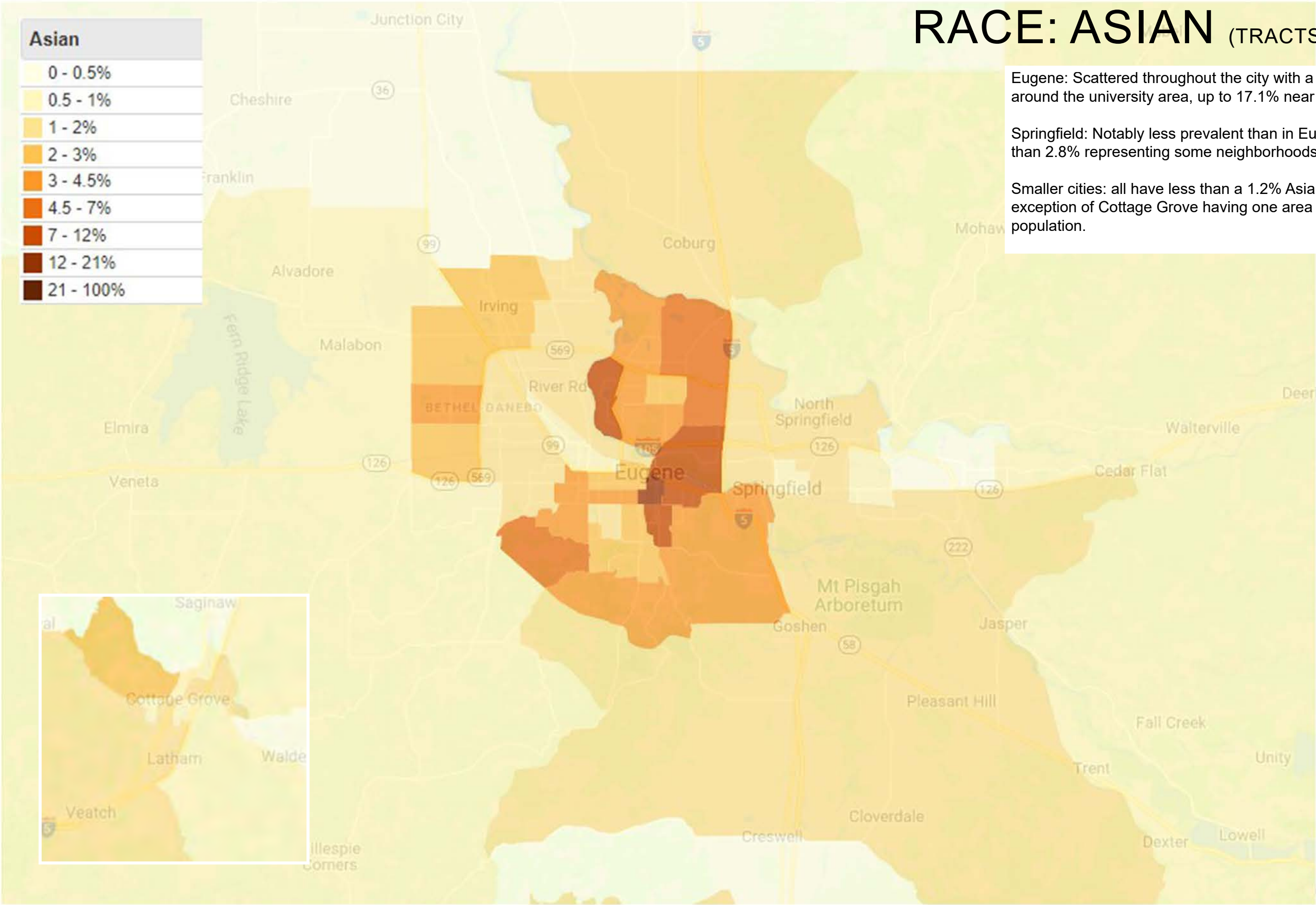
RACE: ASIAN (TRACTS)

Asian
0 - 0.5%
0.5 - 1%
1 - 2%
2 - 3%
3 - 4.5%
4.5 - 7%
7 - 12%
12 - 21%
21 - 100%

Eugene: Scattered throughout the city with a high concentration around the university area, up to 17.1% near UO.

Springfield: Notably less prevalent than in Eugene with no more than 2.8% representing some neighborhoods.

Smaller cities: all have less than a 1.2% Asian population with the exception of Cottage Grove having one area with a 2.4% Asian population.

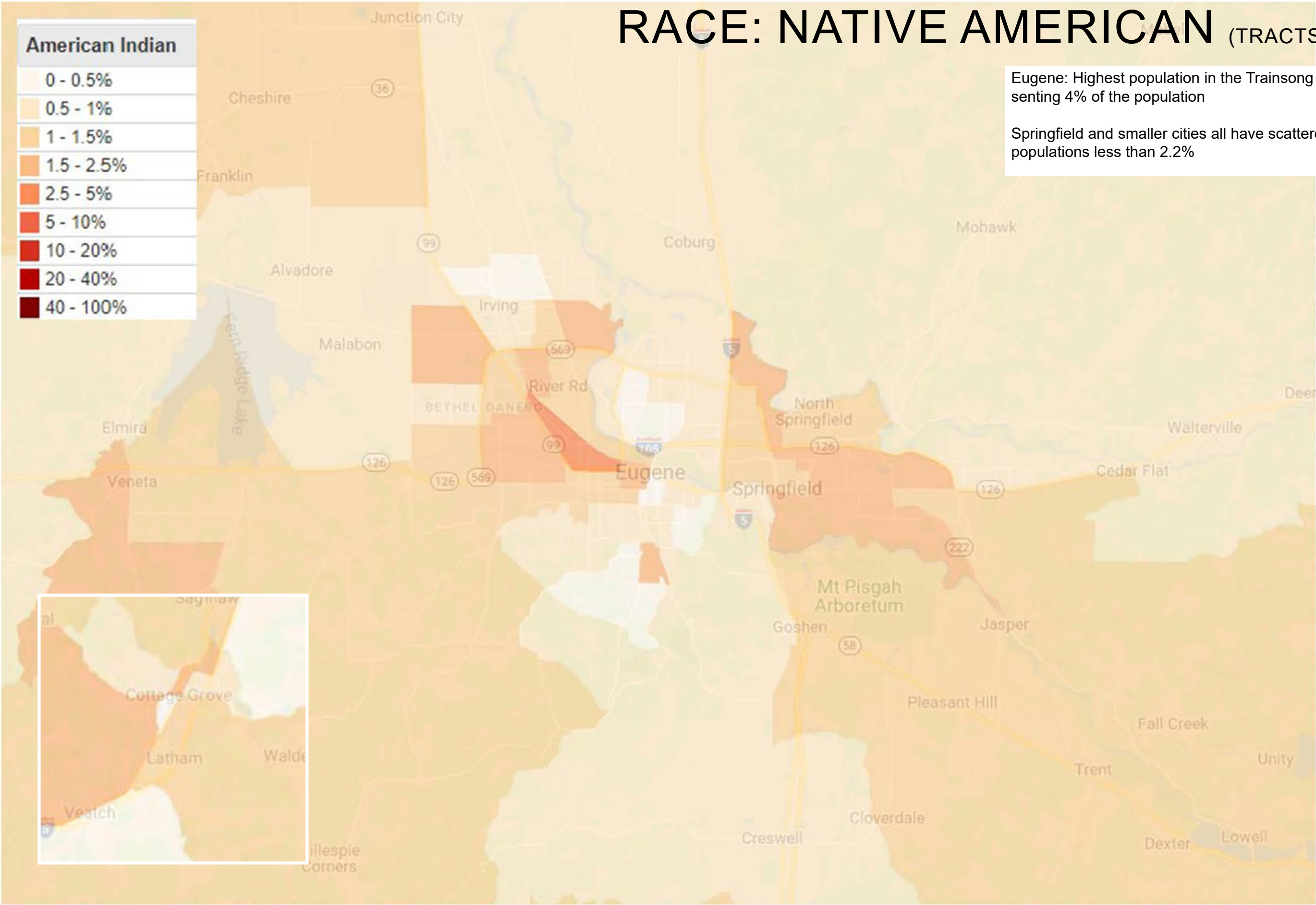


RACE: NATIVE AMERICAN (TRACTS)

American Indian
0 - 0.5%
0.5 - 1%
1 - 1.5%
1.5 - 2.5%
2.5 - 5%
5 - 10%
10 - 20%
20 - 40%
40 - 100%

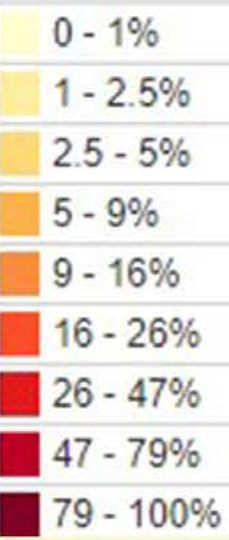
Eugene: Highest population in the Trainsong neighborhood representing 4% of the population

Springfield and smaller cities all have scattered Native American populations less than 2.2%



RACE: BLACK (TRACTS)

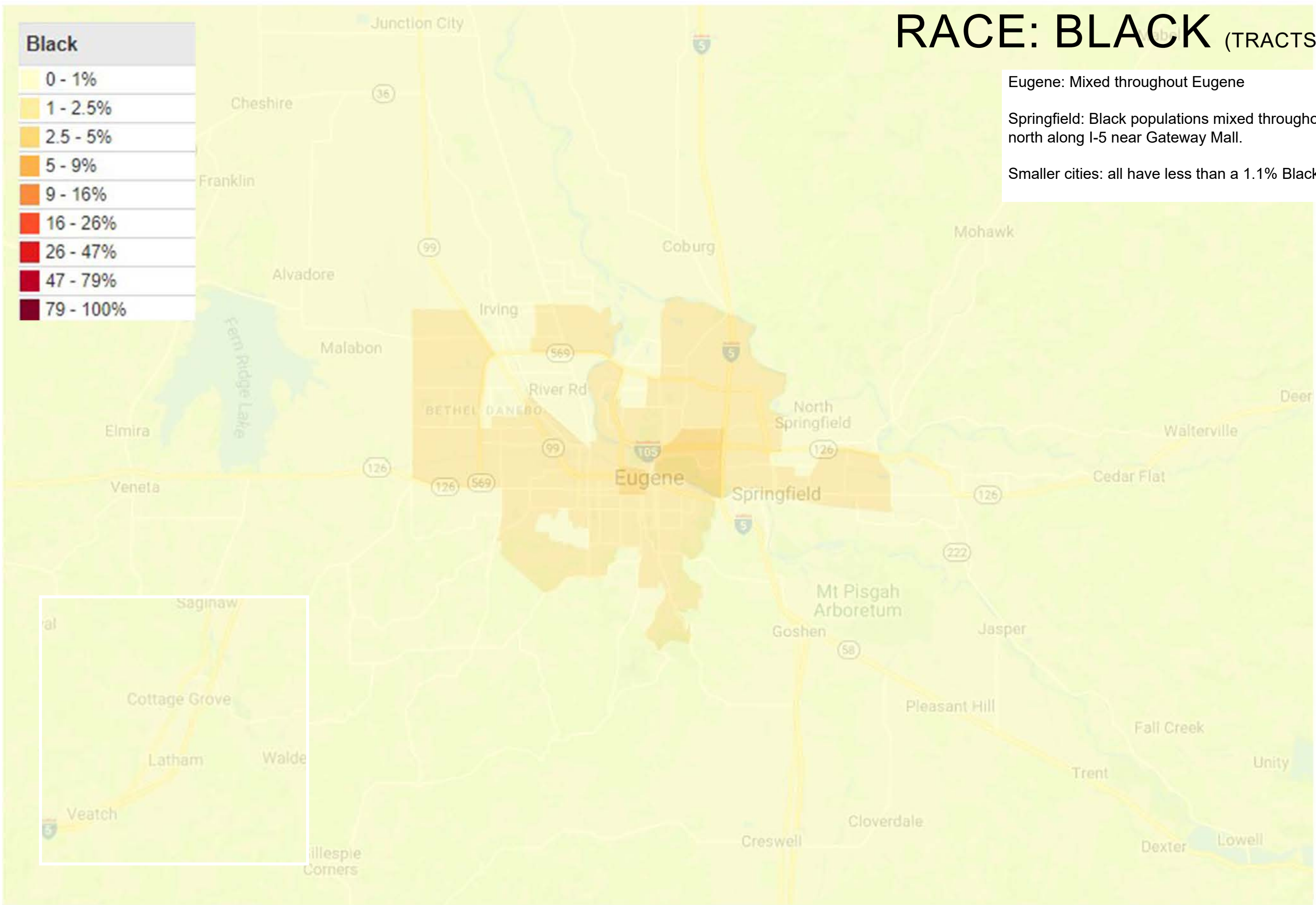
Black



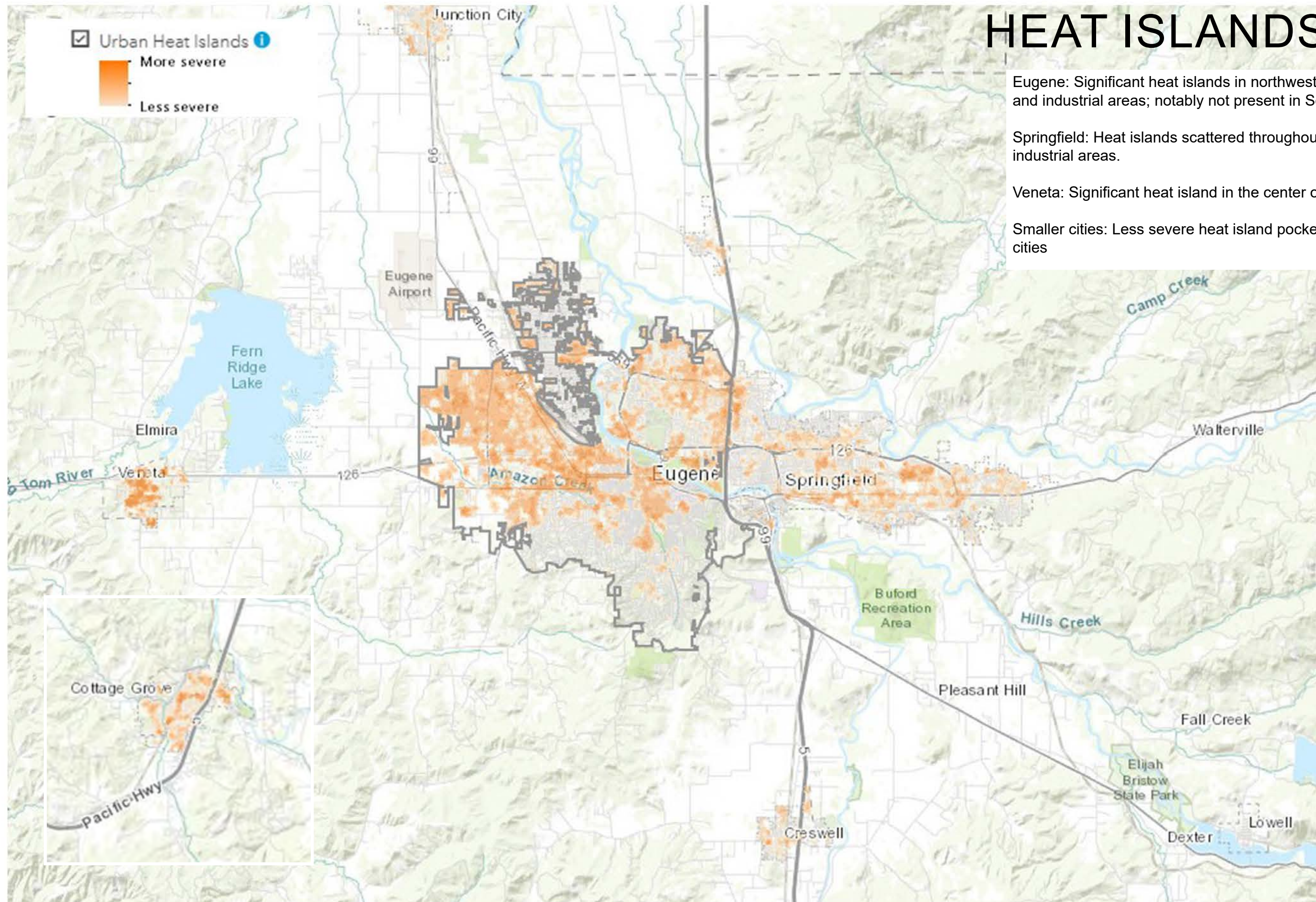
Eugene: Mixed throughout Eugene

Springfield: Black populations mixed throughout, but highest rates north along I-5 near Gateway Mall.

Smaller cities: all have less than a 1.1% Black population.



HEAT ISLANDS



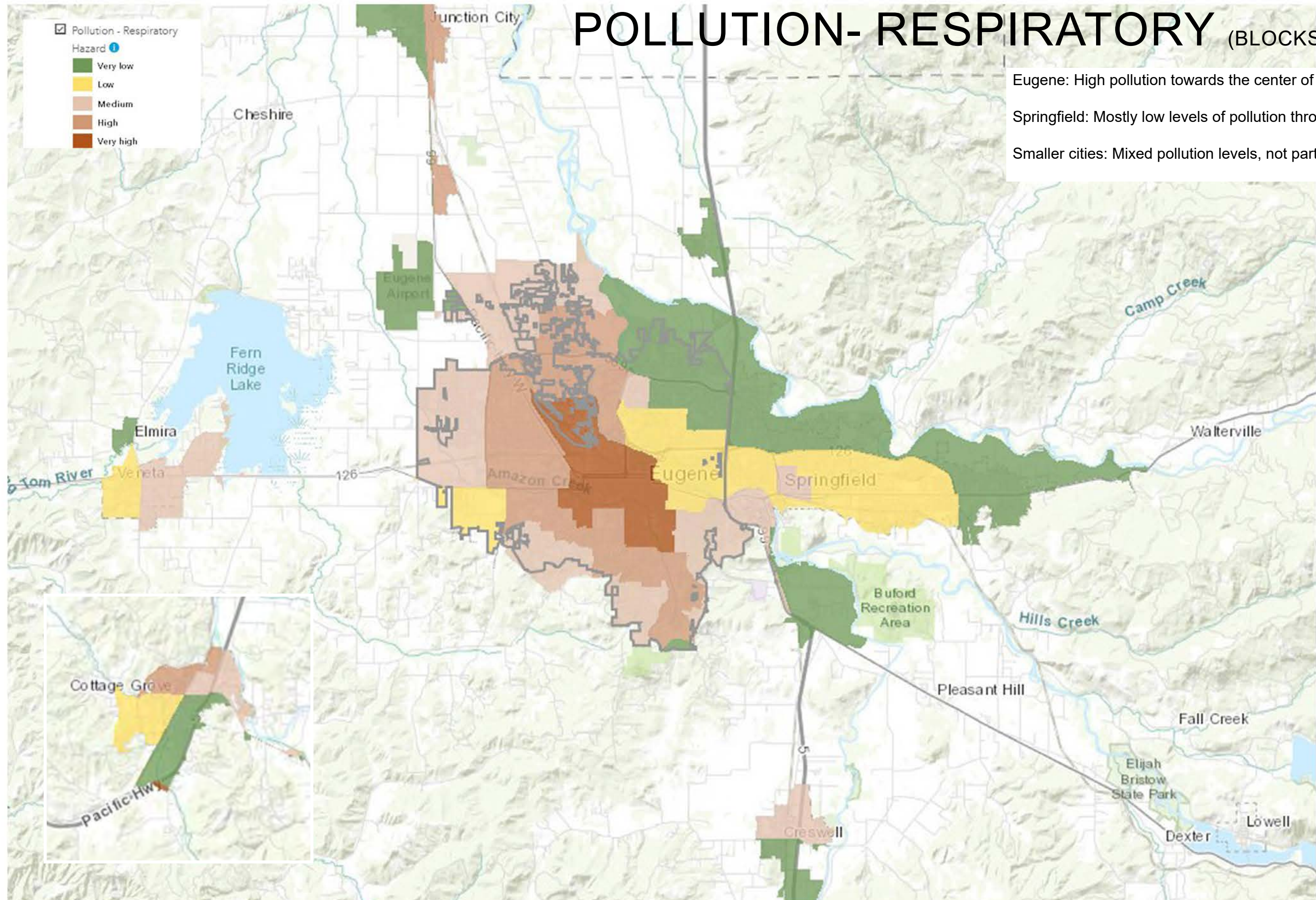
Eugene: Significant heat islands in northwestern neighborhoods and industrial areas; notably not present in South Eugene.

Springfield: Heat islands scattered throughout Springfield and in industrial areas.

Veneta: Significant heat island in the center of the city.

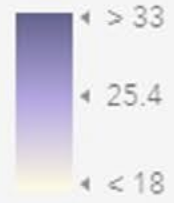
Smaller cities: Less severe heat island pockets throughout the cities

POLLUTION- RESPIRATORY (BLOCKS)



HEALTH: PHYSICAL INACTIVITY (TRACTS)

Physical inactivity crude prevalence (%)

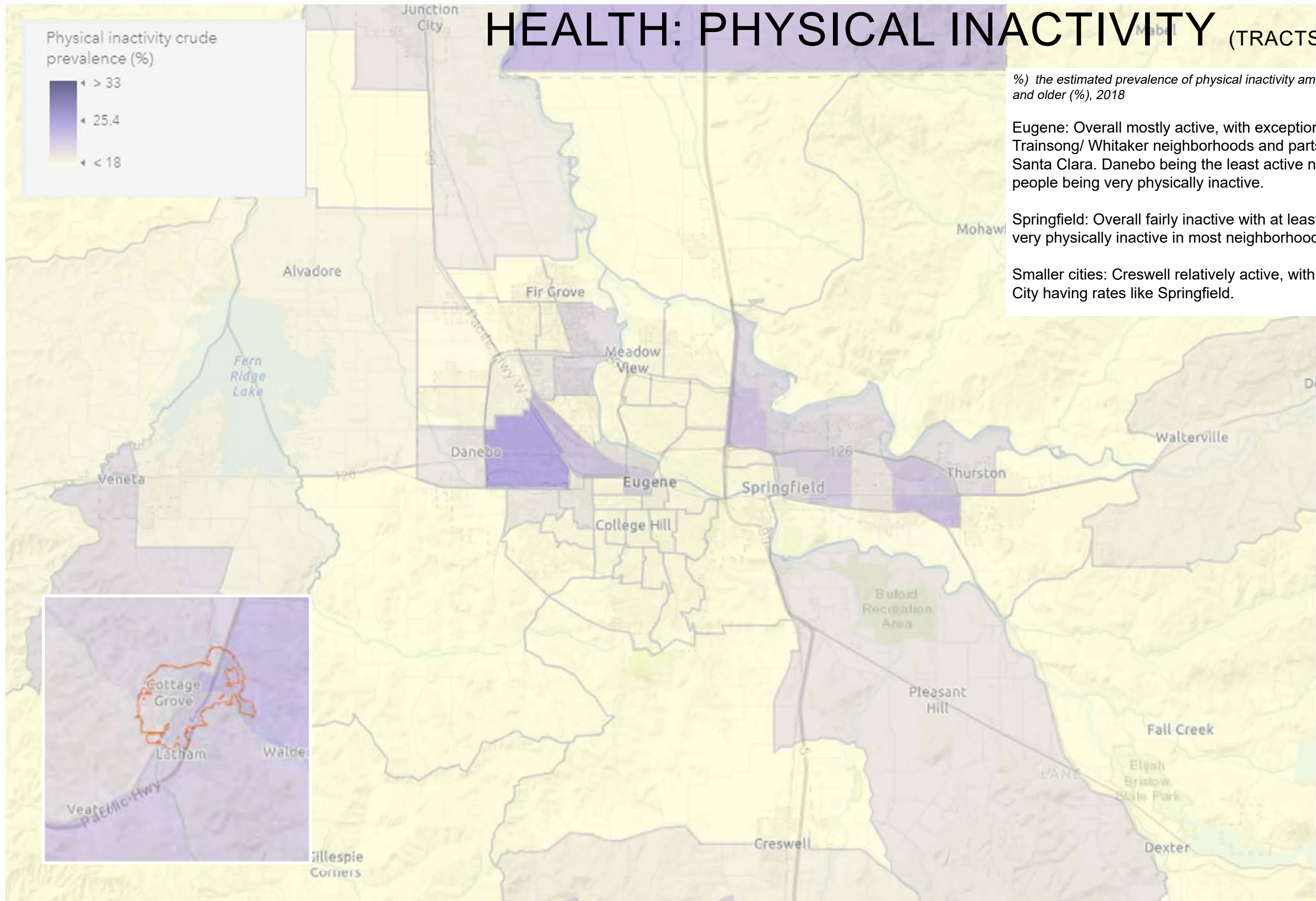


(%) the estimated prevalence of physical inactivity among adults aged 18 years and older (%), 2018

Eugene: Overall mostly active, with exceptions of the Danebo/ Trainsong/ Whitaker neighborhoods and parts of River Road/ Santa Clara. Danebo being the least active neighborhood with 1/4 people being very physically inactive.

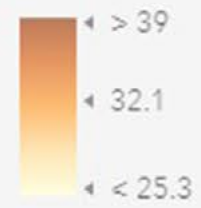
Springfield: Overall fairly inactive with at least 1/5 people being very physically inactive in most neighborhoods.

Smaller cities: Creswell relatively active, with Veneta and Junction City having rates like Springfield.



HEALTH: OBESITY (TRACTS)

Obesity crude prevalence (%)



Eugene: Areas in northwest Eugene experience the highest rates of obesity, namely in the Danebo and Trainsong neighborhoods.

Springfield and surrounding cities: All have moderate rates of obesity throughout, with some neighborhoods in Springfield being particularly impacted with obesity.



HEALTH: HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE (TRACTS)

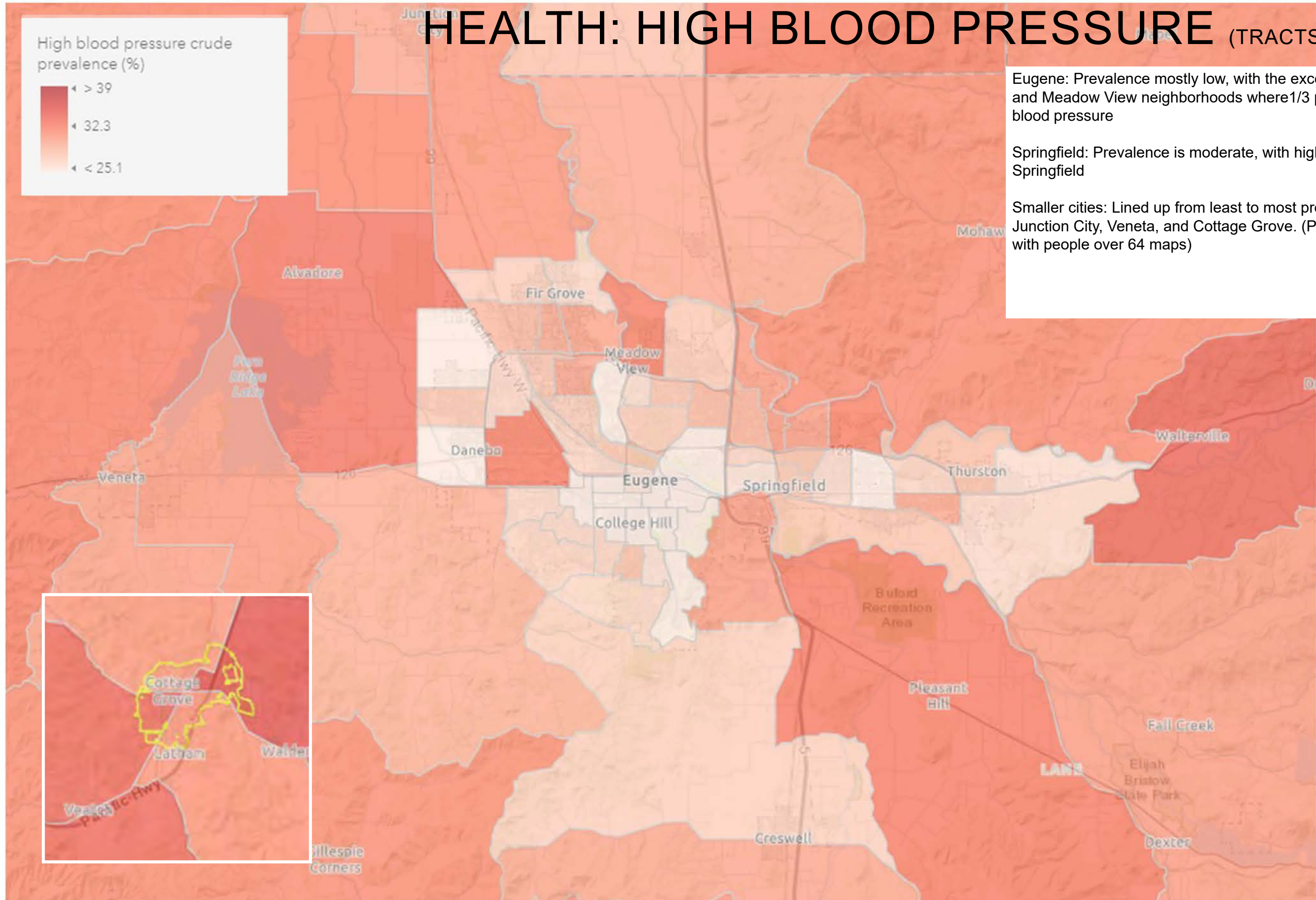
High blood pressure crude prevalence (%)



Eugene: Prevalence mostly low, with the exception of Danebo and Meadow View neighborhoods where 1/3 people have high blood pressure

Springfield: Prevalence is moderate, with higher rates in north Springfield

Smaller cities: Lined up from least to most prevalence- Creswell, Junction City, Veneta, and Cottage Grove. (Possible correlation with people over 64 maps)



HEALTH: PHYSICAL DISTRESS (TRACTS)

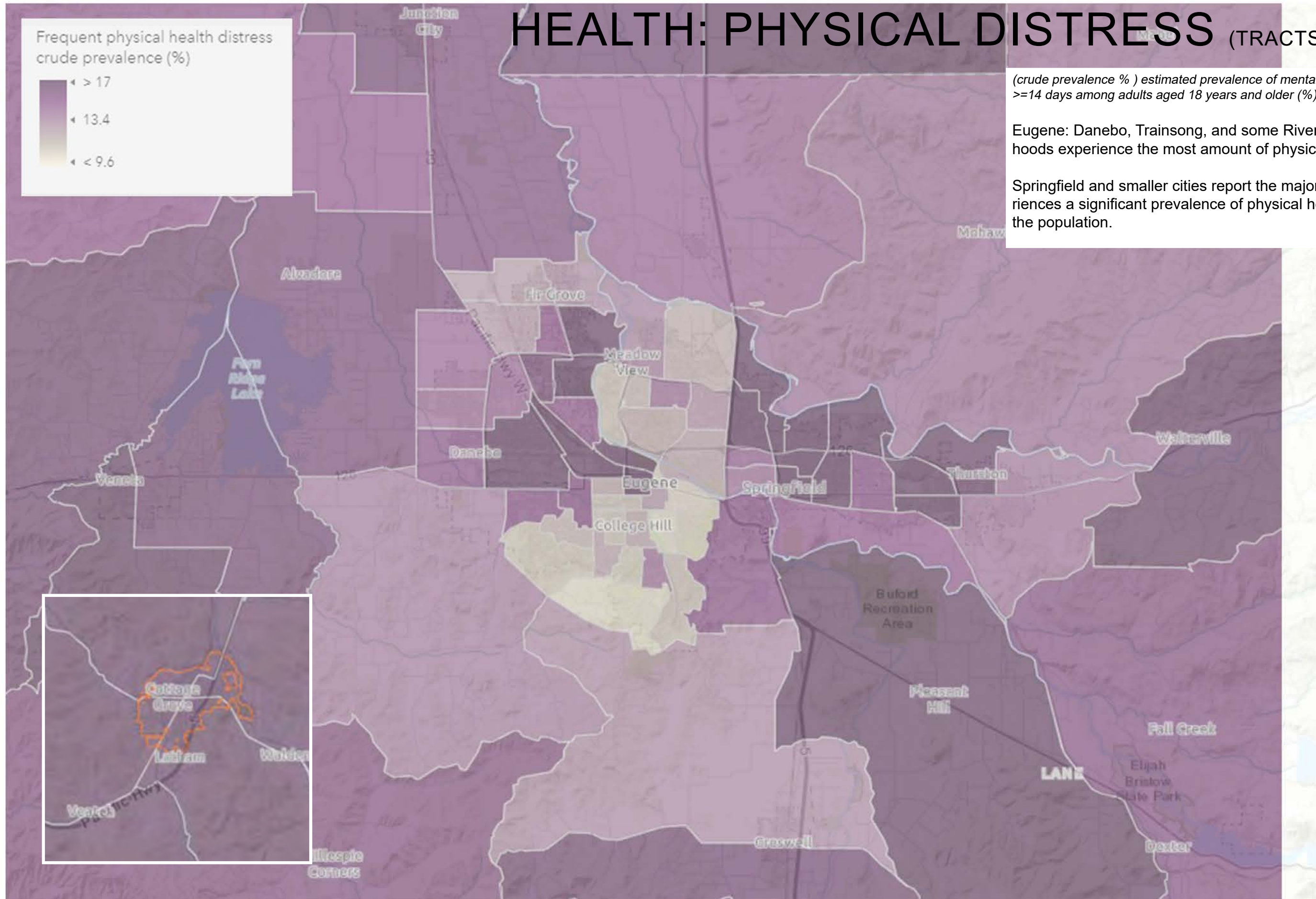
Frequent physical health distress
crude prevalence (%)



(crude prevalence %) estimated prevalence of mental health not good for
>=14 days among adults aged 18 years and older (%), 2018

Eugene: Danebo, Trainsong, and some River Road neighborhoods experience the most amount of physical distress reported.

Springfield and smaller cities report the majority of the area experiences a significant prevalence of physical health distress within the population.



HEALTH: MENTAL HEATH DISTRESS (TRACTS)

Frequent mental health distress
crude prevalence (%)

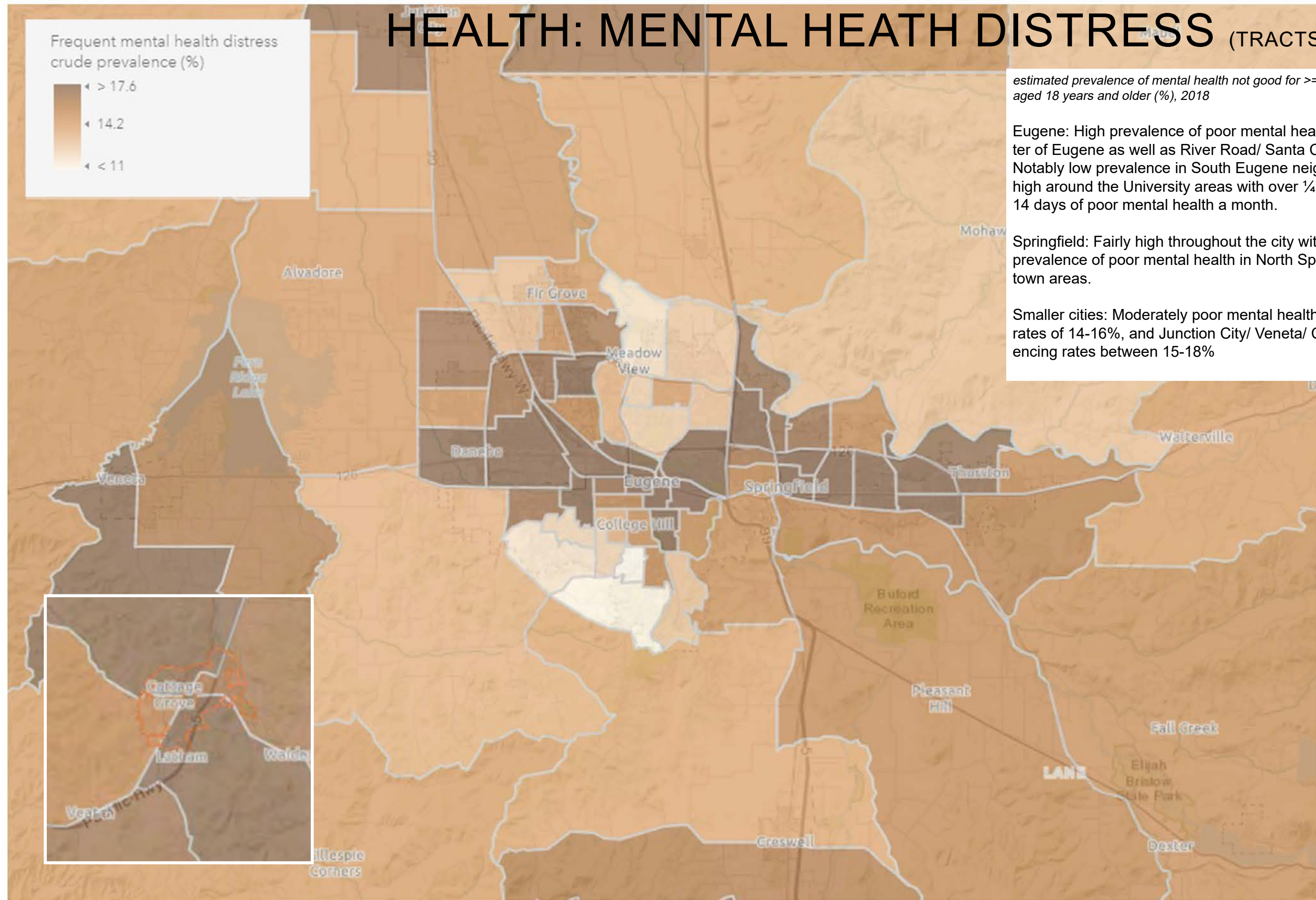


estimated prevalence of mental health not good for ≥ 14 days among adults aged 18 years and older (%), 2018

Eugene: High prevalence of poor mental health through the center of Eugene as well as River Road/ Santa Clara neighborhoods. Notably low prevalence in South Eugene neighborhoods. Notably high around the University areas with over $\frac{1}{4}$ people having over 14 days of poor mental health a month.

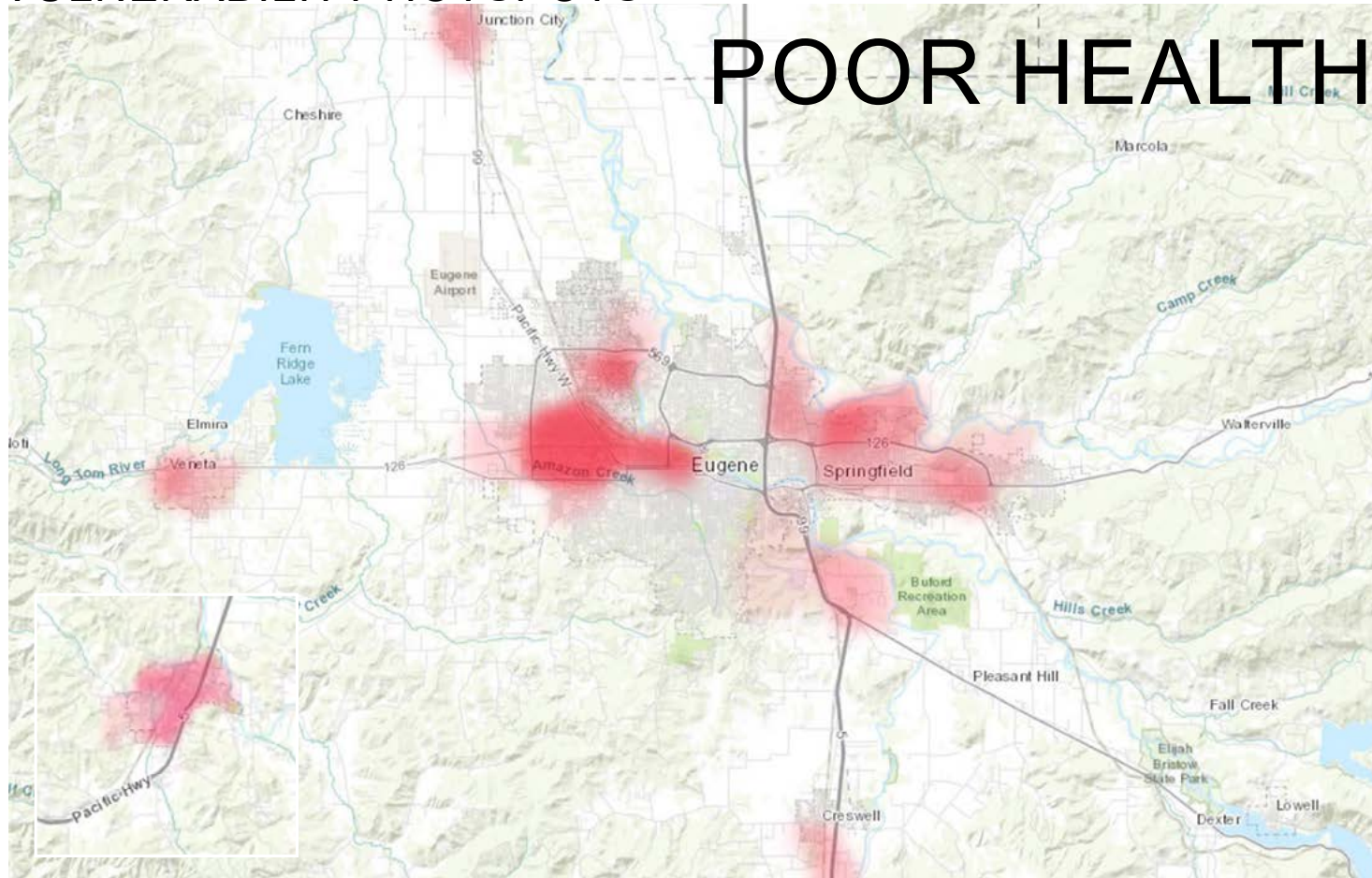
Springfield: Fairly high throughout the city with slightly reduced prevalence of poor mental health in North Springfield and downtown areas.

Smaller cities: Moderately poor mental health in Creswell with rates of 14-16%, and Junction City/ Veneta/ Cottage grove experiencing rates between 15-18%

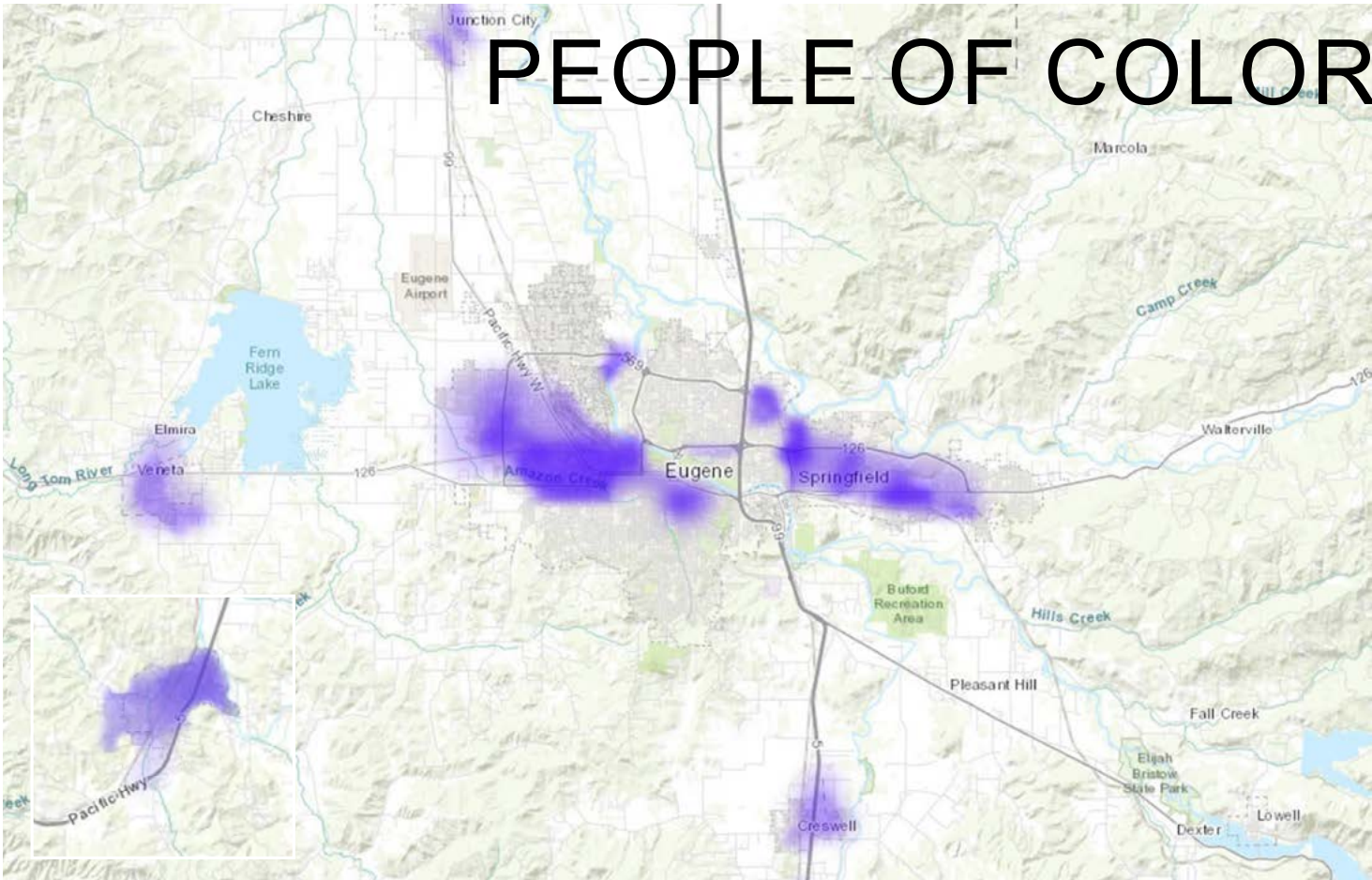


VULNERABILITY HOTSPOTS

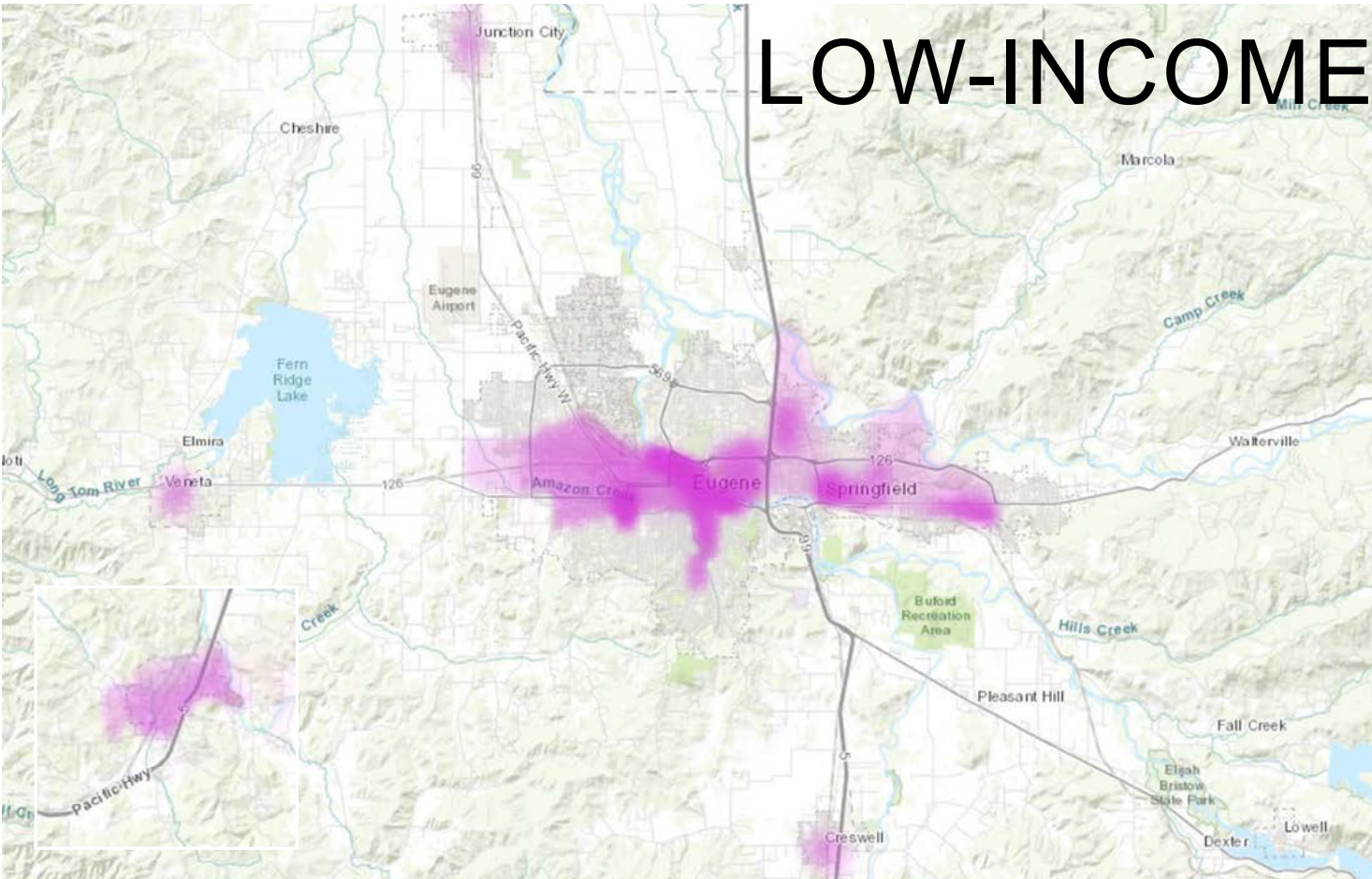
POOR HEALTH



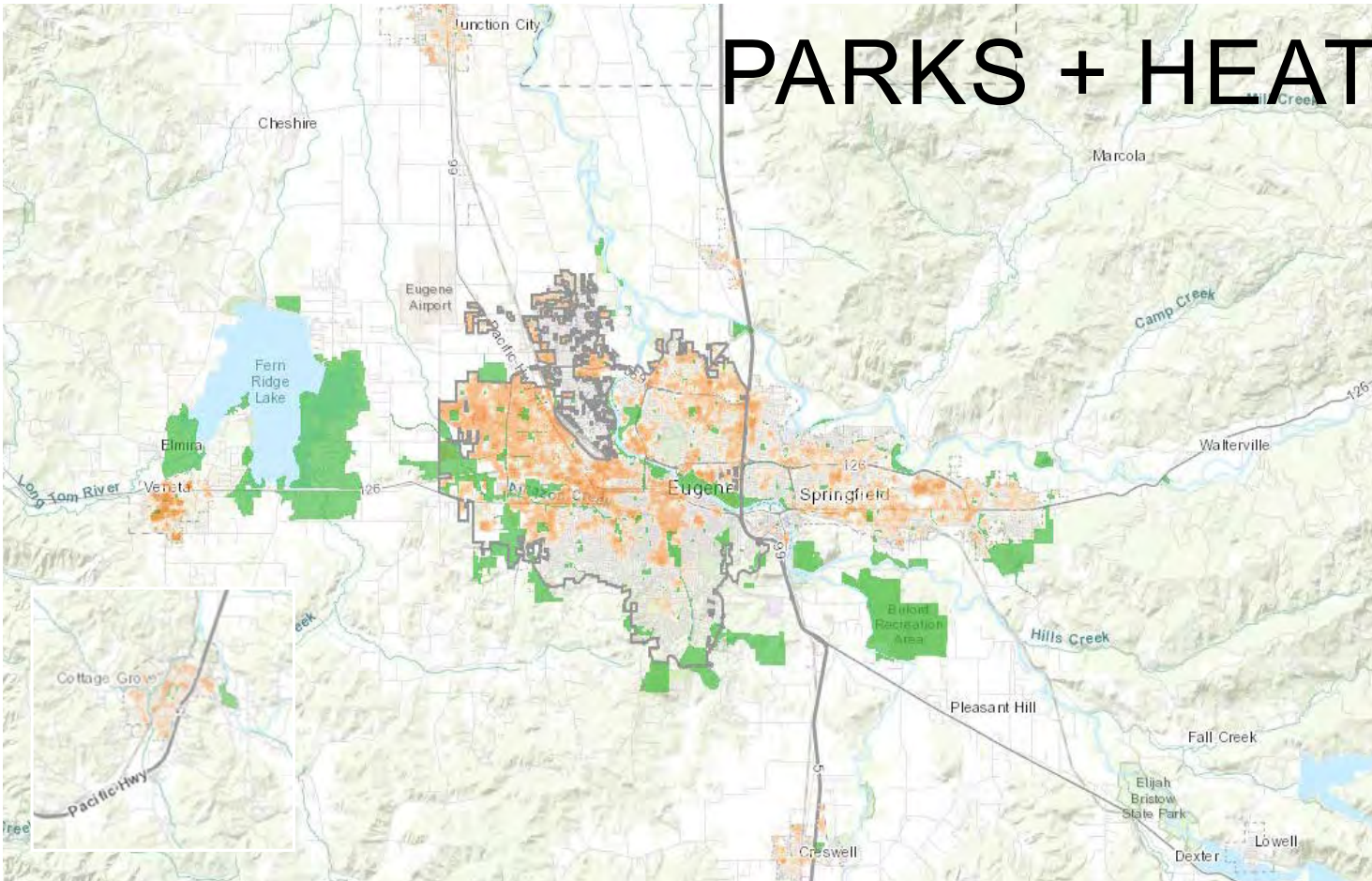
PEOPLE OF COLOR



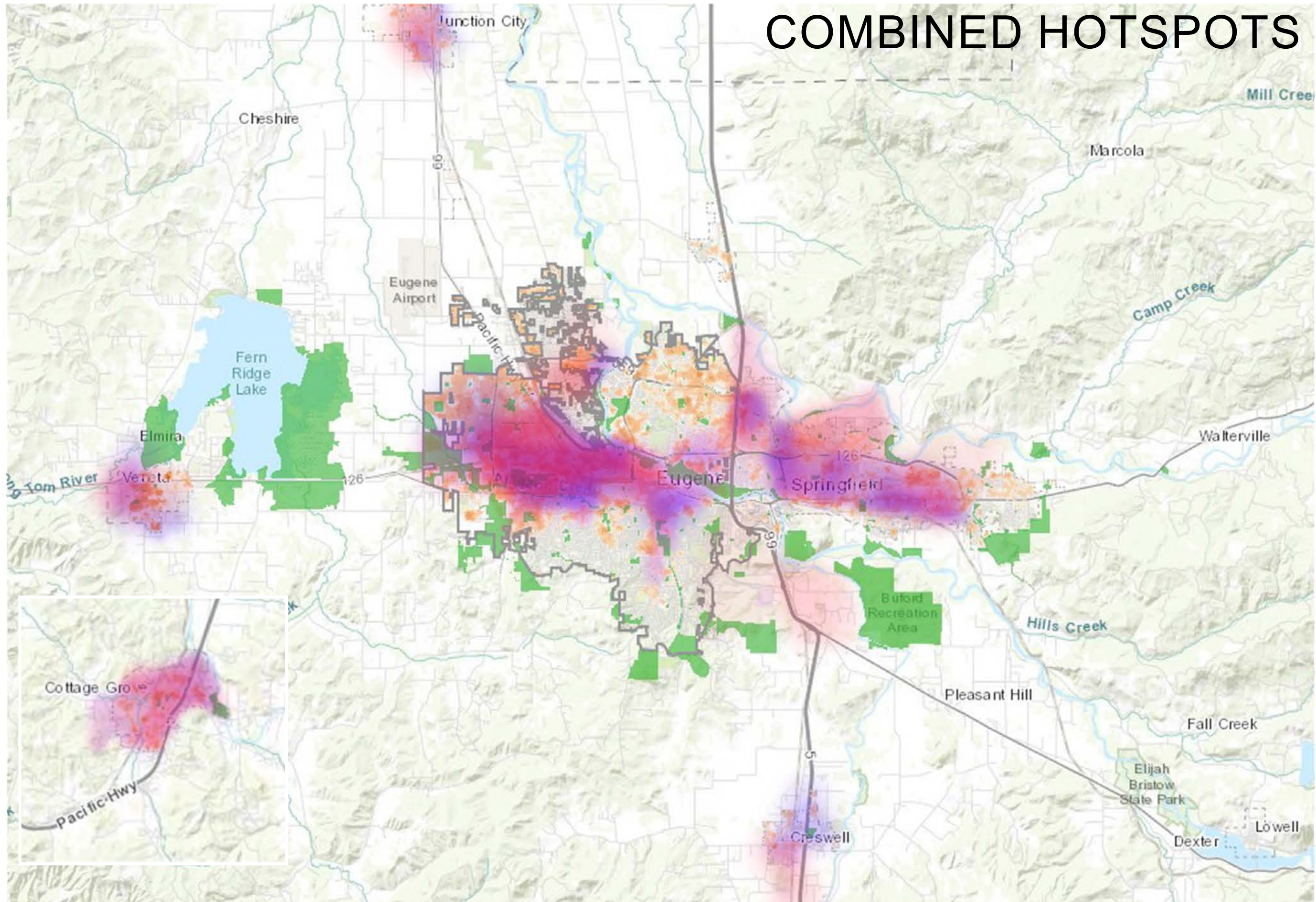
LOW-INCOME



PARKS + HEAT



COMBINED HOTSPOTS





ANALYSIS + TAKE-AWAYS

- *Eugene Priority Neighborhoods:* Bethel-Danebo, Trainsong, West Eugene, Whitaker
- *Springfield Priority Neighborhoods:* Gateway, Downtown, Midtown, East Springfield
- *Junction City, Veneta, Creswell, Cottage Grove:* All have sizable vulnerable populations within city limits.

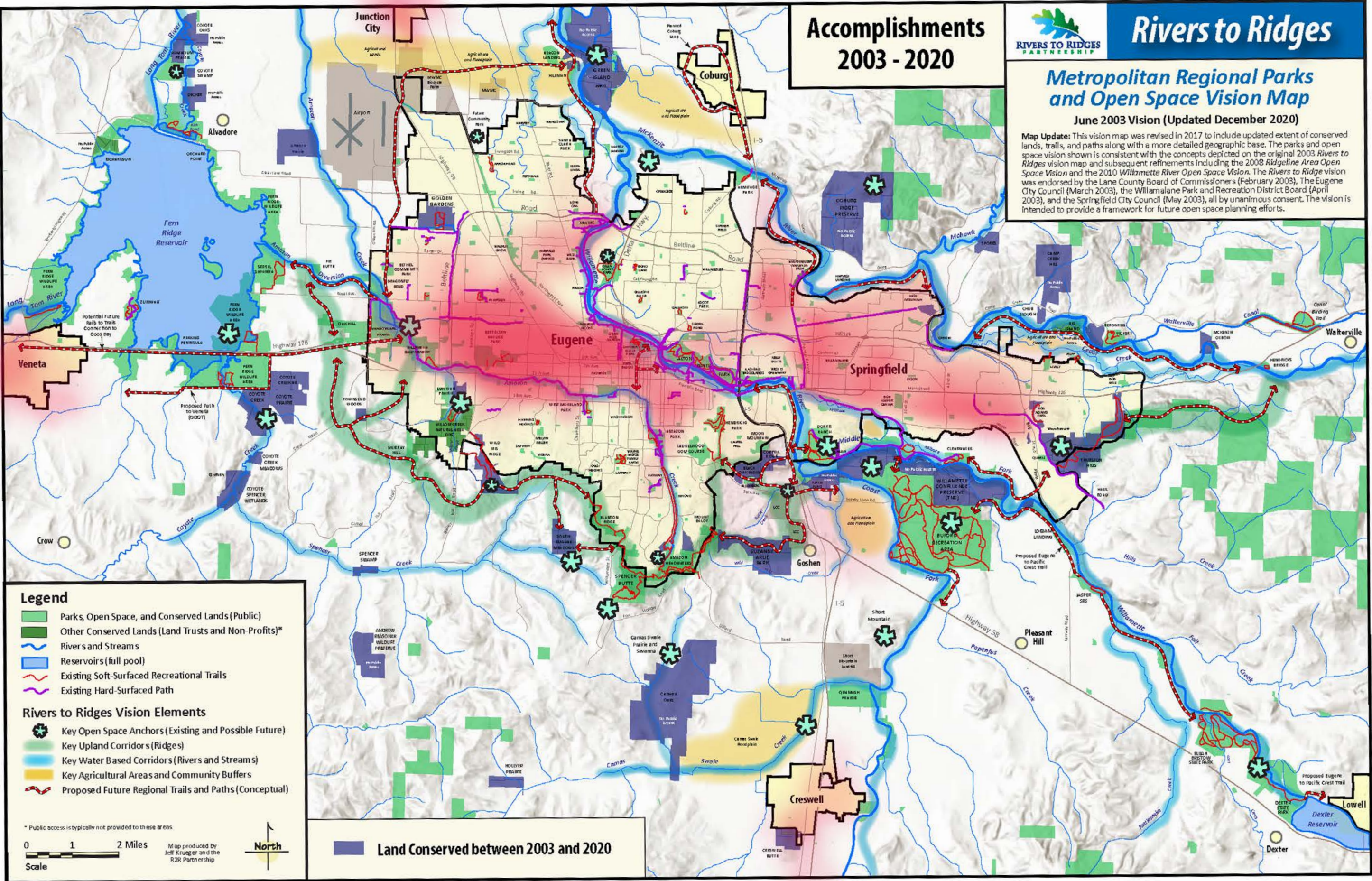
There is overlap where areas with more POC are more likely to be neighborhoods of low-income, poor physical/mental health, and heat islands, suggesting that those demographics experience compounding negative conditions.

In Eugene, the Whitest neighborhoods are also the highest income neighborhoods, mostly in the South Eugene area, and are also relatively healthy, and closest to natural area parks. The Cal Young and Harlow neighborhoods have similarly white demographics with slightly lower incomes and are further from natural area parks. Neighborhoods in proximity to 11th Ave have the highest concentration of POC and the negative physical/mental health and income correlations that come with it. The West Eugene area is particularly in need, with the Bethel-Danebo and Trainsong neighborhoods continually expressing the poorest conditions.

Springfield, Junction City, Veneta, Creswell, and Cottage Grove have a higher proportion of people of color (mostly Hispanics) than Eugene. These areas also tend to be lower income and have poorer physical and mental health. In Springfield these populations are generally located south of HWY 126 and close to the I-5 corridor. The towns outside of Eugene/ Springfield all have very limited access to natural area parks.

(Disclaimer: Information of some smaller cities/communities on these maps were limited or nonexistent, such as Lowell and Pleasant Hill. The rural areas outside of city limits contain no data. Some maps are measured by blocks which offers a high level of detail, but others by tracts--limiting the level of detail. Therefore, these maps should be considered carefully before dismissing a neighborhood or area as low-need.)

VULNERABILITY HOTSPOTS: POOR HEALTH + POC + LOW-INCOME



SOURCES

(PG 1-5) PARKSERVE: [HTTPS://WWW.TPL.ORG/PARK-SERVE/ABOUT](https://www.tpl.org/park-serve/about)

(PG 7-11) PLACES: [HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/PLACES/ABOUT/INDEX.HTML](https://www.cdc.gov/places/about/index.html)

(PG 12-16) JUSTICE MAP: [HTTP://WWW.JUSTICEMAP.ORG/INDEX.PHP?GIADVANCED=1#INSTRUCTION_DIV](http://www.justicemap.org/index.php?GIADVANCED=1#INSTRUCTION_DIV)

DEMOGRAPHICS- CENSUS REPORTER: [HTTPS://CENSUSREPORTER.ORG/PROFILES/05000US41039-LANE-COUNTY-OR/](https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US41039-lane-county-or/)



Twenty Years of Accomplishments and the 2023 Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh Report

Appendix E

2022 Rivers to Ridges Partnership Work-Session Summary Report

Rivers to Ridges Partnership Vision Refresh Process

2022 Work-Session Summary Report



Small Group Exercise



Work-Session Date: December 9, 2022

Summary Report Contents

Summary Report Purpose and Working Group/Steering Committee Rosters 1

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Small Group Exercise: Design Charrette Process 4

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 Team 2 12

 Team 3 18

 Team 4 25

 Team 5 27

Summary Report Purpose and Working Group/Steering Committee Rosters

This report contains an overview of the December 9 Rivers to Ridges (R2R) Refresh Process work-session including the results of the small group exercise. The half-day event was held at the Eugene Parks & Open Space Office and was attended by 45 participants including representatives of the R2R Partnership, key stakeholders, and facilitators. A special thanks to all who participated and especially to the R2R Implementation Team **Refresh Sub-Group** who helped plan the event and to the volunteer **Facilitators** who led the small group exercise. This report was compiled by Jeff Krueger and includes a record of all materials produced during the small group process. This information will be utilized to guide the vision update process and will serve as a valuable reference for the R2R Partnership moving forward.

Work-Session Participants

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Role
Eric	Adams	Willamalane Park and Recreation District	Participant
Ed	Alverson	Lane County Parks	Participant
Dawn	Bach	Willamette Resources & Education Network	Participant
Matt	Bahm	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Participant
Marcel	Bieg	City of Eugene - Recreation	Participant
Taylor	Bowden	Mayer/Reed Landscape Arc. and Visual Com.	Facilitator
Izlar	Bryce	Willamalane Park and Recreation District	Participant
Craig	Carnagey	City of Eugene Parks and Open Space	Participant
Jeremy	Clothier	Willamette Resources & Education Network	Participant
Ryan	Collay	Willamette Resources & Education Network	Participant
Dave	Downing	Upper Willamette SWCD	Participant
Arica	Duhrkoop-Galas	Artemisia Landscape Architecture and UO	Facilitator
Michelle	Emmons	Willamette Riverkeeper	Refresh Sub-Group
Amanda	Gilbert	Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council	Participant
Brett	Henry	Lane County Parks	Participant
Celia	Hensey	University of Oregon MLA Candidate	Facilitator
Dan	Hurley	Lane County Public Works	Participant
August	Jackson	Mount Pisgah Arboretum	Refresh Sub-Group
Tom	Kaye	Institute of Applied Ecology	Participant
Kristina	Koenig Boe	Willamalane Park and Recreation District	Participant
Jeff	Krueger	JK Environments	Refresh Sub-Group
Lily	Leitermann	Upper Willamette SWCD	Participant
Fraser	MacDonald	Willamalane Park and Recreation District	Refresh Sub-Group
Dan	Miller	National Park Service - RTCA	Refresh Sub-Group
Megan	McGinnis	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	Participant
Shelly	Miller	City of Eugene Parks and Open Space	Refresh Sub-Group
John	Mullen	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department	Participant
Reilly	Newman	Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council	Refresh Sub-Group
Sydney	Nilan	Upper Willamette Stewardship Network	Participant
Erik	Petersen	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Participant
Philip	Richardson	City of Eugene Parks and Open Space	Participant
Jennifer	Ringo	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	Participant
Brent	Ross	McKenzie River Trust	Participant

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Role
Lawrence	Schwabe	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	Participant
Josh	Seekatz	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Participant
Rebecca	Shepard	Greenworks	Facilitator
Joe	Stack	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	Participant
Emily	Steel	City of Eugene Parks and Open Space	Facilitator
Sean	Stewart	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department	Participant
Jared	Tarr	Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah	Participant
Brad	van Appel	Mount Pisgah Arboretum	Participant
Sally	Villegas	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	Participant
Jared	Weybright	McKenzie Watershed Council	Participant
Sarah	Whitney	Long Tom Watershed Council	Participant
Travis	Williams	Willamette Riverkeeper	Participant



AGENDA

R2R Refresh Vision Update Partnership Work-Session

Date and Time: Friday, December 9, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: City of Eugene Parks and Open Space, 1820 Roosevelt Avenue, Large Conference Room
(Parking available in the first lot on your right when you enter the yard – look for sign)

Contacts: Jeff Krueger, jkenvironments@gmail.com, 541-579-0241
Shelly Miller (City of Eugene POS), SMiller@eugene-or.gov, [541-359-7440](tel:541-359-7440)

Background: Through the combined efforts of our R2R partners, a significant amount of what was proposed in the 2003 R2R vision has been implemented, and the “Refresh” process was launched in 2020 to look forward to what might be possible over the next 20 years. This half-day work-session will provide a valuable opportunity for R2R partners and key stakeholders to define geographic and programmatic priorities to be considered in this updated vision.

-----COFFEE, TEA, AND LUNCH PROVIDED-----

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 9:30 - 9:50 | 1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview |
| 9:50 – 10:30 | 2. Background and Setting the Stage – Jeff <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Refresh Process - Big picture, today’s focus, and path to completion▪ Overview of Community Input Results and SCORP priorities▪ Findings from 2020 “Assessment of Progress” matrix▪ RTCA equity mapping and priority areas |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | 4. Introduction of Small Group Charrette Exercise <p>-----Break and split into small groups-----</p> |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | 5. Begin Small Group Exercise (see instructions next page) |
| 11:45 – 12:15 | 6. Lunch Break (meet and mingle back in main meeting room) |
| 12:15 – 1:15 | 7. Small Group Exercise (Continued) |
| 1:15 – 1:45 | 8. Small Groups Report Back – All |
| 1:45 – 2:00 | 9. Wrap Up – All |

Small Group Exercise: Design Charrette Process

Assignment

We have assembled a dream team of local experts and open space enthusiasts to work together to develop the next generation of the Rivers to Ridges vision. The vision will be based on your group's assessment of the available conservation data, consideration of community input, your organization's priorities, and your personal on-the-ground knowledge of the planning area. Our focus today for this exercise is on the primary R2R planning area, but you are welcome to expand your thinking beyond the border of the map. Your team has two hours to produce a proposed vision map that you will present to the larger group at 1:15 This is your opportunity to think big and be creative and visionary!

SUGGESTED SMALL GROUP PROCESS

Introductions: Name, affiliation, and one topic you're looking forward to exploring today.

Step 1: Review and become familiar with the available map data. [10 minutes]

Step 2: Identify Potential Future Priority Geographies [~60 minutes]

Use the *2003 Vision and Accomplishments Map* as your starting point and annotate your group's recommendations as you go through the process below:

- Thinking toward the future, are there additional priority geographies or corridors that we should consider adding to the vision map? This could include new areas or expansion of existing areas. Please note why you would like to add these areas (ecological, scenic, recreational, cultural values, agricultural preservation, visual, reflecting adopted plans, etc.)
- Are there additional recreational or educational facilities (e.g., trails, trailheads, viewpoints, active recreational facilities, educational facilities) that could be added to the map?
- Review the vision map and the "Assessment of Progress Matrix". Is there anything currently on the map that we should consider dropping due to shifting priorities or limited feasibility?

Step 3: Identify Programmatic Priorities [~25 minutes]

What are some programmatic priorities that the R2R Partnership should consider focusing on in the future? This could include strategies related to environmental educational or recreational programs, accessibility, transportation, public health, stewardship, etc. Please record suggestions on a flip chart (or map if geographically specific)

Step 4: Identifying ways to better serve the Underserved Geographies and Populations [~20 minutes]

Review the results of the equity mapping. Are there strategies or approaches we should consider that could help us better serve these communities through expansion of the park and open space system or through programmatic approaches? Record ideas on the map or flip chart.

Step 5: Prioritization [~10 minutes]

Your group should have now created an inspirational vision map and a list of programmatic priorities. Each individual participant will be given ten dots. Each dot represents financial resources (money).

Prioritization Prompt: If you had a limited amount of funds to spend on implementing your group's vision, where would you spend it first? Place your dots on the map and programmatic flip chart on areas that you feel should be highest priority. Please try to distribute your dots across several priorities.

Summary

A total of 45 partners, stakeholders, and facilitators participated in the work-session. After an introductory presentation, participants split into five teams with seven to nine participants each. Each team was asked to complete the small group charrette process (described above) with the goal of reviewing the existing vision map and making geographic and programmatic suggestions for updating the vision. Each team had two and a half hours to complete the exercise then presented their work to the larger group. Images below are from the small group exercise.



Overview of Small Group Exercise Results

Team 1

Participants: Rebecca Shepard (facilitator), Shelly Miller, John Mullen, Sydney Nilan, Lawrence Schwabe, Dan Hurley, and Eric Adams

Team 1 Notes with Prioritization Dotting

- Remove Revetments Fern Ridge
 - Explore possibilities for tribal access for cultural use
 - (concerns about herbicide use - Soil + plant testing)
 - (Connecting tribal members with process/opps./interests)
 - (Regulatory barriers?)
 - (UNSN liaison coming on board soon - might be able to help connections)
- + lamprey + Spring chinook populations

① + Floodplain restoration + protection from Dev't

↳ McKenzie/Will. (SLICES study)

↳ MF Willamette
↳ CF



- Tribal interest in UW Spr. Chinook + Lamprey

- Advancing regulatory protections for riparian areas (missed opp. w/ McKenzie Farm)

- ^{ated} Separated bike trail to Creswell + Lowell

★ Possibilities to tie Green SW infrastructure w/ potential recreation opps (Hayden Bridge, Eugene Indus! area)
unwound

Invite Eug Parks Foundation
to join R2R

- Align priority geographies
w/ Oak Prairie Strategic
Action Plan

- Neighborhood connections to
Parks (sidewalks, alley
easements)

+ "Camping" → new approaches

→ Job creation

+ Partnership w/ local orgs

- new working group?

+ Consult w/ Tribes for naming (4 re-naming
restoring)

+ ID sites of cultural/historical importance

+ Rx Fire → expand goals beyond ecological

+ Floodplain connectivity + Floodplain trails

+ River access + River trail / Rental + safety
trailer + equipment

+ Education Access - ODS + other

+ Marginalized Community access
+ Public Transportation to parks

+ Interpretative trails / signs / bldg

+ Sharing Resources + working together
to leverage additional funds

+ R2R Coordinator + fundraiser
(Visitors)
+ info sharing + support

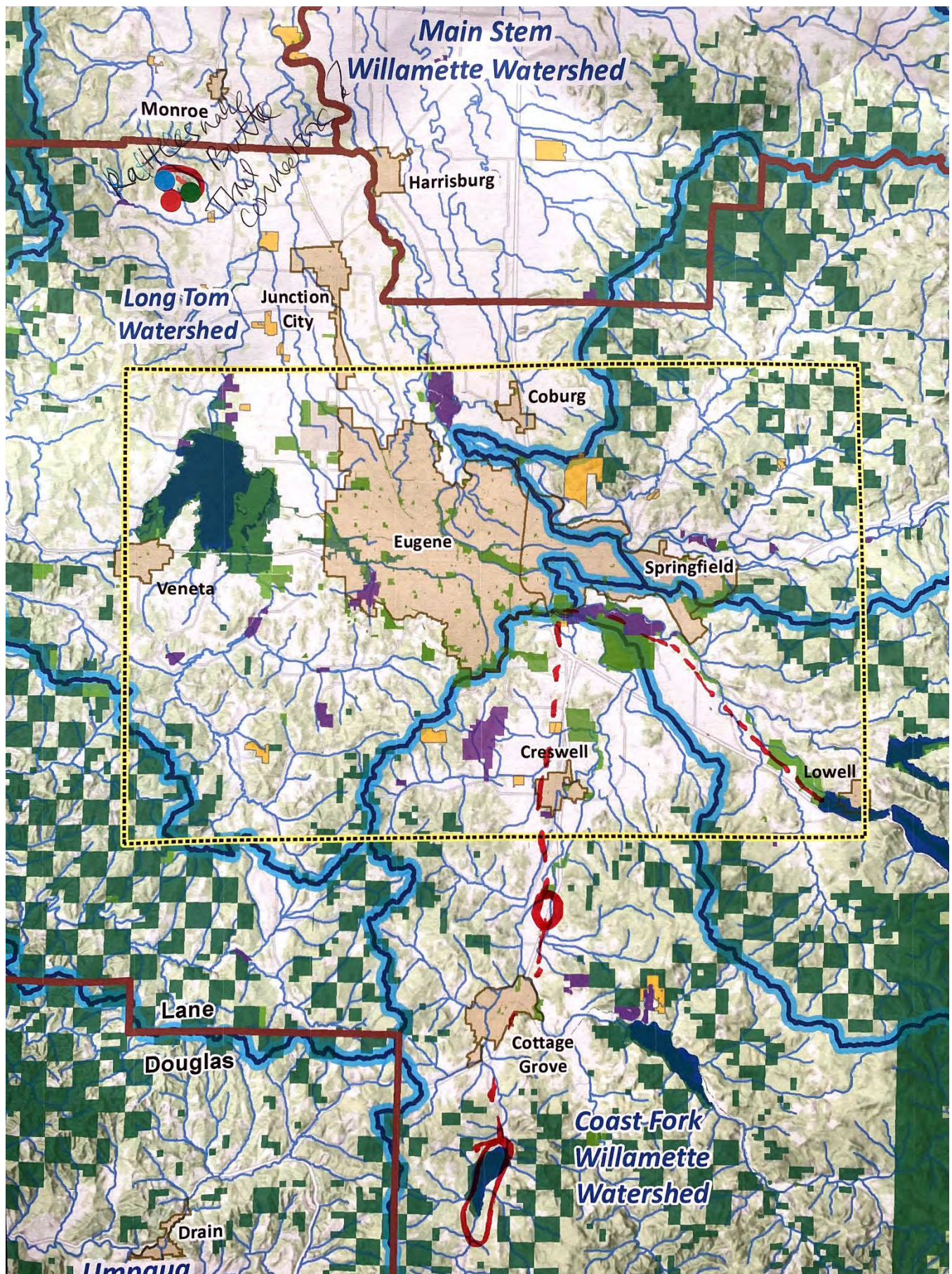
+ Continue Ridgefire dev't

+ Nature
Center
→ educational
w/trails

+ Manage E.V. trail usage + conflict

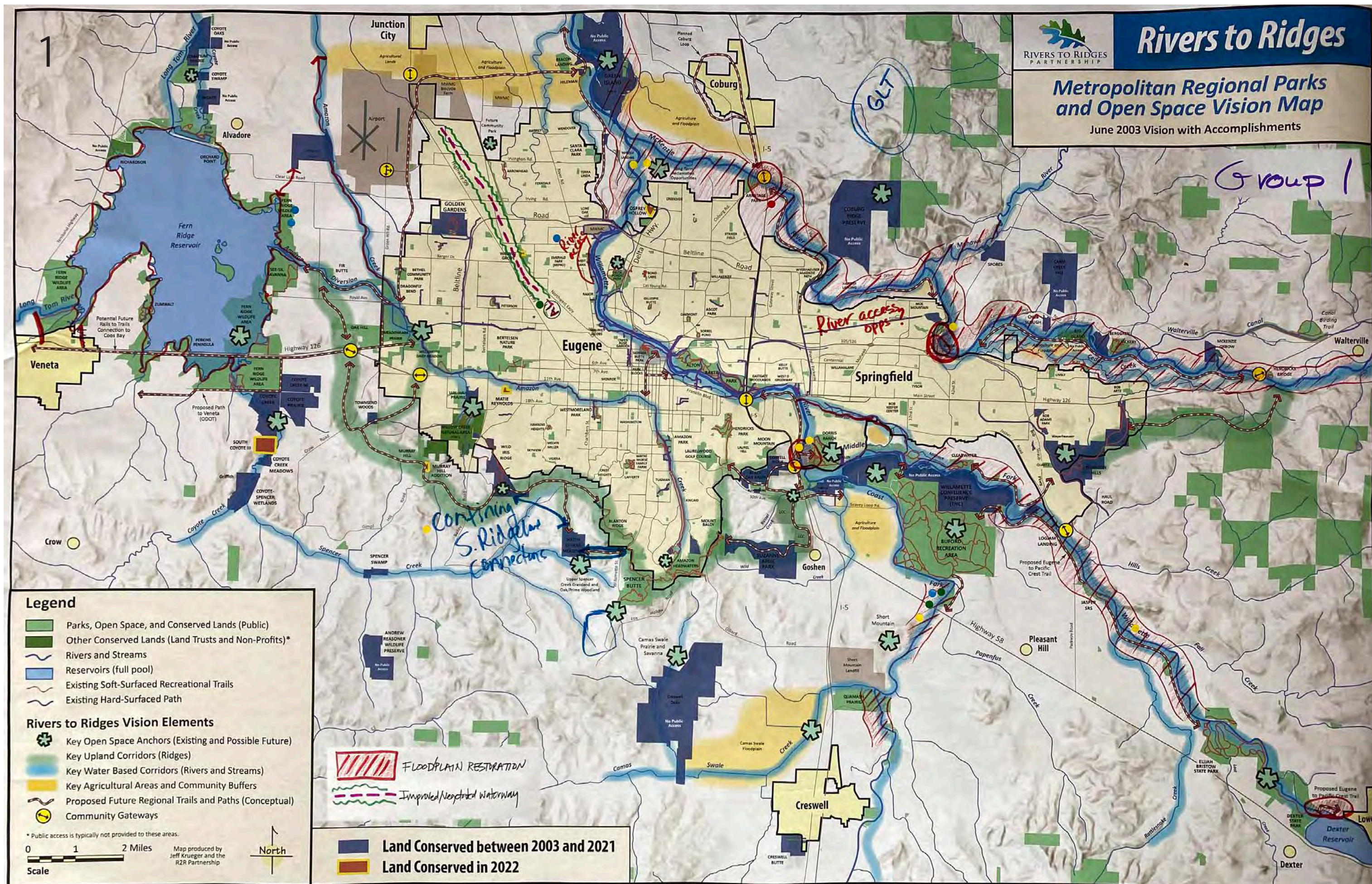
+ Enclosed ^{coincidental} event spaces

Regional-Scale Map Notes



Metropolitan Regional Parks
and Open Space Vision Map

June 2003 Vision with Accomplishments



Team 2

Participants: Taylor Bowden (facilitator), Reilly Newman, Ryan Collay, Joseph Stack, Dave Downing, Josh Seekatz, Philip Richardson, Megan McGinnis, Jared Tarr, and Matt Bahm

Team 2 Notes with Prioritization Dotting

PROGRAMS + STRATEGIES

- NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAYS
URBAN HABITAT WALKWAYS PROGRAM
COLLABORATION W/ FRIENDS OF TREES - EXPAND URBAN CANOPIES
- ANCHOR TRAILS WITH PUBLIC HUBS - SCHOOLS / COMMUNITY GARDENS ETC.
- CLOSE STREETS FOR PEOPLE
- URBAN ALLEY POCKET PARKS THROUGHOUT CITY
- ★ • CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORP PROGRAMS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS
HIGHLIGHT + EXPAND RURAL REC. OPPORTUNITIES - HUNTING, FISHING, ETC.
- AG. / PRIVATE LAND PARTNERSHIPS FOR SEASONAL REC. ACCESS.
- STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS W/ EXISTING COMMUNITY ORGS. FOR DIVERSITY.
- ★ • PROMOTING ACTIVE WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT PUBLICLY ★ PRIVATELY
- BUILDING PROGRAMS / POLICY CHANGES / PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS / EDUCATION / ~~ENVIRONMENTAL~~ CULTURE
- EMBRACE LAND-BACK + EMPOWERING TRIBAL PROGRAMS
- ★ • DECOLONIZE (BPA?) POLICIES FOR TRIBAL ACCESS + ^{CONSERVATION} SEED COLLECTION
- CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY / HOTSPOTS + TARGETED SPECIES SITES (KEystone TARGETS?)
- INVEST IN RURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISINVESTED SM. COMMUNITIES
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES W/ EDUCATION + OPPORTUNITIES
- ★ • UTILIZE AND EXPAND R2R AS A NETWORK FOR ADVOCACY + SPECIFIC PROJECT SUPPORT

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- CONNECTIVITY?

RURAL ACCESS

- URBAN ACCESS
- TRAIL CONNECTIONS

- SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

abandoned rail links to Monroe (Graville)
Broussville

- ENV JUSTICE

- UNIVERSAL TRAILS (ADA+)
- URBAN HABITATS

- HEAT ISLANDS
- WATER ACCESS

- WILDFIRE RESILIENCY
- CLIMATE RESILIENCY

- REC. INFO RESOURCES/AVAILABILITY

- SPACES W/ POTENTIAL

AG. LAND - REC ACCESS / SEASONAL ACCESS PARTNER

INDUSTRIAL ZONES

- GRAVEL PIT RECLAMATION

Ideas

1. ROW river trail extension to Oakridge
2. Creswell to Goshen (Eugene RL?)
- ★ 3. Multi-use path crossing Willamette Riv.
 - Connect Pisgah, Turtle Flats, Middle Fork Path, Ridgeline, ^{wildish land on W. side}
- 4. Connect Ag areas N. Eug to Fern Ridge
- ★ 5. Fern Ridge Loop
- 6. Creswell under I-5 - ped crossing
- 7. Seavey loop - Ag land trust w/ ped connectivity
- ★ 8. REVITALIZE BROWNFIELDS + INDUSTRIAL AREAS
- 9. ACQUISITION OF DECOMMISSIONED AG.
10. POTENTIAL TRAIL LOCATIONS
- 11. RIVER ACCESS
12. CONNECTIONS + ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS
- ★ 13. PRESCRIBED BURN EDUCATION SITES
14. RIVER EDU SITE (SCIENCE CENTER)
- ★ 15. TRIBAL ACCESS AREAS
16. UNDAMMED TRIBUTARY CONSERVATION
- ★ 17. SPRINGFIELD N → S MULTI-USE PATH

CONNECTIVITY {

- RURAL OPPORTUNITIES
CONNECTIVITY

- URBAN OPPORTUNITIES
• PROGRAMS

- EDUCATION

- SITES

- PROGRAMS

- TRIBAL ACCESS

- INDUSTRIAL AREAS

- ENV JUSTICE

- WILDFIRE

- WATER ACCESS

- UTILIZING R2R NETWORK

TRIBAL ACCESS

EPA EASEMENT BARRIERS

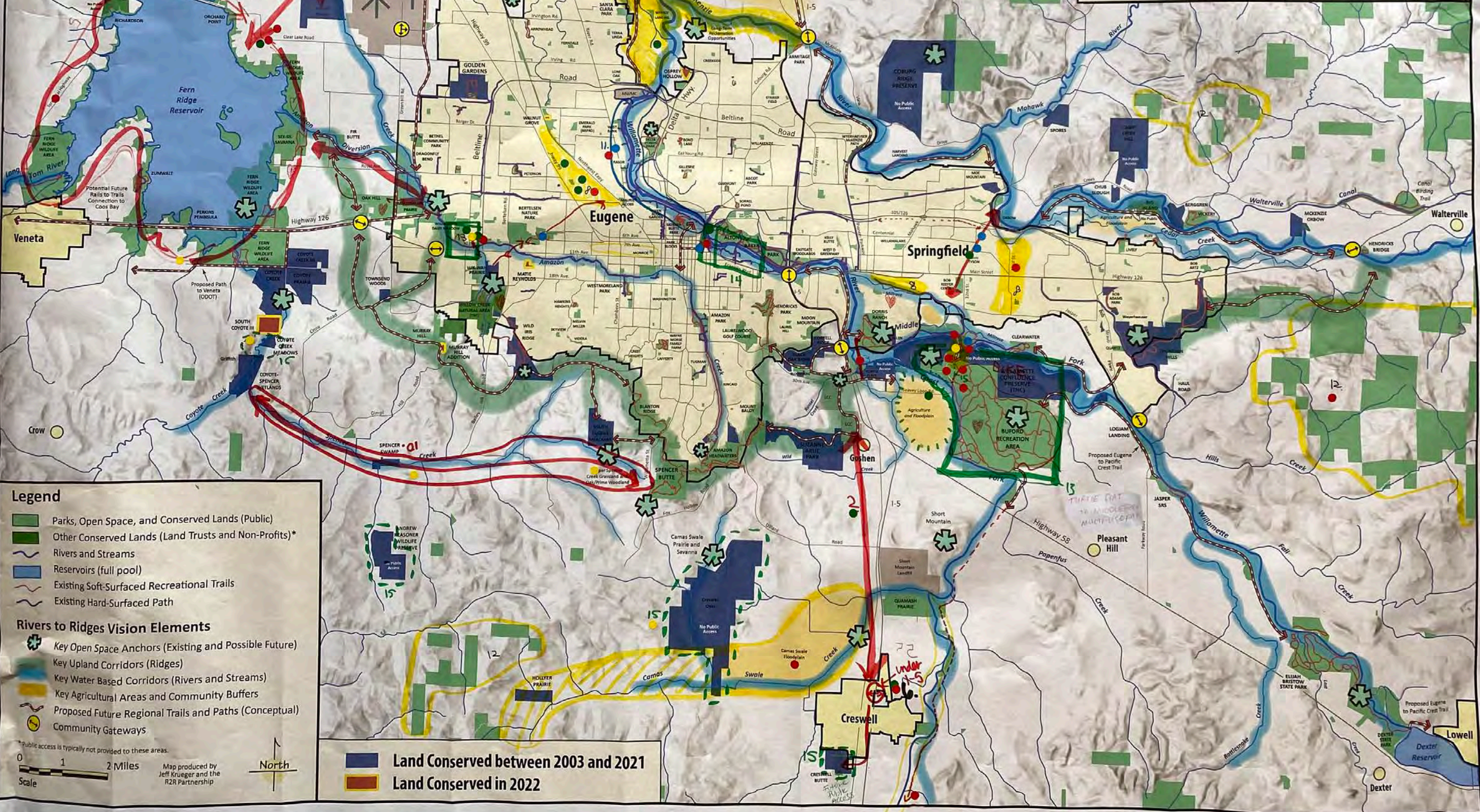
COLLECTION/ EVENT LOCATIONS

Regional-Scale Map Notes



2 ② TAYLOR
ACQUISITION

Rivers to Ridges
Metropolitan Regional Parks
and Open Space Vision Map
June 2003 Vision with Accomplishments



Legend

- Parks, Open Space, and Conserved Lands (Public)
- Other Conserved Lands (Land Trusts and Non-Profits)*
- Rivers and Streams
- Reservoirs (full pool)
- Existing Soft-Surfaced Recreational Trails
- Existing Hard-Surfaced Path

Rivers to Ridges Vision Elements

- Key Open Space Anchors (Existing and Possible Future)
- Key Upland Corridors (Ridges)
- Key Water Based Corridors (Rivers and Streams)
- Key Agricultural Areas and Community Buffers
- Proposed Future Regional Trails and Paths (Conceptual)
- Community Gateways

*Public access is typically not provided to these areas.

Scale: 0 1 2 Miles

Map produced by Jeff Krueger and the R2R Partnership

North

Land Conserved between 2003 and 2021
Land Conserved in 2022

Participants: Emily Steel (facilitator), Fraser MacDonald, Sally Villegas, Jared Weybright, Brett Henry, Eric Petersen, Tom Kaye, Travis Williams, and Lily Leitermann

Team 3 Notes with Prioritization Dotting

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

- agricultural / working lands demonstration sites
 - Dorris R., Berggren, etc.
- community gardens - connecting food gardens to plant cons. / wildlife food plots to home gardens / yards to "Nat'l. Park in Backyard" - (Razor Park)
 - OSU Backyard Habitat / Xerces / Parkify Your yard
 - ⇒ Corridors from midlands into City. Link to communities (see map.) FFLC Farm, Walama projects
- Nature Play - in urban-constrained areas
- Focus programmatic activities in underserved areas - where there is less land base
- Education - wildfire awareness / Rx fire Demonstration sites
- Coordinated Green Infrastructure

- Education around responsible recreation
 - USFS has examples to pull from
 - grow respect for Care for the land
 - "leave how you found it"

- Env'l. Education:
 - coordinated educational/outreach
 - unified messaging, broader area, + more support will be more effective
 - take over OR Outdoor school
- more local/regular use of 222 lands for env'l. ed field trip. example: WREN supporting salmon watch

- Centering Indigenous + BIPOC voices in all programmatic efforts

- Mohawk + McKenzie R. access points

- Partnerships for programming/education
 - land-owning agencies don't have to program their sites.

SERVING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

future ^{desired} action ↓

- broaden / adjust ^{our} prioritization efforts to ~~shift~~ help achieve more equitable implementation for assistance + educational programs. ~~Specifically~~ ^{to reach} people who can't access on their own. need to clarify ~~our~~ lens, need resources/expertise to inform that clarification.
- Consider quantified objectives, deliberately invest in specific ways using measurable criteria.
- be explicit: provide ^{more} trails - hiking, biking, adaptive, etc.
- if not parks, how can green infrastructure fill that? urban forest, stormwater facilities, small pollinator gardens, etc.

MAP:

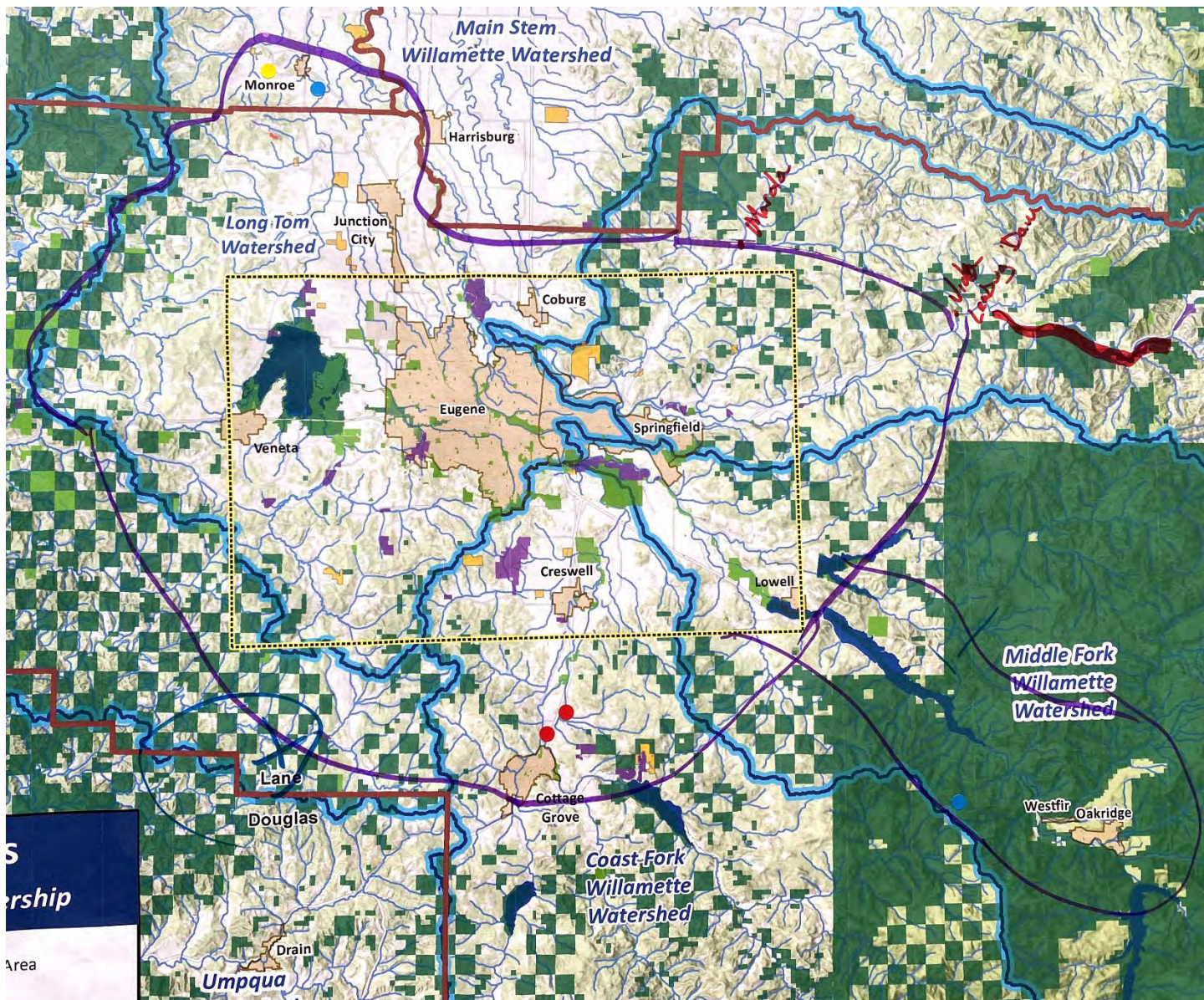
- get rid of straight lines
- connect upstream projects to 2003 R2R core area
- Engage more thoroughly w/ W.R tributary projects
- Leaburg - McKenzie / Creswell - Coast Fork / Elijah Bristow - Middle Fork
- public access to McKenzie R.
- agricultural preservation programs (VWSWD, NECS, OAHP, OAHT)
 - land protection
 - remove barriers to landowner participation NECS
 - currently capacity-limited NECS
- USE WVOPC priority map, also applies to McKenzie, Middle Fork, Coast Fork prioritization (new Upper Willamette FIP process)

- what scale? what is too big?
- how to connect R2R w/ W. Riv Trail, Regional bike planning
- generational change in WV land ownership
Conversion to corporate-owned agriculture
intersection of more locally-based ag. w/ conservation
private landowners as stewards
- wildfire buffer areas — relevance to landowners + public, app. for oak-prairie cons.

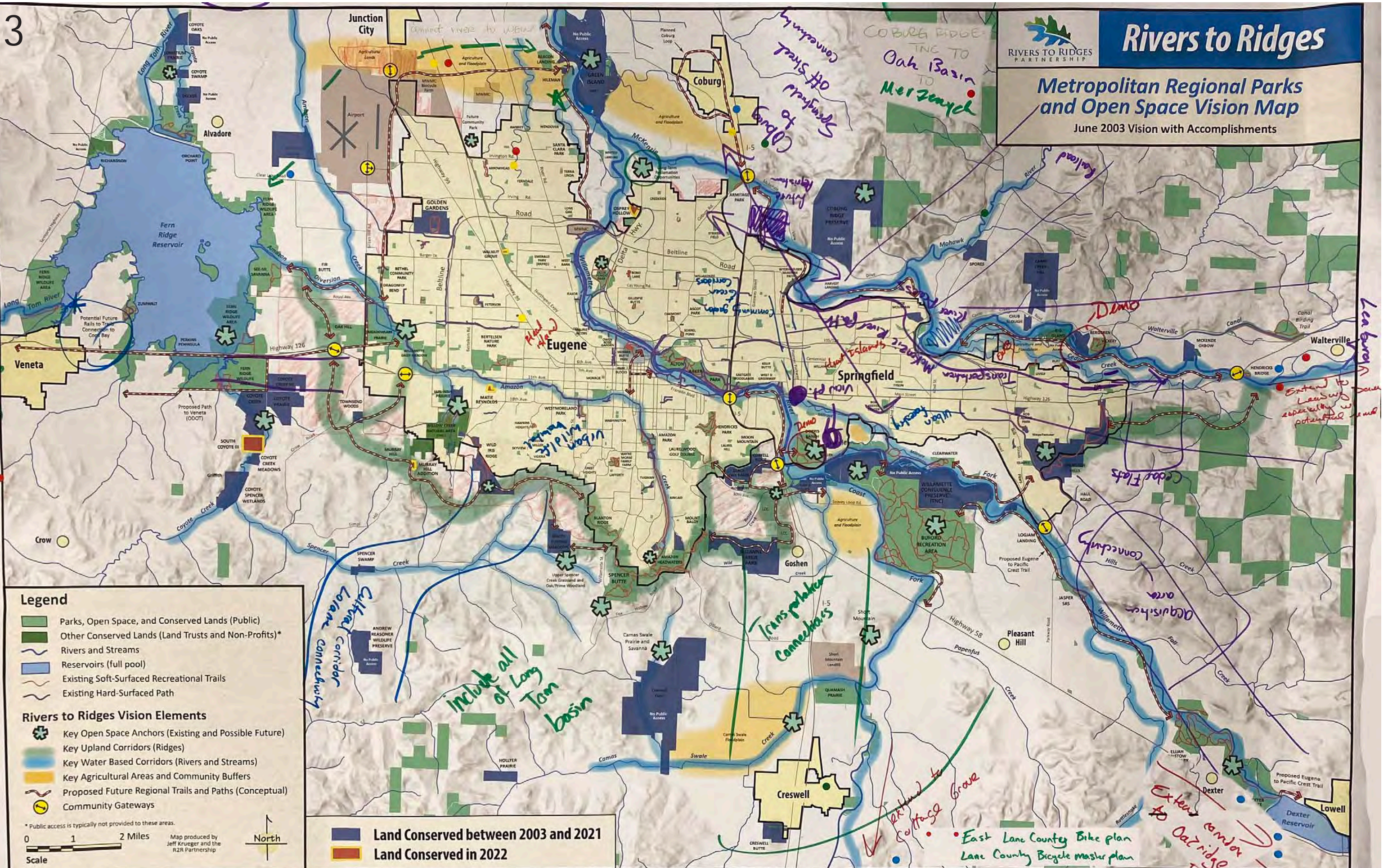
Wildfire resiliency: programmatic, supply funding
e.g. PWP, Comm. wildfire protection grants.
overlap w/ cons. priorities. education + funding

Firewise + similar

ecological consequences: stand/habitat replacement or loss — what are recommendations for parkland?
(more thought needed)



Boundary Long Tom Basin



Team 4

Participants: Arica Duhrkoop-Galas (facilitator), Michelle Emmons, Ed Alverson, Amanda Gilbert, Brad van Appel, Jenifer Ringo, Marcel Beg, and Jeremy Clothier

Team 4 Notes with Prioritization Dotting

ACCESS / TRANSPORT

GROUP 4
12/09/22

- coordinate with "safe routes to schools" to make more connections to schools / neighborhood web
- document LTD routes and add park access points
- ADA accessibility both to trails and water
- advocate for access across RR
- more parking needed i.e. Hileman Landing, Marist Rapids, RiverHase
- non-motorized access needed i.e. Coyote Creek
- safer river access points i.e. Marshal Island / Beltline

PROGRAM / PARTNERS

- organized groups / activities to introduce new users
- library funded youth activities
- kidsports for nature
- park stations info centers / gateways for each zone
- design for desirable use / eyes on parks i.e. mountain bike clubs
- include bike route connections via Alltrails or Trailforks partners

KEY PLACES

- McKenzie
 - Middle Fork
 - High Pass / Hwy 36
 - McKenzie River Discovery Center
 - Whitewater Park
 - View sites
 - McKenzie Water Trail
- EDUCATION / RECREATION / CONSERVATION

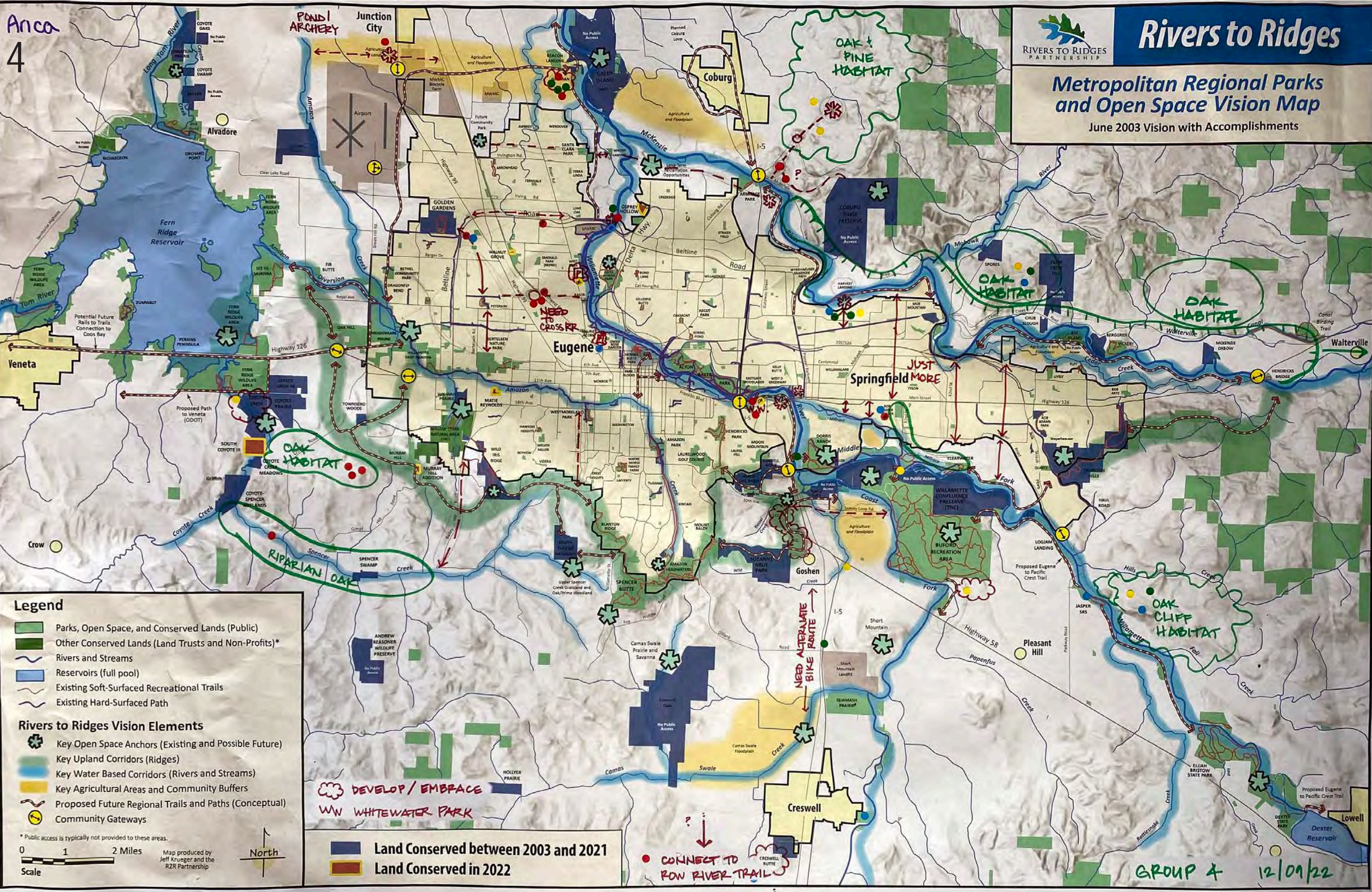
Anco
4



Rivers to Ridges

Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Vision Map

June 2003 Vision with Accomplishments



Team 5

Participants: Celia Hensey (facilitator), August Jackson, Sarah Whitney, Sean Stewart, Brent Ross, Dawn Bach, and Kristina Koenig Boe

Team 5 Notes with Prioritization Dotting

→ communicate trail accessibility / ^{accessible facilities}
access → to information, as well
→ interactive maps / apps ●●●
→ equity → central location

transit access + equity ●●

enhance existing parks ↔ pair w/
program

bring { views
spaces
experiences } in ●●● (vs. connecting out)

Small-scale restoration in urban core ●

collaboration w/private landowners ●●
→ can be big or small scale

stormwater → access to water ●
→ opp. for education/engagement ●

center Indigenous story / placemaking ●●●

GROUP #5

property acquisition along riparian corridor.

make urban parks awesome! (+ water)

pocket parks through urban core

One more big park to ease pressure

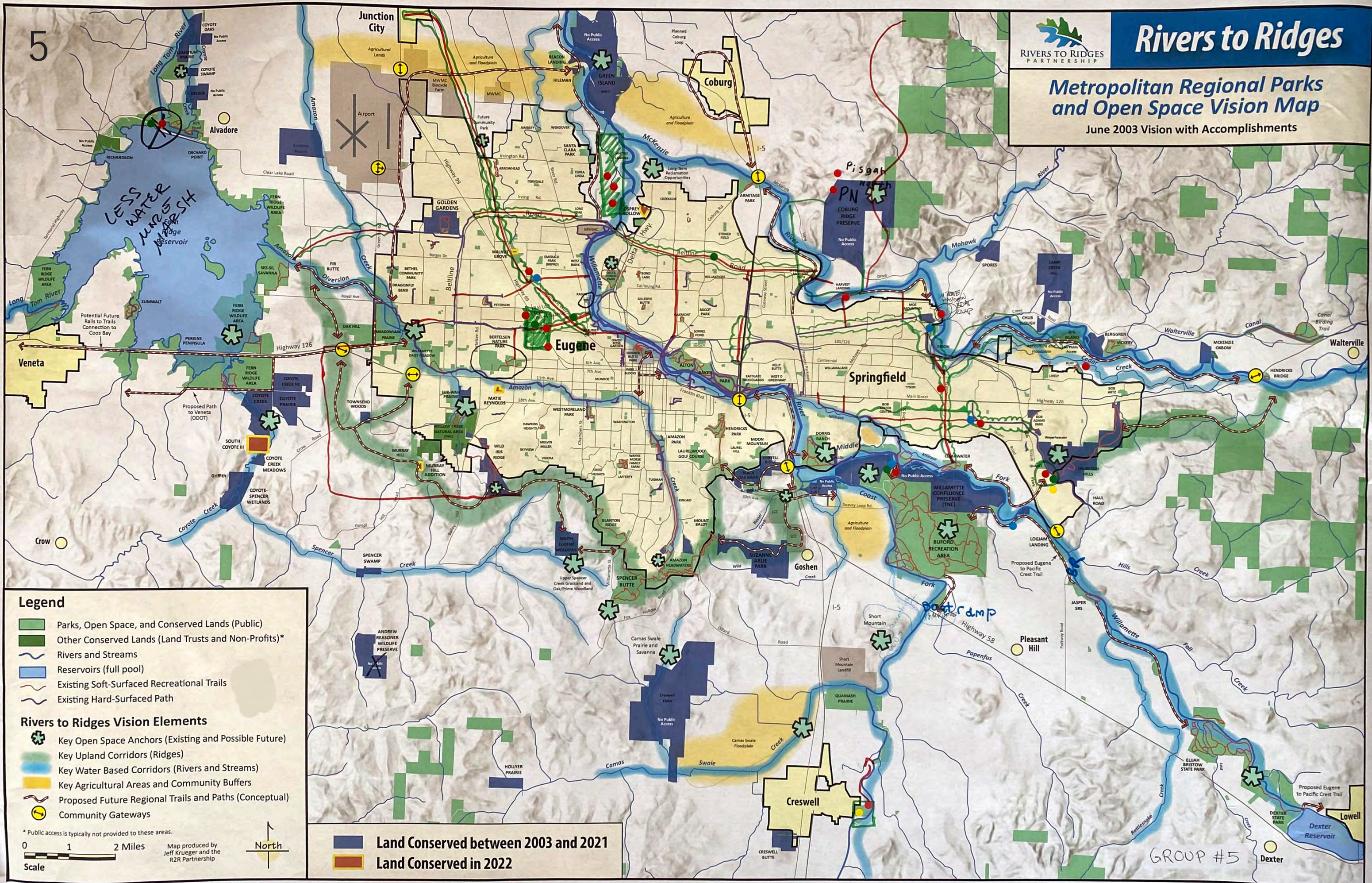
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Rivers to Ridges

Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Vision Map

June 2003 Vision with Accomplishments



Legend

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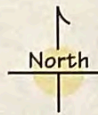
Rivers to Ridges Vision Elements

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- Proposed Future Regional Trails and Paths (Conceptual)
- Community Gateways

* Public access is typically not provided to these areas.

0 1 2 Miles
Scale

Map produced by
Jeff Krueger and the
R2R Partnership



Land Conserved between 2003 and 2021
Land Conserved in 2022

GROUP #5



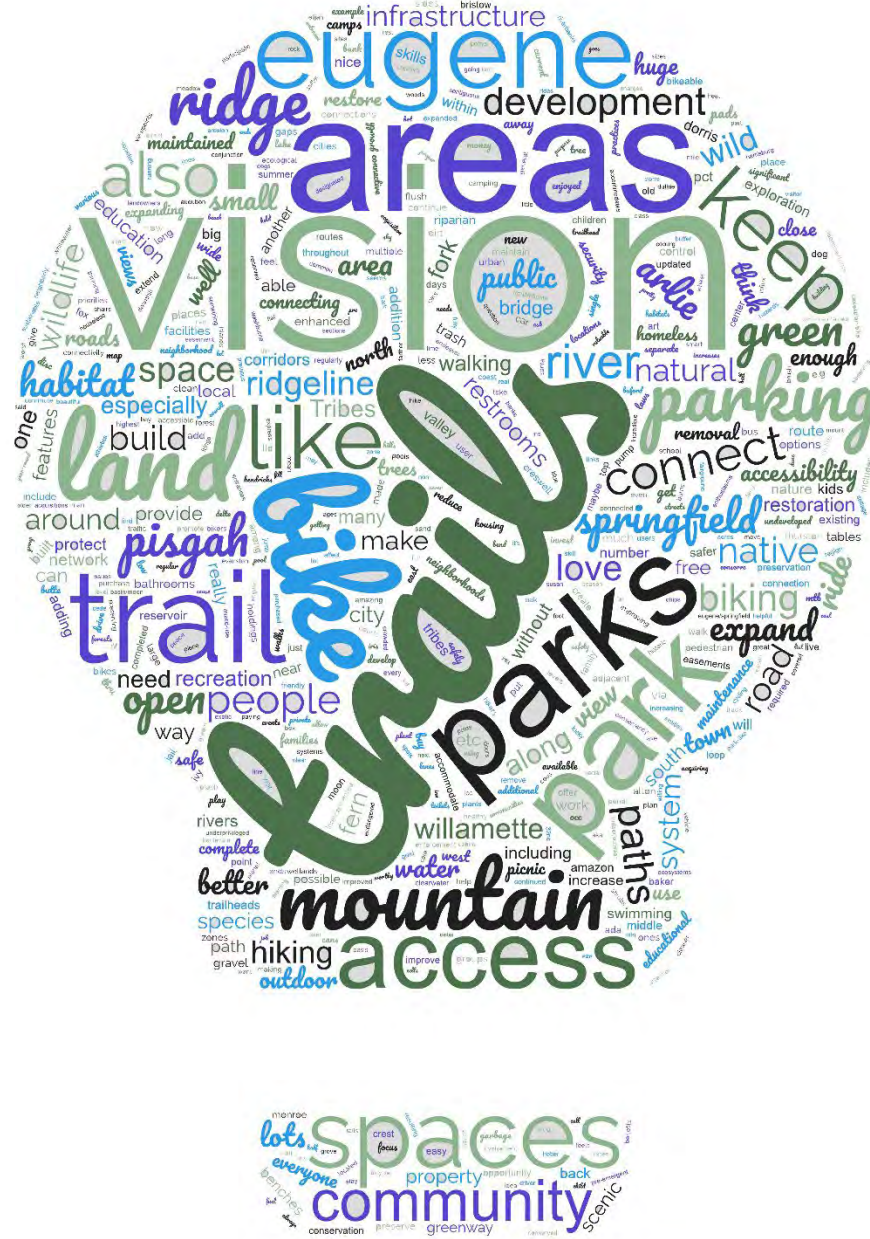
Twenty Years of Accomplishments and the 2023 Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh Report

Appendix F

Community Outreach Summary Report

Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh

Community Outreach Summary Report



October 24, 2022

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Report prepared by Jeff Krueger on behalf of the Rivers to Ridges Partnership



Refresh Process Background

Through the combined efforts of the Rivers to Ridges (R2R) partners, a significant amount of what was envisioned in the 2003 R2R vision has been implemented and a “Refresh” process was launched in 2020 to look toward what might be possible over the next 20 years. Through this process, a refined vision will be developed through collaboration with local experts and a diverse representation of our community. The process has been split into three phases – Phase 1 asked partner organizations to define their priorities within the broader upper Willamette watershed and was completed in 2020. Phase 2 focused on evaluating partnership structure and developing an outreach approach that would help expand our stakeholder base to ensure diverse and inclusive representation moving forward. Phase 3 is being conducted in 2022 and will be completed in early 2023 and includes community outreach and the development of a refreshed and inspirational vision.

Community Outreach Process Overview

The community outreach process kicked off in March 2022 with the development of a community questionnaire and outreach to key stakeholder groups. Partners made contact stakeholder groups through email, phone, in person, and through articles in newsletters. An outreach presentation, a flyer, and a English and Spanish web-based questionnaire were developed to support this effort.

Community Outreach Goals

- Engage community groups representing populations traditionally underserved by the park and open space system, such as the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community, to get input and vision for future park and open space priorities, to gauge potential interest in becoming an R2R Partnership organization in the future and develop reciprocal relationships.
- Find opportunities to expand the R2R partnership makeup to become more diverse and better represent all Southern Willamette Valley communities.
- Engage community members in underserved neighborhoods (partially identified by the 2021 equity mapping effort) to get input and vision for future park and open space priorities and understand their needs.
- Engage other stakeholder groups with opportunities to sustain a healthy park and open space system to get input and vision for future parks and open space priorities.
- Facilitate an easy-to-access platform for all interested community members to weigh in on future park and open space priorities (questionnaire on R2R website).
- Increase general awareness of the Rivers to Ridges vision, partnership, and accomplishments over the past twenty years.

Key Messages

- Overview of the R2R vision and partnership
- R2R is in the process of updating our vision plan
- We are looking to improve community representation for park and open space priorities within the R2R partnership, or within specific projects
- We want to know what the community’s priorities are (in terms of parks and open space)
- We want to have an organizational agreement for future outreach and collaboration

Outreach to Key Stakeholders

Although the questionnaire was open to anyone, a focus of the outreach effort was to connect with community groups representing populations and geographies traditionally underserved by the park and open space system. In addition to getting input from these groups, it was the hope of the partnership to begin building relationships with these stakeholders and to gauge interest in future involvement with the R2R partnership. Additionally, outreach was focused on groups that had endorsed the Rivers to Ridges vision in 2003. Due to limited opportunities to meet in person with many groups due to pandemic restrictions, most contact was made through email, phone, and newsletter articles. A list of priority stakeholder groups was developed and refined by the R2R Implementation Team and partnership representatives reached out specifically to the following groups:

- Huerto De La Familia
- NAACP Eugene
- TransPonder
- Lane Independent Living Alliance
- Confederated Tribes of The Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- University of Oregon Native American Student Union
- Eugene Neighborhood Leaders Council (representing underserved neighborhoods)
- Eugene Parks & Open Space supporters (community newsletter)
- League of Women Voters Lane County
- American Society of Landscape Architects Oregon, Willamette Valley Section
- Lane County Audubon Society
- Eugene Parks Foundation
- Peace Health Medical Group

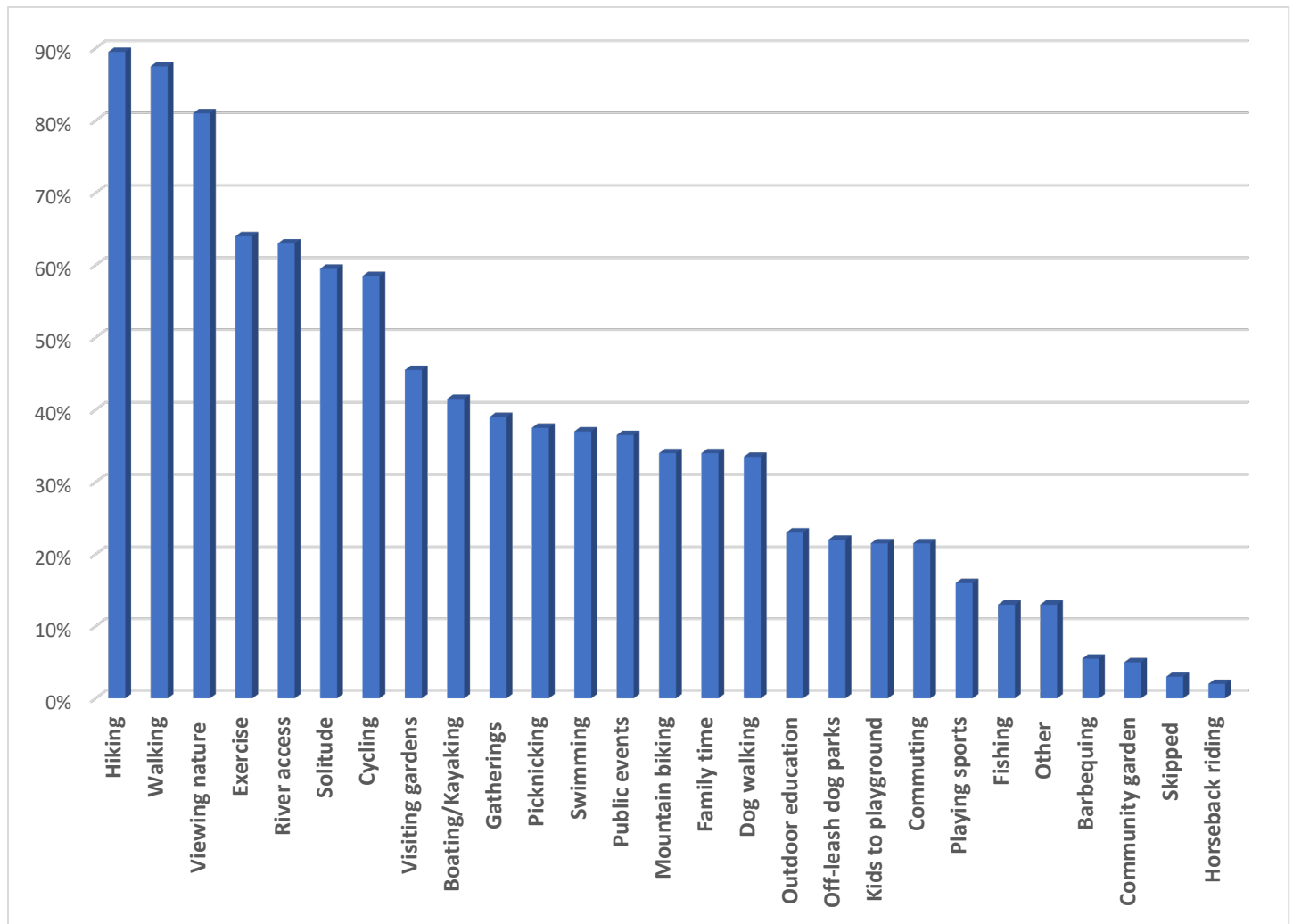
Questionnaire Results

The questionnaire (English and Spanish version) was opened for input on June 3 and was closed on October 15 and a total of 207 responses were received. All questionnaire responses received are included in this report, and they are presented verbatim, except for exclusions of personal information and some spelling correction. A total of 14 questions were included, of which five were related to demographics. The remainder of the questions were focused on current park and open space use and priorities for the future.

Question 1: What is your zip code?

- 97355 (1 response)
- 97401 (19 responses)
- 97402 (30 responses)
- 97403 (21 responses)
- 97404 (15 responses)
- 97405 (79 responses)
- 97408 (3 responses)
- 97424 (9 responses)
- 97426 (2 responses)
- 97438 (1 response)
- 97452 (1 response)
- 97477 (16 responses)
- 97478 (7 responses)
- 97489 (1 response)
- 97492 (1 response)
- 97878 (1 response)

Question 2: How do you use regional parks, trails, and open spaces? (Check all that apply)



Other (please specify):

- Jogging
- Neighborhood association events/volunteering
- Canoeing
- Relaxation
- Running
- Running
- Photography and iNaturalist observations.
- Ecological restoration activities
- Wheelchair accessible trails and parks for day and overnight trips
- Floating the river
- Volunteering
- Disc golf
- Provided green space reserved for the natural world & wildlife.
- Kayaking
- Camping
- Aerial photography (drones)
- Trail Running
- Disc golf
- Photography

- I'm unable to walk far and find the restrictions on biking the ridgeline excessively restrictive
- Mountain biking!
- Trail running
- Pickleball
- Running
- Photography
- Running

Question 3: Do you have a favorite local park or trail? What makes it your favorite?

- Spencer Butte Park
- I really can't pick a favorite - I like different parks for different reasons. Hendricks Park and Owen Rose Garden, though very different, offer a wonderful collection of plants.
- West Eugene Wetlands. The big open space and water and birds.
- Ruth Bascom Riverbank Path for its ability to provide unimpeded cycling and riverside views.
- Mt Pisgah has it all. Forests, meadows, river valley, Mt views, easy strolls, strenuous hikes, educational areas, fun events. It would be even more amazing if there was a bike bridge (safe way to get) there from Clearwater Park! But really the river path (from Springfield to VRC) is my favorite in terms of everyday use. Being able to access community and necessities safely w/o a car is THE reason this city is so amazing!
- The Ridgeline Trail at the Martin Street entrance has always been my favorite because of the solitude, plant species observed, and multiple biomes I can walk through in a relatively short amount of time
- Mount Pisgah
- Mt. Pisgah! The extent of the trails, varying elevations, wildlife, flowers, solitude.
- Mount Pisgah
- Diversity of experiences
- Skinner's Butte and surrounding areas
- Ridgeline
- Frank Kinney - thoughtful creek restoration
- Headwaters Ridgeline Trail - forest ecosystem. I like seeing the plants of the forest in each season of the year. I like hearing and seeing wildlife, and the thought that there is more wildlife present even though I don't see them. Length and steepness are just right.
- Amazon creek path south of 34th. I live close by and walk it a lot.
- Willamette River trails like Alton Baker Park, Skinner Park, the entire bike trail system.
- Mt. Pisgah
- Dillard to Fox Hollow Trail link. Quiet, easy, wooded, shaded, being overtaken by blackberries.
- Thurston Hills Natural Area. Opportunity for mountain biking within town.
- Thurston Hills Natural Area. I love this place because of its connection with nature but being close to town. I love the downhill mountain bike trails! Wypass is a amazing place also.
- Amazon because my daughter swims there and the wife and I walk the dog while she has practice. I live near Moon Mountain so I spend a lot of time walking my dog on the not so maintained trails around there. I like how it is never crowded and very quiet though.
- Not in Eugene. There is no good local mtn biking trails. Thurston in Springfield is good,
- South Ridgeline Trails -beauty -accessible
- Willamette river trail (Ruth Bascom) because it is close to me and along the river. Great place to run and walk. I also like the Delta Ponds--dirt trails, lots of wildlife. I would like to have more dirt trails through nature for hiking and trail running.
- Pisgah--the wildness and wildflowers
- Mt. Pisgah, Ridgeline Trail, Spencer Butte, Dorris Ranch river trail, Willamette River bike path...I send pictures to my friends and relatives out of state because they can't believe I'm in my city or metro area, not off in the wilderness camping someplace.

- North Bottomlands of Buford, where I can walk with my dog off-leash, under voice control. I love how peaceful it is out there. Other dog owners have always been respectful, and like us, leash up when we get close and pass by. I love the balance of shady and sunny trails.
- Ridgeline Trail System is my favorite because I can walk from my house and it is generally quiet and clean.
- Moon Mountain and Coryell Ridge. I live right by them so I know them well. I love the natural wildflowers, views of Diamond Peak in the distance, and great sunsets looking at Spencer's Butte.
- Tugman park for kids playtime. Modern equipment and community size. Ridgeline trail for mountain bike connections to new pipedream trail.
- Wild Iris ridge - Spacious, convenient
- Howard Buford Park hiking is amazing and it is nearby.
- Ridgeline trail
- Ridgeline and Mount Pisgah-- Howard Buford Park
- Ridgeline, it's the only mountain biking trail system
- Tugman. Close to home
- Thurston mountain bike trails as mountain bike only trails that are purpose built
- I really appreciate and enjoy the bike paths along the Willamette River for both pleasure biking and commuting.
- Wild Iris Ridge. Views, wildlife, exercise.
- Golden Gardens Ponds. Birds, beaver, plants, and skies.
- Mt Pisgah Arboretum. River bike trails. Views.
- Alton Baker Park
- Iris Ridge
- Ridgeline
- Martin St. or Mt. Pisgah/Ridgeline trail system. Like soft surface paths with less noisy and motorized bike traffic (as is now so common along the river path system :-(), quality natural areas, solitude if possible, birding, wildflowers...
- Rideline Trail for running, riverside trail for biking.
- Ridge line trail. Because of long and safe trails.
- Ridgeline trail system
- Dorris Ranch to Clearwater, proximity to home
- It's hard to choose a favorite, but I most often walk the skinner butte trail for uphill exercise. I like that it is uphill, has a nice path and several interconnecting paths to choose from.
- Mt Pisgah for the accessibility, wildlife, and variety of trails. We have an annual pass and can choose between an uphill climb with views, or a low flat hiker to the quarry for finding snakes and lizards, or a dip in the swimming hole.
- Mount Pisgah because of the variety of trails.
- Mt. Pisgah & Dorris Ranch trails
- The rose garden along the Willamette. There are several river access areas that are safe to swim in.
- The West Bank Trail between Copping and East Hilliard simply because it has the most immediately available features and is close to my home on E Howard Ave. Also, it is an exceptionally pretty stretch of the river and path system.
- Ridgeline Trail
- Accessible, beautiful, trees, variable terrain
- I use the close ones the most.
- Buford is my favorite, prefer the less used east side. I like the more natural, rugged trails, flowers, birds, solitude.
- Ridgeline Fox Hollow Trailhead to Mt. Baldy, it feels secluded and is never busy. I go there often to hike and enjoy feeling like I am outside of town without having to leave town.
- The place I visit most often is the Delta Ponds trail in Eugene where the birding is great. Mount Pisgah is a close second. Iris Trail is also a regular stop.
- Hendricks Ribbon Trail because I live close by. Also Pisgah. I enjoy educational walks at both locations
- The paths. The variety. The solitude.
- Mt Pisgah/Buford for combination of hiking, views, birdwatching and botanizing

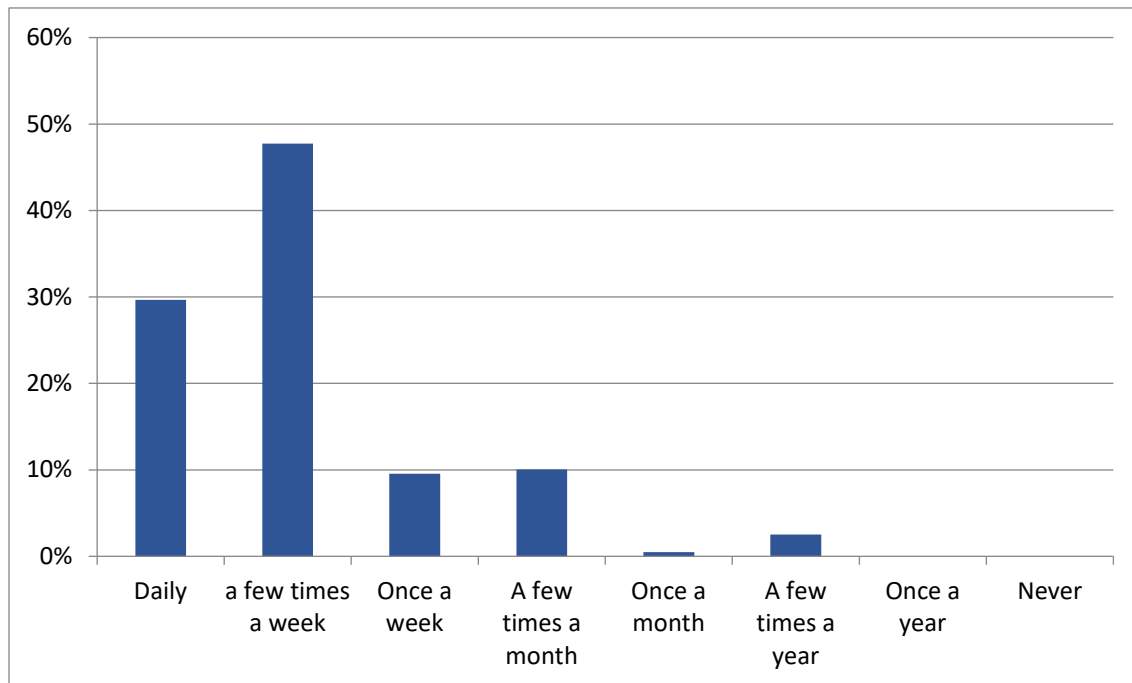
- Shortridge park at Cottage Grove Lake
- Mt. PISGAH, HIKING, THE DIFFERENT ECOSYSTEMS, WILDFLOWERS, VARIETY OF AREA TO WALK, LENGTH OF TRAILS
- Mt Pisgah! Because of the wide variety of paths.
- Trail #4 at mt Pisgah
- Buford Park, Bake Stewart Park: Parks with trails that preserve natural values, limit use of mountain bikes.
- Mt. Pisgah - Beautiful open well managed native habitat, diverse
- Elijah Bristow - loop paths with water, wildlife, flowers... fairly well maintained, and generally with few people using it. I can have my dog off leash.
- Dorena Dam for walks. It is a nice length and gets more sky-shine in the wet months
- The Mt. June / Sawtooth/ Hardesty ridgeline trail network for the mix of dry and wet side woods, grasslands, views and weekday solitude.
- Row river trail, by Dorena. Great views, well maintained, close to water. Able to walk, bike skate and little traffic.
- Lynx Hollow Greenway. It's minimally developed, filled with wildlife, quiet, not very busy, provides river access.
- I like the variety and like to change it up. so no favorite
- Row River Trail. Walking, birding, solitude, drinking in the view
- Goodman Creek trail: not too far, but mostly native vegetation with old trees, and not too crowded.
- Bake Stewart park is my favorite. Love the butterflies and wild look it has due to being their sanctuary.
- Row River Ponds is an excellent educational site for so many things! Kids can learn about fishing, butterfly habitats, turtle habitats, etc.
- So many! Hiking/dog walking along the ridge line trails like Mt. Baldy and around Fox Hollow because they are walking distance from my house. I love cycling the Middle Fork Path to Clearwater Park, through Whilamut Natural area and the paved river trails through Eugene. Also enjoy Thurston Hills (all the trails including the new ones) to hike/dog walk/nature walk. Arlie Park is another favorite most of the year but avoid it during the spring/summer when there are a lot of ticks. Wild Iris Ridge is nice too.
- My favorite park is Hendrick's Park because it has so many different areas and is always beautiful no matter what time of year you're there
- Alton baker and the river bike paths. I love my summer bike commutes. River walk park with the kiddo
- Probably Pisgah, because there are so many options for length of walk, difficulty, different types of habitat.
- Tugman Park is my favorite local park. It is close to our house, has lots of open space, and I volunteer to weed, mulch, and remove invasive species every other week.
- Tugman Park - unique City of Eugene park with developed parks, natural areas, and waterways components. I'm a member of Friends of Tugman (aka Tuggers) and love volunteering there!
- Mt. Pisgah Arboretum/Buford Park is my favorite. It has a feeling of Native sacredness about it. It also is situated interestingly as an excellent candidate as a hub/connection to Eugene-Springfield river path connections. I hope to see a bridge connection across the river to Dorris Ranch in my lifetime.
- I don't have a particular favorite park of trail, but I am in awe of the McKenzie River Valley. It needs to be protected from unwise development too close to the river's edge. Development and other detrimental factors are killing the McKenzie River.
- Arboretum trails at Mt Pisgah. The most natural feeling
- Pisgah
- Buford Park. I volunteer at the Native Plant Nursery.
- Mt. Pisgah. Close to city but spacious. A variety of terrain for hiking, exercise, and family fun.
- Mt Pisgah. Hiking, River, close to home
- No one trail specifically. The collection of trails along the Willamette from Beltline to Oakridge. Mostly the Eugene to PCT, which I would love to see the connections to have it continuous sometime.
- Mt Pisgah feels wild close to home.
- Pisgah. The variety of terrain, wildlife, river, wildflowers. Beautiful in every season.
- Mount Pisgah/Buford Recreation Area - range of trails, diversity of landscapes, educational activities & interpretive exhibits, opportunities for solitude, great for trail running and exploring as a family

- Mount Pisgah/Buford Park -- great variety of trails, can walk flatlands or climb mountains, pick routes of different lengths depending on time and energy.
- Spencer's Butte - easy to do after work and has a great view
- Willamette National Forest - much diversity in biosphere, topography and geology
- Elijah Bristow
Mt Pisgah Arboretum
- Sladden Park and the adjacent river front, it's one of the only places to see older giant trees within Eugene's urban space.
- Buford Park, especially area around the northwest trailhead. It's a busy park, but you can still find solitude. The views are great, trails are now well maintained, the natural environment seems to me to have a special, almost spiritual quality.
- Mt Pisgah -- access to variety of trail options, ecosystems and topography.
- Alton Baker and Pre's trail is a favorite due to accessibility, integration of trails near water, ease of use for walking/running/biking/dog park
- Buford Park, and Green Island
- Thurston Hills because it is 5" from my house. It is a nicely graded, forested trail that gives you a decent workout.
- Ruth Bascom Trail because I can recreate and commute without feeling unsafe from cars
- Alsea Falls. Expertly designed mountain bike trails.
- Local, accessible, connected to neighborhoods and other trails.
- Thurston hills mountain biking trails. Good MTB not too far from Eugene.
- Mt Pisgah because of the natural area and quantity of trails, Thurston hills because it has real mountain bike trails
- Low population, love being in the outdoors, lots of flora and fauna, love access to water
- Thurston MTB trails
- Thurston hills, for the mountain biking.
- Dorris ranch
- Thurnston bike trails. It's well maintained
- Ridge line, great trail running, need connected mountain bike separate equivalent
- Hendrick's Park. It is close to my house, and I take dog walks there daily.
- Ridgeline Trail between Blanton Ridge & 52nd street. It is a beautiful natural space with a challenging hike, and is generally not very crowded.
- Ridgeline and Suzanne Arlie
- Ridgeline trail. Ease of access to Eugene. Length of trail makes it enjoyable.
- The entire Ridgeline trail system is great. I also like the Fern Ridge bike trail, as well as the river trails.
- Ridgeline. for hiking and mountain biking
- Moon mountain! It's in my backyard
- Pisgah & ridgeline. miles & miles of trails, I like to go long
- Martin Street / Amazon headwaters because of the proximity to my residence.
- Ridgeline/Headwaters/Baldy for local mountain biking
- Suzanne Arlie because it is a wonderful open space right on the edge of town.
- Ridgeline Trail/Mt Baldy - It's my favorite because of the close to town location and because mountain bikes are allowed.
- I really like Ridgeline and Thurston Hills because I can mountain bike.
- River Path, Suzanne Arlie, Black Oak Basin.
- Hendricks Park, Riverbank, Skinner Butte and Park, Ridgeline Trail System
- The ones open to biking
- Thurston hills, purpose-built trails for mountain biking
- Mt Pisgah due to its size and diversity of environments
- Ridgeline, Suzanne Arlie park, Baldy. Awesome place to ride bikes with tons of potential for even more trails. And epic views and nature

- Thurston mountain biking
- Thurston hills
- Thurston hills natural area , mountain biking
- Thurston Hills or ridge line. The trails for both hiking and mountain biking are great!
- Thurston hills
- Wild Iris ridge
- Mt Baldy. It is a place I can actually mountain bike in city limits
- Thurston bike trails. Good downhill trails.
- Ridgeline because I live close.
- Ridge line trail.
- Thurston Hills Natural Area. The combination of hiking and dedicated mountain biking is amazing (shared use doesn't work when bikers start going downhill). I also love the flowers and views at Moon Mountain and Coryell Ridge. Would love to see more developed trails there particularly with latter offering the opportunity to connect to Dorris ranch. Then we could bike from Suzanne Arlie to Thurston hills for some epic local mountain biking making mountain biking the green sport it should be.
- I really like having urban access to mountain biking trails, so I really appreciate the Ridgeline trail in Eugene that is open to mountain biking.
- Amazon headwaters trail for its many beautiful bridges.
- I use frequent Alton Baker probably the most due to the running trail, but I wouldn't necessarily say it's my favorite.
- I love riding my bike with my husband along the Willamette River paths and through the Meadow View Park Wetlands path. We also enjoy playing pickleball.
- The HBRA, because it has plenty of loop trails.
- Buford Park--hiking, habitat with river access, dog off leash and on leash, Mt Pisgah Arboretum, no campers, parking and facilities available, picnic sites and event sites available. Large, diverse, well-tended.
- The Baldy section of the Ridgeline trail is a family favorite. It's quieter than some of the more busy trails, and doable with kids.
- I like to bike all along the Willamette from Owosso Bridge to Clearwater Park. I especially like the section from Springfield to Clearwater. I prefer to bike along the Willamette as opposed to the Fern Ridge Path because there are fewer homeless people and the accompanying problems (anti-social behavior, graffiti, broken glass, open use of drugs and alcohol, smoking). I prefer to ride in along the river in Springfield because they have fewer of these issues than Eugene.
- River path. I love riding my bike to do errands or go downtown and grab some food. I also love Arlie park, where I can ride my mountain bike on the gravel roads
- Whilamut
- All of them. West Eugene wetlands. Connected open spaces
- Hendricks Park. Love the garden and the forest, trails, volunteer opportunities.
- Eugene South Hills trails. I walk four or five times a week because they are so close to me.
- Mckenzie River Trail. Whitewater Rafting
- Dexter Park, disc golf
- Mt Pisgah ridgeline trails green island
- Buford Recreation Area, I like a lot of our trail parks, Buford is great because the trails are not cement or blacktop (I struggle finding shoes that don't hurt my feet on hard surfaces). I can go much further and longer at Buford.
- Many...multiple uses, nature in city, easy access
- Spencer Butte, it is the best city park with a great vantage point on a national recreation trail. Views.
- Wild Iris Ridge - my partner proposed there
- We have many. We seek the quiet parks which vary at different times of the year.
- Hendricks Park
- Eastgate woodlands administered by Willamalane, Mount Pisgah county park, your green island 2nd Saturdays walks there., etc., include fern ridge kayak from Perkins Peninsula

- Mt. Pisgah. A variety of trails, River access, beautiful views, educational events and signage. Good bathrooms :)
- Willamut Natural area. Birds. Is close by.
- Mount Pisgah - as closest
- Alton Baker - close to downtown, disc golf. Dexter - disc golf
- Mount Pisgah - the flora and fauna. Ridgeline trail - the network of hiking paths. And the Edgewood Neighbourhood trail (which I use daily!)
- Dorris Ranch, because it is close and offers diversity of views/experiences.
- McKenzie River Trail. It's Overpopulated now but used to be the most amazing hiking and biking trail. Natural hot springs, waterfalls, and Tamolitch Falls put the icing on the cake.
- Ridgeline Park in Eugene. Its close, can feel like wilderness (when not too busy!), has a nice variety of habitats, and some great viewpoints.
- Amazon Park, Ridgeline Trail
- Ridgeline Trail
- Buford Recreation Area. I love all of the loop options and ability to find views. Views are key.
- Fox Hollow and Hendricks Park.
- Cougar Mountain Wayside
- Mount Pisgah
- Pre's trail. Wood chips in town. Gentle terrain. Lots of greenery.
- Garden Lake Park. I enjoy being able to watch the planes take off.
- Wild Iris Ridge. It's close to my home and I enjoy the oak savannahs and woodlands with the sweeping views of the surrounding landscape.
- Ridgeline Trail - Ability to be part of a healthy forest ecosystem
- Filbert meadows because its close to my house and not very heavily used. It has a lot of open space and native plants. I also like anywhere with river access because I am a rock hound. Clearlake Park, Riverfront Park in Harrisburg.
- 15th bike trail between downtown and the west Eugene wetlands. I love being able to hop on my bike and ride along amazon creek, seeing the incredible restoration. I have even seen beavers and otters, not to mention the lovely pair of hooded mergansers that frequent the area. I'd love to see even more community investment in restoration of this area and more access/safe lighting. A trail expansion headed east would be incredible.
- Spencer Butte
- Ridge line trail - Scenic views; length

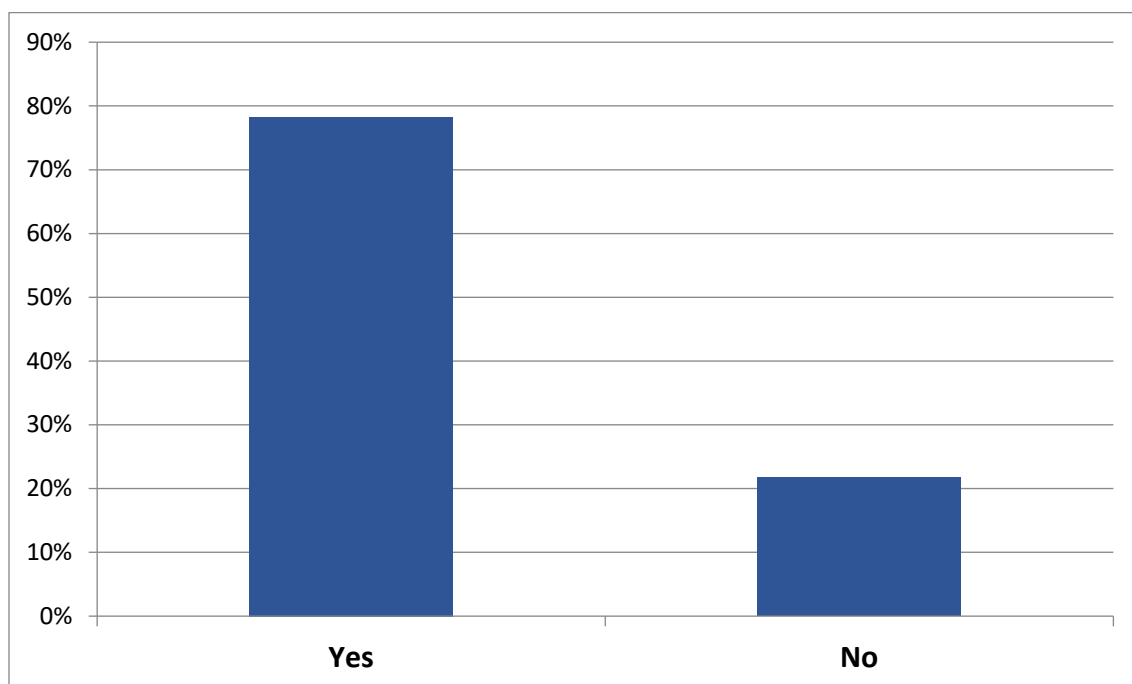
Question 4: How often do you use your local parks, trails, and open space?



Key takeaways:

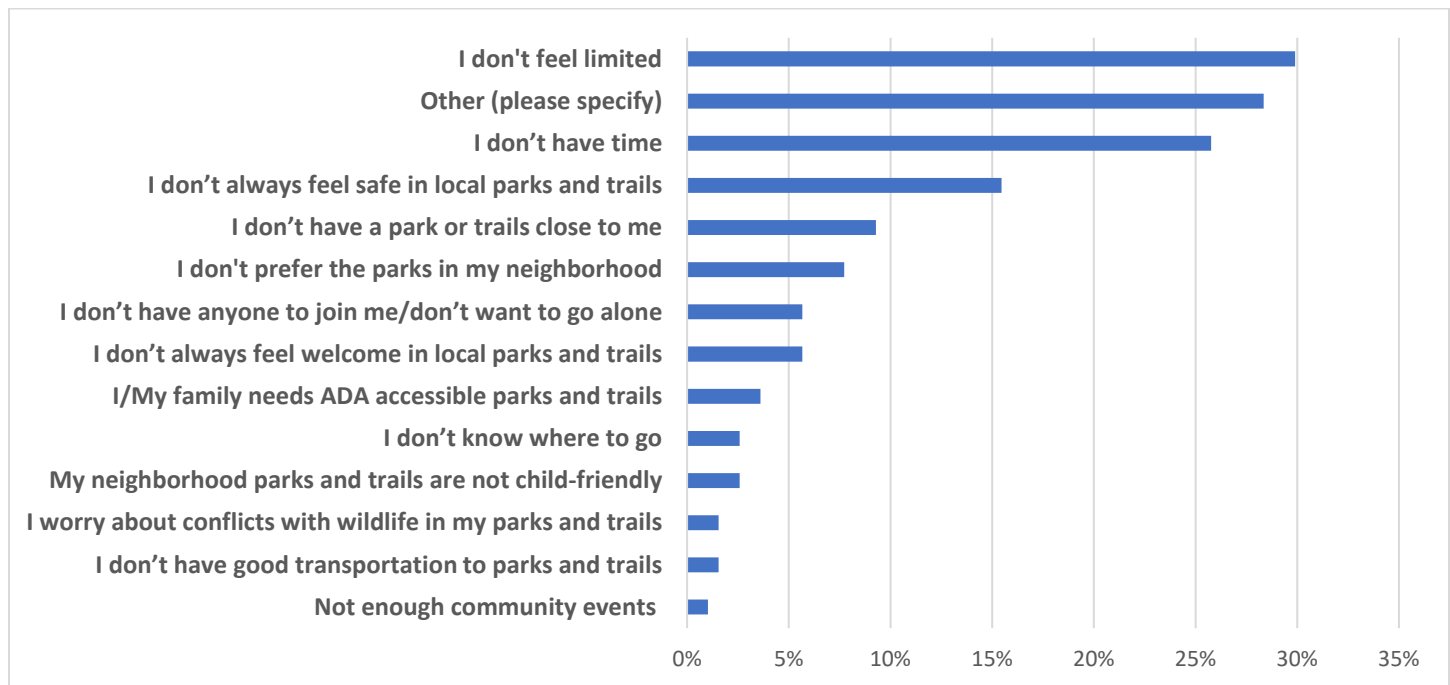
- 78% of respondents use parks, trails, and open space several times per week
- 88% of respondents use parks, trails, and open space at least once per week
- 0% of respondents don't use parks at least once per year

Question 5: Do you wish you could visit your local parks, trails, and open space more often?



Question 6: What are your limitations to accessing your local parks, trails, and open space?

(Check all that apply)



Other (please specify):

- The local parks in town have illegal camping, trash, and some public dumping.
- My knees are old.
- I live in the hills and need to use my car wherever I go since there is no public transportation near. Finding parking can be an issue.
- The homeless have really trashed our local Scobert Park, sadly they have nowhere better to be.
- Not enough diversity and options for my mountain biking. Thurston Hills is great for Mountain biking but very little options elsewhere that would encourage me to go out more often.
- I do have a few nearby, but I'd like more nearby where I can hike/run/exercise. It is much easier to go out and enjoy the park if its within walking distance. If I have to drive 15 or 20 minutes each way, it takes more time to be able to visit a park just in the commuting time.
- I only have one park in walking distance. I'd like to do a late evening walk there, but it's too crowded for my comfort. I have balance issues and people running on the trails and biking come too close. I've been shoulder checked a few times and the bikers come too close to my dog, even though she's on a very short leash and right next to me.
- I'd visit the trails more often in Eugene if there were well maintained trail systems for mountain biking. Instead I find myself driving to Thurston, Carpenter Bypass, Alsea Falls, or Oakridge.
- Workin for the Man, gotta pay the mortgage
- off-leash dogs
- Parking at the trail heads is limited.
- some parks are hard to access on bicycle
- Self-time management
- Too many people.
- Mountain biking not permitted in most parks
- I like variety so to access some of the parks farther from me it would be nice to have non-car travel options.
- Not enough wildland parks...most are too developed: do not offer solitude, preservation of wildlife and native plants
- Disgusted by drug paraphernalia and garbage left behind

- I avoid some notorious for dogs running loose
- not enough local trails, and even parking can be limiting
- Fees (ex I rarely visit Mt. Pisgah because of Lane Co fees. That being said, it is amazing that pretty much everywhere else is free.
- As I live in a wilderness environment, I have daily access to private open space
- Too many users in a small area
- Too many people and my access to avoid them had been blocked off
- Connections from one segment to another being on busy roads, such as Franklin to tiger from Eugene/Springfield to Pisgah.
- We need great designated bicycle routes/lanes that connect directly to park spaces
- Certain parks are only accessible by cars
- There are not enough trails open to or specific to mountain bikes for such a large population. West Eugene has way less trails than south Eugene exhibited by the insane amount of cars at wild iris ridge.
- Would like more mountain bike-specific trails to span and connect together
- The parks near me have limited mountain biking opportunities
- There aren't many options for mountain biking in Eugene
- Not enough mountain bike trails, which is one of my favorite hobbies.
- Not enough mountain bike dedicated trails (I try to avoid biking on mixed use trails during busy times)
- Improved access via walking/biking to parks
- Slowed down by physical limitations
- I would love to see more opportunities to disc golf
- I can't walk far, and many segments of ridgeline are closed to biking
- Not enough parks allow mountain bike access
- Not enough in town mountain bike access
- I have a full-time job so that's my limitation on time. I would ride more park if i was a rich unemployed boy
- I wish there were more mountain bike trails close by.
- Coryell Ridge and Moon Mountain get infested with poison oak. I look forward to accessing local trails like Pipeline or in Arlie Park so I don't have to drive my bike to Thurston or Carpenter Bypass. Driving to bike feels wrong.
- Not all trails are open to bicycles
- There is no pickleball parks in Bethel area.
- Lawn parks with limited places to sit. Bikers are not always friendly to walkers sharing the path--have to jump off path at times if the biker comes up suddenly from behind. Some campers are not friendly/concerned to walk alone along river because of that. Pisgah is safer because of the lack of campers.
- I feel worse after using the parks in my neighborhood after being subjected to the anti-social behavior of the people who live in them.
- Mostly, I don't feel limited, accept after twilight, because they want you out of there. I want to see the night sky without city lights and watch for night wildlife, insects and birds.
- Off leash dogs outside of dog parks are a big concern as our dog was attacked at the fern ridge parking area.
- Busy weeding yard, working at Springfield library shelving books, swimming at Willamalane pool, or just reading books a lot fortunately guy lee park wild area is right across the fence so we get lots of birds daily at our bird feeders.
- Enjoy watching birds and other things at home. Like to go to pool to swim.
- I forget what is around- afraid to go to Hendricks park alone
- Lack of parking (Wild Iris Ridge and Spencer Butte)
- Parks are often closed and/or not maintained
- If I didn't have to work, I would be playing outside most of the time!

Question 7: What are some things that could be done to improve your use and enjoyment of our region's parks, trails, and open spaces?

- Develop opportunities or events for the public to assist. We could assist with public trash pick-up, monitoring the park conditions, planting events, and volunteer for park events.
- Nothing. we need to love them more.
- Remove homeless and criminal people.
- Speed limit for E-bikes. Restrict E-bikes. Get E-bikes under control. They are a menace. And I'm a lifelong cyclist!
- Improved restrooms. Daily crews to organize homeless people to clean up other homeless people's garbage and drug mess.
- Multi- modal access to places like Mount Pisgah and the more rural parks using a quick system like the EMX
- Safer parking lots
- More trail connections
- Change economy and society so parents don't have to work each 1-3 jobs just to afford a decent living. Parents would have more time for their children or themselves to enjoy the outdoors.
- More trails to views
- Have a system of universal access trails and open spaces.
- Have a clear communication plan so people who need access know where they can go and the type of accessibility available.
- Phase out cars and developed parts of parks.
- More rental equipment for day use. I would love to take friends out for a float on the river to see if they LOVE it as much as we do. Maybe at the river house?
- Provide officially public access from LLC to Arlie Park
- Better connection between locations, bike path access. More cycling opportunities.
- More easy access to water at parks near rivers. I feel parks like Alton baker and day island park could both benefit from some out coves where water is slower for families to get in and enjoy.
- Not much. I would like to see some mountain bike trails built on and around moon mountain
- More mtn biking trails
- Control & prevent the overuse, abuse of trail system i.e., short cuts, spur trails, camp trails, meadow trails
- closer access. Easier to understand all the options in one place (a MAP!) and what facilities are at each. It's hard to find maps of everything. e.g., lane county parks has lists of all the parks, but not a map. some groups have maps of their specific open spaces/parks but not those belonging to other organizations.
- I'm not sure. They are pretty good. Some have better toilet and water facilities, and since I'm 74, I appreciate that a lot. My children and grandchildren are here and they'd say they wish there was a better swimming hole at Pisgah and other places!
- Mostly, I'm thrilled with all the parks, trails and open spaces. I wish the parking areas were safer. My car's been broken into several times, at Pisgah, Fern Ridge Wildlife Area and Spencer. The separate parking pass fee I paid for Fern Ridge is basically wasted money because I'll only walk there when I can be dropped off and picked up, now. Which I hate, because I'd like to be out there a lot more often.
- Keeping trails and bike paths clean. I never bike by the river anymore due to homeless issue and I feel very unsafe on the backside of the trail near the freeway.
- Widen trails for hiking so it is easy to pass with dogs
- On leash Dog friendly trails and off leash dog friendly trails
- Connectivity - we love to hike and bike but we need more bike lanes and walking paths like we have on Amazon. Recently when visiting Italy they turned all of their railways into clearly marked 2-3 lane walking/biking trails that connected the communities. It was amazing and safe and away from cars.
- I well developed Mountain Bike trail system and progressive skills parks (I have 3 daughters aged 10, 13 and 15 who all ride bikes, and there's a dearth of a skills parks and pump tracks locally).
- More mountain bike specific trails within riding distance of my house.
- Appropriate restroom availability, it's what humans need to keep favorite areas pristine.
- Appropriate restroom availability, it's what humans need to keep favorite areas pristine.

- Bathrooms, trash cans, bike parking.
- More mountain bike trails, especially trails connecting existing trail systems together
- More enforcement of dogs on leash policies
- More mountain biking trails and more parking at trail heads
- More natural habitat restoration to view native plants, invertebrates, birds, etc.
- More mountain bike trails. Open other trails to multi use that don't currently allow bikes. For instance, Buford park should be open to bikes as should a connection across Blanton to lower butte trail all the way to fox hollow.
- I don't know. Seem well used and maintained.
- gender neutral bathrooms with locking doors!
- We are fortunate to have choices. I prefer less crowded places. That said, I look for safe places to park.
- safety of parking lots
- More natural areas and wildlife habitat, active ecological restoration, limit/enforce speed and noise limits on motorized bikes on path systems, more off-leash dog and camping enforcement to reduce trash and pollution
- Implement single person, nongendered bathrooms at every opportunity. As a trans person, I love camping at Armitage Park because I can use the bathrooms and showers without fear of harassment or violence.
- Better camera systems for parking lots adjacent to hiking trails.
- Please have local governments fund these.
- Open accessible bathrooms, introduction walks to alternative sites and or bird watching
- I would love more trails right in town for hiking, and walking preferably in tree covered areas, which have elevation gain. Both paved and unpaved. I don't like bark trails because the little pieces get in my socks and make my feet itch. I live near the amazon creek bike path and walk or bike commute on it almost daily, and more trash receptacles would be helpful as many unhoused people live there and there doesn't seem to be enough space for their trash in the infrequently placed trash cans. There is often a lot of glass shards to avoid on the bike path and I would love to see more frequent clean up there. More bathrooms in public open spaces would also be helpful. I often visit the Wayne Morse Park trails, and the bathrooms are closed November-April, so perhaps a porta potty could fill in for the winter months to make it more accessible.
- Monthly email highlighting two or three parks or trails to introduce me to something new.
- More trails and restrooms.
- More info about the various options. I probably do not know everything that's available.
- Hooking up trails to public transit more, having doors on bathrooms, single person bathrooms are much better (non-gendered).
- While I prefer to access the region's parks, trails and open spaces by foot or bicycle, I really do wish there was more car parking available for others, because at present, those folks who come from other parts of town to enjoy the river and bike paths near me are forced to park in the neighborhoods. This is really suboptimal because at peak times, it creates very narrow streets where two cars cannot pass at once and pedestrians and cyclists on feeder streets like E Howard Ave and Copping St are put at risk. With more available _dedicated_ car parking, the surrounding neighborhoods would be much more pleasant and safer and more people from distant parts of town could enjoy our lovely park areas -- win-win! :^)
- Another amenity MANY people have stopped me to ask for is more public restrooms. Currently, there are none north of the Valley River Bike Bridge on the west side and this creates some real problems for parks users who have need for these facilities. The same holds true for the East Bank north of the VRC bridge as well.
- More native plantings to support pollinators and birds.
- Control foot traffic to protect the health of the environment
- Removal of invasive species and more native plantings.
- I'd like longer, less developed trails, but I imagine I'm in the minority. The most natural parklands are hard to access unless you have a car (Buford/Mt Pisgah, Ridgeline trails (hard to bike to for many). Some require a fee. I would like to see bus service to Buford, and a system whereby Oregon Trail card holders (food stamps) automatically got a free pass. It doesn't make sense that nature is inaccessible to anyone without means or a car.
- More monitoring of trailhead parking lots.
- more hours in a day. :)

- More interpretation. Reach out to LGBTQ++ groups for events or exclusive meets. Women only walks. Don't sigh loudly when I request an ASL interpreter.
- Establish more mountain bike trails in local parks to reduce conflicts with hikers
- benches along walkways to rest
- Actually maintain them trails. A case in point Mount Pisgah appears to have all the money spent on parking lots, roads and signage. People go to hike and enjoy nature not admire nice pavement or signs. Very little appears to be spent on the trails. Other parks also have this problem to a lesser extent.
- Maintain them pesticide free.
- Reduce the number of people at any given location...perhaps by having more space available and accessible.
- More Ada friendly trails
- Create light use trails in more wildlands, limit mountain bike and horse access.
- just need more open spaces for hiking and bike paths. feel unsafe riding my bike on roads
- Not sure.
- Rope in the "residential" use.
- Incorporation of the O and C lands into public open spaces not requiring paid permits to access.
- Like more trails, sidewalks to be able to walk to parks from house. I live off 99 And wish I could walk to the park from my house
- Just people management and clean bathrooms. I've not had a safety problem but I do worry about it.
- Connecting more of the park spaces. But you all are doing a great job.
- Volunteer opportunities, to experience new places
- More access points, more available sites.
- Improved facilities and access. Hand washing has become so important, we need access to running water and good restrooms.
- Groomed trails for us older visitors
- Restrooms at high use trailheads. Safer parking (car break ins happen) at trailheads and boat launches. Disc golf course!
- Access to views and viewpoints
- More access to trails information and more maps with what activities to do in each area
- It would be great if I could safely access these parks with my kids via bikes. The city is too car centered and the roads are dangerous
- Better maps and listings of activities in local parks. I have been discovering ones I didn't know were there, but it's mostly due to word of mouth.
- Winterizing bathrooms at more parks would be very helpful.
- more educational signage and activities; guided walks and activities to enhance the communities' knowledge of our ecosystems
- make the bus system's front bike racks long enough for semi- & full recumbent bikes so we can travel easier from park to park. Don't have loud noisy music events in them.
- The McKenzie River needs protection from loss of native vegetation due to human activities, structures being build too close to the river's edge, use of fertilizers and herbicides in the vicinity of the water, epidemic algae growth on the rocks of the riverbed.
- Multi use paths do not work anymore (electric vehicles, too many people) and many natural areas are being too developed with amenities for all users
- More user-unfriendly trails for those of us that would rather slip and slide and huff and puff but still thoughtful about maintaining a trail can avoid people. I use to go up Spencer's Butte but stairs brought more people. There was a simply un trampled trail on Pisgah that has been there forever and is now blocked off for restoration forcing me into the road.
- Bus transportation to Buford Park.
- Better maintenance! Grass and brush isn't cut on the edge of running trails. Exercise areas are allowed to age and deteriorate e.g. Amazon Park. Homeless people litter and trash many areas...and scare away kids.
- More parking, benches
- Potable water at more trailheads and more restroom facilities (port a potties are perfectly good).

- Keep dogs on leash or out of wild areas entirely. Have more areas restored for native plants and animals.
- Trail maintenance.
- I often enter Alton Baker near the D-street boat ramp and often feel unsafe when alone in the early mornings or evenings. More lighting or a "park watch" schedule could help. I occasionally feel unsafe when there are large camps under the I-5 bridge along the river (sometimes more because of the dogs in the camps than the people) and experienced an incident of man exposing himself and shouting at me there.
- Better walking and biking access from neighborhoods. Example: to reach the Ridgeline Trail from my house, I have to walk or bike on Fox Hollow which -- past Donald St. -- is dangerous with no shoulder, sidewalk, or path. Equally close by foot is access from Willamette St., but with the same problem. There are many options for improving access off the road too. I also could use a safe way to bike to Mt. Pisgah from south Eugene -- I know there are some 30th Ave. projects in the works, but really an off-road bike trail would be best.
- It would be great to connect more of the open spaces together with trails
- more bike lanes along county roads
- Free parking
- LTD stops at parks and trail heads
- Some trails wheelchair and walker friendly
- Better maintenance - some parks run the sprinklers too often and the grass becomes a mushy usable muddy mess in the fall, winter, and spring (Monroe Park, parts of Sladden on the east side, Amazon Park on the east side of the playground, Tugman has several swampy spots on its open grass all along the east side. This could be attributed to too much watering in during our wet seasons? And sometimes the grass cutting maintenance happens at odd times when the park is busy vs. when it has less usage.
- The city of Eugene has several parks in my part of town (Santa Clara) that are undeveloped, so it feels like there aren't many parks in the area. It is also awkward and sometimes dangerous to access the river path without a car -- I have to cross River Road and Beltline to do so, and both of these are unsafe crossings.
- Continued progress in restoration and stewardship projects by the R2R partnership groups.
- Do not allow or set a speed limit on motorized bikes, scooters or hoverboards. People tend to go faster than necessary and are not always nice to walkers. Get rid of the homeless congregations.
- There are two extremes within Eugene's park spaces: you're either hiking through the wealthy's backyard or the unhoused's active campsites. Either way, it feels intrusive.
- Add more mountain bike trails.
- Removing invasive, especially berries. Few gravel paths, I prefer forest duff.
- More MTB trails in Eugene or closer to Eugene.
- Create more directional mountain bike specific trails, more trails and parks in west Eugene, no gravel on MTB trails please. Use indigenous fire and thinning to prevent catastrophic fire and improve habitat
- Parking and road access
- Connect regional parks with mtb/hiking trails with specific routes for each activity
- Directional mountain bike specific trails
- More maps available with different trails and features on the trails.
- More bike trails
- More trails, too crowded
- More mountain bike trails.
- More hiking trails in other parts of the region. Most trails are in the South Eugene area. The only / nearest trail to West Eugene is Wild Iris Ridge, which gets very crowded because it is the only trail option for all of West Eugene.
- More mountain bike trails and more options to connect existing trail systems
- Dedicated mountain biking trails separate from running/hiking trails
- More trail connectivity. Less inappropriate impacts such as garbage and misuse by homeless.
- Trails are getting very crowded with increased use. the parking lots at Willamette Street trailheads are many times full and I end up having to leave or park in unsafe spots. More parking and more trails to disperse usage would be helpful.
- Expanding ridge line trails and connecting to Suzanne Arlie and moon mountain

- More trails, less signage
- An additional 18-hole disc golf course is desperately needed.
- Build more bike-legal trails!
- More connected routes throughout town.
- Mountain bike specific trails
- More mountain bike specific trails.
- Better trails, more options and mtb parks.
- More picnic tables for senior citizens to easily walk to. Have Lane County fee parks open year-round. Exercise equipment for adults and seniors.
- Open all trails to biking, at least on specific days
- More mountain bike trails
- Allow mountain biking in more parks. Expand park areas and provide more access points and connections to neighborhoods.
- More trails and bike specific trails.
- Interconnected trails where possible
- More access for mountain bikes to local trails and more cycling specific trails to decrease conflicts
- Add more mountain bike trails.
- More single-track mtb trails
- We need more mountain bike specific trails!
- More mountain bike trails! While I understand that separate isn't always equal, one way downhill bike only trails are needed in all these areas. Look at what Washington has done around the greater Seattle area. Bike tourism is also a huge money maker for local businesses.
- More mtb bike trails
- Increasing number of mountain bike friendly trails. Designating a connector system between parks and trail systems that would keep bikes/foot traffic safe from vehicle traffic
- Bathrooms. It's really annoying the lack of restroom facilities in our parks. Look at the popularity of Martin Street / Ridgeline/Running trail - no restrooms at the trail head. Others around town are often locked or replaced by porta potty that isn't maintained.
- The other big thing is we need more mountain bike trails and skills parks. There's a huge need and the pace of trail construction pales in comparison to similar sized cities. Willamalane has put in three at Thurston Hills alone this past year.
- More trails
- More dedicated specifically mountain biking trails
- More mountain bike trails! Having close trails that are accessible to everyone would be so amazing!
- More dedicated mountain bike trails, skills areas, pump tracks, progression biking for kids. As a father and coach for 3 girls on the local mountain bike racing team, I know it's a huge obstacle for families to have to drive 20-45 mins to go to place for practice and this makes this sport exclusionary. It would far more inclusive to underrepresented groups if these barriers were reduced with local trail opportunities.
- Greater development of regional mountain biking trails, especially those adjacent to urban areas (Susan Arlie Park, Ridgeline Trail, Moon Mountain Area).
- It would also be great if the different segments of the ridgeline trail could be better connected for both hikers and bikes, especially the part between 30th and Mt Baldy
- Make them more connected and broadly available, especially through north and west Eugene.
- More splashpads during the summer?
- More pickleball courts in Bethel. More bike paths in Bethel and West Eugene.
- The Ridgeline Trails have significant gaps...they should be filled in to connect up the anchor parks. Also, long and short loops would be welcome.
- Expand parks/habitat protection/access to the river. Postage stamp parks with a bench and a play structure are not enough. We are making the urban core more dense--more buildings and more people. Some unhoused. LESS green space is planned for and the "new" park space provided is often just decorative. The so-called Riverfront park involves a lot of concrete capping the surface. Perhaps it will include a lawn or two but it is mainly a big

sidewalk--helpful for some to travel on. You can see the river and perhaps that is better than not being able to see it. We need to buy and block out a huge ring of parkland that surrounds the urban growth boundary and has river access for both wildlife and people. Much of this should be semi-protected habitat. The developed areas can have amenities for access by folks of varying abilities and resources, as well as formal play areas. Given the likelihood that all large cities will be surrounded by shantytowns in the next 50 years (barring a little better planning for all here who need housing) the parks will feel this camping pressure and that factor needs to be included in planning.

- More 2-way bike lanes with signals, and just more biking and walking trails and paths in general.
- Constant patrols of the parks with the most problems. Stop making citizen report this stuff every day to get any action.
- Cut down on some of the homeless camps and garbage accumulation. Create better bike lanes to connect the two major bike path systems (river path to the fern ridge trail system)
- More parking, more trails
- Expansion of the greenway bike trail to a regional attraction that ultimately traverses the length of the Willamette River!!!
- Linking the ridgeline trail up.
- Creating a complete linking of a Ridgeline Trail system with
- Multiple trail heads for access to a variety of sections of trail.
- Trails could be built to a better standard. Amazon headwaters, for instance, slopes and has rut that limits walking width some places.
- More bathrooms at trail heads, more enforcement of parking
- Better path lighting, more biking/walking paths connecting them
- Tell BLM not to log the Thurston Hill Extensive Recreation Area
- Parking
- less homelessness (a big, multi-faceted problem, I realize)
- Make them more connected so that they are accessible by multi modal transport
- Add single track trails to the system!
- Better information on what is available within driving distance of my home
- More days green island is open, more confluence walks, etc.
- Park maintenance is key. If a park is trashy and restrooms are dirty or don't feel safe, it makes the experience unpleasant. Well-marked trails and maps are helpful.
- Enforce the leash law. Dogs off leash scare me.
- Maybe more organized walks that one can attend.
- Signage - it is good, but educational info is great! More little neighborhood networks to get to larger trails.
- More connectivity to urban areas
- Teach people to respect them. Pick up after themselves. Stay on trails to avoid fragile flora and fauna. Not jump off of and into Tamolitch falls.
- More trails! More conserved land! Through acquisitions or easements, conserve the highest quality habitats and close the existing gaps in local open space systems and connect them. Implement the complete Eugene Trails Plan; ped/bike bridge over the Willamette to connect Springfield/Willamalane/Eugene's Ridgeline/Turtle Flats/HBRA; create longer trails that connect Eugene to surrounding communities and trail systems; build a trail around Fern Ridge Reservoir; build a Rails With Trails project along the Coos Bay Line to the coast; reestablish historic rail lines as trails - to Brownsville and thru Monroe to Corvallis; find a way to connect south to Cottage Grove; complete the Eugene to PCT trail by getting it off roads. Work with Tribes to help conserve culturally significant lands and routes. Conserve the highest value habitats necessary to protect help meet the national 30 x 30 plan goals. More activities, events, races, competitions and celebrations held in parks and open spaces.
- Get the tents out of Alton Baker Park.
- Improve drainage. Repair muddy areas created by bikes.
- Reduce illegal camping, especially along the river.
- Offer small group hiking events for trails through the spring into fall.
- Outreach to public so they are aware of nature

- Trail connections
- Better signage
- More off street connections between parks and trails.
- Creswell does not have access to the river, the Willamette River Water Trail Cloverdale Access is not easy to travel to unless you have a car.
- Homeless sweeps. We need to figure out a way to take care of our unhoused citizens and allow them equal access to parks and open spaces while preventing them from despoiling our natural areas/resources.
- Connect the trail system region-wide
- Problem of safety surrounding the unhoused along the trails along the river.
- Dog leash laws enforced and more trash cans.
- There are often user conflicts so expanding multi-use and single use opportunities would be good. I hope Wild Iris ridge is fully connected to Mt. Pisgah within my lifetime. Imagine taking that 30 mile walk just out from your own back door.
- More trails to viewpoints
- Views are a great destination for hiking
- More trails needed starting to get overuse

Question 8: If money were no object, how would you like to see our community improve its parks and open spaces over the next twenty years? (Please limit your response to one paragraph.)

- Promote or re-establish park ambassadors which assisted with public events, park safety, and educational opportunities.
- Improved, ecologically sound maintenance, using fewer chemicals. Pre-emergent herbicides are THE WORST!
- Expand wetland preserves and other natural ecosystems near our cities and build trails and shelters and picnic areas and restrooms within them.
- Some areas of the bike trail system are neglected. There is a stretch in Alton Baker Park that looks like the surface of the moon. Needs repaving badly.
- South bank pedestrian trail continued all the way from Glenwood to LCC. Bridge (continued path?) to Mt Pisgah. Restrooms that don't feel like prison toilets.
- Make an ADA accessible route to the top of Pisgah or Spencer Butte would be amazing
- More bike paths away from streets. Linked parks
- Restoring native habitat, connecting the parks with more bikeable roads i.e., 30th Ave!!!, making access to mt Pisgah from Springfield more bikeable, increasing free community outdoor education in parks
- More trails, more small local parks
- A free on-call shuttle to ferry families to and from outdoor spaces.
- Accessibility top priority. Want to have easy, flat, scenic hikes with my elderly parents
- Would love to see a system of trails that was not only accessible but also legible to people with visual impairment, like Massachusetts Audubon has done with their park system.
- Acquire more parks, link them ecologically for genetic flow, participate in Grizzly and Wolf restoration to the Cascades and eventually the Willamette Valley, buy up hundreds of thousands of acres of farmlands and create of lowland valley reserve that links the Cascades and Coast Range.
- I would love to see some in town camping for children, like nature school overnight at Mt. Pisgah. So many students have families that are not able or willing to provide an opportunity to learn to become a steward of our land.
- A trail along the Willamette River Greenway north of Eugene.
- Complete the bike trail between the Holiday Inn Express on Franklin and the south Frohnmayer Bridge landing.
- Dirt trails and paths that connect the community. Mountain bike/cyclocross/hiking trails that can connect the city without the need for roads or sidewalk use. More mountain bike accessibility to the community that doesn't require driving out of town.

- I think a major bike park for all levels of riders and an official river access point for tubing similar to Bend, Oregon would be awesome.
- I would like more security at some parks so there wasn't so much loitering, drug use, or people sleeping at the parks. I don't think this is safe for our children.
- Again, more mtn biking trails
- Control off trail paths with attractive barriers, fencing, rock
- Also, buy more green spaces for more neighborhoods AND protect them from camping
- Would love to see the loop at the Delta ponds completed so it's not a there and back trail. More dirt trails through nature for hiking, observing nature, trail running. And also more road bike trails--long enough to be interesting (e.g. connect the whole area). When riding a road bike, a 10-mile ride is short. its nice to have options to ride up to 50 miles and not have only a single route.
- Keep wild spaces wild.
- Easy transport to park entrances or trailheads. Adequate Staffing for programs and maintenance. Better comfort facilities for the very old and the very young.
- I wish most of all that the great natural beauty of Oregon were able to be enjoyed by everyone, regardless of income. Meaning all parks and trails and open spaces were free and never charged for parking. Absolutely everyone, every person, family, and child deserves to experience every tree and summit and lake and river and meadow and beach and dune and forest that this gorgeous piece of our planet has to offer. A big wish, I know, but a worthy one.
- Fewer cars and a bigger emphasis on walkability and green space. I love the blue zones projects idea (they have a website).
- Kids being able to walk or bike home from school using safe wide (at a minimum like the bike paths on E Amazon) bike/walking paths.
- A unique world class mountain bike trail system that allows people to ride bikes (mountain bikes, gravel bikes etc.) both in the hills or along the rivers (there are plenty of existing user made trails even along the Willamette river that only need minor improvements to make them sustainable).
- Skills progression bike park for teaching beginners to ride. Complete Ridgeline trail system with dedicated bike and hiker trails. Expand existing trail network to allow for multiple skill levels. Continue to expand trails network responsibly to accommodate a more diverse group of trail users
- Connective corridors, simple restrooms.
- More benches, occ picnic tables near parking or scenic locations.
- Connective corridors, simple restrooms.
- Whitewater park on Willamette (similar to Bend or Boise)
- More benches, occ picnic tables near parking or scenic locations.
- Bathrooms, trash cans, bike parking.
- Improving car free transportation options using parks and green spaces to connect areas of town together.
- Improving mountain bike and overall singletrack infrastructure to reduce conflicts between trail users
- More year-round swimming pools. Keep Amazon Pool open all year.
- Invest in trail system at Arlie Park
- Expand natural habitats in parks and open spaces in conjunction with habitat restoration on other public lands and private land. Pollinator corridors would be one example. This would involve significant community education and involvement.
- Purpose built mountain bike only trails. Separate trails for hikers to reduce conflict.
- More art, especially interactive art. also more gender-neutral bathrooms with locking doors and staff to maintain cleanliness.
- I would like to see the Fern Ridge bike and walking path completed. Hileman Landing on the Willamette could use some upgrading too.
- easy-to-find comprehensive map of parks
- More and safer parking
- More park space and more trails!!!
- More acreage and more trails

- More natural areas acquisition and ecological restoration (and public education about the importance of that for wildlife), especially along the Willamette River in town. Provide for wider undeveloped Greenway buffer wherever possible, and restoration of areas such as parking lots at Valley River Center, property adjacent to
- Heron Ponds on West Bank, etc. Restore cottonwood and willow habitat and other native riparian trees and shrubs.
- Fietsstraat-style routes [AKA bicycle boulevard] on low-traffic streets to connect the various bike paths into a contiguous network with proper traffic calming measures to ensure safety for all users.
- Accommodate the massive influx of new visitors and residents to Eugene by expanding our trail system to include areas in North Eugene. Have permanent, always-on cameras at parking lots adjacent to trails. Expand fern ridge hiking paths, and make them free of tweakers sleeping in the middle of the path.
- Maybe some more public restrooms
- Free public access, increased written and social media about "opportunity", ADA enhanced accommodations.
- I would love to see more trash cans, and more regular trash clean up, especially around the rivers and amazon creek along the paths and banks. I would love to see more picnic tables and covered outdoor seating/meeting areas to be able to enjoy the parks during the rainy season. More bathrooms, even porta pottys would be helpful.
- Trail around Fern Ridge Lake
- Collaborate with local tribes to work with them to identify sacred places, coordinate land back, and promote Indigenous knowledge.
- More natural areas with trails and restrooms.
- More accessibility for children & adults from underprivileged families.
- Transit to truly wild spaces, not just city parks, develop more safe swimming areas reachable by that transit, single stall non gendered bathrooms, education about what it is to live alongside wildlife and how to do so respectfully and safely, stay in conversation with the community- paying special attention to marginalized groups needs.
- Well, if money were really no object, I would very much like to see the parks and open space holdings greatly expanded, especially north toward the area where Delta Sand and Gravel and Wildish are located. Surely, a narrow strip along the riverbank could be acquired to extend park holdings northward without adverse affect on gravel dredging facilities.
- Complete connectivity of green spaces. Native habitat maintained without the use of pesticides.
- Prevent 'loving them to death', control off-trail degradation, control of ivy, invasive species
- Eliminate homeless camps
- Buy more parks and open spaces. Keep them well maintained.
- See above (free parking for low income, bus service). Better control of invasive plants.
- Better security at parking lots. I am out at the Fox Hollow Ridgeline Trailhead and Mt. Pisgah trailheads often and vehicle break-ins are very common. It is the one thing I worry about when I go hiking.
- Hard to imagine it better. I am within walking distance of three neighborhood parks, the fairground, close access to the bike trail, regular visitor to the west Eugene wetlands, love the new trail in east Springfield. Kayaking on Fern Ridge. I mean, what more could I ask for? Maybe a direct walking route to the PCT from my house?
- More river access spots to reduce crowding. More interpretation walks. More ambassadors on parks to deter break ins. More welcoming of diversity.
- Establish multiple continuous travel corridors for hiking and bike touring as has been hoped for with Rivers to Ridges, Eugene to PCT, and Eugene to Coast
- More native plants for pollinators and birds
- Maintain the reason people visit parks.
- Expand and add trails
- Do not cede land that is required by deed to be used for public recreation to UO athletics or any other UO endeavor. Purchase riverfront land in Glenwood to protect it from development. Purchase riverfront land to protect waterways and wetlands. Remove invasive plants and wildlife. Connect the parks and open spaces so walkers, bikers etc. can avoid roads. Develop light rail system to reduce traffic & parking congestion.
- More handicap activities

- Many regions have huge wild areas that are less developed but offer access for walking and hiking. We don't have anywhere near enough parks like Buford Park/Mount Pisgah!!
- Too many large landowners that are mowing down and subdividing their property. Should be turned into open spaces and parks for the public
- Off road parking, regular maintenance, volunteers walking trails regularly to help monitor, keep poison oak away from trails
- Clean them.
- See #7: these are huge areas adjacent to many towns with many scenic features. I would also prioritize more development and maintenance of non-motorized recreation in the national forests.
- More real bathrooms. More access to water for swimming. More benches and picnic tables. More trails leading to other parks for walkability. Would love to be able to commute by bike or foot
- same as above. and just keep expanding trails and open spaces.
- restore and maintain more natural spaces, like Perkins Woods in Evanston IL, a small oasis in town next to a school
- Keep adding to the park system.
- It would be amazing to see more regenerative practices happening to strengthen the local ecosystem. Waterways need protecting from pollutants.
- Include facilities (toilets and water if possible) in all public places. Groom some areas for family play and leave a trailer area for exploration. Keep finding little niches to improve near/quick access for everyone to get us outdoors. Work with educational sources to encourage hobbies and interests.
- Disc golf course at Arlie Park. Removal of invasive species like English ivy and blackberry in the forests, along trails and especially in riparian areas. Educational and interpretative signage. Collaboration with local tribes (we are on Native land) and increased education/outreach/acknowledgment of tribal land use practices and pre settlement restoration. Prescribed burns. Acquiring land adjacent to and parcels that connect R2R lands to prevent development and improve recreation and habitat connectivity.
- More fun community events!
- Improved bike accessibility. We should be able to safely get around town via bike. More water features for hot and getting hotter days. Keep the water on in splash pads, build more splash pads. More capacity at the pools. More garbage cans everywhere!! There's so much litter in part because there's not enough cans.
- I would really like to see the ridgeline trails be uninterrupted. The South Eugene Meadows trail, for instance, ends on both sides. I'd also like to see access to trailheads via LTD. Now, if you don't live nearby, you pretty much need to drive.
- I'd like to see more features at each park - more picnic tables, more trees (shade), and we could use some additional sand volleyball courts, perhaps a skateboard park in more parks.
- enhanced removal of invasive and troublesome plant species; enhanced planting of appropriate native species; enhanced pollinator environments; enhanced tree canopies
- Pedestrian-Bike bridges over the river like Dorris Ranch/Mt. Pisgah, another in Jasper; keep developing the river trails; cities-wide bike lanes from park to park & bus connections & wide enough to accommodate motorized wheelchairs; keep the bike map updated; bring back summer concerts in the parks; provide emergency call box poles in less traffic areas.
- I would like to see additional trees and native vegetation planted in parks and open spaces.
- More green and natural areas that blend into each other with separate paths for those on wheels. More enforcement of rules such as dogs on leash
- Wood chips instead of gravel. It's quieter and softer.
- Acknowledge that parks are required for public health. Expand the urban growth boundary to allow more affordable housing to be built so the homeless can be housed. Protect the riverbanks, including the Willamette Greenway from both development and being taken over by homeless camps and the resulting trash.
- Concentrate on making parks user friendly and give up on "preserving ecology" in urban areas. We don't need endangered species at City parks, just usable, well-maintained space for wide varieties of recreation. Keep up with public enthusiasms like biking and pickle ball.
- Safe Bike lanes around town that connect parks
- Hiking trails off road connecting parks

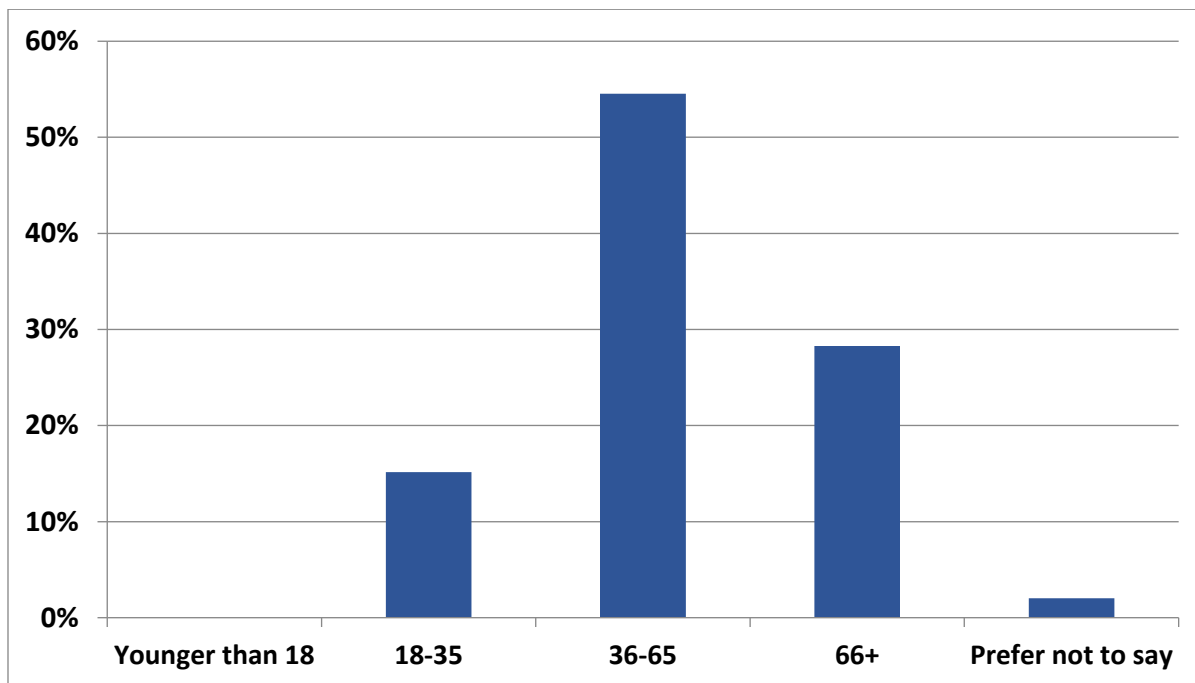
- There would be a bridge across the Willamette from Dorris Park to Pisgah, a trail connecting Arlie Park to Pisgah, a riverside trail from Pisgah to Elijah Bristow State Park, and a bridge from Dexter Park to Lowell Park would be the most expensive collection of changes. There are a number of locations where people take long walks, runs or bike rides where the addition of water would make them far more functional, especially during the heat of summer. Examples of valuable water locations include Ridgeline trail (@ the water reservoir would be less cost prohibitive), the Clearwater path at both Clearwater and the trailhead near 32nd, and the east entrance to Mt Pisgah. The addition of a safer bike route heading north along both sides of the Willamette/McKenzie River to Harrisburg as the beginning of a route to Corvallis, and a loop around Fern Ridge Reservoir connected to the Amazon Trail.
- Remediate invasive species. Restore native habitat. Have areas for human powered recreation including boating, swimming, hiking, walking.
- Adding acreage to the parks. More opportunities to hike and connect parks. Example: Ribbon Trail to Moon Mountain Park.
- A safer way to bike to Mount Pisgah and general consideration for connecting trails tops my list. I would love to see more mountain biking trail development including a pump track and skills area that accommodates all levels of riders including kids. I would also like to see more family friendly mountain bike trail options that facilitate learning and feel safer to be slow and ride with a kid than the Thurston downhill trails. Finally, efforts to make all parks more safe and inclusive is essential as the community grows.
- I would like to see the various nearly-linked units connected so you can walk and/or cycle between them without having to travel on roads. Moon Mountain to Mt. Pisgah (via Nature Conservancy property, river footbridge) and Hendricks Park. Wild Iris Ridge to South Eugene Meadows and the Ridgeline Trail. Wild Iris Ridge to the Fern Ridge Trail via Nature Conservancy's Willow Creek preserve. Mt. Pisgah to Middle Fork Trail with foot/cycle bridge over the Middle Fork. Clearwater Park to the Weyerhaeuser Rd. bike trail and Thurston Hills Natural Area. Those would be some priorities, but I have lots more!
- Expand them.
- More available
- Clean and serviced restrooms, not necessarily flush toilets; Water fountains; Mobility friendly sections
- Free parking and LTD stops at parks and trailheads
- More restrooms and/or updated facilities. Old splash pads restored for warm seasonal use (like in Monroe and Washburne parks in Eugene), the sand raked/cleaned, regularly, and the parks generally kept up more - I regularly pick up trash in the parks I frequent.
- Buy up more land: in the South Hills to expand and connect Ridgeline Trail; on the river, to expand the river path north; small neighborhood lots for community parks; sensitive natural areas.
- Develop and build out more small neighborhood parks. They should be designed in a way that encourages neighborly interactions (picnic tables/seating, community gardens, playgrounds).
- Continue the great conservation efforts in natural areas.
- More cooperation and collaboration of partner groups.
- Just take better care and monitor them better.
- Off road bike paths leading to parks, and enough space dedicated to new parks so as not to disrupt wildlife corridors (near, mountain Lion, etc.)
- Add more mountain bike trails. Mountain bikers are under served in the community.
- Connecting the ridge trail over the Willamette to the confluence on the south, connect to the McKenzie/Willamette confluence on the North.
- Cultural burning and thinning, tons of mountain bike trails AND hiking trails, separate as much as possible, more west Eugene trails and parks, more equity of trails and parks
- Improve access points and make an interconnected zone across the region to further promote getting outside.
- Build a mountain bike park.
- Keep expanding and adding fun trails especially ones that will connect.
- More mountain biking trails close to town, maintain the current ones
- Buy up private timber land and restore these areas with ecological and recreation focus around cities
- More parks that are interconnected. More mountain biking trails. Continue emphasis on removal of problematic exotic species.

- Expand the network of trails between parks and natural areas. Connect Fern Ridge and West Eugene Wetlands with other parks and neighborhoods with more trails. Fill in the gaps in the Ridgeline Trail so that it will be a seamless trail all the way between Wild Iris Ridge and Hendricks Park. Extend the bike paths North along the river to ride to Santa Clara, Coburg, Junction City, or even farther up.
- I would love to see work to preserve green space in town. Housing developments are starting to take away from one of the big reasons we all love Eugene/Springfield: Green space! I would also love to preservation of access to and in between these green spaces.
- I would like to see connection among our parks throughout the area so that individuals and families can move among them without requiring a car. We are lucky that we have so many beautiful parks in the area but many of them operate as islands where you have to drive between them to access. Infrastructure that is built for all ages and abilities to access our parks via walking, biking, etc. would be amazing and would increase utilization of our public spaces.
- Clear out all homeless camps and garbage (and give them the services they need and an appropriate place to be, and remove any who continue to cause a nuisance) and expand trail system.
- More parking, more trails to disperse usage, increase the number of mountain biking trails.
- See previous answer
- More land, more open space, more trails. no development other than trails themselves
- I would love to see a gold level disc golf complex on the Arlie Park property.
- Build more mountain bike trails, work to enable Clearwater/Middle Fork Trail in Springfield to Mt. Pisgah to Ridgeline
- View areas in additional to our current system
- Connection of multiple open spaces throughout Eugene and Springfield would allow for more exploration without traveling city streets.
- Expand the Ridgeline trail for additional mountain bike use. Materialize the vision for the Susan Arlie MTB park.
- Definitely mountain bike development of Ridgeline, Arlie, Moon Mountain, and Thurston. Also, I really think this area needs a pump track for everyone but especially kids and families.
- Lots of new trail building. Jump parks. Beginner rider areas.
- Develop the undeveloped parks without making them too formal. Reservable cabins or yurts at parks like Peninsula Point, Richardson, Orchard Point for overnight peace and solitude in a nice setting.
- Open to biking, have a route that goes all the way around city, 360 degrees
- Greater investment in trails and maintenance
- Focus on both open space and infrastructure
- more undeveloped, unimproved natural areas throughout town
- Invest in purchasing more land along the rivers, improving multi-use trails to connect regional parks and communities. Invest in maintaining the parks, including fuel reduction work, habitat improvement, invasive plant removal and restoration activity. Build more trails!
- I would like to see more mountain bike specific trails available for mountain bikers to ride that are separate from hikers
- Trails
- Trails to views
- Interconnected trails where possible
- I think the city is really missing out by not targeting the creation of more mountain bike specific trail systems. What it does is exclude communities that would otherwise benefits such as people of color, and children and people with transportation issues that keeps them from being able to utilize this very healthy and fun form of recreation. It is also an incredible economic driver both in the forms of tourism, as well as retention and recruitment for local employers.
- I'd like to see the Suzanne Arlie Park developed into a mountain bike park. I understand a plan exists for this - and that the City of Eugene may start on trail construction, road access and parking in 2023. I encourage this development. It will make mountain biking more available for people in the Springfield/Eugene metro area.
- Interconnecting them with safe bike paths... you are very close to thus, keep going! Also the north trailhead at Thurston is a perfect place for a jump/drop skills park
- Invest in the mountain biking community and provide more trails/trail access.

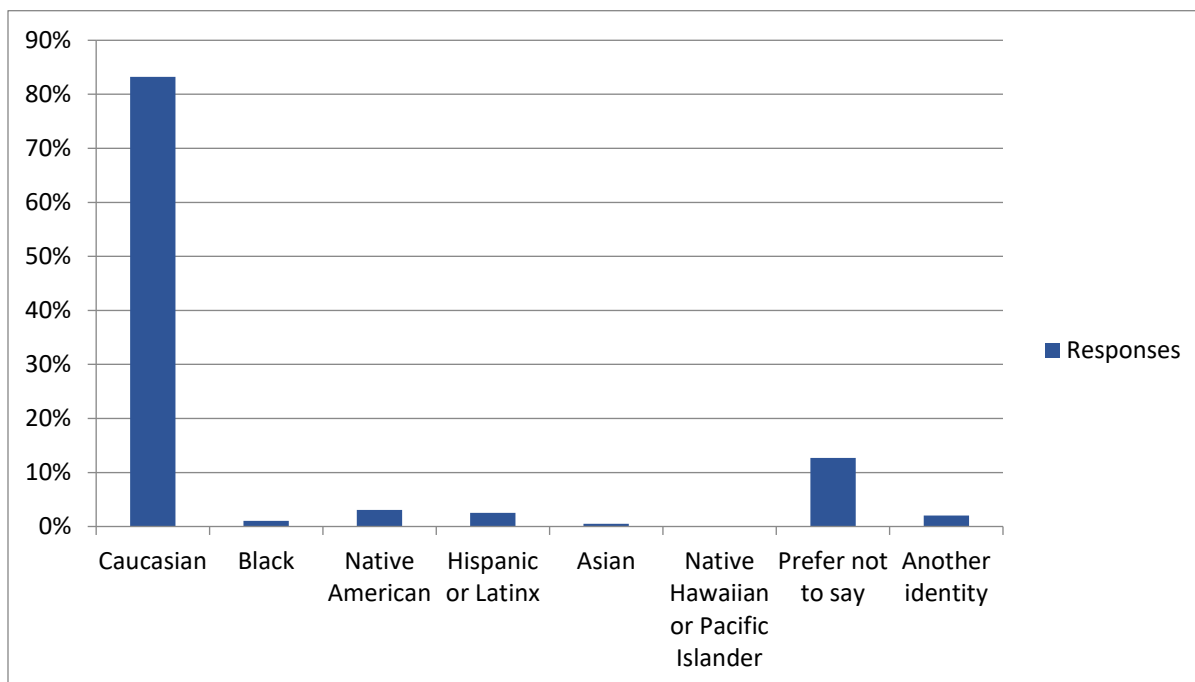
- Increase the sizes and tracts bought! Go 'all in' on creating an outdoor sports paradise! We have more people than Bend and what feels like half of the trails. Every trail seems crowded these days! More bike trails, more hiking trails and mixed-use areas.
- Increasing the number of mountain bike trails in the local area. Increasing bicycle/foot trails and other that could be used to get from park to park.
- Flush restrooms with soap and water being open, safe, and comfortable. A really nice mountain bike skills/flow trail park like Duthie Park in Issaquah and more mtb trails.
- More mountain biking only trails
- Make more mt biking trails and let the volunteer trail builders build trail
- Less homeless, cleaner parks and more biking trails!
- I would see a comprehensive mountain biking and hiking network from the ridgeline all the way down to the river. I would offer more assisted housing options to keep houseless people from camping in sensitive ecological areas. I would improve and expand Amazon pool, or offer more pool and swimming options.
- I would like to see more undeveloped private land purchased by public entities and reserved for park areas, especially the black oak basin/moon mountain area.
- I would like to see them expanded to be more fully connected. Widen or add trails to accommodate both cyclists and hikers. More green space in more neighborhoods.
- I would love to see some gravel cycling trails, with possibilities for bikepacking.
- Many more pickleball courts in Bethel and West Eugene. Currently, everything is in South Eugene or Springfield.
- Huge increases in land. Huge increases in patrols. Huge increases in restoring native landscapes.
- I'd like to see a trail around Fern Ridge Reservoir, and a continuous trail along the ridgelines from the Reservoir to Mt. Pisgah, and a trail around the base of Mt. Pisgah.
- Purchase land to protect that includes both wildlife habitat and recreational areas for people. Make it big. ring the urban growth boundary and have access to the river. Have ongoing planning that includes priorities of people spending time in greenspace and preservation for at least a few other species
- Expanded parking at trailheads that are cramped. More parks (and clean, well-lit parks) West of the downtown area, in the Jefferson-Westside Neighborhood. More designated bike paths/lanes in the downtown area.
- Build more rudimentary places for the homeless and build more jail cells. If homeless people won't go to the housing we provide, put them in jail.
- Mountain bike park at Arlie Park, complete bike lane connecting river road and fern ridge paths, bike path connecting Dorris ranch park to Alton baker park
- Finish the vision of a complex trail network around Eugene
- Expand them
- As said, linking the trails and sites together. Creating nodes for family play and resting., watching wildlife and other people.
- Better connection to Eugene neighborhoods. All the main routes, Dillard, Fox Hollow, Willamette, Blanton, should have bike lanes and where possible pedestrian paths. It would be great to build off-street right-of-ways to provide park-like pedestrian routes. There are a few neighborhoods with paths between houses.
- This is a ridiculous question as money will always be the limiting factor. Stricter enforcement and penalties of existing rules, regulations and laws would go a long way
- More hiking trails and biking/walking paths; more improved facilities such as pavilions, cafes/beer gardens; more separation of biking, walking, and driving
- More restoration and weed removal. Better maintained trails, e.g., bark mulch, erosion control, etc.
- Brush and poison oak removal
- More trails, in varying terrain. Both open spaces to see the sky and trails in forest canopies. Access to water and rivers, so folks don't make another trail through existing vegetation.
- Reduced homelessness
- I would put a pedestrian bridge over the Middle Fork of the Willamette River connecting the Willamalane Middle Fork bike path to Turtle Flats/Howard Buford Park (Pisgah) to provide a better connection for the Eugene to Crest trail.
- Reduce risk of wildfires

- Increase the length and number of hiking trails available
- Increase the number of parks and require park space in new developments. Add park space in business/commercial corridors as well so green space can be enjoyed throughout the workday.
- Continued riparian restoration and better public access to what is here
- Keep acquiring more easements, or properties.
- Updated restrooms, updated play structures, well maintained trails. More pickleball courts!
- Keep obtaining more of it.
- Better access to them thru walking and biking.
- Maintenance including trash, rest rooms, weed removal
- More accessibility for all people. Small network paths to get to larger parks (through easements)
- Bridge to Pisgah is number 1. Acquiring land or easements through urban zones to increase corridors of connectivity to trails on the fringe.
- Make some of the really overused trails by permit only
- More trails! More conserved land! Through acquisitions or easements, conserve the highest quality habitats and close the existing gaps in local open space systems and connect them. Implement the complete Eugene Trails Plan; ped/bike bridge over the Willamette to connect Springfield/Willamalane/Eugene's Ridgeline/Turtle Flats/HBRA; create longer trails that connect Eugene to surrounding communities and trail systems; build a trail around Fern Ridge Reservoir; build a Rails With Trails project along the Coos Bay Line to the coast; reestablish historic rail lines as trails - to Brownsville and thru Monroe to Corvallis; find a way to connect south to Cottage Grove; complete the Eugene to PCT trail by getting it off roads. Work with Tribes to help conserve culturally significant lands and routes. Conserve the highest value habitats necessary to protect help meet the national 30 x 30 plan goals. More activities, events, races, competitions and celebrations held in parks and open spaces.
- Get the tents out of Alton Baker Park.
- Finish the Eugene to Crest trail system. Connect Ridgeline to Pisgah. Connect Bristow to Lookout Point.
- More trails
- Yes, build a new indoor/outdoor recreation center with swimming pools plus an outdoor track.
- Remove man made barriers on our rivers such as weirs and low head dams, so boating is safer. More published river maps with detail on features, hazards and wildlife
- More open space
- Regional trail linkages
- That would be one of my highest priorities. I would love to see connections between the ridgeline trail segments and completion of the loop around delta ponds.
- Creswell could have a park within the conservation easement on Creswell Butte. In addition, there is land in the north that will eventually annexation, and the city can build another park.
- Provide security for the parks and open spaces that have the most problems with crime, litter, unhoused populations, etc.
- More budget for maintenance
- Something like Portland's Forest Park. Healthy forests with healthy streams. Places we can walk without being afraid of mountain bikes. We need accessible trails everywhere.
- More dog parks!
- More police presence in the areas for safety. Enforcement of dog pop/leash laws. Removal of invasive plant species.
- Protect all the land that is in the way of a complete ridgeline loop! Also, more natural infrastructure including nature play and exploration areas that don't include plastic. I'd like to see more native areas like Hendricks Park and the small walk in Alton Baker Park. These are really special places. I think that access to rivers will become increasingly critical with a changing climate and would like to see our community planning now with smart infrastructure that doesn't impeded the floodplain (more than it already has) but also does a better job of directing the use in riparian areas. People need the river, I'd like to see us get more creative about how we approach infrastructure that honors both that need and the health of our riparian areas and water quality.
- I would like to see a lot more trails. More hiking to viewpoints. More mountain bike trails for beginners and older people like me.
- More land especially large parks with multiple trails. We need at least 3 Buford Recreation areas.

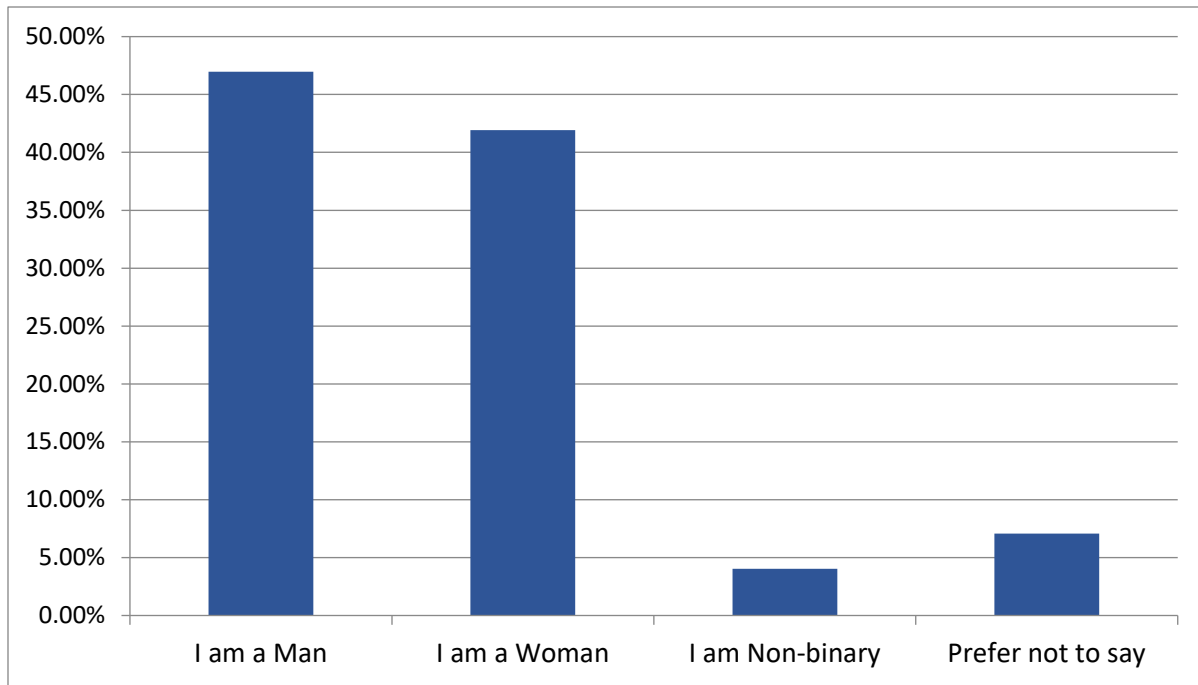
Question 9: Please choose your age range



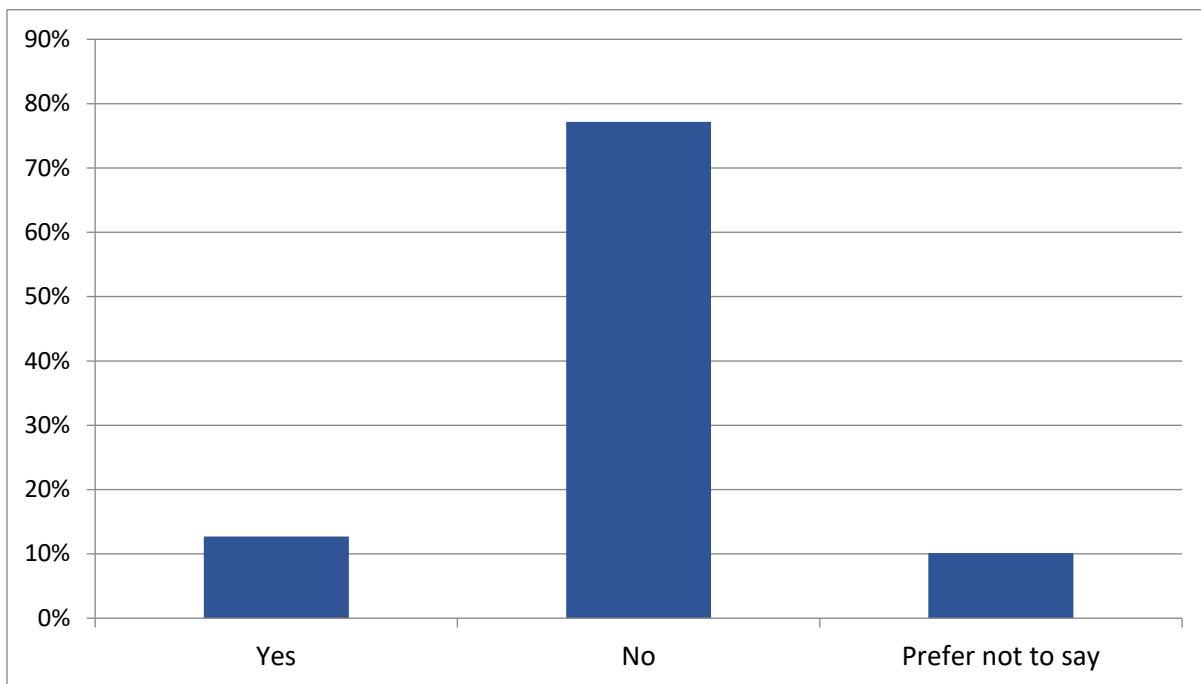
Question 10: Please select your racial/ethnic identity (Check all that apply)



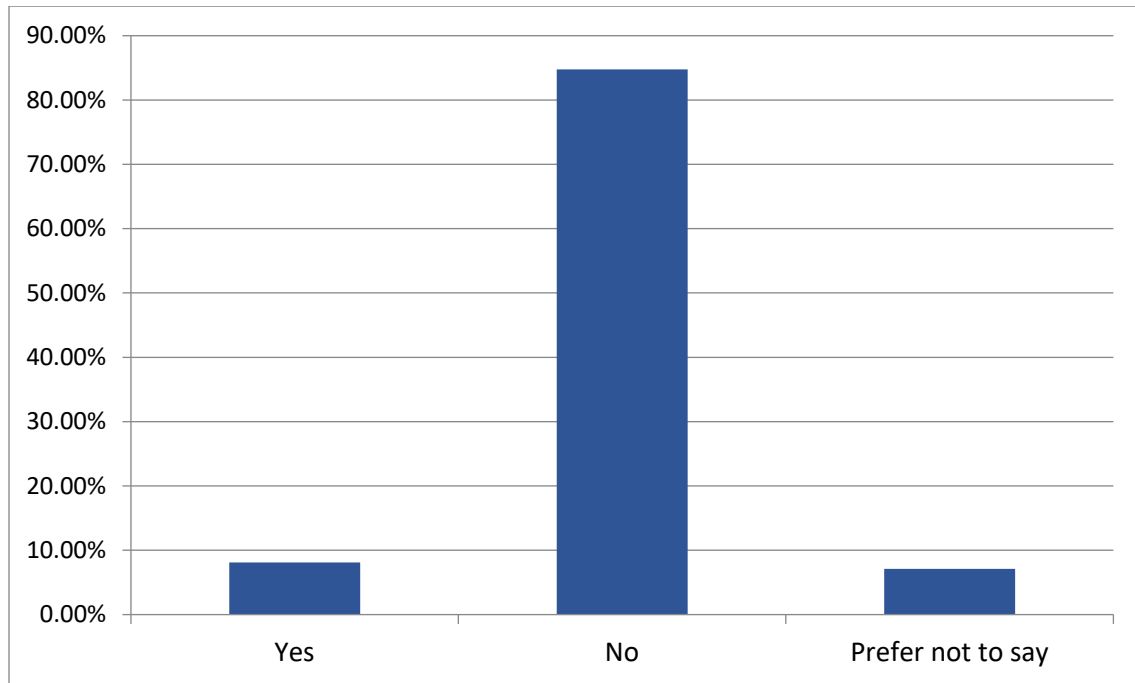
Question 11: What describes your gender identity?



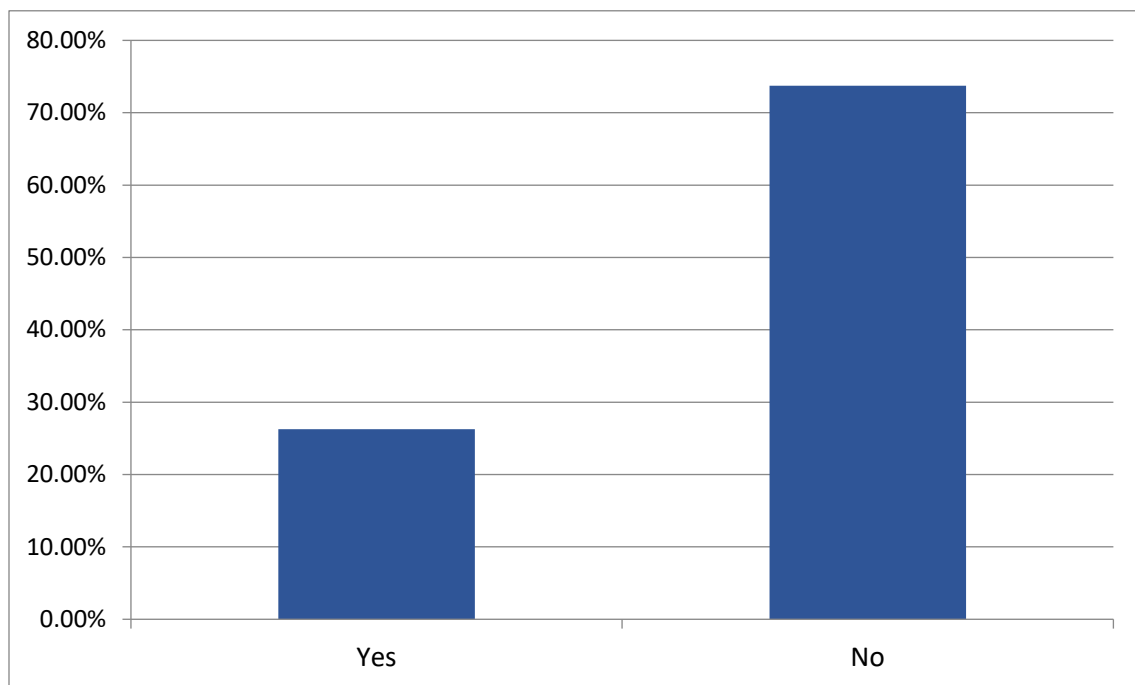
Question 12: Do you identify as queer or within the LGBTQA+ community?



Question 13: Do you have a disability / identify as disabled?



Question 14: Do you have children in your household?





Twenty Years of Accomplishments and the 2023 Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh Report

Appendix G

Rivers to Ridges Community Outreach Presentation - 2022



The Rivers to Ridges Partnership is a voluntary association of 19 organizations working collaboratively to advance the protection, restoration, management, and public uses of parks and open spaces in the southern Willamette Valley.



Willamette River looking south to Spencer Butte (P. Gordon)



Current Rivers to Ridges Partner Organizations

Partners all have overlapping interests and geographies





Partnership Vision Statement

To improve the quality of life of residents in the upper Willamette Valley by working together to protect and enhance the region's land and water resources and their ecosystem functions and values, and to provide environmental education and compatible outdoor recreation opportunities as outlined in the Rivers to Ridges vision.



Field study (WREN)



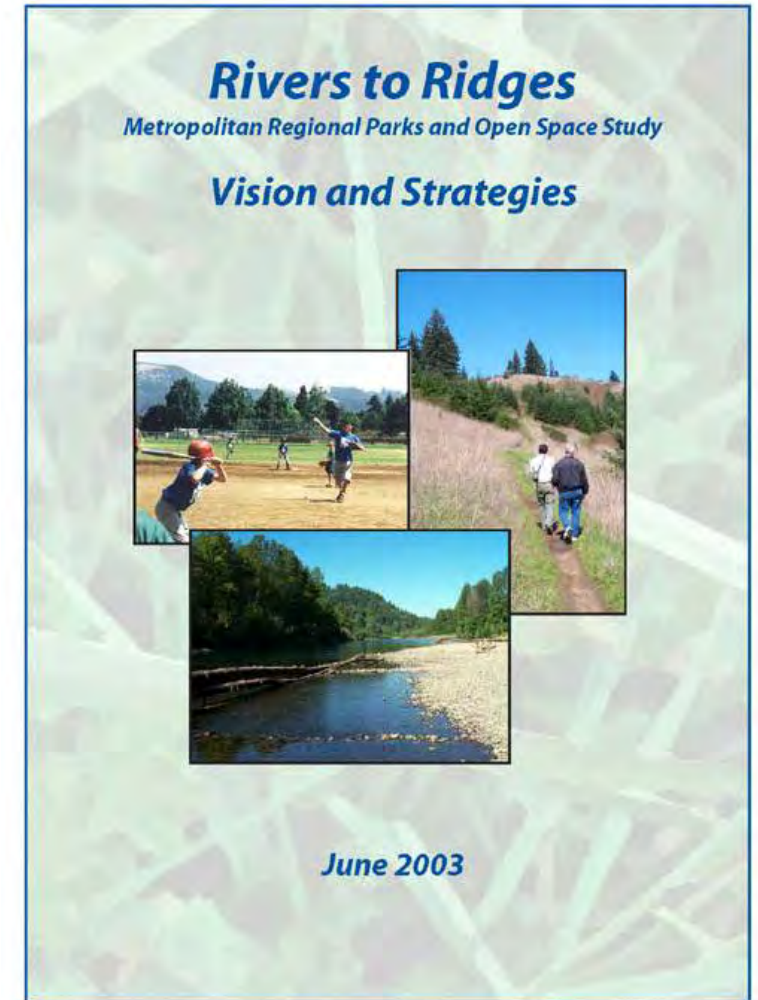
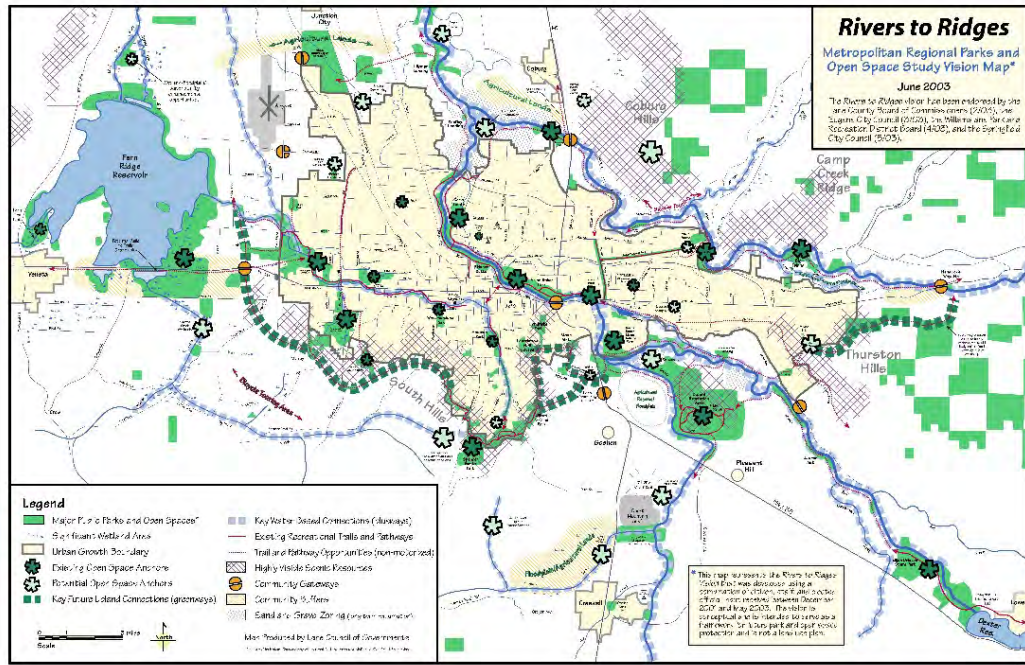
Thurston Hill (P. Gordon)



Bumble Bee (C. Kerst)

Vision Development

The name Rivers to Ridges (R2R) emanates from a regional open space vision which was endorsed by many organizations and unanimously by local elected officials from the Eugene-Springfield area in 2003.



2003 Vision Endorsements:

- ☐ Lane County Board of Commissioners
- ☐ Willamalane Board

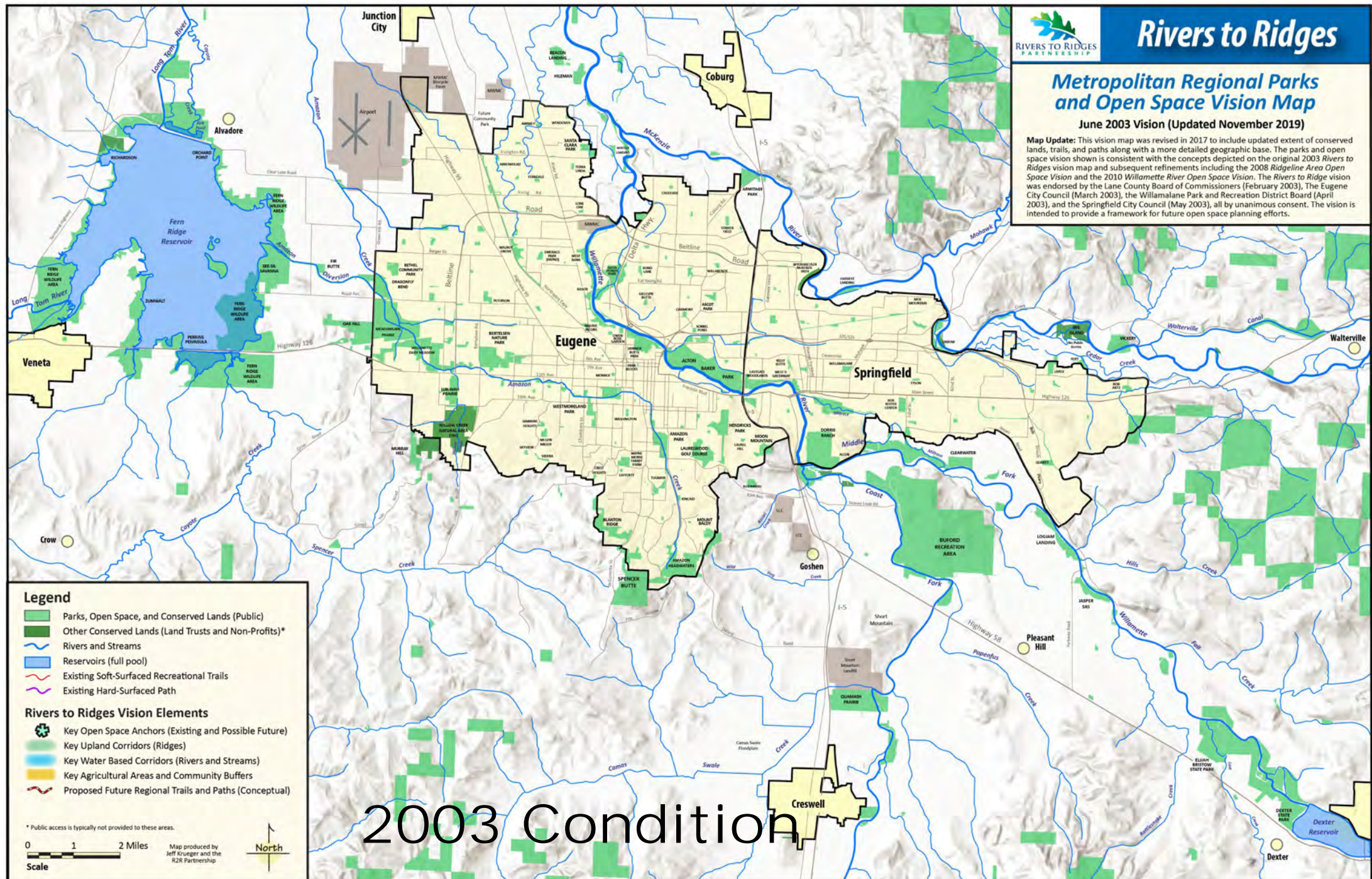
- ☐ Eugene City Council
- ☐ Springfield City Council

- ☐ About 10 Interest Groups

Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Vision Map

June 2003 Vision (Updated November 2019)

Map Update: This vision map was revised in 2017 to include updated extent of conserved lands, trails, and paths along with a more detailed geographic base. The parks and open space vision shown is consistent with the concepts depicted on the original 2003 *Rivers to Ridges* vision map and subsequent refinements including the 2008 *Ridgeline Area Open Space Vision* and the 2010 *Willamette River Open Space Vision*. The *Rivers to Ridges* vision was endorsed by the Lane County Board of Commissioners (February 2003), The Eugene City Council (March 2003), the Willamalane Park and Recreation District Board (April 2003), and the Springfield City Council (May 2003), all by unanimous consent. The vision is intended to provide a framework for future open space planning efforts.



Legend

- Parks, Open Space, and Conserved Lands (Public)
- Other Conserved Lands (Land Trusts and Non-Profits)*
- Rivers and Streams
- Reservoirs (full pool)
- Existing Soft-Surfaced Recreational Trails
- Existing Hard-Surfaced Path

Rivers to Ridges Vision Elements

- Key Open Space Anchors (Existing and Possible Future)
- Key Upland Corridors (Ridges)
- Key Water Based Corridors (Rivers and Streams)
- Key Agricultural Areas and Community Buffers
- Proposed Future Regional Trails and Paths (Conceptual)

* Public access is typically not provided to these areas.

0 1 2 Miles
Scale

Map produced by
Jeff Krueger and the
R2R Partnership



2003 Condition

Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Vision Map

June 2003 Vision (Updated December 2017*)

* **Map Update:** This vision map was revised in 2017 to include updated extent of conserved lands, trails, and paths along with a more detailed geographic base. The parks and open space vision shown is consistent with the concepts depicted on the original 2003 *Rivers to Ridges* vision map and subsequent refinements including the 2008 *RidgeLine Area Open Space Vision* and the 2010 *Willamette River Open Space Vision*. The *Rivers to Ridges* vision was endorsed by the Lane County Board of Commissioners (February 2003), The Eugene City Council (March 2003), the Willamalene Park and Recreation District Board (April 2003), and the Springfield City Council (May 2003), all by unanimous consent. The vision is intended to provide a framework for future open space planning efforts.

All Vision Elements



2003 Vision

Accomplishments 2003 - 2021

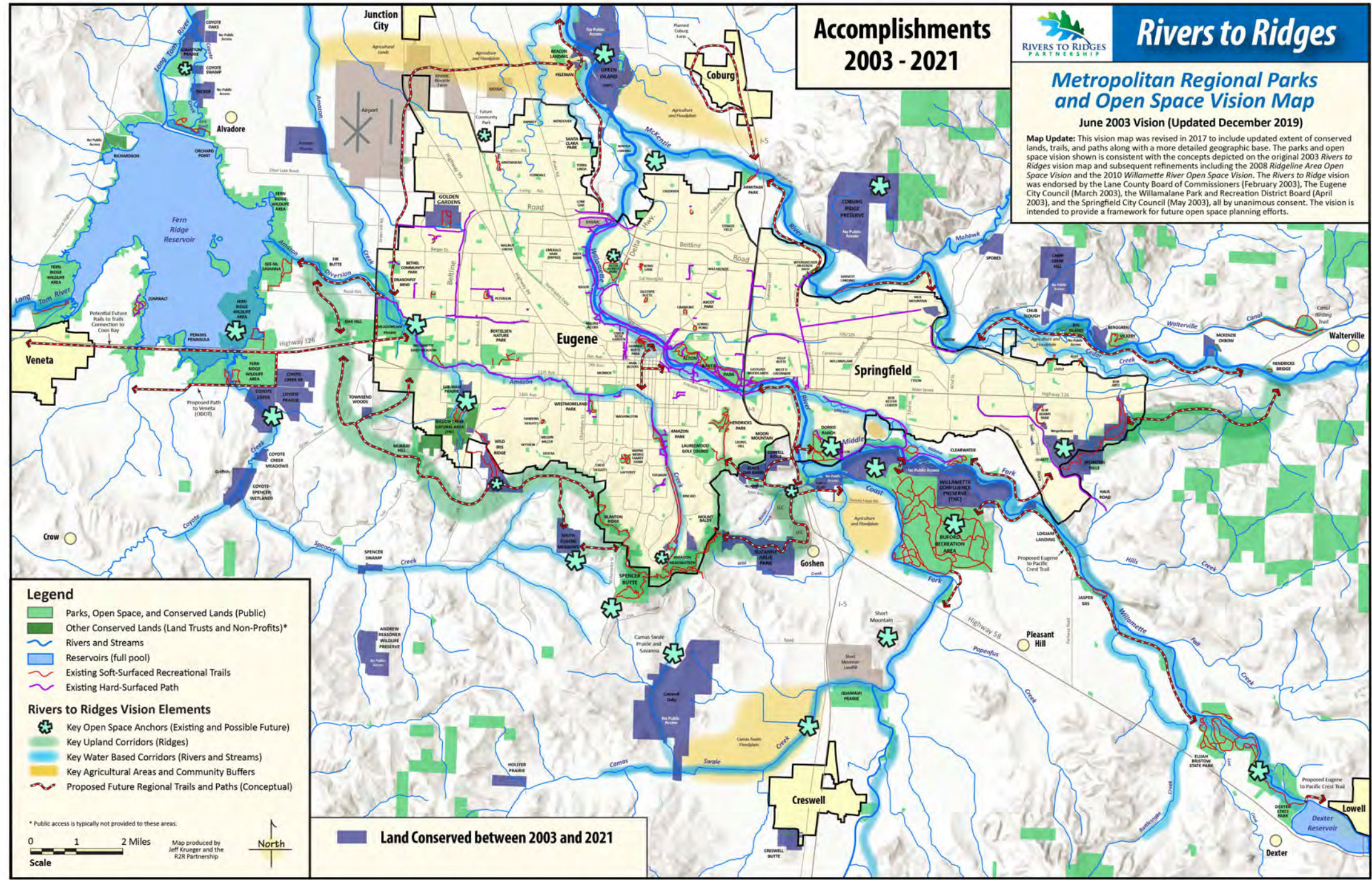


Rivers to Ridges

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0 1 2 Miles

Map produced by
Jeff Krueger and the
R2R Partnership

Scale

North

Land Conserved between 2003 and 2021

Rivers to Ridges Partnership

Accomplishments from 2003-2021



Photos: Far Right: Mount Pisgah; Small photos from upper left to right: Trillium in burn area near Eagle Rock Park (E. Alverson); Willamette River near UO (J Chinitz-Mital); Anise swallowtail at Willow Creek (C. Kerst); Talking Stone in Whilamut Natural Area (J. Krueger); Kincaid's lupine at fir butte (Institute for Applied Ecology); East Bank Path (J. Krueger); Acorn Woodpecker (K. Kerst); Stewart Pond disk golf course (BLM); Spencer Butte Summit Trail (City of Eugene); WREN field study (WREN).

Acres of
Land Protected

8,999

25,965 Acres Total
Protected Land

Acres of
Habitat Restored

8,802

Numerous
Sites

Number of
Plants Planted

2,768,700

Plus Thousands of
Pounds of Seed

Stream Miles
Opened to Fish
Passage

62

Prescribed
Ecological Fire

4,999

Total Acres
Burned

To Learn More

rivers2ridges.org

Find us on
Facebook


RIVERS TO RIDGES
PARTNERSHIP

Miles of
Trails and Paths

57

Rivers to Ridges Vision “Refresh” Process Underway

The Rivers to Ridges Partnership and local stakeholders want your input as we develop a “refreshed” vision in the coming months. This vision will provide a general framework to guide park and open space acquisitions and amenities in our region over the next 20 years. It is our goal to hear from a wide range of community members, including traditionally underserved communities, to help us better understand the shortcomings of our current system and priorities for future improvements.



We want to hear from you!

Help shape the vision for the future parks and open spaces in the Southern Willamette Valley! Please answer a few questions on the short questionnaire at the link below to help us understand your priorities, how you use parks and open space today, and your vision for the future.

English

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/riverstoridges>

Spanish

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/espanolr2r>

Learn more about the Rivers to Ridges
vision and partnership at:
www.rivers2ridges.org



Howard Buford Recreation Area (E. Alverson)



Twenty Years of Accomplishments and the 2023 Rivers to Ridges Vision Refresh Report

Appendix H

2023 Rivers to Ridges Joint XT/IT Meeting Notes

2023 Rivers to Ridges Joint XT/IT Meeting Summary Notes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 from 2:00-4:00 with Social Hour from 4:00-5:00

Location: White Oak Pavilion HBRA

Summary Notes: Compiled by Jeff Krueger based on flip charts from small group discussion

Meeting Purpose and Overview: This was a joint meeting of the Executive Team and the Implementation Team along with additional key stakeholders. Approximately 40 people participated. The focus on this meeting was to wrap up the 3-year Refresh Process and look forward. The weather was nice and it was fun to have an in-person celebration and time to catch up.



Meeting participants

Meeting Agenda

2:00 – 2:15 1. Greetings and Agenda Review – Sean and Jeff

2:15 – 2:45 2. Report back on Refresh Process and Vision Highlights – Jeff

- A look back on the Refresh Process
- 2023 Vision Overview and What's New
- Questions and Comments

2:45 – 3:05 3. Small Group Discussion

- What aspects of the vision and partnership are you most excited about?
- What opportunities are there for project collaboration in the next several years?
- How should the Partnership roll out the vision (boards, organizations, public)?

3:05 – 3:45 4. Small Groups Report Back and Discussion

3:45 – 4:00 5. XT Final Thoughts and Looking Forward (Next Steps)

- Final thoughts on the Refresh process
- Call to action

4:00 – 5:00 Celebration!



The cake

Small Group Discussion Notes

The group was split into six small groups and spent approximately a half hour discussion the following questions. The full group reconvened to report back. The following questions were discussed:

1. What aspects of the vision and partnership are you most excited about moving forward?
2. What opportunities are there for project collaboration in the next several years?
3. How should the Partnership roll out the vision (boards, organizations, public)?

The bullets listed below are taken from the flip charts verbatim.



Small group exercise

1. What aspects of the vision and partnership are you most excited about moving forward?

- Being able to identify focus areas for possible acquisitions to bring the big picture together
- We have a unified voice for land conservation goal vs. development
- Focus on interface between human engagement and conservation of natural areas
- Urban-rural interface and partnership with developers to preserve key green spaces
- Types of projects that can be targeted for collaboration
- Vision is vehicle for partnership
- More recreational access

- Improved wildlife habitat
- Clean healthy watersheds
- Restoration efforts
- Providing cultural and educational resources to the community
- Alternative transportation options to trailheads
- Green Streets as corridors of connectivity (resource for underserved areas)
- Face the challenge of meeting human needs in the context of connecting people to nature
- Resilience of natural areas and communities with in a changing landscape with a “just” transition
- Climate change solutions – Plan for climate impacts
- Disperse recreational use across more areas
- Improved connectivity to rural communities
- Green Streets (and blue streets)
- Connectivity priority for paths and trails
- Rails to trails
- Improved river access
- Inclusion
 - Low threshold for new partners to join
 - Break down nature/culture divide – cultural construct
 - Stewarding the fringe using fire
- Salmon watch – collaboration and multiplying effect for programs
- Acquisition and restoration at McKenzie/Willamette confluence
- Tribal processes and knowledge
- Making public health a focus – Reinforcing healthy habits with regional trails.
- Interconnected regional trail systems – connecting urban and rural trails
- Prescribed fire capacity and tribal engagement
- Utilizing a DEI lens for all work
- Greet street corridors and pocket parks
 - Habitat, DEI, climate resiliency, green infrastructure
- Collaborate with industry, chamber of commerce, developers, etc. in planning
- Collaborate with Friends of Trees for green streets
- Diversity and equity opportunities
- Urban/rural interface
- Public/private partnerships

2. What opportunities are there for project collaboration over the next several years?

- Good fire – increase public awareness and differentiate from wildfire
- Lobbying for wildlife passage
- Watershed Councils partnering with cities to refine and implement “green streets”.
 - Who’s already done this?
 - Are there local or national examples of existing green streets?
 - Public opportunities – implementation, design/planning
 - Equity neighborhoods that would benefit most.

- Potential UO landscape architecture design studio
- Acquisition – making connections.
 - Partnering on restoration
 - Accommodate habitat and trails
- Connections
 - Habitat connections
 - Streets/Paths/Trails
 - People feeling connected
- Ecological Burning – Expansion of burning.
 - Including Tribes
 - Eco-studies Institute
 - Expanding fire to uplands = ecology and fuels reduction
 - Collaborating on training
 - Outreach
- Availability of native seed and other plant materials
 - WV Native Plant Partnership
 - R2R Plant Materials
 - Climate resiliency
- Trail connections and construction
 - Funding (leveraging)
 - Gaps in trail availability, expands/support new collaboration opportunities
 - Shared trail maintenance crews
- Green Streets
 - Eugene/Springfield connections
 - Connections to rural areas
- Partnering to carve out a part time R2R coordinator position
- Sharing/contracting with staff from other organizations to help our projects in the short-term
- Funding opportunities
 - Joint applications
 - Would be helpful to have a R2R coordinator
 - Central location for info on funding
- Green streets: Changes to land use regulations and impacts on population density and acquisition opportunities.
- Wildlife corridors (may inform green streets and trail connections (ODFW OCAMP))
- Habitat restoration and management
- Connecting education with space (parks and natural areas)
- Schools to career pathways
- R2R as a vehicle for bringing in non-traditional groups
- Public/private partnerships
-

3. How should the Partnership roll out the vision (boards, organizations, public)?

- Annual R2R public facing event
- Multimedia who does fire messaging
- R2R area park map app (geolocated)
- Science Pubs
- Pins, stickers, hats
- Goal – Community awareness
 - Awareness of members
 - Access to information
- Parades and other community events
- Develop a region-wide map for public access (where to go)
- More social media
- Presentations to staff (with a pre-packaged PPT available to all Partners)
 - Presentations to elected officials
 - Presentation to key Stakeholder groups (continue to build a relationship)
- Elected officials would need more coordination and support
- Spreading the word about the R2R vision
 - Tell our story
 - Emphasize habitat and health
 - Working together
 - Who's doing the work
- Develop the region-wide parks and trails app or map – Perhaps revive the sub-committee (high priority)
- R2R fire group outreach – Utilize Paul Gordon drone videos
- Fire, Water, Air – Connecting/messaging/video
- Need for messaging plan/messaging sub-group (under IT!) – Keep the concept simple for the public – There would be multiple messages depending on the group (e.g., rural areas)
- Listening sessions with feedback on opportunities
- Use as opportunity to outreach to non-traditional partners
- Opportunities for outreach to rural interface – build relationships and understanding

Closing Thoughts from Executive Team Members

- The Refresh was a successful collaborative process
- It was wise to build on the existing (2003) vision rather than starting anew
- Jeff K. lots of applause :)
- Welcoming process/cohesiveness with Jeff spanning two visioning processes, twenty years apart.
- IT! did a fantastic job of guiding the refresh process
- This was a great partnership effort to help prioritize for the future

- Technical advances have been immense over the past twenty years and we've been able to take advantage of those (e.g., spatial data)
- Refresh was an organic process versus formal adoption was a good choice
- The Refresh process helped build relationships among the partners
- The Partners will be able to lean on the vision to support programs/projects/acquisitions
- Virtual meeting are good for quick response and efficiency, but in-person meetings and celebrations provide a lot better opportunity for building relationships