

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

May 20, 2010



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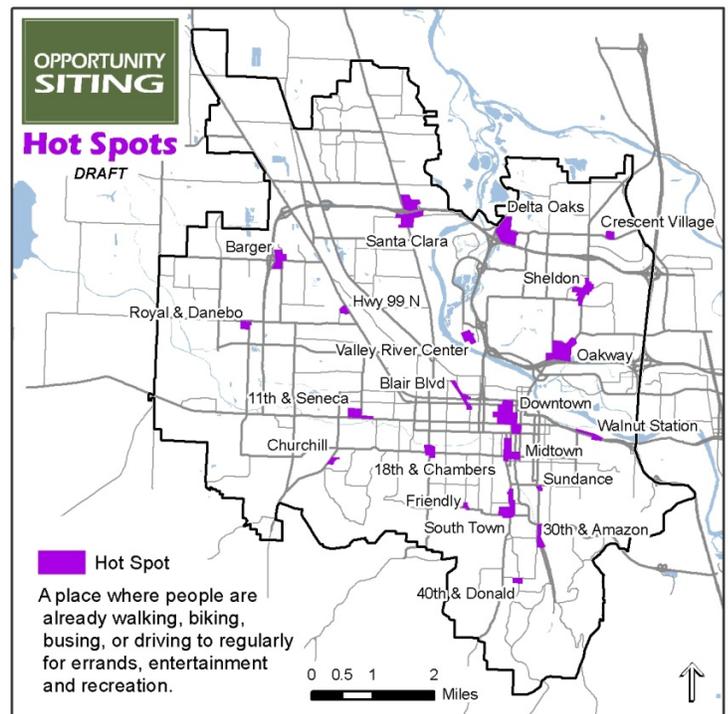
AROUND THE CITY

Opportunity Siting Heats Up

As Envision Eugene begins to engage the community in how it grows for the next 20 years, the role of Opportunity Siting (OS) as a tool to sensitively locate new and denser housing types is increasingly important. Created by the City Council as a parallel project with Infill Compatibility Standards (ICS), OS promotes dense housing designed and located in ways that enhance the community. Lessons learned by the Opportunity Siting Task Team led to focusing on areas in and around “Hot Spots” locations that are already magnets for activity.

Based on these hot spots, the OS program now has a pilot study underway. The pilot “Hot Spot” is the area around South Willamette, roughly between 24th and 29th avenues. Last year, the Friendly Area Neighborhood and the Southtowne Business Association began working together to find ways to make the South Willamette area a more vibrant business center and enhance its attractiveness as a place to walk, bike, shop and live. In recent months, they have engaged City planning and transportation staff in helping to envision the future and find tools to promote goals about mixed-use living and commercial success.

Though Opportunity Siting continues to be a tool to promote the right kind of dense housing, this wider visioning approach, as developed by the OS Task Team, also considers the surrounding neighborhood and amenities that make it a good place to live, before narrowing in on a specific site. Involved Friendly Area neighbors and Southtowne businesses are enthusiastic about gradual but important changes to their area. Their work can serve as a model for future efforts in other hot spots and for possible ways to increase density as a part of Envision Eugene.



For more information, contact Patricia Thomas at 541-682-5561 or patricia.thomas@ci.eugene.or.us.

Next Envision Eugene Workshop Coming Soon

The room at the Eugene Hilton was buzzing with conversation on May 4. Approximately 200 community members attended the two sessions that day to discuss how they envision Eugene in the year 2030. The conversation will continue later this month as the second Envision Eugene workshop is held:

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

6 p.m. Open House

7 - 9 p.m. Workshop

Churchill High School Cafeteria

1850 Bailey Hill Road

The goal of this meeting will be to collect community feedback on ways to use land within the current urban growth boundary more efficiently and still maintain quality of life. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about Eugene's expected population growth for the next 20 years and the land and housing needs that may come with that growth. Based on feedback from the first Envision Eugene meeting, specific strategies to use land more efficiently will be presented for people to discuss and prioritize.



Learn more about Envision Eugene and watch a new video overview of the project at www.EnvisionEugene.org. For more information, please contact Terri Harding at 541-682-5635 or terri.l.harding@ci.eugene.or.us.

June 1 Community Conversation – Annual Listening Opportunity

Mark your calendars and save the date for a Community Conversation on Tuesday, June 1. The City of Eugene Human Rights Commission and the Equity and Human Rights Board are jointly hosting a Community Conversation on the “State of Equity and Human Rights in the City of Eugene.” This event will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the University of Oregon Downtown Baker Center, 975 High Street.

The forum will be an opportunity for both groups to talk about the Human Rights Commission Work Plan and progress on the Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan (DESP) action items. It will also be an opportunity for City leadership and community members to talk about human rights issues and future actions. This is an annual listening opportunity for meaningful dialog about important community issues. The event is free, everyone is welcome and Spanish and sign interpretation will be provided. For more information, please contact Equity and Human Rights Manager Raquel Wells, or Human Rights Analyst Holly LeMasurier at 541-682-5177 or ehrcenter@ci.eugene.or.us.

Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan Annual Report

The Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan (DESP) Annual Report is underway and is slated for completion by mid-June. The report provides a recap of some of the Year 1 accomplishments. Plan implementation is a collaboration of the Equity and Human Rights Board, which has representatives from all City departments, the City Manager and Executive Management Team, and the Human Rights Commission. Equity and Human Rights Board members have provided City department-level “stories” of the type of work they do as it relates to specific goals in the plan.

The report opens with a message from executive managers, has a short information item about City Manager Jon Ruiz, includes links to City Council Goals, and is sprinkled with colorful images visualizing how the City's work benefits the community and City organization. The report also provides ways for staff to become involved with City-wide efforts and diversity work in their departments. The report concludes with the forecast for FY11 (Year 2) DESP goals and what implementation strategies might look like. For more information, please contact Equity and Human Rights Manager Raquel Wells at 541-682-8439 or Raquel.c.wells@ci.eugene.or.us.

The Inside Scoop: Get the Most from Your Library Card

Maximize the value of a library card with the hands-on computer class, “The Inside Scoop: Your Library Catalog & Card” at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 23, at the Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Participants will learn how to get the most out of the catalog and their library cards. Topics include how to:



- conduct a search quickly;
- get e-mail notices about new library items in areas of interest;
- place a hold for a specified volume in a series of books or TV episodes;
- suspend requests temporarily, without going to the back of the line;
- keep a reading history, and
- pay fines online.

There are more tips and tricks to increase convenience, save time, avoid fines and frustration, and get better results. Participants must have a Eugene Public Library card and password, and experience using a keyboard and mouse.

The class is free, but due to limited space, pre-registration is required. For more information or to pre-register, call the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 (press 2).

Community Seniors Love Program's Hike

Hikes are among the most popular activities offered by the Adult Services Program and provide opportunities to meet the program's mission to promote health and well-being, enhance quality of life, and assist individuals in remaining active. The Adult Program is offering six hikes this summer and all still have openings.

The Mt. June hike on June 21 is a 2.4 mile, constant uphill hike to the top where hikers will see wildflowers and a 360 degree view of the Willamette Valley, Coast Range and peaks of the Cascade Range. The Echo Basin hike on July 2 is 2.4 miles along a steep, overgrown logging-road-turned-trail that leads to a mountain basin filled with wildflowers.

The Baker Beach hike on July 19 is a 1.4 mile loop along the beach and over dunes to Lilly Lake and back through the dunes. The Green and Alsea Falls hike on August 2 is in the cool Coast Range forests. Hikers choose between a short .2 mile hike to Alsea Falls or a more strenuous three miles to see both falls.



The Opal Creek hike is in an old growth area which sparked an environmental battle in the 70s. Hikers will see what the fuss was all about on this four-mile hike on August 16. The August 25 Fuji Mountain hike in the Willamette Pass offers spectacular views of the Waldo Lake basin and surrounding peaks.

The cost of the hikes is \$27-\$35 and includes transportation from Campbell Community Center. They are led by professional guides. For more information, contact Mel Mann at 541-682-6392.

"Get Plugged In" Event Highlights Electric Vehicles for Energy-Efficient Future

Students at the University of Oregon are hosting a community event to raise awareness about electric vehicles and charging stations. They will also share results from a year-long study on local infrastructure needs for electric vehicles.



The "Get Plugged In" event will be held on Wednesday, May 26, from 6 – 9 pm. at the Wheeler Pavilion at the Lane County Fairgrounds, 796 West 13th Avenue. It will showcase electric vehicles and charging stations and feature guest speakers and industry experts who will talk about the future of electric vehicles. The keynote address at 6:30 p.m. will be *Driving the Transformation: The Rise of Electric Vehicles in Oregon* by Professor George Beard, of Portland State University. A panel discussion with Mayor Kitty Piercy, Arcimoto President Mark Frohnmayer, eTec Representative David Mayfield, and City of Eugene Sustainability Commission Member Joshua Skov will be held at 7 p.m.

Among the electric vehicles and charging stations showcased will be Arcimoto, Shorepower, BRAMMO electric motorcycle, Coulomb Technologies and the Lane County Electric Vehicle Association's display of their "BugEV." Sponsors for this event include Epark (City of Eugene's parking program), Eugene Water & Electric Board, the University of Oregon's Office of Sustainability and Community Planning Workshop and the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium. Admission to the event is free.

For further information, please contact Molly Promes at 541-346-3206 (Community Planning Workshop).

City of Eugene Awarded Funding to Design Improvements to Two Shared-Use Paths

The City of Eugene has been awarded \$193,600 in Oregon Department of Transportation Rapid Readiness funds to design two path rehabilitation projects on the Fern Ridge and North Bank shared-use paths. The Rapid Readiness funds were provided by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) to help local government agencies get non-highway projects to "construction ready" status if new federal stimulus funds become available. The OTC is interested in assisting the development of projects that have multi-modal benefits that improve system-wide access by emphasizing added pedestrian/bicycle features, energy conservation, sustainability improvements, and opportunities for modal connections or access improvements. These projects are an opportunity to bring substandard sections of the path system up to the City standard of a 12-foot-wide, concrete-surfaced path with lighting.

City staff will develop a new alignment for the Fern Ridge Path from Arthur Street to Chambers Street and add new components that will include a new concrete path, lighting, bike racks, trash cans and benches. The existing path is in poor condition and too close to the Amazon Channel's steep, eroding banks. The regional Metro Waterways Plan recommends that this path be relocated away from the channel so the slope of the bank can be lowered to improve the waterway and prevent further deterioration of the path.

The Willamette River North Bank path project is within Alton Baker Park from the DeFazio Bridge to the Frohnmayer Bridge and may include a new concrete path where needed, lighting, widening and straightening in some areas, bike parking, trash cans and benches. Part of the existing path surface is very poor and narrow in places, resulting in unsafe conditions.

Engineering staff will involve path users, neighborhoods, bicycle and pedestrian groups, and other interest groups in developing the new designs, including a portion of the North Bank path in the Whilamut Natural Area. The design grant requires construction of the improvements within five years; actual construction dates have not been set at this time. For more information, contact Project Manager John Bonham at 541-682-5300.