City of Talent Greenways Master Plan

Bear Creek Greenway

Wagner Creek Greenway

City of Talent, Oregon

Prepared with Assistance from:

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service and the Rural Communities Assistance Program of the US Forest Service

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Talent's Greenway Committee

- **Dan Bish-** Wagner Creek Property Owner and Native Plant Nursery Owner
- **Melissa Brown-** Ashland Resident
- **Bill Cecil-** Planning Commission Liaison
- **Kathy Claussen-** Wagner Creek Property Owner
- **Howard DeYoung-** Bear Creek Advisory Committee Liaison
- **Phyllis Douglas-** Talent Resident
- **Doug Edwards-** Parks Commission Liaison
- **Katrina Hill-** City Council Liaison, Wagner Creek Property Resident
- **Michael O'Rourke-** Talent Resident
- **Dorothy Vogel-** Talent Resident, "Greenway News" editor

Technical Sub-Committee

- **Pete Hille-** Southern Oregon University Geography Student
- **Kerry KenCairn-** project leader for the Natural, Historical, and Cultural Resources Inventories, as well as a local landscape architect
- **Nancy Kincaid-** Southwestern Regional Representative for Department of Land Conservation and Development, former City Planner for the City of Talent
- **Stacey Kellenback-** Southern Oregon University, Geography Student
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Executive Summary

The purpose of this document is to provide the conceptual framework for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of the greenway system within the urban growth boundary of Talent. This master plan's focus is to provide recreation and alternative transportation linkages between natural resources, parks, greenways, businesses, homes, and services throughout the city. Connecting these places in Talent through a green network of facilities will allow the community to become more cohesive and unified.

Talent is a unique community because there is already an existing countywide greenway established along Bear Creek. However, access to the heart of Talent and Wagner Creek via the Bear Creek Greenway is limited. Improving theses connections will provide a place for the community to get together to "Walk, Smile, Wave". This master plan provides recommendations for connectivity between Bear and Wagner creeks while emphasizing access to other public and private community services offered within the urban growth boundary of Talent.

The greenway project was divided into three phases:

- **Phase One:** Inventory phase
- **Phase Two:** Planning process
- **Phase Three:** Implementation of the master plan

Phase One was completed in January of 2001 when the team of consultants presented their final research and recommendations for the development of Talent's Greenway System. **Phase Two** began in February of 2001 when Talent's citizen based Greenway Committee was formed. This committee went through several educational and brainstorming activities that were used to develop the master plan. The mission statement of this group illustrates the intent behind the recommendations developed as part of the planning process:

> *"To develop a master plan that focuses on wildlife, habitat, education, and recreation opportunities along both Bear and Wagner creeks; and greenway corridor location possibilities along Wagner Creek."*

Phase Three marks the implementation of the Greenway Master Plan. The recommendations listed below are specific improvements and new developments for Bear and Wagner Creeks to be implemented by the City of Talent, local service groups, and other volunteers.

Recommendations for Bear Creek include:

- Restoration opportunities outlined in Talent's Natural Resources Inventory (Appendix C)
- Create a path to improve access to the Howard DeYoung's gravel ponds
- Design an arboretum along Bear Creek
- Extend the Bear Creek Greenway along the west bank from Suncrest Road to the confluence of Wagner Creek
- Develop a county-wide signage and kiosk system in cooperation with the Bear Creek Greenway Advisory Committee that will highlight local ecological and historical interests
- Acquire property along Bear Creek near Suncrest Road behind the Public Works Department to be used as a community park
- Establish and Improve existing alternative transportation paths at the following sites:
    - Existing bridges on Valley View Road and Suncrest Road
    - Suncrest Road to Highway 99 and along Anjou Club property line to Highway 99
    - Creel Road to the Bear Creek Greenway

Recommendations for Wagner Creek include:

- Restoration opportunities outlined in Talent's Natural Resources Inventory found in Appendix C
- Design an arboretum along Wagner Creek near Rapp Road on city owned property
- Create a public park behind Wal-Mart
- Design a trail along Wagner Creek from the confluence with Bear Creek to Valley View Road
- Develop a feasibility study for a trail along Wagner Creek from Valley View Road to Talent Avenue
- Develop passive parks with minimal amenities at Wagner Creek Park and Joseph Drive Park

- Establish/Improve alternative transportation paths at the following sites:
    - Valley View Road from Lynn Newbry Park to Talent Avenue
    - Talent Avenue from Valley View Road to Creel Road
    - Existing bridge on Rapp Road
- Designation of publicly owned lands towards the Wagner Creek Greenway

Recommendations for the community regarding both greenways:

- Volunteer organizations, service groups, and school groups are encouraged to adopt educational and cultural programs to encourage environmental education, stewardship, ownership, restoration, preservation, and conservation of Talent's Greenway System

Upon the adoption of the master plan, the next step for Talent's Greenway System is to acquire, develop, and maintain existing resources. Conservation easements are highly recommended as a means to preserve sensitive lands along Bear and Wagner Creeks. A conservation easement is a legal agreement that defines physical limits on the use, treatment, and development of the land, to protect its natural resources, while allowing the property owner to continue using the land. This type of easement adheres to the intent of the vision, mission, and goals of the Greenway Committee. Once land is acquired and easements are created, the City is encouraged to formally designate these areas to either the Bear or Wagner Creek Greenway. Most importantly, the potential of the land to serve as a means to further connect the community to parks, greenways, businesses, homes, and services throughout the city should be a requirement of acquisition. Land should be acquired to implement the recommendations and develop a green network of accessibility for the City of Talent.

Introduction

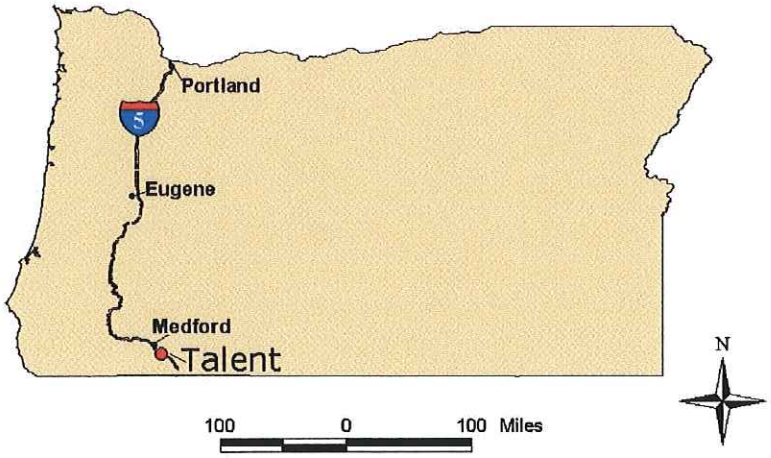
This is a brief introduction to the community of Talent, the Greenway Master Plan project, and the process that made it possible.

Talent: Community and Local History

Located in Southern Oregon, four miles north of Ashland and eight miles south of Medford, Talent is a part of the Bear Creek Valley. Incorporated in 1910, Talent's current population is 5, 589 according to the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau. Currently, the City of Talent is operating under a temporary public facilities strategy that substantially prohibits new development within the urban growth boundary (UGB). The City has adopted a Greenway Master Plan as a conceptual plan designed to protect the integrity of Bear and Wagner Creek once new development resumes.

Figure 1

Locator Map for Talent Oregon



Map Source: E.S.R.I.

PDH- 07/17/24

On New Years Day in 1997 the Bear Creek Valley, after heavy rains, experienced flooding along most of the watershed's tributaries. Wagner and Bear Creeks rose well above their high water marks. The close proximity of private residences to these creeks allowed the flooding waters to cause massive destruction in these areas. As a result of improper, non-structural fill a single-family detached house at 265 Joseph Drive fell into

Wagner Creek. This incident catalyzed Talent's interests in greenways, awakened the residents of Talent to the importance of flood hazard mitigation, and highlighted the necessity of a buffer zone along creek banks. A correlation exists between preserving greenway corridors and the potential to reduce the risk of property damage from future floods.

Figure 2. Photo of 265 Joseph Drive during the Flood of 1997

The Greenway Master Plan is part of a larger citywide strategy to provide recreation and transportation linkages between homes, parks, businesses, and services throughout the city. This plan is also an acknowledgement that both Bear and Wagner Creeks are integral natural, economic, and social resources of the city to be valued and protected.

Project Background

Greenways are typically linear areas that are publicly owned land left primarily in its natural state and include:

- Areas along streams, rivers, ridge lines, service roads, or utility- or transit right-of-ways; areas that protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat;
- Areas that reduce flood hazards; areas that maintain or improve water quality or quantity;
- Areas that provide K-12 and public educational programs; and
- Areas that may include recreational trails for walking, jogging, horseback riding, and/or bicycling, where appropriate.

Talent's Greenway Master Plan was developed to provide a guide for the city's development, maintenance, and management of greenways within the urban growth

boundary of Talent. This plan also addresses public acquisition of land and funding alternatives to implement the vision. Wagner Creek flows through the heart of Talent and is a tributary of Bear Creek. Bear Creek frames the city's eastern boundary and is the heart of the existing countywide Bear Creek Greenway. This master plan focuses on protecting, preserving, and restoring both of these invaluable resources.

Our Partners

The following is a brief description of Talent's key partners that made substantial investments in this greenway planning project.

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance: National Park Service

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program is a partnership of the National Park Service with offices throughout the country. Its mission is to assist community-based conservation and recreation building projects among citizens, private landowners, government, and grassroots organizations. RTCA provides technical assistance to citizens in their efforts to protect places that give special meaning and character to their communities.

Rural Community Assistance Program: USDA Forest Service

This program was created as part of the Northwest Forest Plan to address the needs of communities whose economic base was overly dependent on natural resource extraction based industries. The purpose of the Rural Community Assistance (RCA) Program is to help rural communities that have been dependent on natural resources to improve strategic planning, which result in projects with long-term social, environmental, and economic sustainability. Innovative projects to help build sustainable economies and complement management and conservation of natural resources receive priority consideration for funding.

Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE)

The Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) is an AmeriCorps*National Service program that is based at the University of Oregon in Eugene. The mission of the RARE Program is to increase the capacity of rural communities to improve their economic, social, and environmental conditions, with the help of trained graduate-level

individuals for one year. Qualified college graduates and graduate-level students who are selected as RARE participants assist communities and agencies in the developing of plans for achieving a sustainable natural resource base and improving rural economic conditions. A RARE Program participant coordinated with RTCA to develop this plan.

Project History

The greenway project was divided into three phases:

- **Phase One:** Inventory phase
- **Phase Two:** Planning and public involvement process
- **Phase Three:** Implementation of the master plan

The City of Talent's Community Development Department initiated the Greenway Master Plan project in 1999 when it applied for two grants to begin the process of developing a plan. Later the same year, the U.S. Forest Service granted the City funds to support Phase One and initiate the "Natural, Historical, and Cultural Inventories of Bear and Wagner Creek". The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service provided technical assistance to facilitate the planning, public involvement, and project development of this master plan.

PHASE ONE: Inventory of Resources of Wagner and Bear Creeks

The following information is a brief summary of the Natural, Cultural, and Historic Inventories completed by KenCairn Environmental Design, Northwest Biological Consulting, K&C Environmental Services, New World Mapping, and Cascade Research. Completion of the inventories marked the end of Phase One of the Greenway Master Plan funded by the U.S. Forest Service's Rural Community Assistance (RCA) Program.

Geological Resources

Originating in the Cascade Mountains, Bear Creek, a major tributary of the Rogue River, flows about 27 miles until it reaches the confluence. The valley formed by Bear Creek contains the majority of population in Southern Oregon. Bear Creek is parallel to the eastern boundary of the urban growth boundary of Talent. Talent is surrounded by the foothills of the relatively younger Cascades on the east and the older Siskiyou

Mountain Ranges on the west. The Bear Creek Watershed drains these two mountain ranges throughout the valley. Wagner Creek is one of the major tributaries of Bear Creek, originating in the Siskiyou Mountains near Wagner Butte, and the California and Oregon border.

Natural Resources

Wagner Creek is one of three cold-water tributaries of Bear Creek and is the heart of Talent's natural resources. Bear Creek flows through five communities before it meets the Rogue River near Lower Table Rock, north of Central Point. Along Bear Creek there is a countywide greenway system currently established that protects much of the riparian zone. The Natural Resources Inventory identified various types of vegetation found along both Bear and Wagner Creek and are listed below:

- Riparian hardwood forest
- Riparian scrub-shrub
- Upland oak forest
- Grass/forb
- Emergent wetland
- Bare ground/disturbed
- Ornamental/landscaped
- Open water

Of these eight vegetation communities the most predominant along Bear Creek are riparian hardwood forest, riparian scrub-shrub, open water, and bare ground/disturbed. Along Wagner Creek riparian hardwood forest, riparian scrub-shrub, bare ground/disturbed, and grass/forbs tend to dominate the banks. **Figure 3** illustrates the layout of these vegetation communities along Bear and Wagner Creeks.

According to the Talent Natural Resources Inventory, areas of unique ecological interest along Bear Creek include:

- Unmodified floodplains in the southwestern section, and
- Habitat value of the DeYoung gravel ponds along Bear Creek behind the Oak Valley Subdivision.

Areas of unique ecological interests that are found along Wagner Creek include:

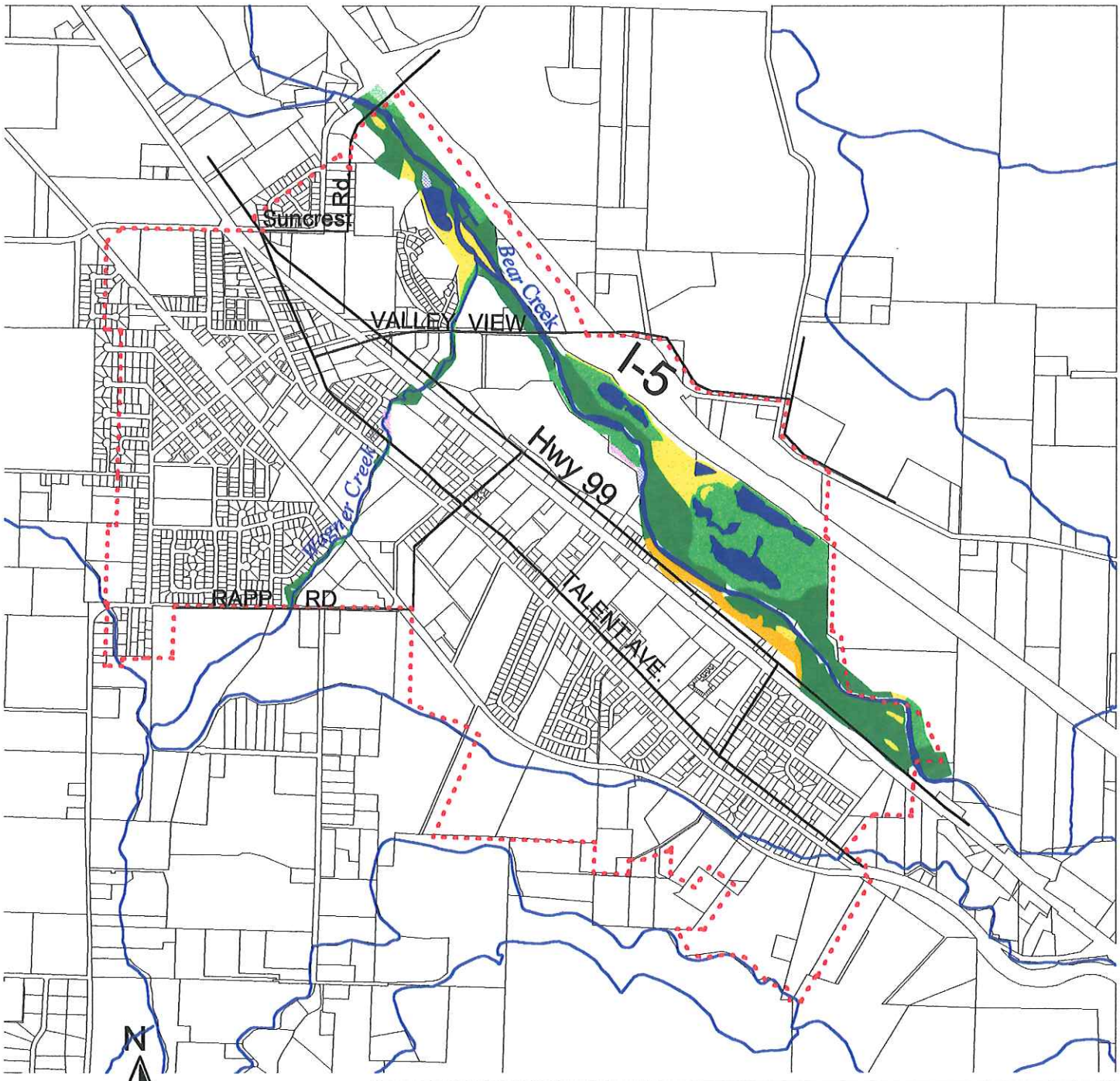
- Unmodified floodplains found along the creek between Highway 99 and Valley View Road;
- Confluence of Bear and Wagner; and
- Man-made fish ladders near Rapp Road.

Another component of the inventory phase was recommendations for environmental restoration along both creeks to be implemented by local service groups. These suggestions are referenced in further detail in **Appendix C**, which include maps for reference.

Bear Creek supports populations of Fall Chinook salmon; Coho salmon (a threatened species); winter and summer steelhead; and resident trout. Wagner Creek supports populations of summer steelhead and resident trout. Talent's Natural Resources Inventory followed the standards of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as the Endangered Species Act (ESA), because of Bear and Wagner Creeks fish bearing populations. These creeks need to be healthy, shaded, and have cool temperatures in order to support fish and other wildlife. Preservation of both creeks is necessary to protect the integrity of the entire watershed. Establishing a restored greenway corridor along Wagner Creek will improve the ecological health and long-term sustainability of both creeks.

(Note: If you are interested in reviewing the full report of the Inventory, please contact Talent City Hall at 535-7401.)

Talent Greenway
Natural Resources Inventory



N

0.25 0 0.25 Miles

Map Source: New World Mapping
PDH: 7/31/01

Vegetation Communities

- RIPARIAN HARDWOOD
- RIPARIAN SHRUB-SCRUB
- UPLAND FOREST
- GRASS FORB
- EMERGENT WETLAND
- BAREGROUND DISTURBED
- ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPED
- OPEN WATER

Historical and Cultural Resources

Before the arrival of European settlers the Wagner Creek area was home to two native groups. The indigenous tribes of the Bear Creek Valley were Upland Takelma (also called the Latgawa), and the Shasta. The Latgawa resided along Bear Creek near present day Talent northward to the Table Rock vicinity while the Shasta called home the land extending from near Wagner Creek southward and over the Siskiyou Pass.

Although they spoke very different languages, the Upland Takelma and the Shasta both pursued a similar way of life, relying on hunting, gathering, and fishing for their subsistence. During the winters, extended family-bands resided in semi-permanent villages at lower elevations often located at the confluence of major streams, where the spring steelhead runs would provide a welcome supply of fresh fish. From late spring through early fall, they typically spent much time in the surrounding uplands and mountains, hunting game and gathering plants as the snows receded from higher elevations. By autumn, the far-ranging groups would rejoin village elders and others at the lower valley streams to harvest the fall salmon run and prepare for another winter.

The Takelma's homeland was jeopardized with the arrival of the European settlers in 1850's. As a result of this migration, severe tension and violent attacks developed between early settlers and the Takelma tribe. An 1853 treaty established the short-lived Table Rock Reservation in order to open up the entire Bear Creek Valley to white settlement. Finally, from 1855 to 1856, the final Rogue Indian War raged throughout the Rogue River Valley. The natives were again forcibly relocated from Table Rock to the Grande Ronde and Siletz Reservations.

Jacob Wagner was one of the first settlers in the Bear Creek Valley, arriving in present day Talent in 1852. Upon arriving in Talent, Jacob established a residence along Wagner Creek. Settlers named his home Fort Wagner, because it served as a refuge for the community from the attacks by bands of local Native Americans. The community along Wagner Creek continued to expand and was renamed Talent in the late 1800s. Mr. Wagner and other settlers built irrigation ditches that would eventually develop into the Talent Irrigation District (TID) that currently provides an inter-valley irrigation system for the southern portion of the Bear Creek Valley. These ditches were the means by which the agriculture business became the largest source of economic livelihood for the residents of Talent. Coupled with a favorable climate and the

extensive irrigation system, Talent soon became internationally known for the fruit producing orchards along Bear and Wagner Creeks.

Wagner and Bear Creek have been landmarks for multiple reasons for indigenous tribes to early settlers to present day residents. In order to maintain the *historical* and *cultural* contribution of these two creeks, they *must* be preserved, conserved, and restored.

Recreational Resources

Bear and Wagner Creeks support the majority of recreational activities offered within the urban growth boundary of Talent. The Talent urban growth boundary encompasses a four-mile section of the Bear Creek Greenway Trail, a community park (Lynn Newbry Park), and over 87 acres of open space along Bear Creek. When completed as planned, the Bear Creek Greenway will be an 18-mile multi-use trail. The two plus acre Lynn Newbry Park, located off Valley View Road, is owned by the state, leased by the county, and managed by the City of Talent. Along Wagner Creek adjacent to Rapp Road, the City of Talent owns 2.57 acres of parks and open space. This area includes two mini-parks that are designated for passive use. There is also a land locked parcel between Talent Avenue and Highway 99 along Wagner Creek that is .22 acres of open space owned by the City. In total, Talent has 90 acres of open space, three parks, and a four-mile multi-use recreational path.

Outreach and Public Involvement

Gathering support and involvement from the community for Talent's greenways was necessary to develop a comprehensive plan that citizens' support and to ensure the success of the implementation phase. Local non-profit agencies completed two surveys that illustrated the need to develop a Greenway Master Plan for the City of Talent. In 1995, The Rogue Institute for Ecology & Environment studied community issues regarding transportation and population growth in Talent. The report, referred to as "I Feel Famous Here", describes a list of valuable community perceptions and local needs regarding the role of a parks and recreation system for the City of Talent including:

- Talent residents enjoy the rural flavor of their town, described as open lots, open spaces, front porches, and a variety of animals and wildlife;

- There are safety concerns regarding Rapp Road near Wagner Creek Park and West Valley View Road near Lynn Newbry Park; and
- Residents feel that Talent has a need for more green spaces, especially within the new developments.

A Citizen's Attitude Survey was administered through the Parks and Recreation Commission in 1994 and again in 1998. The survey contained a section related to parks and recreation development. Some of the community's sentiments identified by these surveys were as follows:

- Parks are desirable and necessary;
- There is community support of a Bear Creek and Wagner Creek Greenway system;
- The community desires adequate recreational facilities;
- Natural and wildlife areas should be protected as open space; and
- The small, rural feeling within the community should be maintained.

Based on the survey results, the Community Development Department focused on the importance of developing a greenway system, while also creating an outreach plan that included publications of a monthly newsletter, public meetings, public presentations, and other events.

The Greenway Committee

In January 2001, Talent's Community Development Department recruited volunteers to participate in the planning process of the master plan. Volunteers devoted a substantial amount of time and resources to develop this master plan outside regular committee meetings. Talent's Greenway Committee members represented a variety of perspectives, professions, and organizations.

Goals

The Greenway Committee met monthly from February 2001 until August 2001. Goals were set to assure that the intent and focus of the project are followed throughout the project. The Greenway Committee adopted the following goals at their April meeting:

Goal 1: *Create a master plan*

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide the framework to develop Talent's Greenways System;
2. Restoration, preservation, and conservation of Talent's natural resources;
3. Build a sense of community; and
4. Connect the community.

Goal 2: *Communicate with Agencies*

OBJECTIVES:

1. Ensure that every stakeholder is aware of the other stakeholders' view regarding the health and future of Wagner Creek; and
2. Develop inter-agency communication.

Goal 3: *Communicate with Landowners*

OBJECTIVES:

1. Receive input from landowners at all times during the planning process;
2. Inform all landowners of the progress of the project; and
3. Keep open all lines of communication between city staff, landowner's, and committee members.

Goal 4: *Education/Outreach to the Community*

OBJECTIVES:

1. Educate the community regarding the importance and diversity of greenways;
2. Promote stewardship and ownership of the greenways from within the community; and
3. Ensure the acquisition of lands to be reserved or added to the greenways.

At the March meeting committee members listened to a panel of local experts participate in a round-table discussion about integrating large-scale issues with greenway development. **Table 1** highlights the experts that participated and the topics they represented.

Table-1. Panel of Experts on March 30, 2001

Name	Topic	Agency
Bill Meyers	Water Quality	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Sandy Eccker	Flood Hazard Mitigation	Jackson County Emergency Management
David Haight	Fish and Wildlife Habitat	U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife (USFW)
Greg Stabach	Watershed Health	Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG)
Ken Mickelson	Quality of Life Indicators	Ashland Parks and Recreation

In addition to the information provided by the team of experts, Bernie Knotts and Steve Koskella led the committee on a walk of the proposed and existing greenway sites. Mr. Knotts, of New World Mapping, and Mr. Koskella, of K&C Environmental Services, were two of the consultants that completed the Natural, Historical, and Cultural Resources Inventories. Walking the greenway offered a field component to the project and provided an opportunity for committee members to familiarize themselves with the sites and share observations.

The Charrette

A charrette is an intensive and collaborative design workshop, which allows an opportunity for committee and community members to brainstorm ideas and record them on maps of the creeks, allowing the intangible to become tangible. On Saturday, May 19, 2001, the Greenway Committee partnered with the technical subcommittee and met for an all day design charette.

During this workshop an hour was devoted to an open forum between committee members and property owners of both creeks. This allowed for all parties to voice their opinions and discuss their concerns. Next, Committee members were organized into teams to design a vision for Talent's Greenways System. Each team focused on specific details for both creeks that needed to be addressed for a comprehensive greenway system. Finally, after a very productive workshop, the Committee reached consensus and mutually agreed upon a design for the greenway system for Talent.

Technical Sub-Committee

The technical sub-committee was created to aid in the success of the charrette, as well as the project. The sub-committee was assigned the task of preparing the maps and gathering supplies for this event, while designing the facilitation process necessary to lead the group. Working collaboratively, three undergraduate students from the Geography Department at Southern Oregon University (SOU) met with three experienced leaders to form the Tech team. Pete Hille, Stacey Kellenback, and Brian Toy from SOU volunteered to provide much needed assistance to team leaders Nancy Kincaid, Kerry KenCairn, and Paul Hoobyar. Ms. Kincaid, the former City Planner for Talent, is currently the southwestern regional representative for the Department of Land Conservation and Development. Ms. KenCairn, the project leader for the Natural, Historical, and Cultural Resources Inventories, is a local landscape architect. Mr. Hoobyar, based in Eugene, Oregon, is affiliated with the National Parks Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program. These six individuals played key roles in the success of the charrette.

Newsletter

A monthly, bilingual (Spanish/English) newsletter was published for a year in partnership with the Community Development Department, National Park Service, The Bear Creek Greenway Foundation, and several community volunteers. (Note: A copy of this newsletter can be found in **Appendix D**: Outreach and Public Involvement.) Each edition of the newsletter, the "Greenways News", highlighted one of the twelve interpretative trail stops within Talent's section of the Bear Creek Greenway and updated the public about the progress of the greenway project. The first edition of the "Greenways News" was a two-color format and mailed to every citizen within the urban growth boundary of Talent. Each subsequent edition was distributed to over 200 community members and partners throughout the Bear Creek Valley including creek side property owners along both Bear and Wagner Creeks. Copies of the newsletter were made available at City Hall, the Library, Harvest Festivals (2001-2001), and hand delivered to areas of the city with Latino populations.

Presentations

During Phase One, the consultants gave two public presentations to update the community on information gathered by the inventory. The first presentation was made

on August 30, 2000 at City Hall. The consultant team highlighted areas of ecological interest and provided background information. At the second meeting on January 29, 2001 at Talent's Community Center, community members were invited to hear the final findings of the consultants' research and initiated a discussion of the importance of greenways as a strategy for conservation, preservation, and restoration. Several greenway committee members were recruited from this event.

Working with Adjacent Landowners and Managers

On Saturday, May 19, 2001 at Talent's Community Center, Talent's Greenway Committee held a design charrette. One hour of this workshop was reserved for landowners and property managers to voice their opinions and concerns regarding the development of Talent's Greenway System. Talent's Greenways Committee members set one of their goals to ensure open communication between committee members and landowners. Committee members and landowner's were asked to participate in an open forum to discuss the positive and negative aspects of greenways, thus opening the lines of communication. Some of the discussion points included the following:

- Public access
- Invasion of privacy
- Threat to existing water rights
- Public or private responsibility for maintaining the greenway
- Liability
- Safety and vandalism
- Railroad corridor access
- Phasing implementation of project
- Conservation Easements- nodes/educational vistas
- Preservation and restoration of wildlife habitat

Overall, this part of the charrette influenced the design process to be more sensitive to private landowner's concerns.

Talent Middle School Students

A group of seven eighth graders from Monte Killingsworth's history class at Talent Middle School met weekly to discuss the history of Talent. Claire Rogers, Bree, Joe Six, Victoria Moorefield, Jesse Klebe, Rachel Vinyard, and Laressa wrote weekly

assignments detailing several topics including: Jacob Wagner; the Takelma tribe; Orchards and Agriculture; Railroads; Mining; Flooding; and Open Space. This learning activity generated awareness and support of the development of a greenway system within the Talent school system. It provided a more social perspective of greenway development to be explored and was a learning experience for everyone involved in the process.

Public Policy: Supporting Federal, State, and Local Plans and Ordinances

Several ordinances and plans at the federal, state, and local levels support, reinforce, and /or compliment Talent's Greenway System.

Federal

The United States Environmental Protection Agency is the regulatory body for environmental policies adopted at the federal level. There are several policies that support the creation of greenways and open space.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

The purpose of this Act is to provide a federal environmental policy, which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality. The Bear and Wagner Creek Greenway supports this federal policy because of the citizen involvement used to instill stewardship and ownership of natural resources that are an integral component of the community of Talent.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

The Endangered Species Act established federal policies for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found. The law prohibits any action, administrative or real, that results in a "taking" of a listed

species, or adversely affects habitat. The purpose of the ESA is to conserve the ecosystems that endangered and threatened species depend on for survival. Fall Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, and steelhead are all ESA listed species that inhabit Bear and Wagner Creeks. A greenway supports this federal policy because it would allow for preservation, restoration, and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

4(d) Ruling

The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) assists local and regional groups to develop programs that protect listed species and their habitats and would like to recognize those programs under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A "4(d) Rule" establishes protective regulations that apply to a species listed as threatened under the ESA (steelhead trout). A greenway that focuses on supporting a wildlife corridor will also compliment this policy because it will allow minimal recreational development to occur within the riparian area of a creek, which supports salmon and steelhead.

State

The State of Oregon has statutes on open space preservation, water quality, and the conservation of natural resources. Below is a compilation of these standards, as well as definitions.

Statewide Planning Goals: Goal 5

The State of Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) requires that each incorporated city in the state develop a comprehensive plan and implement ordinances to comply with the 19 land-use planning goals regulated by this agency. The City adopted a "Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Urban Forestry" Element (B) to the Comprehensive Plan. Creating an interconnected greenway system in the City of Talent focused on restoration, preservation, conservation, and recreation allows the city to improve its compliance with Goal 5 that states, "To protect natural resources and conserve scenic and historic areas and open spaces."

Water Quality: 303 (d) listing

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has the responsibility for developing standards that protect beneficial uses, such as drinking water, cold-water fisheries, industrial water supply, recreation, and agricultural uses. The State must monitor water quality and review available data to determine if the standards are being met. DEQ is

required by the federal Clean Water Act to maintain a list of stream segments that do not meet water quality standards. This list is called the **303(d) List** because of the section of the Clean Water Act that stipulates the requirement. As a result of a failure to meet a seven-day average temperature criteria measured at Horn Gulch and the headwaters in 1992, Wagner Creek from Horn Gulch to the confluence was added to the DEQ 303(d) list in 1992 as a stream with limited water quality. The 303(d) list requires that stream water must remain below 64° F. Many (*anadromous*) fish species require cold-water temperatures for spawning and incubation of eggs. Water temperatures recorded above the state standards become increasingly stressful for cold-water fish populations, and in this sense lower water temperature becomes another sustaining barrier to fish.

Local

The City of Talent is currently updating their Comprehensive Plan as part of periodic review for the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). The Comprehensive Plan details the current needs and trends within city limits while addressing the land use planning goals adopted by the state and administrated by DLCD.

Transportation System Plan

A Transportation System Plan (TSP) is a tool for communities to improve their existing transportation infrastructure while adopting provisions for new development. This document focuses on pedestrian improvements. Furthermore, the plan cites the need to encourage pedestrian travel and encourage the creation of a greenway system that would connect the city via Bear and Wagner Creeks; utility easements; and rail lines that complement and connect to the sidewalk system. Developing a Greenway Master Plan supports the TSP by providing a model for improving pedestrian travel within the city limits.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan was created after the 1997 flood. Citizens, as well as city councilors, worked with the City Planner to create this document. The Bear and Wagner Creek Greenways benefits this mitigation plan because they help with the overall goal to maintain the floodplain as open space to the fullest extent possible. Open

space acts as a buffer zone for the community from flood damage. City designation of the Wagner Creek Greenway will ensure further restrictions for floodplain development.

Subdivision Ordinance

The Talent Subdivision Ordinance contains a variety of standards for new development in the City of Talent. It specifically addresses open space requirements for new development. Presently, there are several large parcels along Wagner Creek that in the future could be subdivided. New developments on these parcels are encouraged to use their creek frontage to fulfill their open space requirements. Furthermore, it establishes a 50-foot setback for open space along the banks of Wagner and Bear Creeks. This is referred to as the "Riparian Area Setback". Riparian areas are the most valuable interface for stream ecology. The Greenways Master Plan also supports this 50-foot setback for the greenway to increase the preservation, conservation, and restoration of these natural resources. Ensuring riparian area health within new development is a goal of the City of Talent and identified in the Subdivision Ordinance. Adhering to the "Riparian Area Setback" will help provide a "green" boundary for Talent's Greenway Master Plan.

Storm Water Management Plan

The City of Talent's Storm Water Management Plan focuses on the implementation strategies directed at physical improvements necessary for storm water management. Untreated storm water and non-point source pollution flows into Bear and Wagner Creek and directly affects the water quality of these resources. Protection of Wagner and Bear Creek water quality is a high priority throughout the Storm Water Management Plan by addressing the protection of stream channel, velocity, and carrying capacity. Establishing and improving the greenways is one of the most effective mechanisms to improve water quality. Wetlands are a common example of a natural treatment facility for storm water runoff. A greenway establishes protective measures for the wetland and riparian areas of these natural resources. Allowing for vegetation and wildlife to inhabit these areas provides more opportunity to improve water quality. Therefore, the greenway supports the Storm Water Management Plan goals of improving water quality in Talent.

Bear Creek Greenway

The following section details the improvements that the Greenway Committee recommends to the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation and Bear Creek Citizen's Advisory Committee with the commitment to play an active role in achieving a completed Bear Creek Greenway. Linkage opportunities are discussed, as well as recreational, educational, and environmental improvements.

Background: Bear Creek Greenway

The Bear Creek Greenway follows an original Native American trail that indigenous tribes used as an access route to seasonal food sources. The current greenway trail system is the result of a vision dating back to the 1930's. A group of concerned citizens initiated a grassroots effort to support a Greenway in the early 1960's and their vision is the basis for a system of trails connecting urban centers and park nodes from Ashland to Central Point. The current goal is to complete this multi-use path by 2005. In 1973, the Bear Creek Greenway was formally recognized by the state of Oregon with the passage of the Bear Creek Greenway Bill.

Presently, there are 11.5 miles of completed trail out of the proposed 18.5 mile total trail. The remaining trail is planned for construction in 2003-2004. This amazing stretch of regional green space has many important functions including acting as a buffer for agricultural and impervious surface runoff; providing a natural corridor for wildlife; and mitigating pollution and flood risks. It is also an important alternative transportation corridor that will eventually provide a safe commute for bicyclists between major destinations throughout the most heavily populated part of Jackson County.

A consortium of agencies and partners manage the Bear Creek Greenway. The Bear Creek Greenway Committee is an advisory group appointed by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) from each municipality along this linear green-space. In 1986, the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation was formed as a private, non-profit organization dedicated to completing and managing the greenway. The Foundation is the primary fiscal agent for the Greenway and is supported by various sources: foundations, grants, businesses, individual contributions, and volunteers. The Jackson County Roads, Parks and Planning Department provide staff support and is the lead agency, coordinating various activities and partnerships.

Linkage Opportunities

Accessibility to the Bear Creek Greenway is limited within Talent. In order to access this trail community members must use some of the most heavily traveled roads within the urban growth boundary that are without facilities for non-motorized transportation. The numbering system used below corresponds to the numbers keyed in on **Figure 5** and are not in order of priority. All of these linkage improvements are illustrated on **Figure 5** of the Greenway Master Plan.

To improve linkages between the greenway to the rest of the community and increase accessibility, Talent's Greenway Committee has the following suggestions:

1. Connecting Creel Road to the Bear Creek Greenway by creating alternative paths crossing at Creel Road and Highway 99.
2. Constructing an alternative transportation path that is parallel to or crosses underneath the bridge at Suncrest Road on the north end of town.
3. Extending the alternative transportation path along Suncrest Road to Highway 99. Also creating a path along the property line of the Anjou Club that comes out on to Highway 99 and continues to Valley View Road.
4. Extending the Bear Creek Greenway on the west bank starting at Suncrest Road and ending at the confluence of Wagner Creek.
5. Improving bike/pedestrian travel over the Valley View Bridge near Lynn Newbry Park.

Recreational Improvements

The Bear Creek Greenway is a recreational resource for the City of Talent that is used throughout the valley. Improving the Talent section is another goal of the city. The numbering system used below corresponds to the numbers keyed in on **Figure 5** and are not in order of priority. Overall, the Bear Creek Greenway provides great recreational opportunities for Talent and the community at large. The following are the recommendations from the Greenway Committee:

6. A community park on Suncrest Road along the west bank of Bear Creek, next to Talent's Public Works Department, to help meet the needs of Talent's residents that are underserved recreationally in this area of town. This would

simultaneously support the goals of Talent's Parks Master Plan as well as providing accessibility to proposed linkages.

7. Establishing spur trails on one side of the DeYoung Ponds near Isabelle Sickel's Memorial to improve access for the educational improvements to this area while preserving wildlife habitat.
8. Continue to maintain and improve the facilities of Lynn Newbry Park.
9. The City of Talent will participate in creating a signage program for the Bear Creek Greenway.

Educational Improvements

Education about the intrinsic and ecological value of Bear Creek is a high priority for Talent's Greenway Committee. Bear Creek is one of the most established wildlife corridors in the valley. The arboretum concept would greatly improve the educational opportunities offered along Bear Creek. An arboretum is a place where trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes. Topics of educational interest may include but are not limited to wetlands, riparian areas, and pond ecology. The following are suggestions, depicted in **Figure 6**, to increase educational activities for all ages along Bear Creek:

10. Constructing signage and kiosks that focus on the unique ecological areas of interest and local history along Bear Creek.
11. Developing an arboretum along the DeYoung Ponds near Isabel Sickel's Memorial to study wetlands and/or pond ecology.
12. Creating an amphitheater to be used as a venue for environmental education activities as well as a community gathering area.
13. Adoption of Bear Creek by local schools, service groups, or other volunteers in phases, or by reaches, in order to promote stewardship and ownership.

Environmental Improvements

Bear Creek should always be considered for environmental improvement projects by private, public, and the non-profit agencies because of its integral role as a wildlife corridor throughout the valley. Talent's Greenway Committee would like to recommend the following areas as possible sites for environmental improvement projects along the Bear Creek Greenway:

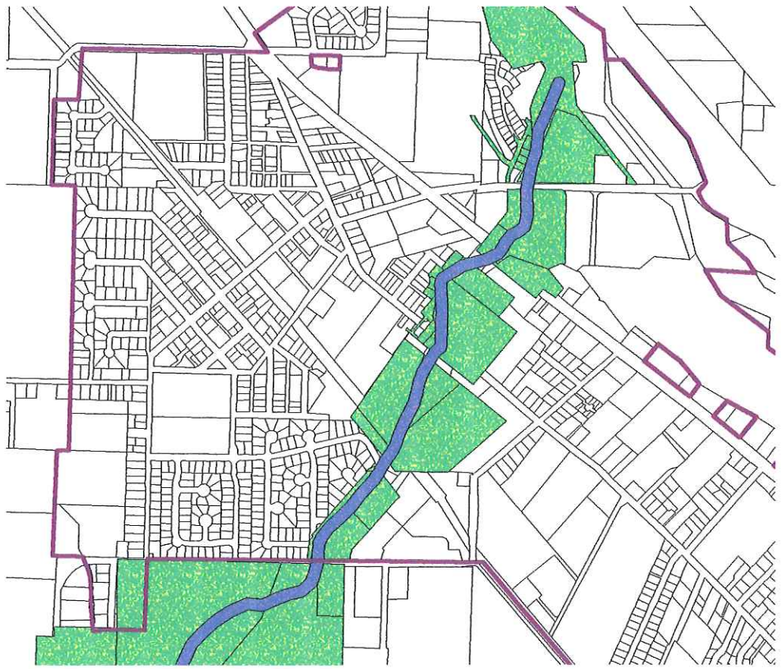
14. Creating a management plan focusing on restoring the area with native species and addressing the current noxious weeds and non-native species populations.
15. Restoration of the gravel ponds that are located along the Bear Creek Greenway near the orchards and behind the Oak Valley subdivision.
16. Encouraging noise abatement of Interstate 5 in an effort to improve environmental quality where feasible.

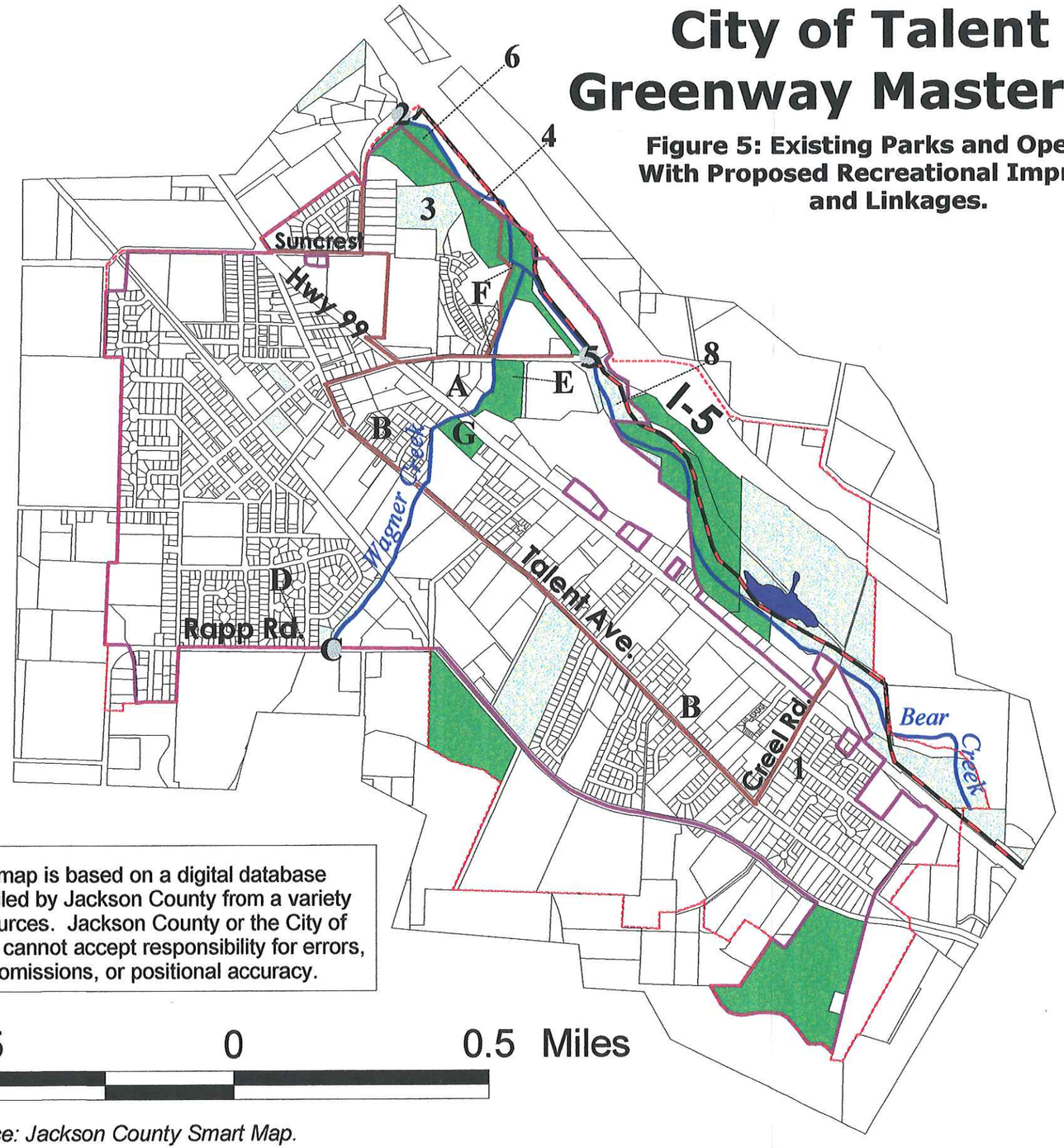
These restoration sites are shown in **Figure 6**. In general, restoration projects created and implemented by local service groups are encouraged. All restorations and tree plantings should continue to take place along the greenway to promote community stewardship and ownership. **Figure 4** illustrates a large-scale restoration project in Talent. Howard De Young, a local aggregate miner and Bear Creek Greenway Committee member, provides wildlife habitat for migrating fowl and mitigates the impacts of stormwater run off.

Figure 4. De Young Gravel Ponds behind Oak Valley Subdivision

City of Talent Greenway Master Plan

Figure 5: Existing Parks and Open Spaces With Proposed Recreational Improvements and Linkages.





- Pedestrian Bridges
- Existing Parks
- Proposed Park Sites
- DeYoung Pond Site
- Proposed Alternative Transportation Paths
- Bear Creek Greenway
- Urban Growth Boundary
- City Limits

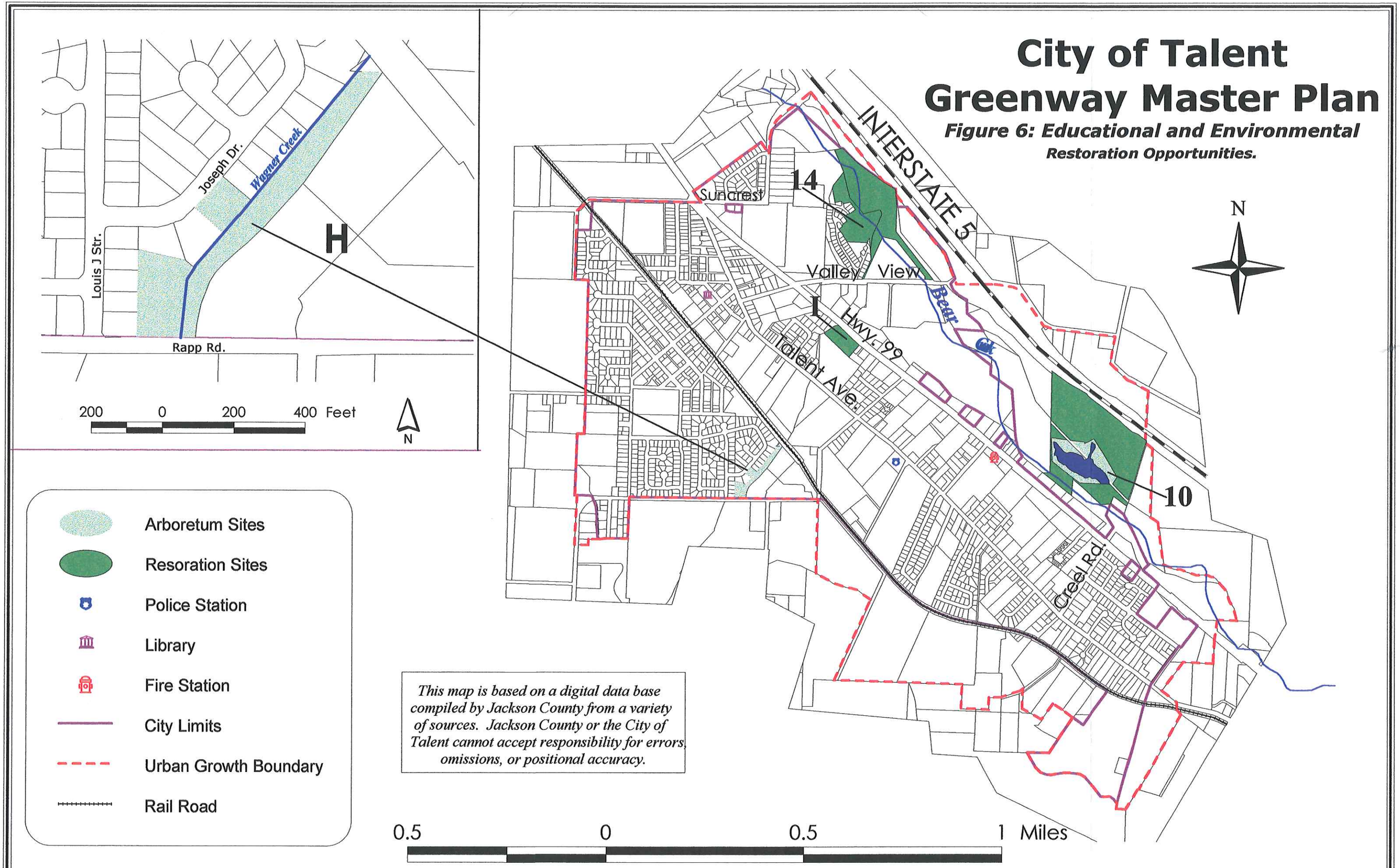
This map is based on a digital database compiled by Jackson County from a variety of sources. Jackson County or the City of Talent cannot accept responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy.

Map Source: Jackson County Smart Map.

PDH 8/29/01

City of Talent Greenway Master Plan

Figure 6: Educational and Environmental Restoration Opportunities.



Map Source: Jackson County Smart Map.

Wagner Creek Greenway

Adopting and creating a greenway along Wagner Creek is addressed in the following section. Establishing a greenway along Wagner Creek is necessary for restoration, preservation, and conservation purposes. Areas that could potentially serve as environmental improvements; linkage, educational, and recreational opportunities; and resource protection and public access are highlighted.

Background: Wagner Creek Greenway

During testing for the 2001 Bear Creek Watershed Assessment, Wagner Creek was classified as a cold-water creek. However, the lower 6 miles of Wagner Creek is still on the 303(d) list based on elevated water temperature data gathered in 1992 by Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality. Stream temperatures are affected by factors such as non-point source pollution, runoff, flow volume, stream gradient, shade provided by riparian vegetation and exposure to sunlight. A greenway can improve water quality by increasing shade cover by establishing native plant communities within the shrub under-story and deciduous/coniferous over-story canopy. A greenway along Wagner Creek can encourage and facilitate re-vegetation and restoration to the riparian area, therefore, improving water quality and temperature. Wagner Creek is one of the three cold-water fishery streams in the Bear Creek Basin, and contributes significantly to the larger Bear Creek fisheries. Although it has a high proportion of fish barriers and alteration from development near the confluence, it also has comparatively high quality riparian habitat, water quality, water flows, and fish distribution in the upper reaches near the headwaters. The secondary tributaries to Wagner Creek also support significant fish populations, greater than most other sub-watersheds. Steelhead spawn and rear in the lower 6.8 miles of Wagner Creek (Bear Creek Watershed Assessment 2001).

As a cold-water tributary of the larger Bear Creek, Wagner Creek has a narrow stream corridor, and therefore is very sensitive to impact from humans. This narrow corridor is a direct result of the amount of development along the banks of Wagner Creek that prevents the stream from naturally re-channeling itself. The lack of riparian area found within the urban growth boundary is a direct result of development. Therefore, more land needs to be designated to the riparian zone to provide the stream with the opportunity to naturally re-build its channel.

First priority should be given to the acquisition of land through conservation easements to form a linear boundary for the greenway. This will aid in the protection of the stream corridor. As land becomes available to the City, a needs assessment should be completed. This will encourage each parcel to receive the proper treatment based on its needs, as well as provide the City with the framework for the best use of the land. Restoration, preservation, and conservation should be the three top priorities in the assessment of greenway land. Recreation improvements should be periodically assessed in phases and as a secondary objective.

Improving sites for alternative transportation opportunities is not a priority along the banks of Wagner Creek. Talent should establish a network of bike paths, sidewalks, and trails connecting the community to public services, parks, etc. This strategy does not include Wagner Creek because of the narrow stream corridor, the primary objectives listed above, and the strong opposition from landowners. Several landowner's voiced their concerns regarding vandalism of personal property, increase of foot traffic on private property, and increase in trespassing. The City is encouraged to develop sidewalks and bike paths throughout the entire community rather than focusing along the banks of Wagner Creek to assist in creating community connectivity.

Resource Protection and Public Access

Protecting the natural and cultural resources of Wagner Creek is one of the primary goals identified by those involved in this project. Creating access to these resources for the public should be completed in phases to consider when there would be minimal impact to this established wildlife corridor.

Linkage Opportunities

Linking the community via alternative transportation is a major component of this project and the layout of these alternatives are referenced in **Figure 5**. The following are examples of improvements:

A. Improving sidewalks and bike paths from Bear Creek Greenway and Lynn Newbry Park along Valley View Road to Talent Avenue
B. Improving the alternative transportation path down Talent Avenue to the Wagner Creek Bridge would allow for pedestrians to visit Wagner Creek

Greenway from a point of interest on the bridge. (A point of interest refers to an area reserved for observatory purposes where access is limited in order to preserve the ecological value of the area.)

C. Erecting a bike/pedestrian bridge on the bridge at Rapp Road to improve pedestrian safety and access to Wagner Creek Park, Joseph Drive Park, and the other city owned parcel across the creek from these parks

Recreational Improvements

The committee made several suggestions for recreational opportunities. All of these suggestions have not been formally assessed for their economic and environmental feasibility. Environmental and economic feasibility studies are strongly recommended before any improvement is made. Several recreational opportunities found along Wagner Creek are illustrated in **Figure 5** of the Greenway Master Plan. After the creek enters the urban growth boundary near Rapp Road, there are two public parks. Wagner Creek (**Figure 7**) and Joseph Drive Parks are both designated as passive recreational sites by Talent's Parks Master Plan. The Parks Commission supports minimal development of these parks with limited improvements to include interpretative signs, picnic tables, and benches. Below are recreational recommendations for Wagner Creek:

D. Developing Wagner Creek Park and Joseph Drive Park with minimal amenities while concentrating on the restoration, conservation, and preservation of Wagner Creek
E. Establishing a park behind Wal-Mart near the wetland area that is currently used as part of the storm-water management treatment system
F. Designing a trail along Wagner Creek from the confluence with Bear Creek until Wagner intersects with Valley View on the side of the Oak Valley Subdivision
G. Developing a feasibility study for a trail along Wagner Creek from Valley View to Talent Avenue

The City of Talent should work closely with landowners to purchase lands or easements for recreational purposes. Other opportunities for recreation along Wagner Creek, such as alternative sites for parks and trails, should continue to be studied, including provisions for land acquisitions when funding is available.

Figure 7. Wagner Creek Park

Educational Improvements

Education regarding the intrinsic and ecological value of Wagner Creek is a high priority for Talent's Greenway Committee. There are several areas along Wagner Creek that would improve the educational value of this natural resource, illustrated in **Figure 6**. Below are the recommendations for educational opportunities along Wagner Creek: These suggestions for education are appropriate for community members of all ages.

H. Coordinating the development of an arboretum to act as a display of the biodiversity of the region along Wagner on the city owned property adjacent to the creek and Rapp Road and an ornamental landscape showcase at Joseph Drive Park
I. Continuing the use of Wagner Creek Park as an outdoor classroom
J. Illustrating the value of a riparian area in a watershed system at 208 S. Pacific Highway, the most intact riparian area found along Wagner Creek, if property or access is acquired by the city
K. Adoption of Wagner Creek by local schools, service groups, and other volunteers in phases or reaches in order to promote stewardship and ownership

Environmental Improvements

Wagner Creek should always be considered for environmental improvement projects by private, public, and the non-profit agencies because of its integral role as a wildlife corridor for Talent. The development patterns of the past have affected the health of

the creek immensely. However, most of the property is under private ownership and the City should explore methods to encourage these landowners to restore their creek banks. Environmental improvements, depicted in **Figure 6**, that fall under the City of Talent's jurisdiction include:

L. Continual maintenance and restoration of city-owned property
M. Acquisition of easements and new lands
N. Designate and promote public lands along the creek as the Wagner Creek Greenway

PHASE III: Connectivity.....Greening the Way

By creating a greenway along Wagner Creek, developing bike and pedestrian routes, and improving the pre-existing Bear Creek Greenway, Talent's Greenway Master Plan is accomplishing its goal of connectivity to the community. Connecting greenways, businesses, homes, parks, and services by linking them together through trails, bike paths, and sidewalks unites a community. Providing the resources and an appealing environment necessary to use alternative modes of transportation, to walk along streets, parks, and creeks begins to develop a sense of unification within a community. The community wants to be connected while preserving, restoring, and enhancing Talent's natural resources. As a result, this master plan addresses protection and cohesiveness between natural resources and the community.

Talent has a small population that has informally adopted "walk, smile, and wave" as its motto. In the near future, Talent will most likely experience another increase in population. In order for the current motto to remain applicable for this changing city, a greenway system that serves as connections needs to be developed and implemented. Talent's Greenway Master Plan has developed a vision for connectivity. Allowing these visions to become reality marks the beginning of implementation or Phase 3. Implementation of this green network will be accomplished through subsequent feasibility studies and action plans that are site-specific.

Management and Maintenance

The following provides an explanation of the numerous factors concerning the management and maintenance of Talent's Greenways system.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Bear Creek Greenway Committee has initiated the evelopment of a management and operations plan through the Rogue Valley Council of Governments. For the Greenway to retain public support and use, consistent system-wide management is vital. Representatives from Jackson County, the five cities along Bear Creek, two irrigation districts, and citizens will be involved in identifying management issues and solutions. When the management plan is completed and approved by local governments, formal intergovernmental agreements to implement the plan will need to be produced.

Talent's current Greenways are jointly managed in partnership between Talent's Parks and Recreation Commission, Talent's Public Works, and Jackson County. Greenway development, management, maintenance, funding, and community/volunteer programs will also be components of the management partnership between the City and County. The Wagner Creek Greenway will be under the sole jurisdiction of the Talent Parks Commission and Public Works. Close coordination between officials of Talent and Jackson County must occur and future management responsibilities will be determined in the Bear Creek Greenway Management Plan presently under way.

Safety and Liability

Trail safety will receive careful consideration in the design phase. Design factors must include:

- Grade and cross-slope dimensions;
- Line of sight around corners;
- Pedestrian crossings at major road intersections; brush clearance;
- Proper Signage; and
- Congestion.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is currently the responsibility of the Talent Police Department because both greenway segments are located within the city limits. Presently, Talent has a Community Service Officer program that calls upon volunteers to help direct traffic at the schools during arrival and dismissal. These volunteers could be used as an enforcement body for the greenways. Future responsibilities will be outlined in the Greenway Management Plan. It is recommended that a volunteer steward program be established in accordance with the progress of development of the greenway system.

Emergency Response

Emergency response will continue to be the responsibility of the City of Ashland because it is the medical emergency response team for the City of Talent. It is a regional program made possible by federal funding that enables Ashland to provide this service to Talent.

Liability: ORS 105.672-699

Oregon Revised Statues (ORS), which governs all local governments, addresses the liability of the landowner for land that may be used by the public for recreational purposes.

Under ORS 105.672-699 a landowner is not liable in contract or tort for any personal injury, death, or property damage that arises out of the use of the land for recreational purposes. Whether directly or indirectly, if the landowner permits any person to use the land for recreational purposes, the landowner may not be held liable under normal circumstances.

Volunteers

It is strongly recommended that a volunteer program be created that promotes stewardship and celebration of the greenways from within the community. For example:

- Civic groups, youth organizations, or businesses may want to adopt a section of trail and be responsible for litter patrol and light maintenance;
- Groups may want to build, install, and maintain signs and benches (according to standard design); and
- Annual events could be organized around "Earth/Arbor Day" and "Down By The Riverside" for activities like creek restoration, vegetation control, and trail maintenance.

Partnerships

Partnerships linking the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation, the Bear Creek Greenway Citizen's Advisory Committee, the City of Talent, and other community service and civic groups will continue and increase through the development of Talent's Greenways System.

Acquisition of Land for a Greenway System

The land surrounding Bear Creek within the urban growth boundary is under state, county, or private ownership. While there is a bike/pedestrian path along Bear Creek,

except the four acres that are owned by the City of Talent. It is therefore desirable that the city acquire land to publicly preserve and enhance the natural state of Wagner Creek and deter future development along the creek banks, and increase the opportunity to increase public access and recreational trails. Acquisition for the purpose of greenway development, may be by purchase, leases, easements, or gifts.

The following types of acquisition strategies should be encouraged when the opportunity arises:

Temporary Binding Agreements

A short-term contract for securing a parcel of land is called a temporary binding agreement. However, there are three types of temporary binding agreements. A *management agreement* specifies how the property will be managed for the term of the contract. *Formal land leases* allow the lessee to control access and active land use practices for the property. Finally, a *long-term lease* is an alternative that addresses liability, as well as provides tax relief options (Flink and Searns).

Easements for Conservation or Public Access

An easement is a mutually binding legal contract between an individual or organization and a landowner that also provides a tax deduction for the landowner. There are two classifications of easements one an *affirmative easement* and the other a *negative easements.* An *affirmative easement* allows the easement holder to access and use the land at any time. *Negative easements* allow the individual or organization to restrict land use on the subject property. However, it does not allow the easement holder the right of access, use, improvement, or development of the land. Most easements are attached to the deed of the property (Flink and Searns).

A conservation easement is an agreement that defines physical limits on the use, treatment, and development of the land, to protect its natural resources while allowing the property owner to continue using the land. This type of easement is encouraged for protection of the land for the Wagner Creek Greenway. It supports the vision of this project, to protect the natural resources of Talent.

Securing the Title of Lands

Purchase or donation of the land in fee by an individual or an organization is another means to secure property for Talent's Greenways System. The City should be encouraged to purchase creek side lands as they become available.

Donations and Gifts

Donations of land to public agencies provide tax benefits for the donor. The Internal Revenue Service and the Oregon Department of Revenue have various programs to offset the costs of donating land to a public or non-profit agency.

Summary of Recommendations

The Greenways Master Plan for the City of Talent establishes guidelines for a carefully coordinated wildlife corridor focused on the improvement of habitat that will be specific to the needs of each creek. This master plan is designed to be the conceptual backbone for all future greenway developments along Bear and Wagner Creeks. It will be used as a tool for the connectivity of the community through alternative transportation. It will serve as a path that will connect the heart of downtown Talent to the Bear Creek Greenway through improvements to existing facilities, as well as the development of new amenities. Before any improvements are carried out a feasibility study and action plan will be created in an effort to maintain consistency between the vision and the implementation of Talent's Greenway system. The focus of this project is to conserve, preserve, and restore the natural resources of the community of Talent. It will serve as a means to connect the community and provide a place of scenic interest in a rapidly developing valley.

Recommendations

The following section lists the recommendations made for both Bear and Wagner Creeks. Linkage, recreational, educational, environmental opportunities are categorized for each creek. It is recommended that a feasibility study be completed before any improvement or development is added to the greenways.

Linkage to Bear Creek

1. Connecting Creel Road to the Bear Creek Greenway by creating alternative paths crossing at Creel Road and Highway 99
2. Constructing an alternative transportation path that is parallel to or crosses underneath the bridge at Suncrest Road on the north end of town
3. Extending the alternative transportation path along Suncrest Road to Highway 99. Also creating a path along the property line of the Anjou Club that comes out on to Highway 99 and continues to Valley View Road
4. Extending the Bear Creek Greenway on the west bank starting at Suncrest Road and ending at the confluence of Wagner Creek
5. Improving bike/pedestrian travel over the Valley View Bridge near Lynn Newbry Park

Recreational Improvements for Bear Creek

6. A community park on Suncrest Road along the west bank of Bear Creek, next to Talent's Public Works Department, to help meet the needs of Talent's residents that are under served recreationally in this area of town. This would simultaneously support the goals of Talent's Parks Master Plan as well as providing accessibility to proposed linkages
7. Establishing spur trails on one side of the DeYoung Ponds near Isabelle Sickel's Memorial to improve access for the educational improvements to this area while preserving wildlife habitat
8. Continue to maintain and improve the facilities of Lynn Newbry Park
9. The City of Talent will participate in creating a signage program for the Bear Creek Greenway

Educational Improvements for Bear Creek

10. Constructing signage and kiosks that focus on the unique ecological areas of interest and local history along Bear Creek
11. Developing an arboretum along the DeYoung Ponds near Isabel Sickel's Memorial to study wetlands and/or pond ecology
12. Creating an amphitheater to be used as a venue for environmental education activities as well as a community gathering area
13. Adoption of Bear Creek by local schools, service groups, or other volunteers in phases, or by reaches, in order to promote stewardship and ownership

Environmental Improvements for Bear Creek

14. Creating a management plan focusing on restoring the area with native species and addressing the current noxious weeds and non-native species populations
15. Restoration of the gravel ponds that are located along the Bear Creek Greenway near the orchards and behind the Oak Valley subdivision
16. Encouraging noise abatement of Interstate 5 in an effort to improve environmental quality where feasible

Linkage to Wagner Creek

A. Improving sidewalks and bike paths from Bear Creek Greenway and Lynn Newbry Park along Valley View Road to Talent Avenue
B. Improving the alternative transportation path down Talent Avenue to the Wagner Creek Bridge would allow for pedestrians to visit Wagner Creek

Greenway from a point of interest on the bridge. (A point of interest refers to an area reserved for observatory purposes where access is limited in order to preserve the ecological value of the area.)

C. Erecting a bike/pedestrian bridge on the bridge at Rapp Road to improve pedestrian safety and access to Wagner Creek Park, Joseph Drive Park, and the other city owned parcel across the creek from these parks

Recreational Opportunities for Wagner Creek

D. Developing Wagner Creek Park and Joseph Drive Park with minimal amenities while concentrating on the restoration, conservation, and preservation of Wagner Creek
E. Establishing a park behind Wal-Mart near the wetland area that is currently used as part of the storm-water management treatment system
F. Designing a trail along Wagner Creek from the confluence with Bear Creek until Wagner intersects with Valley View on the side of the Oak Valley Sub Division
G. Developing a feasibility study for a trail along Wagner Creek from Valley View to Talent Avenue

Educational Improvements for Wagner Creek

H. Coordinating the development of an arboretum to act as a display of the biodiversity of the region including an ornamental landscape showcase along Wagner on the city owned property adjacent to the creek and Rapp Road
I. Continuing the use of Wagner Creek Park as an outdoor classroom
J. Illustrating the value of a riparian area in a watershed system at 208 S. Pacific Highway 99, the most intact riparian area found along Wagner Creek, if land or access is acquired by the city
K. Adoption of Wagner Creek by local schools, service groups, and other volunteers in phases or reaches in order to promote stewardship and ownership

Environmental Improvements for Wagner Creek

L. Continual maintenance and restoration of city-owned property
M. Acquisition of easements and new lands
N. Designate and promote public lands along the creek as the Wagner Creek Greenway

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Flood Mitigation Plan for the City of Talent, City of Talent Community Development Department, 1999.

Flink, Charles A. and Robert M.Searns. *Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design, and Development.* Loring LaB. Schwarz ed. The Conservation Fund, Washington, D.C. 1993.

Historical and Cultural Resources for the City of Talent, Kay Atwood and Dennis Gray, 2001.

"I Feel Famous Here: Community Issues Regarding Transportation and Population Growth in Talent." Rogue Institute for Ecology & Environment, 1995.

Natural Resource Inventory for the City of Talent, Kerry KenCairn, Scott English, Bernie Knotts, Linda Chesney, and Steve Koskella, 2001.

Draft Subdivision Ordinance, City of Talent, 2001.

Transportation System Plan. Comprehensive Plan. City of Talent. Rogue Valley Council of Governments, 2000.

Wagner Creek Watershed Draft Analysis, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, 1997.

Appendix A: Funding Sources and Contact Information

Below is a list of several public, private, and non-profit agencies that provide funds to the development of greenways, community development, recreational development, environmental restoration projects, and educational activities.

Federal

Federal agencies allocate available funds to serve specific purposes related to parks and recreation. The following programs and contact information are provided for reference:

National Endowment for the Arts

The agency will fund ten projects under the Challenge America Fast Track Grants Program that target the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, graphic design, and industrial design.
Contact: http://arts.endow.gov/

TEA-21 Enhancement Funds

This funding source supports a range of transportation projects including the development of bicycle and pedestrian projects. Projects funded with these monies must be approved through the Regional Transportation Process and the Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT).
Contact: http://www.odot.state.or.us/techserv/bikewalk/funding.htm
Michael Ronkin
Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Management
Oregon Department of Transportation
PH: 503-986-3555

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program

This program provides grants for rehabilitation projects that focus on neighborhood parks and recreation sites that have deteriorated to the point where health and safety are endangered or the community's range of quality recreation service is impaired.
Contact: Partnerships Program,
National Parks Service
PH: 206-220-4126
http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/uparr/

State

State agencies make funds available to serve specific purposes related to parks and recreation. The following names are of relevant grant programs with contact information:

Local Government Grant Program

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) administers this program. They support acquisition and development projects for local parks. Small grants that do not exceed $50,000 total cost and large grants that exceed $50, 000 with a maximum of $250,000 are available through this program.

Contact: http://www.prd.state.or.us/grants-localgov.html
Marilyn Lippincott
Grants Project Officer
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
PH: 503-378-4618

State Bicycle Funds

This revenue source is from the 1% state gas taxes facilities collected by the state and distributed to each city and county based on population, for the development and maintenance of bicycle lanes.

Urban Forestry Grants

There are several funding grant programs that provide money for urban forestry projects. One is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. Urban street tree planting programs are sometimes funded by these grants.

Contact: http://www.odf.state.or.us/
Kristin Ramstad
Oregon Department of Forestry
PH: 503-945-7200

Private Foundations and Non-Profit Organizations

Private foundations will fund land acquisition, developments, and maintenance of existing parks. The following names are of relevant grant programs with contact information:

Ben B. Cheney Foundation:

The Ben B. Cheney Foundation makes grants to entities in Washington, Oregon, and Northern California for capital projects and program development related to civic and cultural activities, education, health, social services, and youth and the elderly.
Contact: William O. Rieke M.D.,
Executive Director
PH: 253-572-2442

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Priority is given to investments that serve as a catalyst to quicken the pace of progress, and to efforts whose net effect is to augment, not supplant, government funding streams. Grants are made by submitting a letter of inquiry to one of the following program areas Global Health, Pacific Northwest, and Public Access to Information.
Contact: www.gatesfoundation.org

The Carpenter Foundation

This is a foundation that supports projects in Jackson and Josephine Counties.
Not for deficit financing, endowments, or demonstration programs.
711 East Main St Suite 10
PO Box 816
Medford OR 97501
PH: 541-772-5851

The Conservation Fund American Greenways Program

The American Greenways DuPont Awards Program is administered by The Conservation Fund, and provides small grants to local greenway projects.
Contact: Amy Gibson
PH: 703-525-6300
http://www.conservationfund.org/conservation/amgreen/index.html

The Collins Foundation

The Foundation funds projects that focus on developing the arts, humanities, education, environment, religion, youth activities, and community.

Contact: Cynthia G. Adams

PH: 503-227-7171

www.collinsfoundation.org

Fohs Foundation:

Applicants have to be from the northwest and their projects need to focus on economic development, human services, children/youth, environment, and education.

Contact: Rosemary Cooper

Secretary-Treasurer

Fohs Foundation

PH: 541-447-1587

Ford Family Foundation

c/o Roseburg Forest Products Co.

This foundation makes grants to organizations in rural communities in Oregon and the northwest for projects related to community improvement and development, education, and recreation

Contact: Susie Johnston-Forte

PH: 541-957-5574

http://www.tfff.org/

Meyer Memorial Trust:

The Trust offers both general grants and small grants for capital projects, program development, general operations, and continuing project support.

Contact: Charles S. Rooks

Executive Director

PH: 503-228-5512

http://www.mmt.org/

The Oregon Community Foundation

The Oregon Community Foundation makes grants to tax exempt 501(c)(3) organizations throughout Oregon for various causes including community enrichment, economic development, capital projects, program development and expansion, and matching funding.

Contact: http://www.oregoncommunityfound.org/Default.htm
Gregory A. Chaill
President
Oregon Community Foundation
PH: 503-227-6846

Woodard Family Foundation

The Woodard Family Foundation makes grants to non-profit entities in Oregon for religious, charitable, scientific, educational, and economic development purposes.

Contact: Carlton Woodard
President
Woodard Family Foundation
PH: 503-942-2458

Community (Fundraising)

The following are possible sources of revenue for acquiring, developing, and maintenance of parks and other recreational facilities.

General Obligation Bonds (G.O. Bonds)

G.O. Bonds are voter-approved bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The money can only be used for capital improvements and not maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specific period of time (usually 20-30 years). These bonds require a double majority vote except in years of general elections. This type of property tax does not affect the overall tax limitation as described in a special serial levy. One disadvantage of this type of levy is the interest cost.

Special Assessment and Local Improvement Districts

Residents may choose to form a local improvement district (LID) to pay for capital improvements or maintenance of facilities through special assessments on their property. This method requires the approval of at least 51% of the owners of land

within the proposed district, and must represent at least 51% of the land abutting the proposed improvement. The use of LID's may be appropriate for new mini-parks in locations where homeowner associations do not exist or are not formed.

User Fees and Rent Payments

User fees and rents are direct charges to individuals and groups who use specific programs, facilities, and services. These fees and rents usually help pay only a portion of the costs of providing public programs and services. User fees generally are set at levels sufficient to cover only a portion of program and maintenance costs, and are rarely used to fund capital projects. When renting a facility the group or individual must comply with the rules and regulations of the specific facility.

Public Land Trusts

The Trust for Public Lands, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, and The Southern Oregon Land Trust all acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a non-profit agency.

National Tree Trust

The National Tree Trust provides trees through two programs: America's Treeways and Community Tree Planting. These programs require that volunteers plant the trees on public lands. Additionally, the America's Treeway program requires 100 seedlings minimum to be planted along public highways.

In-Kind Contributions

The City of Talent will continue to utilize staff to support this project. Ideally, in-kind contributions will come from the Community Development Department, Parks Department, Public Works, and Administration Department.

Volunteers

The City of Talent should encourage civic responsibility and stewardship. Public, private, and non-profit organizations may be willing to fund outright or join together with the city to provide additional parks and recreation facilities and/or services. The city should always promote volunteerism by all ages. The following are organizations that have supported development, acquisition, maintenance, and parks and recreation projects:

Bear Creek Rotary Club

This is service organization that donates labor and funds to local projects emphasizing community development.
Contact: John Hanson
PH: 541 776-3405

Bear Creek Youth Conservation Corps

This is a local chapter of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps. In the past this group has donated labor for environmental projects such as riparian area restoration and park development.
Contact: Ryan Munn

Kiwanis Club

This is a service organization that has donated labor and/or funds for community development projects in the past.
Contact: Jim Buck
622 Seventh Fairway Drive
Medford, OR

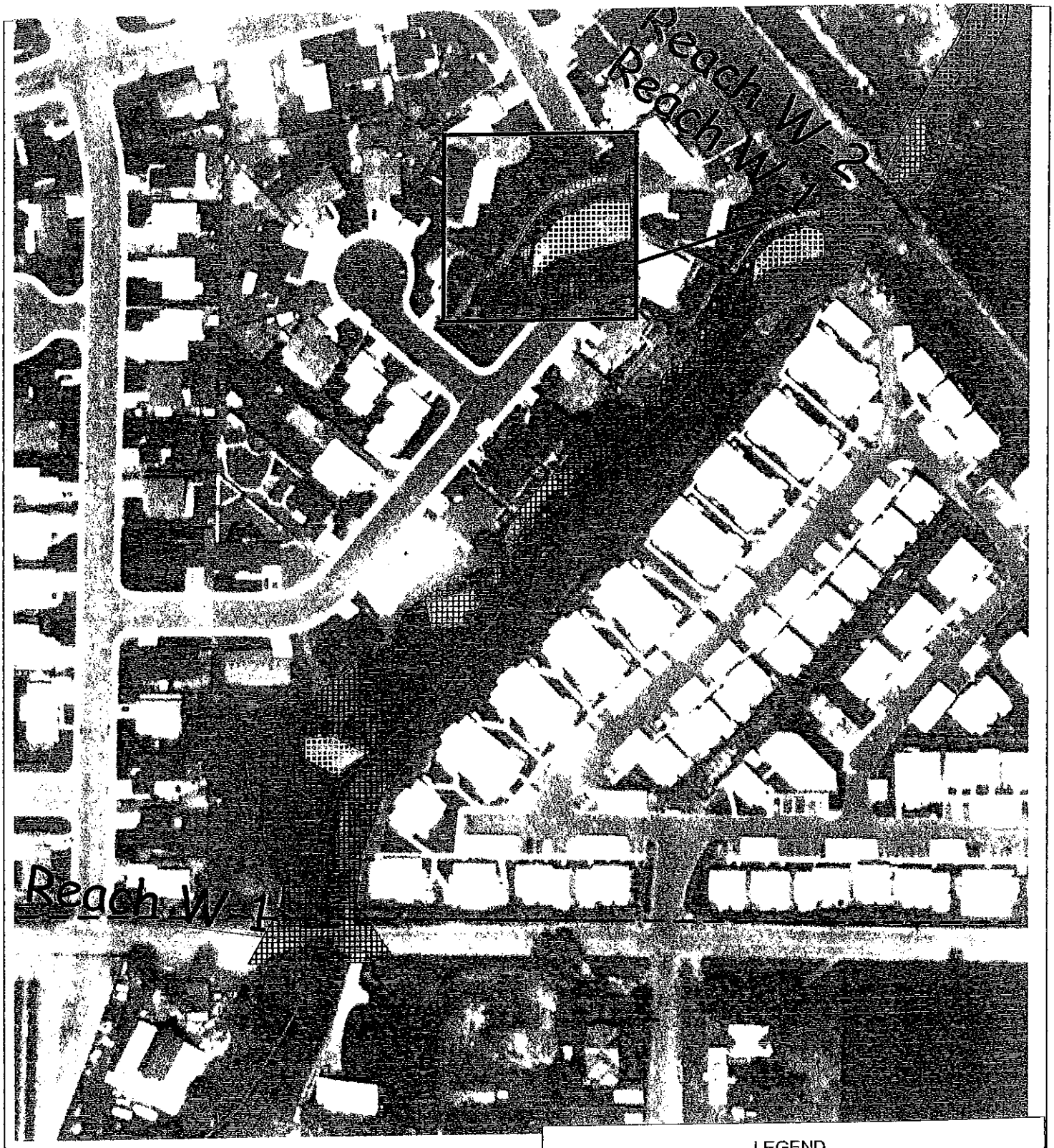
Regional Ecosystem Applied Learning Corps

REAL Corps is an AmeriCorps program affiliated with Southern Oregon University based out of Ashland. This group has experience with building trail, riparian area restoration, designing landscapes, and coordinating community educational outreach activities.
Contact: Bill Fleeger
1250 Siskiyou Boulevard
Ashland, OR 97520

Other organizations to be considered for educational and/or projects include Southern Oregon University's Environmental Education Master's Program, Bear Creek Watershed Education Partnership (BCWEP), the Talent Boys and Cub Scouts, and the Phoenix-Talent School District.

Appendix B
Consultants Environmental Restoration Recommendations

The consultants broke each creek into reaches. Wagner Creek was divided into four reaches while Bear Creek was divided into five. The following section has aerial maps of each section with the recommendations for restoration projects assessed by the team of consultants who completed Talent's Natural Resource Inventory.



Wagner Creek Reach W-1
Vegetation Cover

60 0 60 120 Feet

N

Date: January 10, 2001

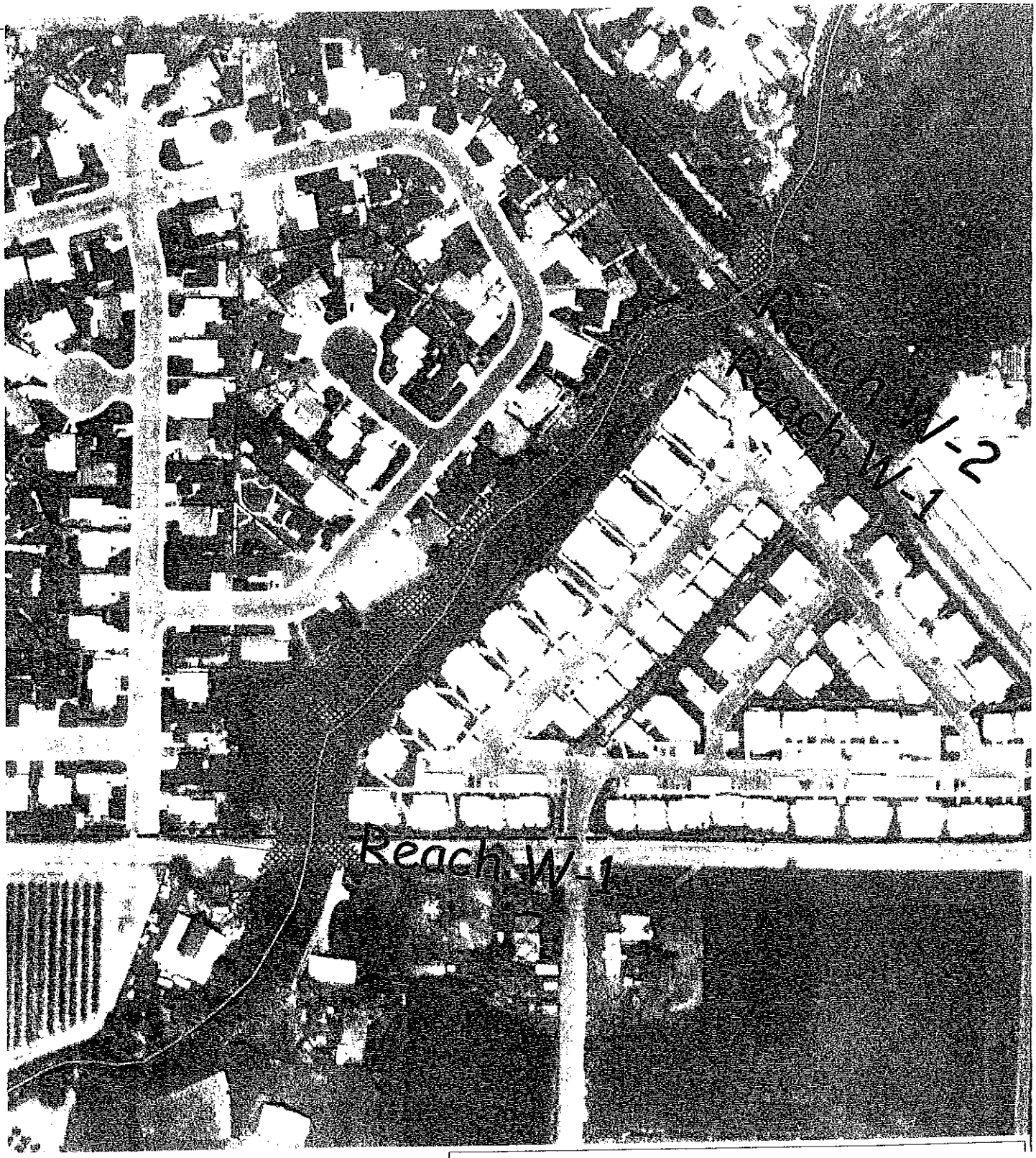
LEGEND

Vegetation Communities
- BAREGROUND/DISTURBED
- EMERGENT WETLANDS
- GRASS/FORB
- OPEN WATER
- ORNAMENTAL/LANDSCAPED
- RIPARIAN SHRUB-SCRUB
- RIPARIAN/HARDWOOD FOREST
- UPLAND FOREST

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

Water Features
- CREEKS
- CANALS

TRS
- TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
- SECTION LINES



Wagner Creek Reach W-1
Riparian Zone

90 0 90 180 Feet

N

Date: January 10, 2001

LEGEND

Water Features

CREEKS

CANALS

Riparian Zone

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

TRS

TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES

SECTION LINES

Wagner Creek W-1

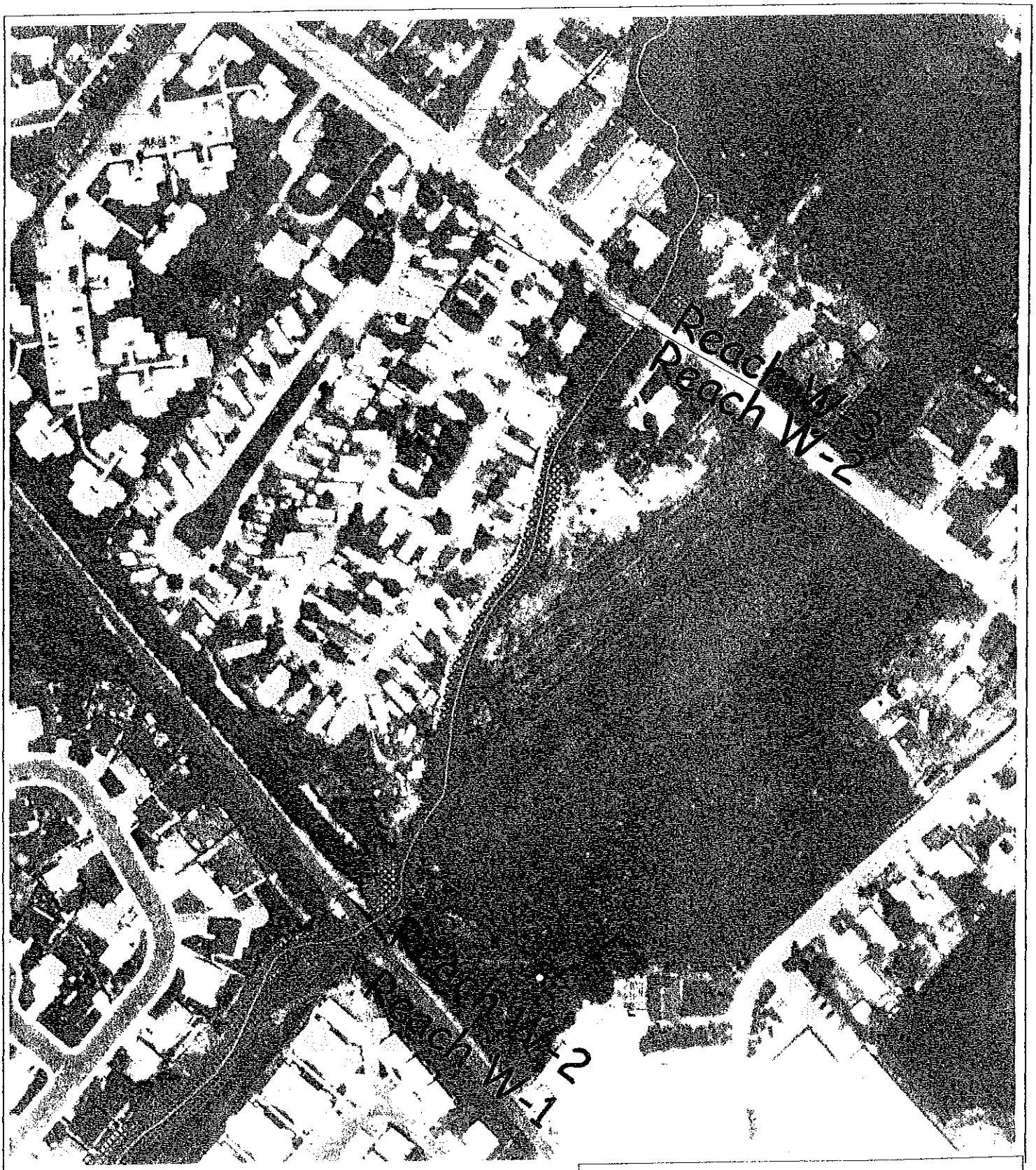
Restoration/Enhancement Opportunities

The full spanning rock weirs appear to be providing fisheries benefits and should be retained. Residents should be educated as to best design, and possible permitting issues with regulatory agencies. Generally these structures should be kept very small (less than 0.5 ft.) to avoid creating barriers to fish passage or reducing high flow conveyance capacity.

Wagner Creek Reach W-2
Vegetation Cover

60 0 60 120 Feet

Date: January 10, 2001



Wagner Creek Reach W-2
Riparian Zone-

60 0 60 120 Feet

Date: January 10, 2001

N

LEGEND

Water Features
CREEKS
CANALS
Riparian Zone

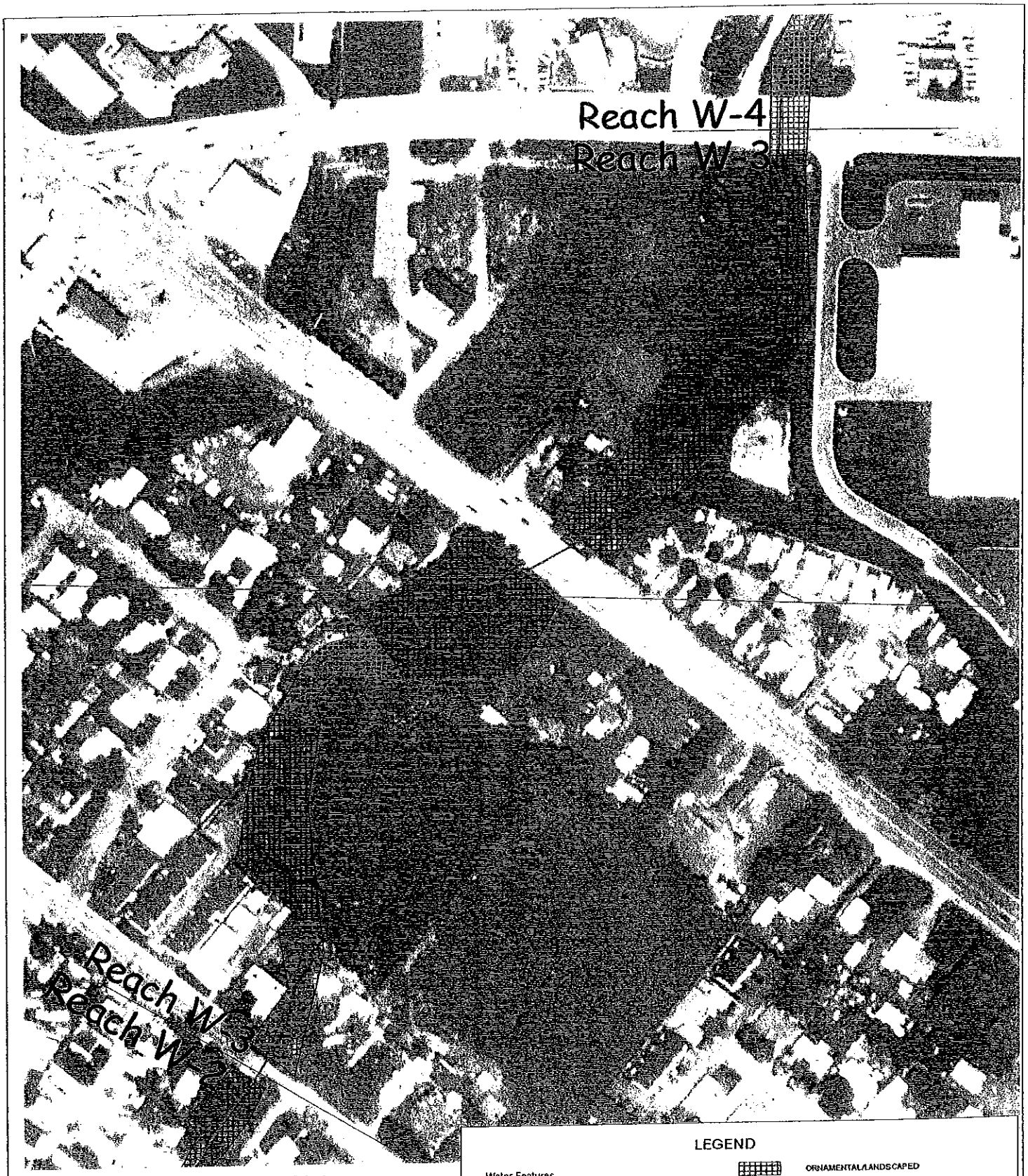
URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

TRS
TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
SECTION LINES

Wagner Creek W-2

Restoration/Enhancement Opportunities

The heavy armoring of both banks presents an opportunity to change the stream gradient with little chance of causing bank erosion. Full spanning rock weirs could create step pool/cascade sequence that would add diversity and habitat value to the stream reach. The weirs would collect gravel while the pools would create resting and feeding stations. These habitat enhancements would work best as the vegetative cover increases over time. Any in-stream work will require a permit from the Division of State Lands, with input from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Wagner Creek Reach W-3
Vegetation Cover

90 0 90 180 Feet

N

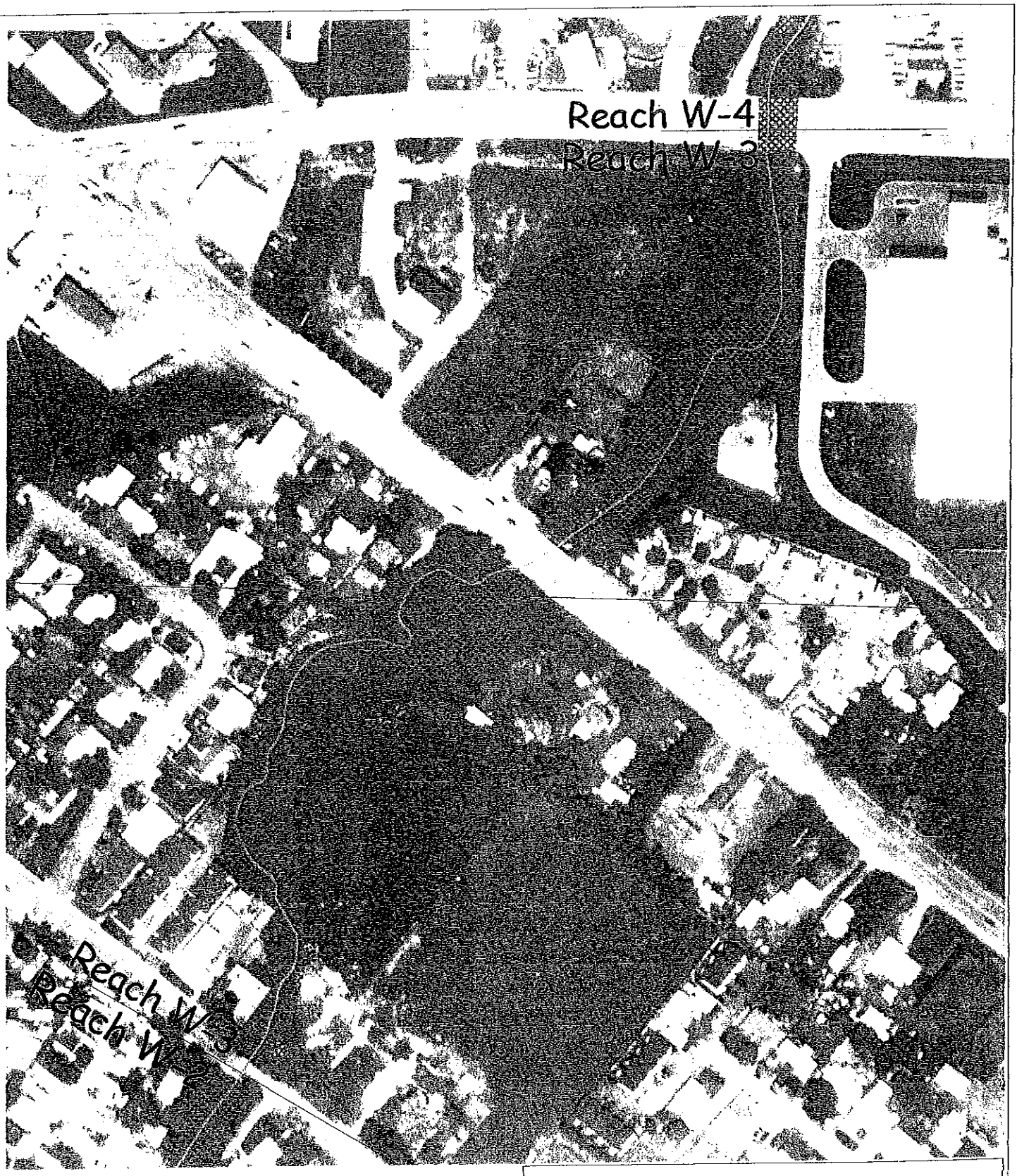
Date: January 10, 2001

LEGEND

Water Features
- CREEKS
- CANALS

Vegetation Communities
- BAREGROUND/DISTURBED
- EMERGENT WETLANDS
- GRASS/FORB
- OPEN WATER
- ORNAMENTAL/LANDSCAPED
- RIPARIAN SHRUB-SCRUB
- RIPARIAN/HARDWOOD FOREST
- UPLAND FOREST
- URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

TRS
- TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
- SECTION LINES



Wagner Creek Reach W-3
Vegetation Cover

90 0 90 180 Feet

Date: January 10, 2001

N

LEGEND

Water Features
CREEKS
CANALS
Riparian Zone

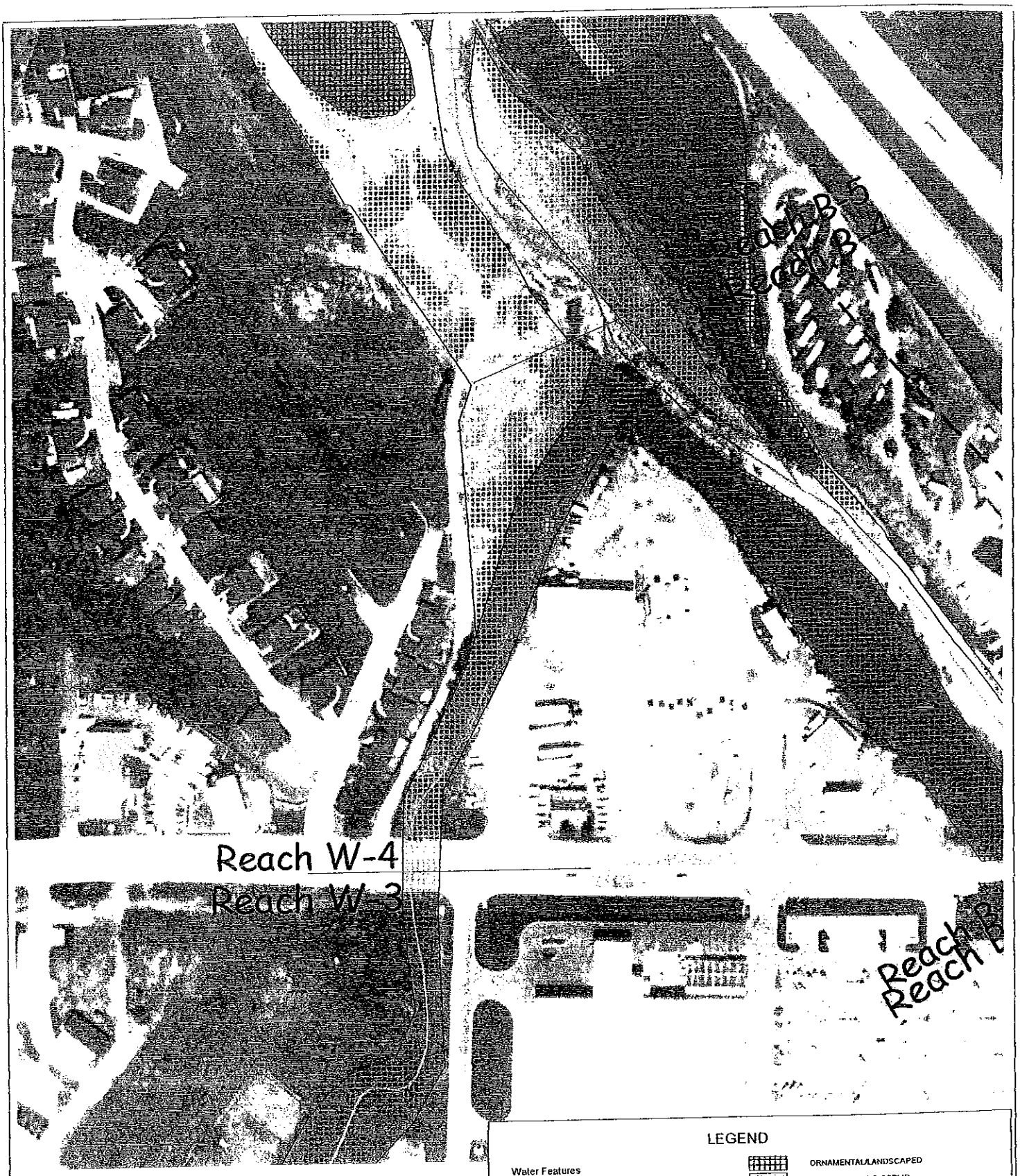
URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

TRS
TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
SECTION LINES

Wagner Creek W-3

Restoration/Enhancement Opportunities

Place nest boxes for wood ducks, swallows, and bats. Retain woody debris in channel and snags in gallery forest.



Wagner Creek Reach W-4
Vegetation Cover

100 0 100 200 Feet

N

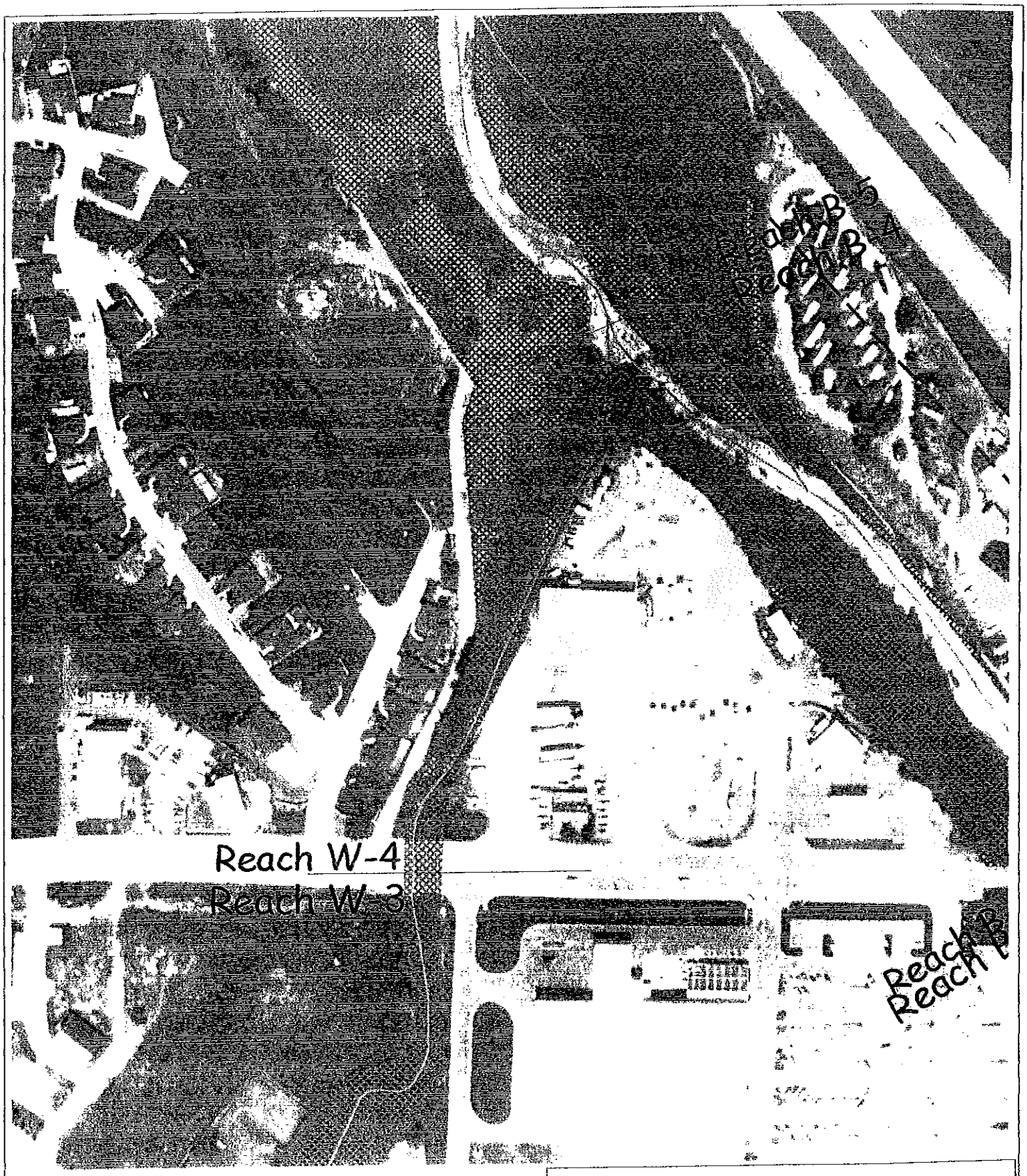
Date: January 10, 2001

LEGEND

Water Features
- CREEKS
- CANALS

Vegetation Communities
- BAREGROUND/DISTURBED
- EMERGENT WETLANDS
- GRASS/FORB
- OPEN WATER
- ORNAMENTAL/LANDSCAPED
- RIPARIAN SHRUB-SCRUB
- RIPARIAN/HARDWOOD FOREST
- UPLAND FOREST
- URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

TRS
- TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
- SECTION LINES



Wagner Creek Reach W-4
Riparian Zone

60 0 60 120 Feet

Date: January 10, 2001

N

LEGEND

Water Features
CREEKS
CANALS
Riparian Zone

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

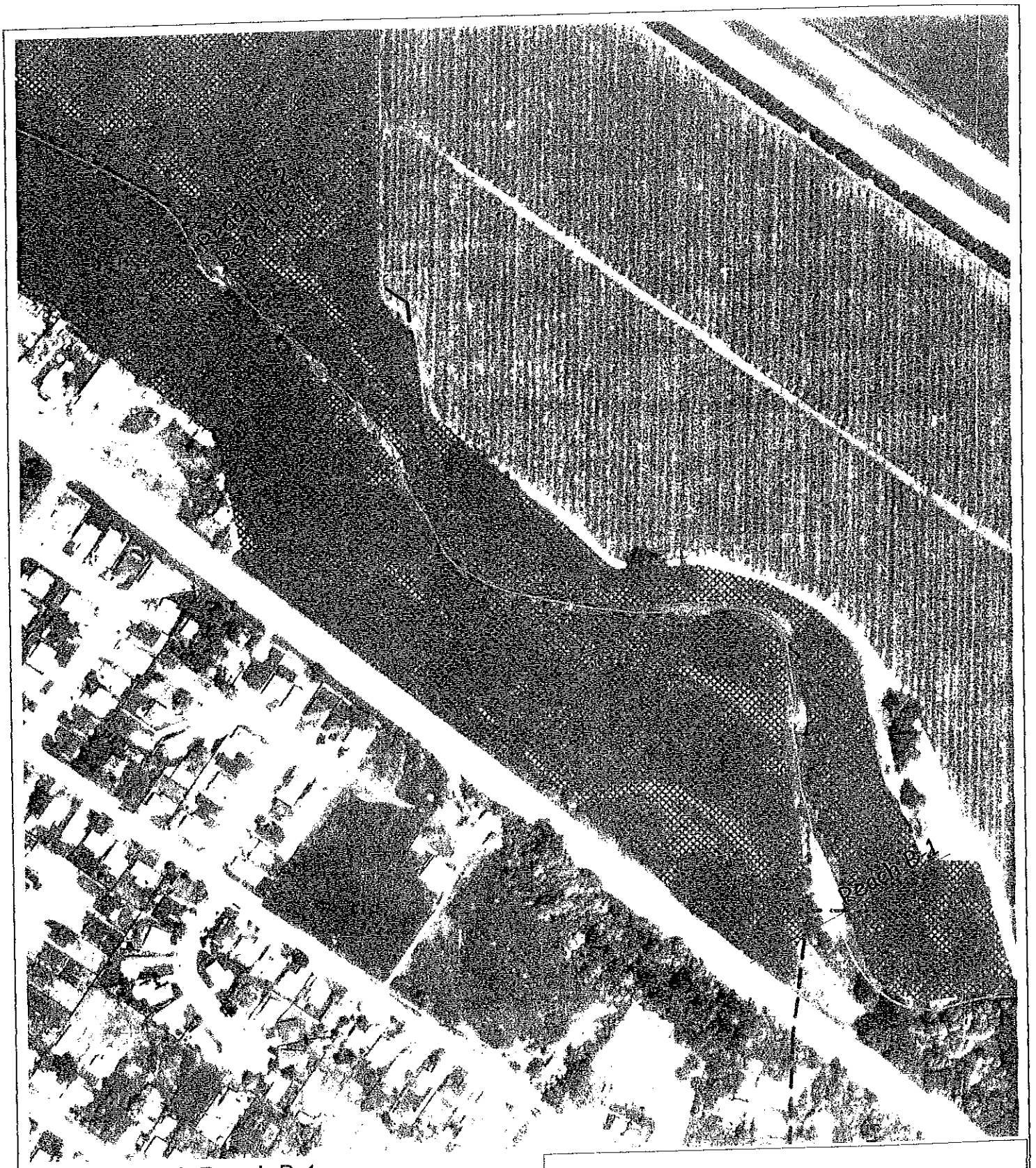
TRS
TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
SECTION LINES

Wagner Creek W-4

Restoration/Enhancement Opportunities

Currently the existing parking lot on the left hand bank encroaches nearly into the active channel. Re-grading and planting a riparian strip along the creek would lessen the discontinuity of Wagner Creek, and improve water quality through shading. Channel alignment in the lower half of the reach could be shifted to the middle of the open bare area, which could be re-graded to create an active flood plain and planted

Bear Creek Reach B-1
Riparian Zone
100 0 100 200 Feet
Date: January 10, 2001
N
LEGEND
Water Features
CREEKS
CANALS
Riparian Zone
URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY
TRS
TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
SECTION LINES



Bear Creek Reach B-1
Riparian Zone

100 0 100 200 Feet

Date: January 10, 2001

N

LEGEND

Water Features

CREEKS

CANALS

Riparian Zone

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

TRS

TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES

SECTION LINES

Bear Creek B-1

Restoration/Enhancement Opportunities

- Remove blackberries and plant a variety of native riparian vegetation, adjacent to the bike path, to act as a wildlife habitat buffer between the bike path and the riparian forest.
- Plant native riparian vegetation along the stream bank to provide shade and bank stability. Also, the rock weir that is there in conjunction with the large pump station could be modified to provide better fish passage.
- Protect old cut-off channel complex. Install wood duck boxes and add woody debris to enhance habitat for fish and turtles.
- Remove abandoned cars if agreeable with landowner and/or if located on public land. Remove blackberries and plant native riparian vegetation in area to provide needed shade along this section of the creek. Photo B-1-p.

Bear Creek Reach B-2
Riparian Zone

100 0 100 200 Feet

N

Date: January 10, 2001

LEGEND

Water Features

CREEKS

CANALS

Riparian Zone

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

TRS

TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES

SECTION LINES

Bear Creek Reach B-2
Vegetation Cover

100 0 100 200 Feet

N

Date: January 10, 2001

LEGEND

Vegetation Communities
- BAREGROUND/DISTURBED
- EMERGENT WETLANDS
- GRASS/FORB
- OPEN WATER
- *ORNAMENTAL/LANDSCAPED*
- RIPARIAN SHRUB-SCRUB
- RIPARIAN/HARDWOOD FOREST
- UPLAND FOREST

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

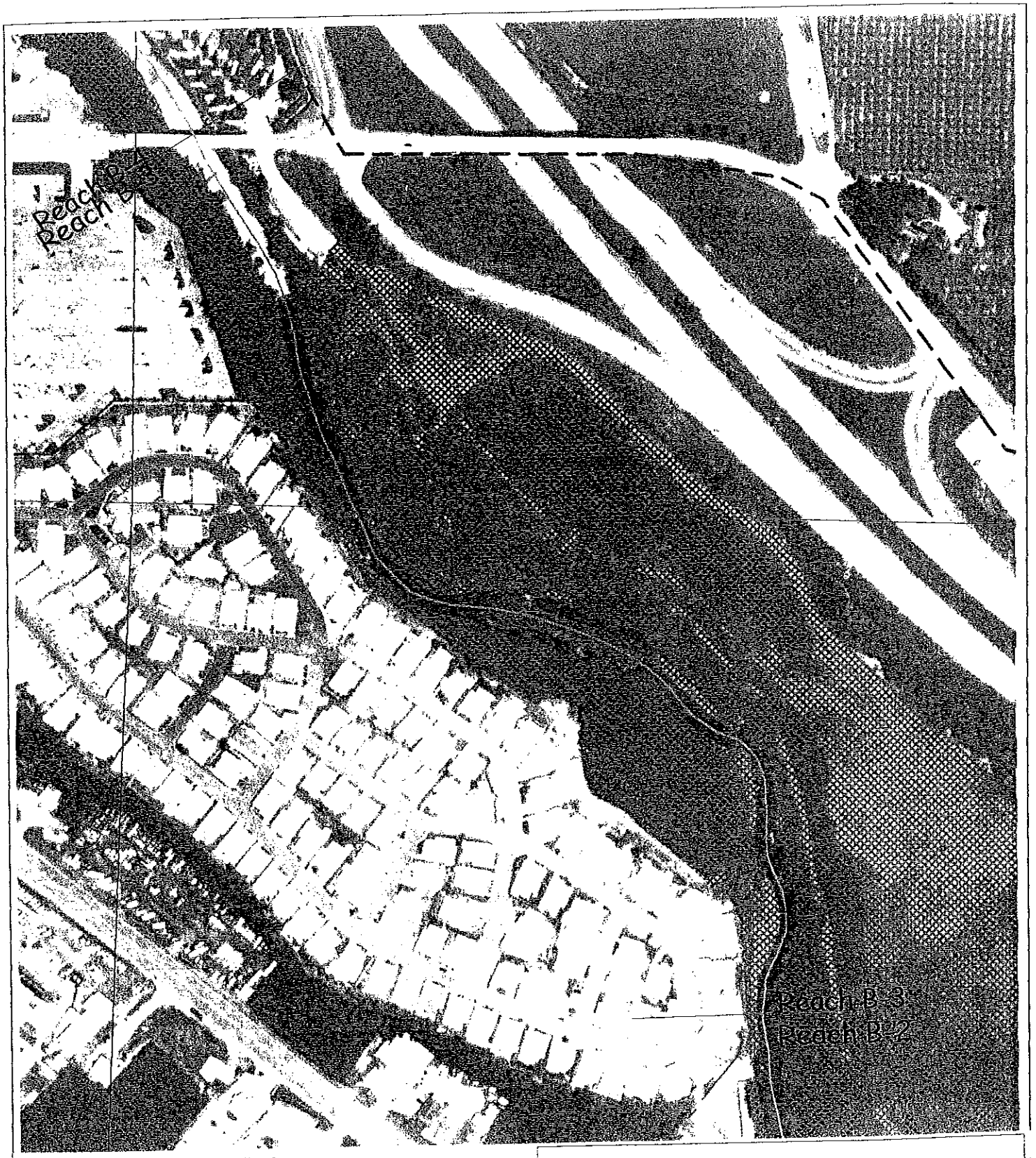
Water Feaures
- CREEKS
- CANALS

TRS
- TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
- SECTION LINES

Bear Creek B-2

Restoration/Enhancement Opportunities

- Add in-stream rock structures to bedrock reaches to help trap fish spawning gravel.
- Provide and anchor large woody debris to pool areas that lack cover habitat.



Bear Creek Reach B-3
Riparian Zone

100 0 100 200 Feet

Date: January 10, 2001

N

LEGEND

Water Features

CREEKS

CANALS

Riparian Zone

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

TRS

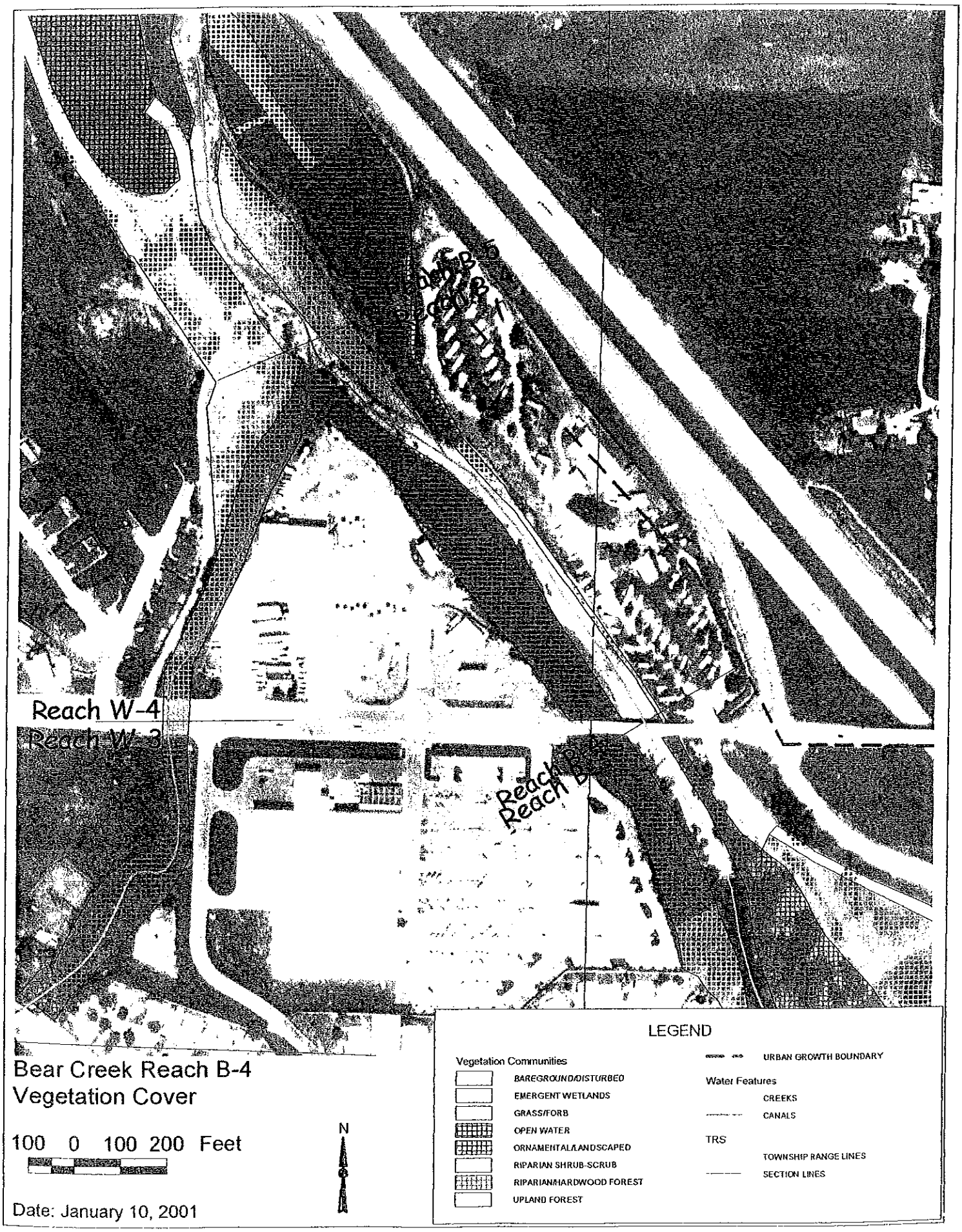
TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES

SECTION LINES

Bear Creek B-3

Restoration Opportunities

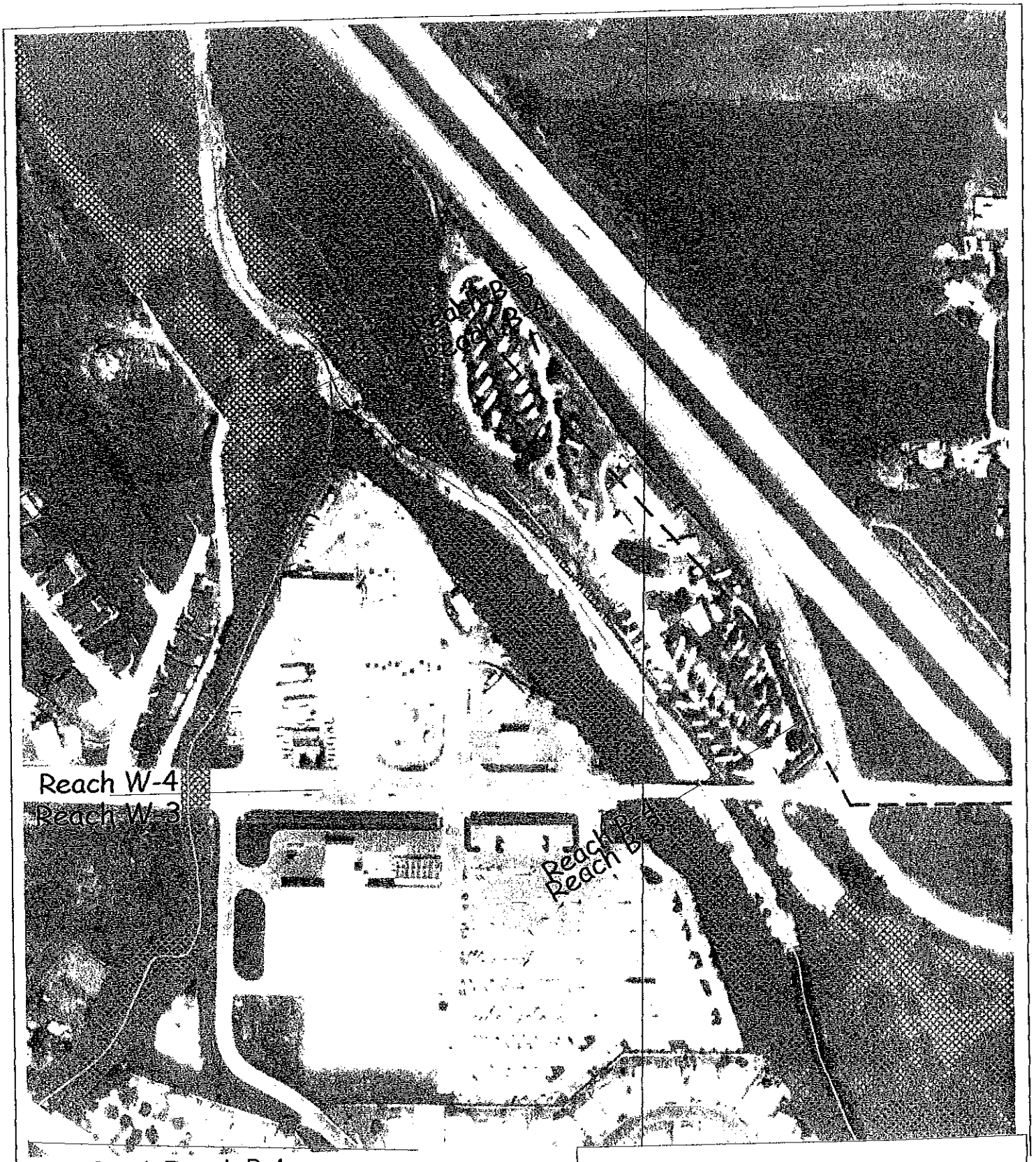
- Placement of large woody debris in several of the glide and pool areas.
- Planting riparian vegetation and blackberry clearing along the right bank of the channel in Newbry Park and in bare areas adjacent to Mountain View Mobile Home Park.



Bear Creek Reach B-4
Vegetation Cover

100 0 100 200 Feet

Date: January 10, 2001



Bear Creek Reach B-4
Riparian Zone

100 0 100 200 Feet

N

Date: January 10, 2001

LEGEND

Water Features
CREEKS
CANALS
Riparian Zone

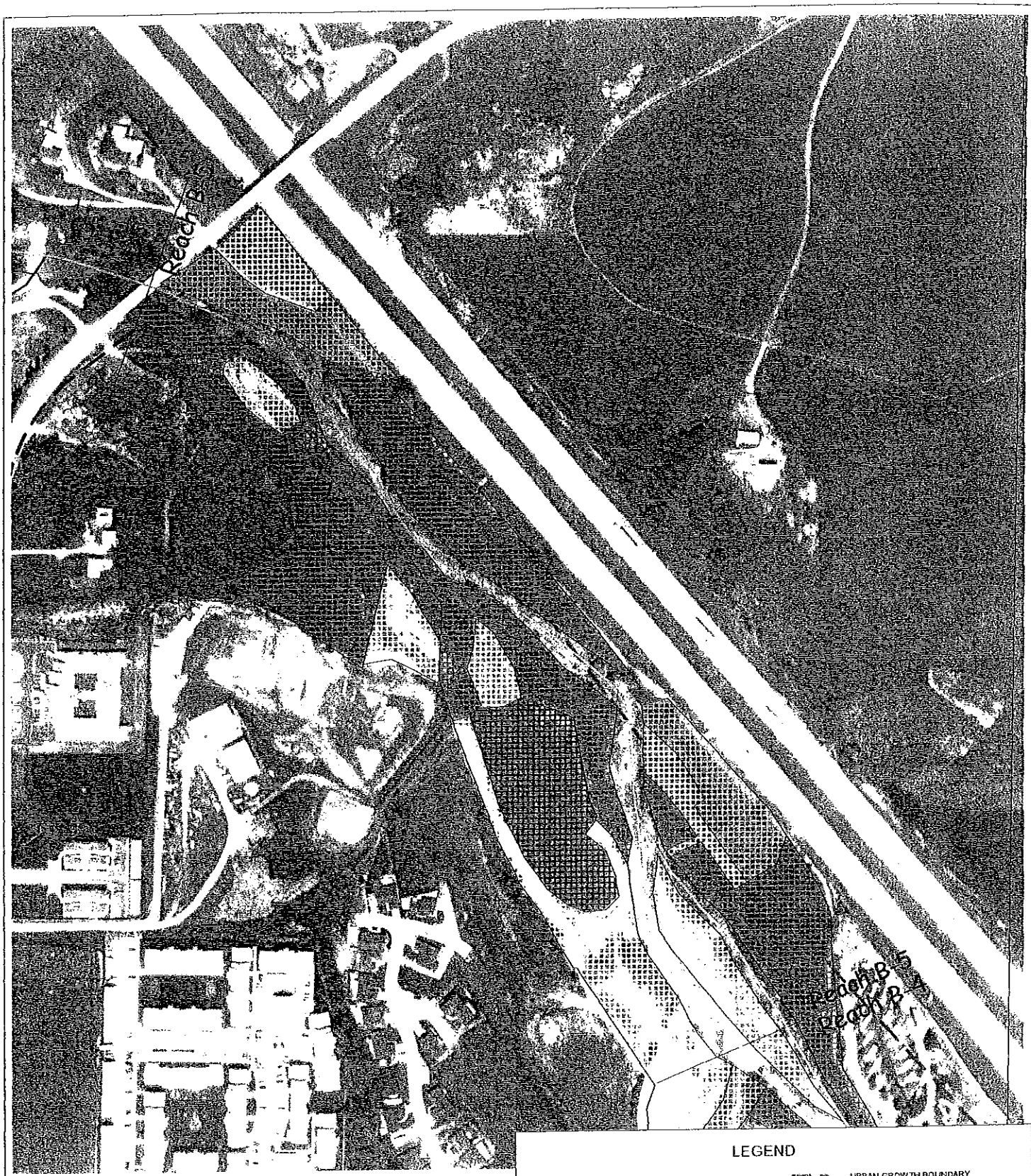
URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

TRS
TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
SECTION LINES

Bear Creek B-4

Restoration Opportunities

- Suggest planting willow cuttings in the intersticial spaces provided by the extensive rip-rap along the right bank.



Bear Creek Reach B-5
Vegetation Cover

100 0 100 200 Feet

N

Date: January 10, 2001

LEGEND

Vegetation Communities
- BAREGROUND/DISTURBED
- EMERGENT WETLANDS
- GRASS/FORB
- OPEN WATER
- ORNAMENTAL/LANDSCAPED
- RIPARIAN SHRUB-SCRUB
- RIPARIAN/HARDWOOD FOREST
- UPLAND FOREST

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

Water Features
- CREEKS
- CANALS

TRS
- TOWNSHIP RANGE LINES
- SECTION LINES

Bear Creek B-5

Restoration Opportunities

- Large woody debris could be added to the existing alcove area.
- A rather large barren area adjacent to the Wagner Creek confluence and the gravel extraction pond could be planted with a variety of riparian vegetation species.
- A large barren area along the left bank, near Suncrest Road could also be planted with riparian vegetation.
- Riparian vegetation could also be planted along the recently created high-flow channel along the right bank, across from Wagner Creek.
- Large woody debris could be added to the pond to create basking habitat for turtles

Appendix C: Public Outreach

The following is a letter that was distributed to the landowners and property managers along Bear and Wagner creeks prior to the charrette in April 2001:

May 8, 2001

Dear Homeowner or Property Manager:

In February 2001, the City of Talent called on interested citizens to form Talent's Greenways Committee. This committee is developing a Greenway Parks Master Plan for the sections of Bear and Wagner Creeks within the urban growth boundary. On Saturday May 19, 2001, Talent's Greenways Committee will host a greenway design workshop. To ensure all property owners along the creeks have an opportunity to voice their concerns, you are invited to an open forum discussion from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on May 19, 2001 at Talent Community Hall located next to City Hall. The discussion will focus on the following five topics:

1. **What is a Greenway?**

Greenways/Open Space are typically linear areas that are usually publicly owned; they are usually described as open space and undeveloped land left primarily in its natural state and include: areas along streams, rivers, ridge lines, service roads, or utility- or transit right-of-ways; areas that protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat; areas that educe flood hazards; areas that maintain or improve water quality or quantity; areas that provide K-12 and public educational programs; and finally areas that may include recreational trails for walking, jogging, horseback riding, and/or bicycling, where appropriate.

2. **How do greenways bring economic benefits to our community?**

Greenways attribute to an increase of property values; create a new or add to an existing tourism base; provide intrinsic value; encourage business to relocate to the area; commercial uses; and reduce public cost from floods, erosion, and other natural hazards. Lithia Park is a great example of how a greenway can contribute to an increase in property values, generate tourism, and attract new residents, commercial and residential.

3. **Will a greenway affect your property taxes and/or values?**

Many studies demonstrate that parks, greenways, and trails increase nearby property values.

4. **What is a conservation easement?**

A conservation easement places physical limits on the long-term use, treatment, and development of the land, to protect its natural resources while allowing the property owner to continue using the land. Often property taxes are reduced for conserved properties.

5. **What are individual concerns about greenways that have not been mentioned or addressed above?**

Please take some time and reflect on these topics. Talent's Greenway's Committee appreciates your time and support of this project. To prepare properly for the forum, the committee requests your RSVP by Monday, May 14, 2001 to Meghan Mac Kenzie at 535-7401. If you will be unable to attend, please submit your responses to the discussion questions to Ms. Mac Kenzie at City Hall by Wednesday, May 16, 2001. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

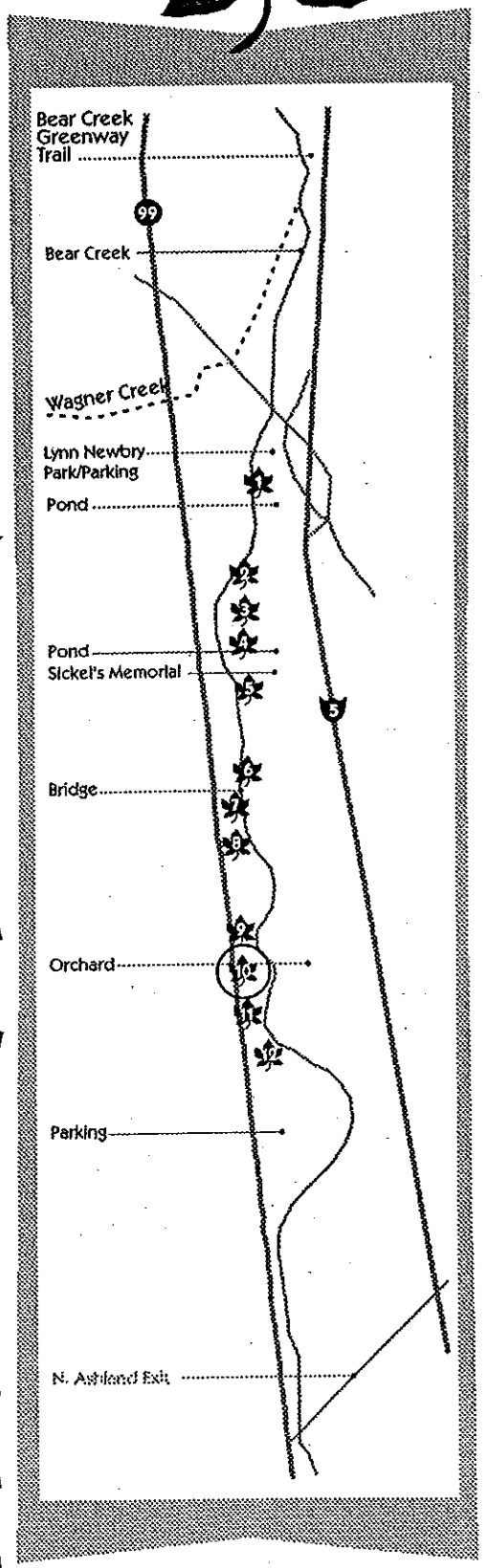
Melissa Brown	Dan Bish	Bill Cecil
Kathy Claussen	Phyllis Douglas	Howard DeYoung
Doug Edwards	John Gardner	Katrina Hill
Meghan Mac Kenzie	Michael O'Rourke	Dorothy Vogel

Talent's Greenway Committee

Issue 9 of 12, July 2001 : Número 9 de 12, julio de 2001

THE TALENT TRAIL

A Place in Transition



Trees With Wet Feet

Lately, Talent residents have been talking about the quality of water in our creeks. Creeks require vegetation to shade and cool the water, enabling fish to spawn. For the most part, both Wagner and Bear creeks are shaded, but there are areas where the water bakes in the sun and gets too hot for fish.

We call the trees that help creeks "trees with wet feet" because they tolerate wet soil. Among them are White Alder, willows, Black Cottonwood, Big Leap Maple and Oregon Ash. You can see some of these trees around **Trail Stop #10** on the Bear Creek Greenway Trail.

When you walk or jog near the creeks, look for the spots where you think water may get too hot, or where it's shaded and cool. In time, we hope to help our creeks become a cooler and healthier habitat for fish.

HEARTFELT THANKS *to Jackson County & the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation for permission to excerpt from The Bear Creek Greenway Trail Guide; Tom Foster for field checking and updating the trail information; Ramon Galvan for translation; and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program.*

Árboles con Pies Mojados

Últimamente los habitantes de Talent han platicado sobre la calidad del agua en nuestros riachuelos. Los riachuelos requieren vegetación para darles sombra y mantener el agua fría, cosa que los peces necesitan para desover. La mayor parte de los riachuelos Wagner y Bear tienen sombra, pero hay partes donde el agua está expuesta al sol y se caliente demasiado para los peces.

Se dice de los árboles que protegen nuestros riachuelos "árboles con piés mojados" porque ellos toleran suelo húmedo. Entre ellos se cuenten el aliso blanco, los sauces, el álamo negro, el arce de hojas grandes, y el fresno de Oregon. Usted puede ver algunos de estos árboles cerca de **la estación número 10** del Sendero de Vía Verde de Bear Creek.

Cuando camine o trotée por los riahuelos, esté atento a lugares donde a usted le parece que el agua se puede recalentar. Con tiempo esperamos lograr que nuestros riachuelos sean mas frios, dandole un ámbito mas saludable a los peces.

AGRADECIMIENTOS EFUSIVOS *a la Fundación de la Vía Verde del Bear Creek por el permiso de extraer del Guía de los Senderos de la Vía Verde del Bear Creek; Tom Foster por su estudio de campo y revisión de la información referente a los senderos; Ramon Galvan por traducir; y al Programa de Apoyo a los Ríos, Senderos, y Conservación de la Dirección de Parques Nacionales.*

City of Talent Planning Department
204 E. Main St.
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Talent Greenways Vision

"To create and enhance greenways along Wagner and Bear Creeks that will preserve the natural wildlife and habitat, provide a beautiful common space for the people of Talent and visitors, and provide an area for environmental education and recreation interests."

Vision para las Vías Verdes de Talent

"Crear y realzar las Vías Verdes a lo largo de los riachuelos Wagner Creek y Bear Creek las cuales conservarán la vida silvestre y el habitar proporcionar un bello espacio comun para las personas y visitantes de Talent, y proveer un area para la educacion sobre el medio ambiente y usos de recreo."

Copies of the newsletter are available at City Hall and the Library.
Se disponen de copias de este circular en la oficinas de la Ciudad de Talent y en la biblioteca.

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July News

A Plan for Our Greenways

The Talent Greenway Committee (TGC) has made substantial progress on a plan for the City's greenways on Wagner and Bear creeks. The draft greenway plan will be finalized by the TGC on **Tuesday July 17th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Valley Clubhouse.** Review copies of the draft plan will be available one week before this final review meeting.

City Planning Department staff and Greenway Committee members will then present their recommendations and the final Talent Greenways Master Plan to the City's Parks and Planning Commissions. A joint session will be held on **Thursday July 26th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Talent Community Hall.**

With approval from the Planning and Parks commissions, the Talent Greenways Master Plan will have it's **first City Council review on Wednesday August 1st.** Talent's Greenway Committee is optimistic that the greenway plan will be **adopted by the City Council at the August 15th council session.**

For Greenway Information, or to request a review copy of the draft greenway plan, contact Meghan Mac Kenzie at 535-7401.

Un Plan Para Nuestras Vías Verdes

El Comité las Vías Verdes de Talent ha hecho un progreso substancial en el plan de las vías verdes de la ciudad en los riachuelos Wagner y Bear. El bosquejo del plan será finalizado por el Comité **el martes 17 de julio a las 6:30 PM en el Casino Oak Valley.** Copias del bosquejo del plan estarán disponibles para revisar una semana antes de esta reunion final de revisión.

A continuación el Departamento de Desarrollo de Comunidad y miembros del Comité de la Vía Verde presentarán sus recomendaciones y la versión final del Plan Maestro para las Vías Verdes de Talent a las Comisiones de Parques y Planificación. Una sesión conjunta de estudio tendrá lugar el **jueves 26 de julio a las 7:00 PM en el Salón de Comunidad de Talent.**

Una vez aprobade por las comisiones de Parques y Planificación, el Plan Maestro para las Vías Verdes de Talent recibirá su **primera revista por el Consejo Municipal el miércoles 1ro de agosto.** El Comité de la Vía Verde tiene optimiso de que el plan para la vía verde sera **adoptado por el Consejo Municipal en la sesión del 15 de agosto.**

Para obtener información acerca de la Vía Verde, o para solicitar una copia del bosquejo del plan de vías verdes, llame a Meghan Mac Kenzie al teléfono 535-7401.