

West Eugene Wetlands Plan. City of Eugene and Lane County. Eugene, OR. November 2000. (Reviewed by Susan Mershon)

This report was originally created in 1992. The most recent major revision was this, in 2000.

The West Eugene Wetlands Plan has a sister document, the detailed Technical Report. That leaves this document to be a narrative with maps. The Plan is an easily-read guide to the wetlands policies.

There are several nice color maps. These maps don't designate the legal boundaries of the wetlands, but they provide an overview. The text elaborates on the maps, which are:

Vicinity of Lane County, Oregon

Study Area which includes the Wetland Plan area, but is four times larger

Wetland Designations

Wetlands are coded to:

1. Protect
2. Restore
3. Develop

These coded wetlands seem to be less than 1/3 of the Wetlands Plan Area.

Conceptual Plan

Shows the wetland habitats they hope to bring back:

Wet Prarie
Open Water
Forested
Scrub/shrub
Riparian
Upland

Wetland Types

existing conditions, includes Agriculture, Pasture/Fill

Land Acquisition Priorities

Public Facility Projects

Channel Improvements and Observation sites

The appendices include the relevant Eugene Implementing Ordinances.

Critique

This is an essential document to anyone studying the West Eugene Wetlands. The document is very accessible in writing and organization. It tries to be relevant to anyone in the country studying wetlands.

You have to go to other documents to find the specifics for each site, and for the data behind the plan. It is good to have a concise, accessible Plan for public use.

There is a list of resources in the back, but it contains documents only from the Lane Council of Governments. That makes it very incomplete; it would be best to list all major documents from public agencies, so citizens will know where to find any specific information.

In the past, these particular wetlands were only seen as important because they hosted endangered species. Now, the Plan recognizes many functions for the wetlands beyond preserving biota. This makes the Eugene process more relevant outside of Eugene, for other communities that may not have endangered species.

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