



PROS Plan – Natural Resources Focus Group

Date: March 19, 2025

Location: The Grove, 1925 Main Street, Ashland OR 97520

Attendees: Chad Woodward, Bridgette O'Brien, Linda Hilligoss, Cat Gould, Michael Parker, Liz Landveth, Mike Gardiner, Chis Chambers

Staff: Jen Aguayo, Nancy Mero, Kirsten Came, Rachel Dials, Rocky Houston

Summary:

Director Houston facilitated a conversation with the attendees focused on natural resources, environmental education and sustainable practices. The results of this conversation and activities are below:

Natural Resources Group Exercise Results

Group Exercise #1 What's going well (fabulous)

- Community Engagement
- Solar leaders
- Tree Management
- Good foundation: facilities, open spaces, trails
- Grounds Maintenance
- Great Parks
 - Nature Center and N Mountain Park great for littles, kids are inspired
 - Japanese Garden
 - Collaboration/Events/Groups
 - Lithia Park is a jewel
- Signage – Safety
- Multi-use without leaving natural area out
- Riparian management
- Support/response from Parks staff
- Lots of volunteers – Appreciated and motivated
- Fountain at Lithia



- Trails ★
- Forestry planning support from the community
- Sustainable resource management
- Climate plan

What Needs Improvement

- Longer hours at Nature Center
- Longer hours at Senior Center
- Pool hours and access – low income
- School group programming was lost
 - It was wonderful
 - Curriculum alignment
- More summer programming
- More service learning
- Teacher training
- Loss of puppet show
- Weed abatement conflicts with wildlife (vs.) fire, environment vs. safety
- Signage (interpretive)
- Trail use vs. protection of natural resources
- Use of resources (promote what we have)
 - Partnerships

Group Exercise #2

Natural Resources Conservation

Water	6	Soil	2
Energy	3	Habitat	7
Invasive	4	Air	0

Environmental Education

Service Learning	12	Humanities	1
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Interpretation/Natural History	5	Nature Play	5
Self - Guided	3	Partnerships	9

Sustainability Resiliency

Resilient Community	3	Resilient Ecosystem	2
Preparedness	1	Sustainable Practices	3
Energy Efficiency	1	Reduction of Impacts	3

Group Exercise #3 – Future

- Fire
 - Respite from the heat and smoke
 - Shade and Shelter
- Older population – inclusiveness, volunteering
- Natural Trails – keep!
- Interdisciplinary approach