
Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee

Coordinated by:
Metro
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

March 31, 2022

Jon Blasher, Director, Parks and Nature
Metro Regional Center
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232-2736

RE: Expiration of Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area's Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Plan in June 2023 – SBAC's preference for replacement

Dear Mr. Blasher,

Considering the imminent expiration of the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Plan in June 2023, the Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) wishes to express our support to Metro for the Hybrid Model management alternative for Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Our understanding of this alternative is that the existing CNRP, with minor necessary modifications while maintaining management goals and objectives, would be adopted as a council-approved Metro Master Plan. It is also understood that Metro will work with the Advisory Committee to begin developing next steps for conservation. For context, please see the attached Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area – Management Alternatives.

The Advisory Committee was established in the original Natural Resource Management Plan (1990) for Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area and carried over to the CNRP in 2013. The committee is made up of community members interested in preserving and enhancing the ecological health of the natural area and ensuring the allowed recreation is compatible with this valuable habitat. With that in mind, the Advisory Committee looks forward to partnering with Metro to develop a new Master Plan based on the framework of the CNRP. Over the coming year, as the new Master Plan is developed, the Advisory Committee may endeavor to engage Metro in further discussions around issues directly related to the preservation and ecological health of the natural area. Some issues of concern that must be addressed in the new Master Plan include the Trust Fund balance, the negative impact of dogs in the natural area, and the degradation of habitat from intense human use.

Thank you for keeping the Advisory Committee informed and for presenting a practical solution to the sunseting of the CNRP. We look forward to hearing further guidance from Metro Council.

Sincerely,

Carrie Butler

Carrie Butler, Chair
Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee

Attachment: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area – Management Alternatives, January 12, 2022