



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery



Interpretive Plan for
Tryon Creek
State Natural Area

Interpretive Plan

for

Tryon Creek State Natural Area

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Our thanks for all your time and effort. It was a pleasure working with all of you.

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Introduction

Overview

The 672-acre Tryon Creek State Natural Area (TCSNA), located within the Portland metropolitan area, is one of the jewels of the State Park system. Its history contains many firsts: first Oregon State Park within a city; first with a master plan; first to have a Friends Group involved; first to have a Nature Center; and first to have an “all abilities” trail. It has evolved into a heavily used park with an extensive array of interpretive programs. However, most visitors come to TCSNA to walk, walk dogs, jog or participate in other recreational activities and do not take advantage of the interpretive opportunities. Many visitors do not even go to the Nature Center.

Tryon Creek’s location within a major metropolitan area – the only Oregon State Park with that distinction – creates an opportunity to introduce or re-introduce a large urban population to nature and to the Oregon State Parks system. In a sense, TCSNA provides a gateway for those people to the entire state park system and to Oregon’s natural world. The presence of a large and highly effective Friends Group; a Nature Center built by the Friends, one of the most extensive arrays of interpretive programs in the state, supported by exhibits, signage, publications, and miles of trails for exploring the natural world enhance this opportunity.

But Tryon Creek is more than just a natural area that can be used to reconnect people to nature. As an island within an urban sea and a co-inhabitant of a developed watershed, TCSNA is uniquely positioned to showcase issues and solutions regarding sustainable practices that allow flora, fauna and the natural landscape to coexist with human development and significant human use.

Why This Plan Now?

OPRD is entering a new phase in its interpretive history, striving to attain a vision that places high quality interpretive opportunities – recognized at the national level for excellence – within the fabric of a visitor experience at **all** state parks within the system. To accomplish such a vision requires sound comprehensive planning integrating all aspects of the visitor experience, including the infrastructure, amenities and information delivery systems. Parks in the system with high visitation and/or visibility are critical for the agency to establish and move in the desired direction quickly. Tryon Creek State Natural Area (TCSNA) falls in that category.

According to the OPRD Regional Interpretive Framework, as a Level 5 park, Tryon Creek SNA will provide world-class interpretive experiences, serve as a base for outreach educational programming, offer staffing and public access 7 days a week year round, and have multiple interpretive sites in the park with guided and self-guided tours or trails. As a regional hub for interpretation, TCSNA is in a position of providing leadership for developing interpretive opportunities and a model for all aspects of interpretive network development for other State Parks in the region.

Purpose of Interpretive Plan

This plan is a first step in a series of actions to fully integrate interpretive opportunities at TCSNA into all visitor experiences. The recommendations and design concepts will guide designers and writers to develop interpretive, orientation and wayfinding strategies that support the visitor experiences on the site and also support the agency and Friend's missions.

Before reviewing the details of the Plan, please review the following points to fully understand the purpose of this tool, where it fits within an overall planning process, and how it guides the development of interpretive opportunities for this site.

- This is a *plan*, not a design. An Interpretive Plan provides a manager with sufficient information to make decisions regarding funding priorities and a designer with sufficient information to design recommended opportunities. It gives the designer a road map of the interpretive destination, and the media vehicles and routes to be used in reaching that destination. With that information, when funding is available, individual projects specified in the plan can be designed and produced. Individual projects should not be designed until the plan is approved, thus ensuring that what is designed will still work as more of the network is created.
- Although environmental education is an integral part of the Oregon State Parks system, this is an interpretive plan – not an education plan. It does not address environmental education programs, other formal education opportunities, or educational standards.
- This plan represents a snapshot in time. The recommendations represent our best professional guess based on information at hand and circumstances that are true *at this time*. They are intended to be guidelines to suggest direction and are not set in stone. As circumstances, audience, goals, and information change, the plan should be modified accordingly.
- This plan uses a format consistent with other interpretive plans currently being prepared for OPRD, and reflects the current vision for interpretation in the system of Oregon State Parks, which is as an integral part of all visitor experiences and as a National leader in excellence.

Goals

The following documents, all of which can be found in Appendix B, provided a basis for developing the Goals and Objectives in this section:

- OPRD Mission Statement
- Friends of Tryon Creek Mission Statement
- OPRD Target 2014 Goals relating to interpretation
- Applicable management goals from 1973 Master Plan
- Probable Management Goals

Interpretive network Goals

The following goals provide the basis for the interpretive network prescribed by this plan.

Goal #1: Protect and conserve natural and cultural resources of Tryon Creek while using them to provide recreational, interpretive and educational experiences.

Goal #2: Increase public support and strengthen the constituency for OPRD in general, and for the efforts at Tryon Creek specifically.

Goal #3: A significant increase in the number of visitors taking advantage of interpretive opportunities.

Goal #4: Increase the number of State Parks both within and outside Oregon using Tryon Creek as a model for their own efforts.

Interpretive network Objectives

Accomplishing the following objectives will lead to achieving the goals of the interpretive network.

Goal #1: Protect and conserve natural and cultural resources of Tryon Creek while using them to provide recreational, interpretive and educational experiences.

Objective 1-1: An increase in the sense of personal value to visitors for Tryon Creek and the interpretive opportunities provided at the site.

For many people, personal value is a pathway for support. Ideally, we would like to extend this sense of value to all natural and cultural resources, which can be accomplished in part by making visitors aware of the value of intact cultural resources as a tool for discovering the ‘story’ of our past, and the value of intact natural resources in helping to maintain the aesthetic quality of the area as well as provide habitat for native birds and wildlife. In essence, the value has to extend beyond the feeling that a natural area is “a good place to run or walk.”

Objective 1-2: An increase in awareness among users of issues and solutions associated with sustaining a natural environment and the flora and fauna that live there within an urban environment, with emphasis on actions that can be incorporated into individual lifestyle.

Objective 1-3: An increase in volunteers and contributions to assist with management activities focused on sustaining the natural landscape, such as removing exotics.

Goal #2: Increase public support and strengthen the constituency for OPRD in general, and for the efforts at Tryon Creek specifically.

Objective 2-1: An increase in awareness of the identity of OPRD and the Friends Group as the entities responsible for the preservation, restoration and management of TCSNA, and for the recreational opportunities provided.

Objective 2-2: An increase in appreciation/approval of OPRD and the Friends Group as a result of increased awareness by visitors as to the role of the two entities in providing the array of high quality interpretive, and/or educational experiences associated with the park.

Goal #3: A significant increase in the number of visitors taking advantage of interpretive opportunities.

Objective 3-1: An increase in awareness on the part of the potential visitor of the array of high quality educational and interpretive opportunities available to a wide variety of visitors.

Objective 3-2: Develop an interpretive network that will provide any visitor, regardless of physical limitations, a high quality interpretive experience in TCSNA.

Goal #4: Increase the number of State Parks both within and outside Oregon using Tryon Creek as a model for their own efforts.

Objective 4-1: Establish TCSNA as a 'gateway' for visitors to the Oregon State Parks system.

Objective 4-2: Establish interpretation as an integral part of all experiences within TCSNA.

Objective 4-3: Develop an integrated interpretive network that attains status as a National leader for excellence.

Objective 4-4: Increase awareness by interpretive professionals within and outside Oregon of the interpretive network at TCSNA.

Themes

The Themes were revised by OPRD Staff during the 3/2010 revision to the plan.

Introduction

The elements of the theme hierarchy, which include the following types of themes, reflect the direction for theme development in Oregon State Parks:

Primary Theme

This is the key concept reflecting the significance of the park that every visitor should understand.

Themes

These are the ideas or concepts that together support the primary theme. At a minimum, all visitors should understand at least one of the themes based on their specific area of interest (cultural history, natural history, etc.)

Sub-theme

These are the concepts that support a theme.

Supporting Stories

These are the stories that communicate a sub-theme or theme.

Themes for TCSNA

The following themes determine interpretive focus, media and placement

Primary Theme: *The urban setting of Tryon Creek State Natural Area offers a large and diverse number of visitors the opportunity to view natural and societal changes in the landscape over time.*

Theme 1: **People have shaped the landscape of Tryon Creek State Natural Area**

Subtheme 1-1

Before European contact, indigenous people utilized this forest and its surroundings for its abundant food, medicine, buildings, clothing, and tool supplies, as well as for its convenient location.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Native Americans valued many of the natural resources found in the Tryon Creek watershed, especially cedar trees, to support their lifestyle.

Sub-theme 1-2

Tryon Creek's namesake, Socrates H. Tryon, valued the land as a place to make his fortune, build a home and raise a family.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Socrates H. Tryon settled this land through the Oregon Donation Land Claim; Tryon family history reveals how the land was used during settlement of the Portland/Lake Oswego area

Sub-theme 1-3

Early Euro-Americans valued the trees in Tryon Creek for charcoal, fuel, railroad ties and building materials. A wonderful example is the Arnold/Park log homes.

Examples of Supporting Stories

The logging that took place in Tryon Creek State Natural Area supported the growth of the charcoal industry in Lake Oswego; lumber logged from TCSNA built homes in the local community such as the Park/Arnold historic log homes that are now on the National Registry of Historic Places

Sub-theme 1-4

The Friends of Tryon Creek State Park valued the land in its natural state for fish and wildlife, environmental education and recreation, and were the driving force behind the creation of a state park, saving the land from residential development.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Grassroots efforts by the Friends of Tryon Creek State Park saved the park land from residential development; The relationship between the Friends and Oregon State Park is an example of public/private relationships and how mutually beneficial they can be

Theme 2: Urban water sources connect the Tryon Creek watershed, linking fish, wildlife, vegetation, soil and people.

Sub-theme 2-1

Tryon Creek State Natural Area is an integral part of a large urban watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek State Natural Area is the largest portion of land within the Tryon Creek watershed; Restoration projects completed by the state, citizen groups such as the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and the City of Portland creates a model of urban watershed health.

Sub-theme 2-2

Protecting the watershed depends on people making environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Sharing with visitors sustainable options and educational opportunities such as reducing your carbon footprint & water conservation

Sub-theme 2-3

The high quality of life that people enjoy in Portland is dependent on the health of watersheds like the Tryon Creek watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Neighbors of Tryon Creek SNA and the SW Portland community benefit from a healthy urban watershed; Seasonal flooding, directed by restoration projects onto managed floodplain areas, benefits neighbors by reducing erosion and hazardous tree conditions; Continual water quality testing is essential in order to establish and maintain watershed health and function

Theme 3: As a restored and protected natural forest and stream ecosystem in an urban setting, Tryon Creek State Natural Area offers a gateway opportunity to connect city dwellers with nature and the state park experience.

Sub-theme 3-1

Stories of volunteerism and citizen action in the park inspire a stewardship ethic in others statewide.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Stories of outstanding volunteers and their efforts, stream restoration projects, partnerships with citizens and other government agencies, state park efforts to protect and preserve the park (i.e. the citizen donation of the Arnold/Park cabins)

Sub-theme 3-2

TCSNA is a gateway to the OPRD system that provides recreational access and interpretive opportunities to Oregon's largest population.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Outreach programs with local community groups such as REI, PCC to introduce state parks to the public, Let's Go Camping program, campfire cooking and outdoor recreation skill building – map and compass, shelter building, hiking safety

Sub-theme 3-3

The history and stories of TCSNA inspire others to value a robust state park system and other public lands.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Urban setting allows state parks to partner with many other local government and non-profit agencies to tell their stories through programs and special events, the partnership story between the Friends and the state to save the land and continue to protect and preserve it today

Theme 4: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is a vital urban refuge for wildlife and native plants that also provides an important migration link between natural areas.

Sub-theme 4-1

The Tryon Creek corridor supports a wealth of resident and migratory wildlife populations including coyote, black tail deer, beaver, red fox, squirrel, bats, owls, anadromous fish and neo-tropical birds.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Helping visitors understand the value and necessity of co-existing with urban wildlife; park staff and volunteers actively involved in stream restoration that encourages the return of healthy salmon populations to Tryon Creek; Tryon Creek is linked to other urban greenspaces by bird, salmon/steelhead and seed migrations

Sub-theme 4-2

Adaptable invertebrates live within the forest, creek and soil habitat playing a vital role in the healthy ecology of the forest.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek is home to a diverse population of decomposers such as worms and various insects, which can be seen in action by visitors in nurse logs and examples of the soil cycle at work in the forest

Sub-theme 4-3

The forest at Tryon Creek offers a pocket of habitat for native plants and fungi to thrive.

Examples of Supporting Stories

In a natural area such as Tryon Creek, native plants, fungi and other species are encouraged to thrive with little management from humans; this park is made up of trails with little mowed or managed areas, which allows for natural succession of plants/fungi

Sub-theme 4-4

The natural succession at Tryon Creek has become subject to several invasive species which threaten the quality of native habitat for native plants and wildlife.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Invasive species are removed from Tryon Creek SNA according to the threat potential a non-native plant poses; Volunteers are the main motivating force behind the removal of invasive plants and trees; the all abilities (ADA) Trillium Trail demonstrates and highlights native plants that can be found throughout the park; many areas in Portland can be viewed as an example of sites where a monoculture of invasive plants have been allowed to take over; Tryon Creek is an example of an area that has actively removed invasive species through mainly mechanical method and restored native plants

The Plan

Concept

The concept for the interpretive network is based on the redesign for the parking area as depicted in Figure 1. The prescribed layout and pedestrian traffic flow is ideal for a hub and spoke approach to the interpretive network with the hub being both the Nature Center and the “Gathering Area” just outside the facility and the spokes being the trails that can be taken to discover the stories in the landscape and to access the hub area from the surrounding urban areas. With such an approach it is important to encourage visitors to begin their experience at the Nature Center, where the interpretive opportunities will present the stories of TCSNA while motivating visitors to explore the Natural Area to discover those stories in the landscape.

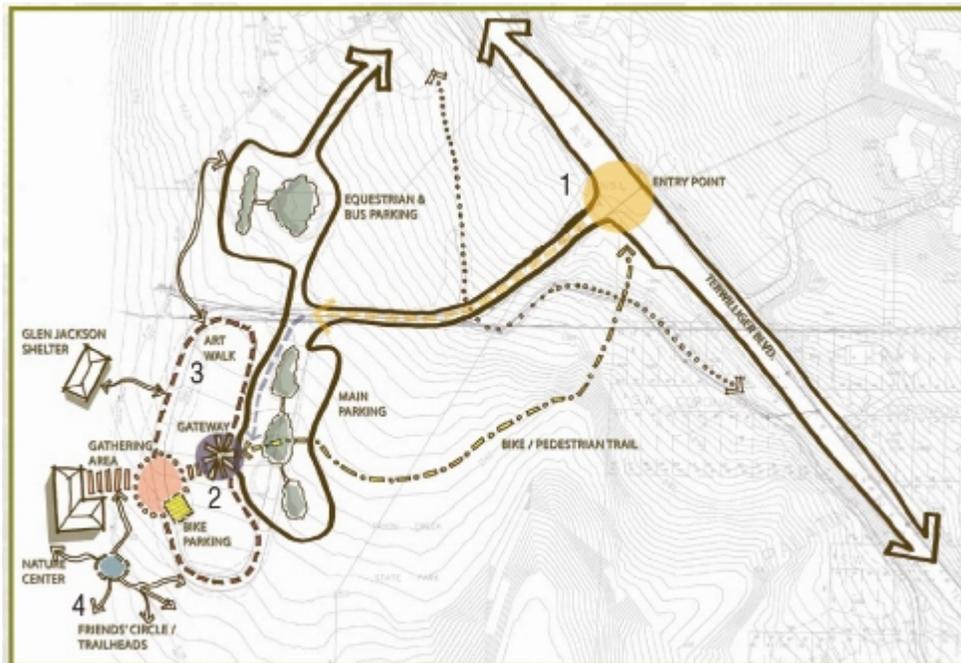


Figure 1: Concept for development of parking and exterior of Nature Center (prepared by Greenworks)

Another key aspect of the concept is to rely primarily on non-fixed strategies such as publications to deliver interpretive information within the natural area, and to limit fixed interpretive opportunities to those few areas where development already occurs, such as at bridges or along the Trillium Loop Interpretive Trail, which is paved and has built viewpoints along the route. Figure 2 shows the relationship of the hub area to access points and fixed exterior interpretive opportunities.

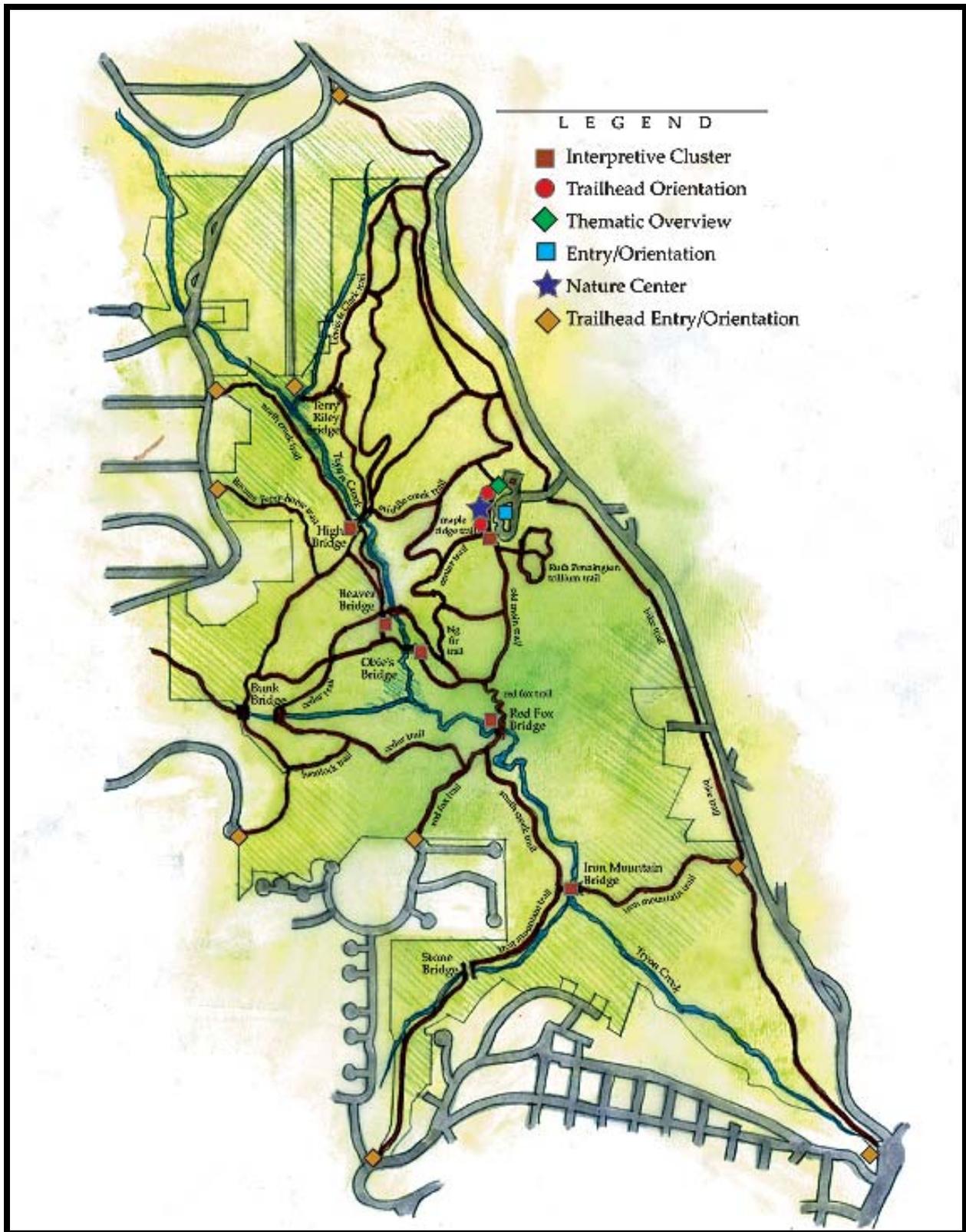


Figure 2: Location of fixed orientation and interpretive opportunities at TCSNA

The following section identifies and describes the delivery strategies for the interpretive network at TCSNA. The section is organized into the following categories based on the desired sequence of a visitor experience:

- Pre-visit
- Vehicular Entry
- Vehicular to Pedestrian Transition
- Exterior Hub
- Nature Center
- Trails

A final category includes those strategies that do not fit in one of these categories.

Within each of these categories, the experience objectives of the interpretive, orientation and/or wayfinding information supplied in that part of the visitor experience are stated followed by a brief narrative of the future experience when the interpretive network is in place. That is followed by a summary of the recommendations for actions, and a description and concept for each recommended strategy.

Note on ADA versus Universal Access

The intent of ADA provisions is to promote equal access to the built environment for those with impairments. Braille and audio supposedly address the needs of those with visual impairments; elevators, lifts, grade and surface of trails, and other modifications to the physical environment address the needs of those with mobility impairments; and visuals and text, including captioned multi-media programs, address the needs of those with auditory impairments. However, most of the ADA provisions focus on physical access to information, not content. They also do not address the needs of these audiences at the experiential level. We prefer to use a Universal Design approach, which focuses on creating experiences that can be enjoyed by all parts of your target audience, including those with impairments. This approach involves integration of multiple delivery strategies that include all senses. The result is an overall experience with opportunities that meet the needs of the few while enhancing the experience of everyone. In other words, experiences for those with impairments are not separated out from the experience for others, but rather incorporated within those experiences. That is the approach we used in developing the concept for the interpretive network at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Consequently, opportunities for those with impairments are embedded in the description of the exhibit. For example, the descriptions of the exhibit areas along the walls in the Kraft Room includes ideas for touching, seeing, hearing and smelling as pathways to involving participants and communicating the key concepts. Finally, these should just be considered as ideas. When this project moves to the design phase, a Universal Design approach should be used by the designer.

Note on Personal Interpretation

Personal interpretive opportunities are a key part of the interpretive network for Tryon Creek SNA. Since TCSNA already has, through the partnership between OPRD and the Friends Group, one of the most extensive programs of personal interpretive opportunities in the State Parks system, it was not considered necessary to specifically identify where such programs should take place and what the focus of such programs should be. However, the themes in the plan should be used to develop personal interpretive programs in the future.

Pre-Visit

Experience Objectives

The objectives of the pre-visit information opportunities are:

- To make potential visitors aware of the array of recreational, interpretive and educational opportunities at TCSNA as a means of attracting them to the underutilized opportunities;
- To highlight what is happening in the Nature Center as a means of enticing potential visitors to visit the facility first;
- To instill an awareness that this is a special place – a natural area in the midst of a heavily developed area.
- To make people aware of the type of activities and behavior patterns appropriate for TCSNA;
- To spark curiosity about both the cultural and natural history of the site.

Future Experience

Outreach strategies will promote the **Tryon Creek SNA Web Site** as the first stop for people interested in visiting the Natural Area. Visitors who use the web site will be able to access information on existing opportunities, upcoming events and new opportunities at TCSNA. They will also be able to access a printable version of the **TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure** and the **Sense-ational Treasure Hunt**. Finally, they will be able to download **podcasts** in text, audio or visual format. Teachers, will be able to download the **Teachers Packet for Field Trips**, which will help them prepare their students for a visit, provide materials for use during the visit, facilitate scheduling a visit, and provide follow-up activities for after a visit.

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Address the issue of the difficulty involved in developing a single effective web site due to policies within OPRD. An interim solution may be to focus on the Friends Web Site to provide the necessary information.
2. Develop/modify outreach strategies to increase awareness of TCSNA, to motivate potential visitors to use the Web Site and to promote the interpretive network. Possible outreach strategies include:
 - Open House and Tours or special neighbor-only events;
 - Tours or outreach materials with a targeted message for media (columnists, weekly print media staff, local cable stations);
 - Tours or annual briefing on resource issues for area Governments (City of Portland, City of Lake Oswego, METRO, county, etc.);
 - Open house, tour or briefings on service learning opportunities, student research or course study connections for area universities;
 - Briefing materials, annual report or tours on issues of interest for State agencies;
 - Information at the OPRD booth at State or County fairs or city events;
3. Develop or modify the following information delivery strategies:

TCSNA Web Site

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Want to visit TCSNA, beginning with the Nature Center;
- Know the major themes associated with this interpretive network;
- Have a simple map of the area with directions to the site (downloaded as a PDF);
- Be aware of the next major special event at the site;
- Have contact information;
- Have the Sense-ational Treasure Hunt;
- Have the TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure;
- Have podcasts for exploring TCSNA if they desire.

Description and Concept

The Web Site contains marketing information, thematic overview and general orientation information. It also contains phone numbers and other information so browsers can call to get site-specific information. But the web site is not just a pre-visit strategy. The concept of a network is to achieve the following with every interpretive strategy – satisfy them with what they just experienced, excite them about getting more, and show them where to get the next interpretive experience. This continuum continues after they leave the park. In other words, we want people to continue learning about Tryon because they got excited about what they learned on-site. The web site is a good strategy for continuing that learning. With that in mind, it should also include links to other resources and to more detailed information about the site. It could even include virtual tours.

The keys to an effective web site are as follows:

- A home page that downloads quickly;
- Organized so a visitor can find exactly what he or she wants very quickly through linkages;
- Enough information and links so the visitor can plan a visit;
- Telephone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses where more information can be obtained;
- Up-to-date information on what to do, including special events.

This strategy needs to be updated constantly to provide information on special events and changes in the menu of opportunities and other important trip planning information. As personal Geographic Positioning System (GPS) units become commonplace, this updating will be even more important, and may become very effective at attracting spur-of-the-moment visitors.

Teacher's Packet for Field Trips

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, educators will:

- Be interested enough to plan and take a field trip to TCSNA;
- Be able to develop an itinerary for the field trip;

- Have student activities for before, during and after the field trip;
- Have originals of the TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure and Sense-ational Treasure Hunt for copying;
- Have contact information;
- Have a clear list/description of key stewardship behaviors expected of visitors to TCSNA.

Description and Concept

This packet should contain all the information necessary for an educator to easily plan and run a field trip. Such information includes:

- Directions for accessing the site;
- A map of the site for copying if necessary;
- A description of the educational opportunities available;
- All the necessary information for scheduling visits and arranging for special programs;
- A suggested itinerary, including surrounding sites, with time required for travel and visit;
- The Sense-ational Treasure Hunt to be copied for each student;
- A suggestion of information to be presented prior to a trip;
- What to take and what to wear;
- Written projects that could be copied and used in the classroom before a trip, others for during the trip, and still others that can be used as a follow up to the field trip.

The information and curriculum for school groups, and therefore for this strategy, would be developed based on the curriculum used in the local school system.

Comments

The Teacher's Packet could be made available in a printed format and on CD, DVD and VHS for flexibility. One or more of the latter formats could also be used to provide a quick overview of this opportunity on a touch-screen monitor at the Nature Center.

Note: *Design concepts for the Sense-ational Treasure Hunt, TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure and podcast are included in the section on Trails because they should be designed for use in that area primarily.*

Vehicular Entry

Experience Objectives

The objectives for the vehicular entry information strategies are:

- To reassure visitors that they have arrived at their destination
- To make visitors feel welcome
- To guide visitors to their desired parking destination

Future Experience

The actual experience depends heavily on the re-configuration of the access road and parking, and the construction of the gateway structure and the gathering place. However, regardless of the configuration, visitors should encounter clear **Awareness Signage** along the main highways/freeway that alert them to be ready for a turn off that major thoroughfare to access TCSNA; clear **Directional Signage** and **Confidence Markers** along the route to the site; a highly visible **Entry Sign** on the highway that is consistent with the design of orientation, wayfinding and directional information and signage in the park; a **Welcome and Identification Sign** clearly visible upon turning onto the park access road, and any necessary directional signage to facilitate easy transition to the parking areas.

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Work with the Oregon Department of Transportation to develop better identification and wayfinding signage along the major access routes to TCSNA. This includes the Awareness Signage, Directional Signage, and Confidence Markers.
2. Develop design guidelines and then develop or modify the following information delivery strategies within that set of guidelines:
 - **Entry Sign** – Self-explanatory
 -
 - **Welcome and Site Identification Sign** – Self-explanatory.
 - **Vehicular Directionals in park**– Self-explanatory

Vehicular to Pedestrian/Equestrian Transition

Experience Objectives

The objective of the vehicular to pedestrian transition information strategies is:

- To ensure that visitors know where to go when they exit their vehicle.

Future Experience

The gateway structure with the gathering circle just beyond will accomplish this objective for visitors accessing the main parking area. Visitors will clearly see that the experience begins in that direction. **Directional Signage** indicating that the trailheads are accessed from the hub area will reinforce the motivation to visit the hub area first. For equestrians parking in the other lot, a kiosk-type structure containing the TCSNA Orientation Panel should be located at the trailhead in that area so everyone entering has clear visual access. Directional signage can be used if necessary to reinforce the panel as the starting point for the experience from that area.

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Develop the gateway structure and re-configure the area as planned.
2. Develop an information kiosk for the equestrian parking area that has space for the TCSNA site orientation panel, the TCSNA Trail Orientation panel, a changeable display board for advertising upcoming events and opportunities, and a dispenser for the TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure.
3. Develop the following information delivery strategies:
 - **Directional Signage** – Self-explanatory

Exterior Hub

Experience Objectives

The objectives of the exterior hub information strategies are:

- To entice visitors to visit the Nature Center first, prior to exploring the grounds;
- To entice those who are coming to recreate to take advantage of interpretive opportunities;
- To provide for an easy transition from the hub area to the areas with recreational and interpretive opportunities.

Future Experience

Visitors to this area will encounter an Orientation Circle (see Figure 3) containing the **Tryon Creek Orientation Panel** where visitors orient themselves to the site and pick up the **Tryon Creek Orientation Map/Brochure** and the **Sense-ational Treasure Hunt** from dispensers; and a **Trail Orientation Panel** that highlights the trail system in the park while providing a brief overview of the features and stories that can be discovered along the trails. All panels highlight the Nature Center as the place to start an experience at TCSNA.

***Note:** Usually thematic overview panels are a part of a central hub. In this case, with the proximity to the Trillium Loop Interpretive Trail, which provides for thematic overview, and the Nature Center, within which the Lobby exhibits provide a more detailed thematic overview, additional panels in this location are redundant. However, taking advantage of either of the planned thematic overview opportunities is not a given because they are not in areas that all visitors have to access. Since it is still desirable to pique a visitor's interest in the stories, some thematic overview has been incorporated into the trail orientation panels.*

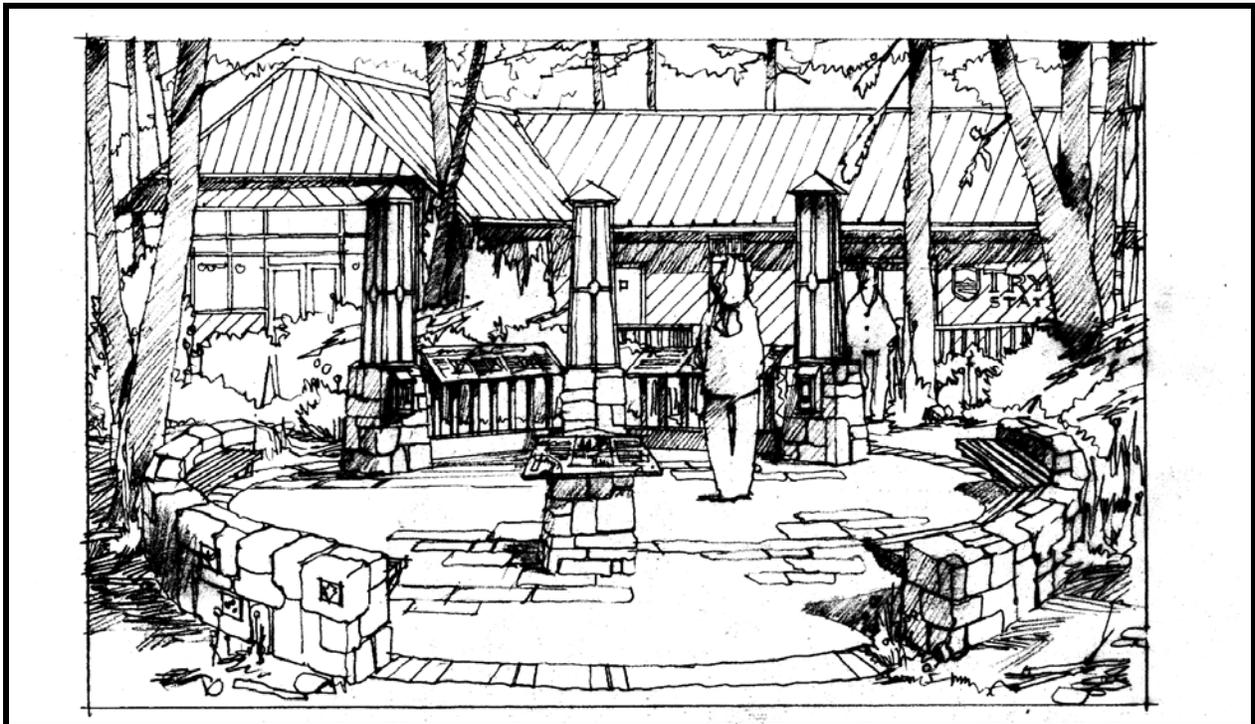


Figure 3: Orientation Circle

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Develop the gateway structure and re-configure the area as planned.
2. Develop the Orientation Circle with places for people to sit.
3. Develop the following information delivery strategies:

TCSNA Orientation Panel

Location: This panel would be installed in the Orientation Circle near the Trail Orientation Panel. It will also be installed at access points around the perimeter of TCSNA.

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Be motivated to explore TCSNA;
- Be motivated to visit the Nature Center;
- Have the TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure;
- Feel comfortable in their ability to find their way around TCSNA;
- Feel like spending some time taking advantage of the interpretive opportunities;
- Be aware of all the major interpretive opportunities at TCSNA;
- Be aware of the opportunities that are fully accessible.

Description and Concept

This panel is intended to provide a 'big picture' overview. One possible design concept is to use a stylized oblique aerial perspective of the park from a viewpoint above and behind the panel so a visitor can 'see' where he or she is in relation to the overall site. Images of structures should reflect key details so visitors can identify all the key buildings and features. Interpretive and recreational opportunities, such as hiking trails, should be highlighted (perhaps by being larger) and briefly described. The map would also clearly show the parking area, restrooms and any other amenities. Finally a cut-away of the Nature Center, stylized to highlight interpretive opportunities, would be included as an inset. A brochure dispenser attached to the panel or structure would be used to distribute the TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure.

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

***TCSNA: Your Path to Discovery
Outside
Inside
...and more!***

Seeking a quiet, intimate stroll? Want to take a class? View exhibits? Perhaps join a community event?

Are you looking for specific information about the natural history or human history of this area?

Tryon Creek State Natural Area offers a wide variety of opportunities to discover this special place.

Where do you want to start?

Nature Center

Strategies and design concepts for the Nature Center are presented in the following categories based on the layout of the facility and on the visitor needs for information at that point within their overall experience:

- **Exterior Approach:** This is the area immediately outside the entry doors. It includes the restrooms and drinking fountain.
- **Interior Entryway:** This is the area immediately inside the doorway – it includes the staff desk and the area adjacent to the bench on the north wall.
- **Lobby:** This is the area immediately adjacent to the Kraft Room
- **Kraft Room:** Self-explanatory
- **Deck Area:** Self-explanatory

Figure 4 depicts the relationship of these areas within the Nature Center.

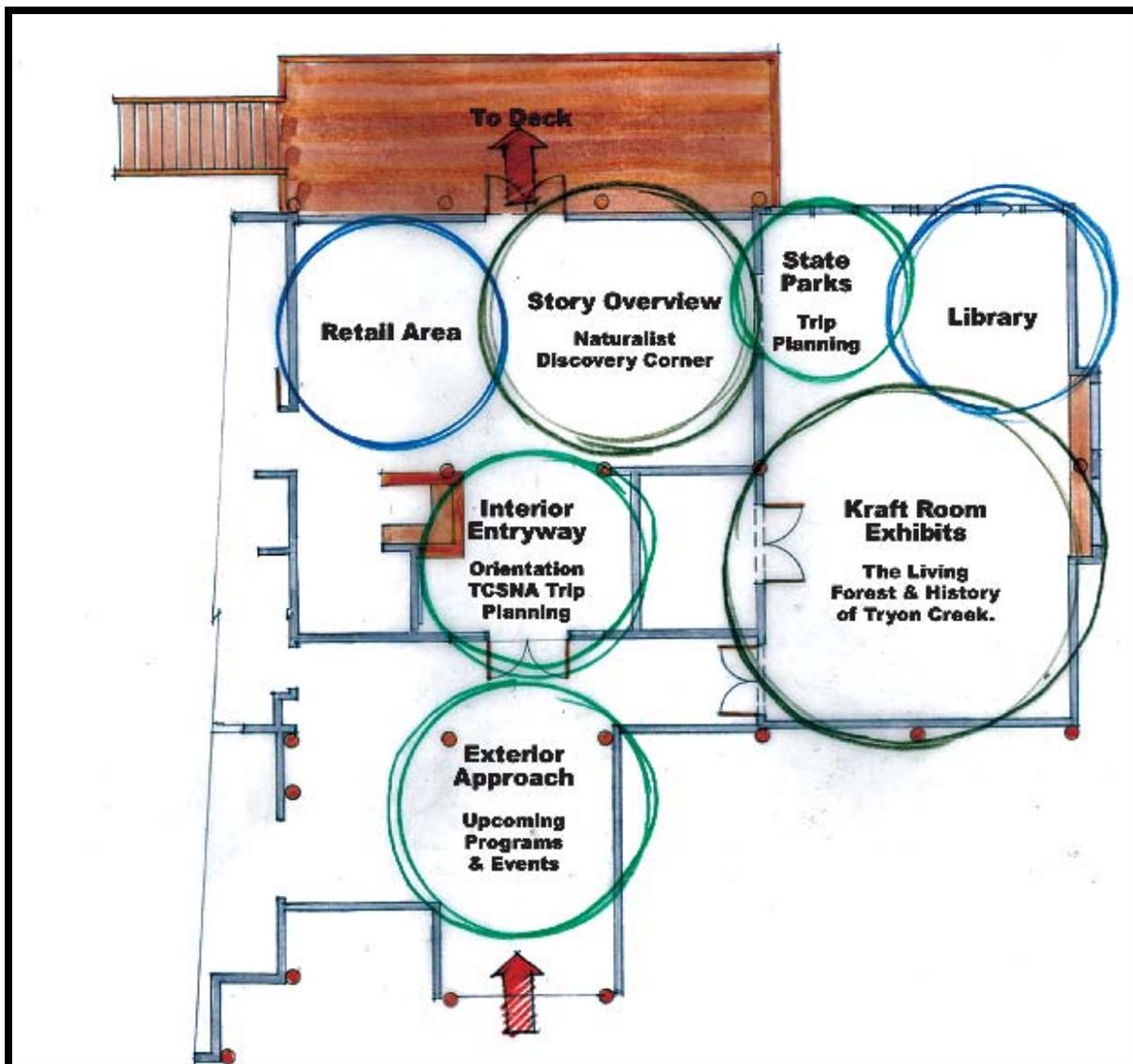


Figure 4: Areas within Nature Center

Exterior Approach

Experience Objectives

The objectives of the exterior approach information strategies are:

- To make visitors aware of the changing nature of interpretive opportunities at TCSNA;
- To make visitors aware of the programmatic nature of many of the opportunities;
- To engage visitors and make them feel as if the interpretive opportunities are worth their time to explore;
- To attract visitors into the Nature Center.

Future Experience

Visitors approaching the Nature Center will note the drinking fountain, directionals to the restrooms, and a Sustaining the Natural Area interpretive panel. They also encounter information about what is offered that day and what is coming up on a **What's Happening Changeable Display Board** outside the facility on a movable structure. Upon entering the restroom, visitors will have clear visual access to a bulletin board with similar information on upcoming events and programs. Also, labels near the toilets and sinks will highlight the no-flush toilets and automatic lights. Figure 5 depicts the approach to the Nature Center with the movable display board shown in the center of the pathway. In the sketch, the interpretive panel and drinking fountain are obscured by the post and banner to the left.

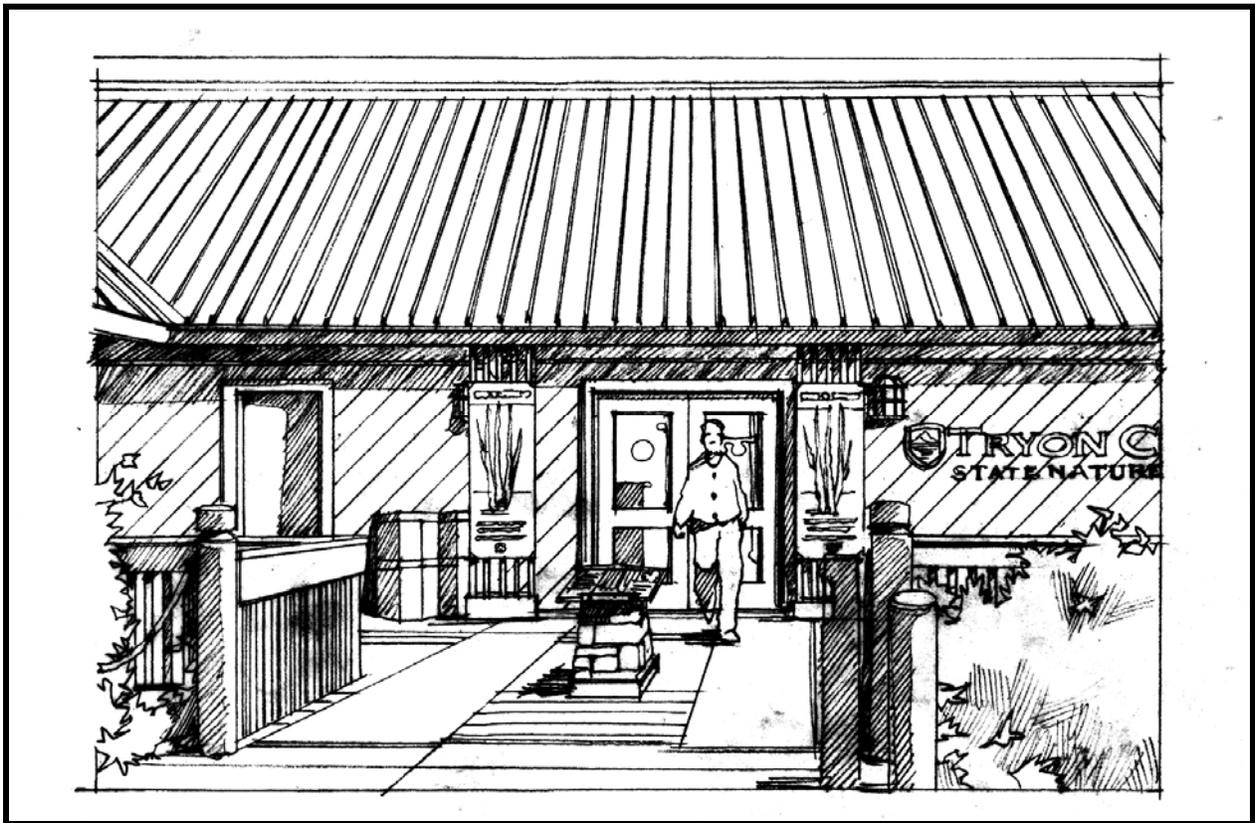


Figure 5: Exterior approach to Nature Center

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Install bulletin boards in the restrooms for putting up timely information on upcoming events and programs.
2. Develop small “didjknow” type labels to highlight the no-flush toilets and lights that turn on and off automatically.
3. Develop the following information delivery strategies:

What’s Happening Changeable Display Board

Location

The board should be on a movable structure, but the location should always be near the entryway to the Nature Center.

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Be aware that a lot of programs are available at TCSNA and that they change constantly.
- Be interested in finding out more about at least one event or program.

Description and Concept

This is a changeable space so the actual images and text will vary. However, a template should be developed to facilitate changes. One possible template is to have a primary area dedicated to upcoming events and one dedicated to programs for the week. Another more permanent area would use images with supporting captions to portray a diverse array of programs and events with the intent of having at least one program or event that appealed to every visitor.

Sustaining the Natural Area

Location

On the wall just to the left of the drinking fountain

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Be able to name 3 practices by OPRD and the Friends Group that help sustain the Natural Area.
- Be able to name at least 2 practices they can incorporate in their lifestyle to that lead to sustaining the natural environment.

Description and Concept

One possible design concept is to use a stylized aerial image of the watershed as a backdrop for enlarged images and supporting text focusing on sustainable practices by OPRD and the

Friends Group within the Natural Area, and sustainable practices by local residents that have positive impact on the watershed.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 2: Urban water sources connect the Tryon Creek watershed, linking fish, wildlife, vegetation, soil and people.

Sub-theme 2-2: Protecting the watershed depends on people making environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Sharing with visitors sustainable options and educational opportunities such as reducing your carbon footprint & water conservation

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

Creating a Sustainable Future

This display was placed by park staff during the summer of 2008.

From the parking lot to the publications, Oregon State Parks and the Friends Group takes good care of the natural resources at Tryon Creek. But we can't do it alone. Everything that happens in the watershed affects the park, so we depend on you to help us out.

Do you know how these practices help us?

Interior Entryway

Experience Objectives

The objectives of the interior orientation and transition information strategies are:

- To orient visitors to the facility;
- To make visitors feel welcome;
- To move people through this space to the interpretive opportunities in the Lobby.

Future Experience

Upon entering the building visitors can access the staffed information counter to their left where they can have their questions answered and purchase the Discovery Guide to Tryon Creek. Staff at the counter will have the option of using a topographic relief model in the counter facing the Retail Area and/or tear-away maps to help answer questions and provide orientation and direction. Visitors can also turn to their right where they will encounter the **Partnership Exhibit**, which welcomes visitors to the park and provides a bit of background on the interconnected roles of the Friends Group and OPRD in bringing the visitor what they see today; the **Volunteer Exhibit**, which highlights the role of volunteers, current projects volunteers can work on and a “Volunteer of the Month” changeable space; and the **Calendar for Upcoming Opportunities**, which highlights upcoming events and programs.

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Modify the staffed information counter as depicted in Figure 6 to include a small topographic relief model built into the counter facing the Gift Area that can be referred to by staff members when providing orientation to the site. It will also have pads of tear-off maps for staff to use in directing visitors.
2. Develop a brochure rack on the corner of the counter in direct line of sight from people exiting the Kraft Room or coming in off the deck.
3. Modify the area containing the bench to provide angled surfaces for exhibits to the right and left, with storage space for publications underneath the exhibit areas. Figure 7 depicts how this area might look after such a modification.
4. Modify the lighting in the interior entryway to provide flexibility in lighting different areas at different times.
5. Develop or modify the delivery strategies described in this section.



Figure 6: Front desk from the perspective of the Retail Area. Topographic model is within the counter. A brochure/publication holder is located on the corner of the counter area facing the Lobby.

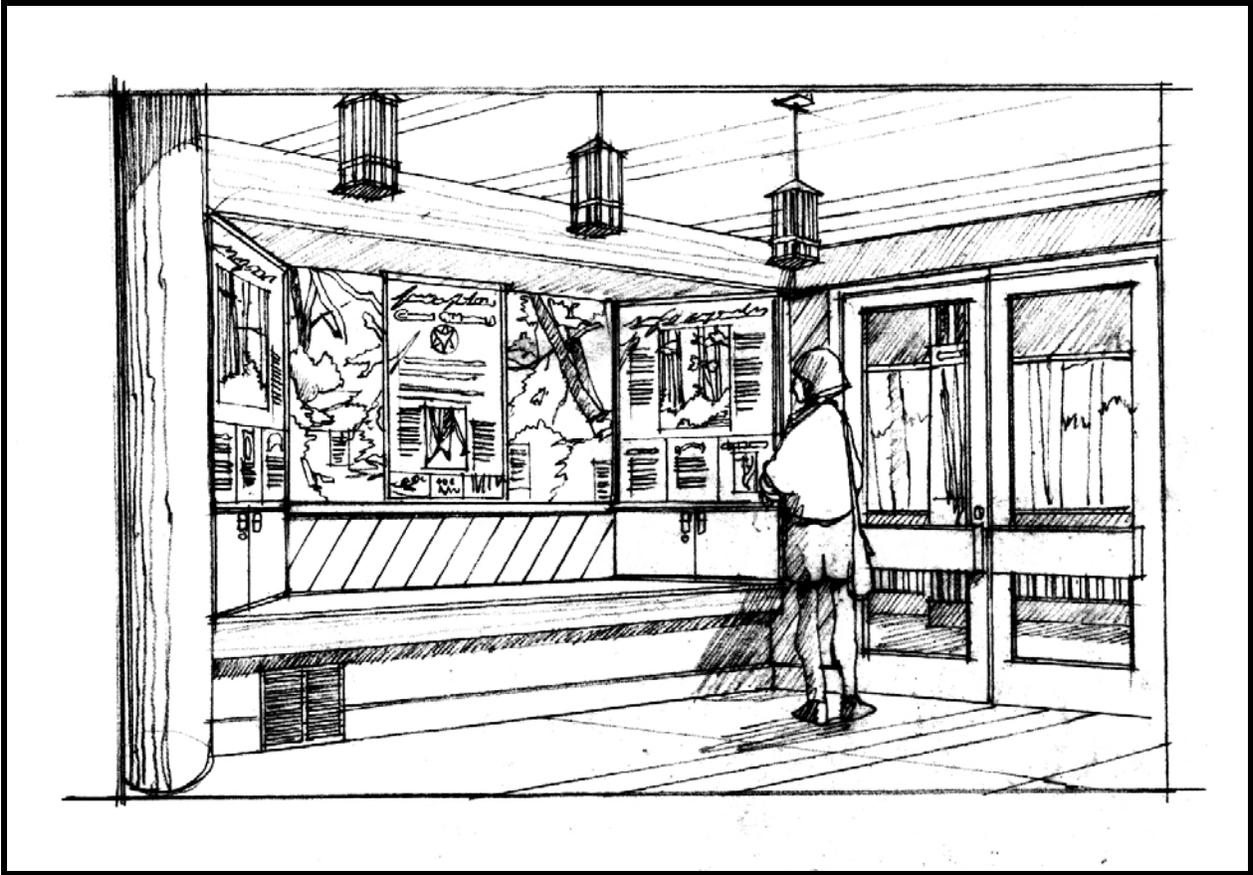


Figure 7: Bench Display Area across from counter

Partnership Exhibit

Location

In the center of the exhibit area above the bench

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Have a better understanding of the park and how it developed;
- Know that it is a partnership between the Friends Group and OPRD that established the park initially and that is responsible for sustaining the park and providing the wide array of interpretive, educational and recreational opportunities.
- Know that the Friends Group plays a key role in sustaining the natural area and in bringing environmental education opportunities to visitors;

Description and Concept

This exhibit should focus primarily on visuals to tell the story with text supporting the visuals. One possible concept is to use a time line approach to highlight significant milestones in the history of the site beginning with the settlement of the Tryon Creek area. After OPRD/FOTC are involved, every milestone should highlight the partnership as a key to achieving that milestone.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 1: People have shaped the landscape of Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Sub-theme 1-4: The Friends of Tryon Creek State Park valued the land in its natural state for fish and wildlife, environmental education and recreation, and were the driving force behind the creation of a state park, saving the land from residential development.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Grassroots efforts by the Friends of Tryon Creek State Park saved the park land from residential development; The relationship between the Friends and Oregon State Park is an example of public/private relationships and how mutually beneficial they can be

Volunteer Exhibit

Location

On the north wall above the bench in the main entryway

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know that volunteers play a key role in helping to maintain the “natural” in Natural Area by donating time to engage in such activities as the removal of invasive species; volunteers also play a key role in the environmental education programs and camps that reach thousands of visitors each year.
- Be inspired to become a volunteer.

Description and Concept

This exhibit has three key parts – the role of volunteers; upcoming volunteer opportunities; and commendation of volunteers. One possible design concept is to use an aerial of the park as a backdrop for visuals and supporting text ringing the outside of the backdrop that highlight different management activities in which volunteers played a significant role. The center of the exhibit would contain visuals highlighting upcoming volunteer opportunities. The visuals for this section should depict volunteers engaging in similar activities in the past. The final part is a section within the exhibit for a head shot of a volunteer and supporting visuals showing that volunteer engaging in activities in TCSNA. The title would be “Volunteer of the Month.”

Supporting information will provide a brief bio and identification of the activities for which the person is being commended. The bio is important for sending the message that “volunteers are ordinary busy people just like you.” The volunteer interest form could be located on a writing shelf associated with this exhibit.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 3: As a restored and protected natural forest and stream ecosystem in an urban setting, Tryon Creek State Natural Area offers a gateway opportunity to connect city dwellers with nature and the state park experience.

Sub-theme 3-1: Stories of volunteerism and citizen action in the park inspire a stewardship ethic in others statewide.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Stories of outstanding volunteers and their efforts, stream restoration projects, partnerships with citizens and other government agencies, state park

Calendar for Upcoming Opportunities
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Location

On the north wall above the bench in the main entryway

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Be aware of upcoming events and programs.
- Be aware that the opportunities at TCSNA change constantly.

Description and Concept

This is a changeable space similar to the exterior exhibit but should provide more detail on programs and events. It should also be designed to distribute any appropriate literature relevant to such programs.

Lobby

This is the area just outside the Kraft Room where the topographic model is now located. The focal point of this area is a large cedar snag on the wall to the right of visitors as they approach the Kraft room. The snag is surrounded by 3 movable exhibits in the space between the snag and gift store area (see Figure 8).



Figure 8: Lobby area including mural

Experience Objectives

The objectives of the Lobby information strategies are:

- To provide an overview of the interpretive stories so a visitor can get the basic messages even when the Kraft Room is not available.
- To bring people to the point where they have visual access to the Kraft Room and the exhibits inside so they are motivated to spend time in that room.

Future Experience

Visitors will have visual access to at least one of the movable exhibits in the area as they enter the Nature Center, which should serve to draw them into the Lobby. The focal point of that area is a Cedar Snag that offers countless opportunities to learn about the tree and how it has been and continues to be used by organisms. The snag is surrounded by 3 movable exhibits, each using a 3-dimensional sapling as the central feature to represent a period in the cultural history

of the site. The **Cedar Sapling Exhibit** focuses on Native American uses of cedar; the **Douglas-fir Sapling Exhibit** focuses on how early EuroAmerican settlers and later entrepreneurs valued the forests of Tryon Creek for fuel; and the **Alder Sapling Exhibit** represents the era after the forests were protected.

The **Naturalist Discovery Corner** is located opposite the cedar snag. It contains a variety of opportunities, including movable carts with changeable exhibits on top, for visitors to learn about the flora and fauna of Tryon Creek. The Naturalist Discovery Corner also contains a **What's New at Tryon Creek?** changeable exhibit that focuses on what can be discovered in the park now. It includes a journal where visitors log their sightings of birds, wildlife and flowers in bloom, and a magnetic board that allows visitors to create a visual representation of what they saw and where they saw that attraction. It also contains a sample "Explorer's Kit" with instructions on how to check one out. The entire area is infused with the TCSNA living forest exhibit, which uses elements of a mural as a backdrop for wildlife mounts and other features that are referred to within the exhibits on the floor.

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Develop the following information delivery strategies:

Cedar Snag Exhibit

Location

In the corner just to the right of the entry to the Kraft Room

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know that snags in TCSNA are valued by many species of biota as part of their habitat;
- Be able to name at least two organisms that use snags;
- Be aware that a wide variety of wildlife exists in TCSNA;
- Be inspired to explore TCSNA to see if they can find some of the same wildlife or organisms in snags in the forest.

Description and Concept

The focus of this exhibit is on the role of snags in the ecosystem as a key part of the habitat for many different types of organisms. One possible design concept is to develop a wide variety of interactive opportunities to discover what lives in or uses a snag. The opportunities should include ones that rely on senses other than sight and delivery of information in a variety of forms to ensure that the interpretive experience is accessible to those with disabilities. Possible interactive devices include:

- Open doors to see what is living inside;
- Peer through a microscope embedded in the bark to see what lives in the cracks in the bark;
- Stick your hand into a black box to use your sense of touch to determine the organism that is living inside;
- Learn to identify different woodpeckers by listening to their tapping;
- Learn to identify common birds by listening to their calls and songs;
- Walk inside the stump and see what might be using it for a den or a travel corridor;

- Peel away the bark to see what lives underneath;
- Use your sense of touch and smell to identify cedar, hemlock and Douglas-fir;
- Open drawers inside the stump to discover organisms that live there such as slugs, snails and salamanders;
- Open drawers to feel pelts of mammals that use snags;
- Open flip plates or use your sense of touch to examine molds of tracks of animals that can be found near snags.

Information to support the interactive opportunities would be delivered through a combination of text and audio. Note that Braille is read by less than 5% of people who are visually impaired so the inclusion of Braille does not contribute significantly to Universal Access.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 4: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is a vital urban refuge for wildlife and native plants that also provides an important migration link between natural areas.

Sub-theme 4-2: Adaptable invertebrates live within the forest, creek and soil habitat playing a vital role in the healthy ecology of the forest.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek is home to a diverse population of decomposers such as worms and various insects, which can be seen in action by visitors in nurse logs and examples of the soil cycle at work in the forest

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

A “Dead Tree?” Look Again!

Standing among green trees, a snag may look forlorn and wasted – but it’s really not. It is a teeming metropolis of life. Come see what you can find.

What “gems” can you find in this snag?

When you are finished, get an Explorer’s Kit and see how many of these critters you can find in the Natural Area!

Key body content should be a (primarily visual) introduction to the hidden natural habitats and processes, including:

- tunneling insects (introducing fungal spores)
- predatory arthropods
- small reptiles and amphibians
- birds
- small mammal forage & den sites]

Cedar Sapling Exhibit

Location

In the area between the Cedar Snag and the Retail Space

Objectives

As a result of interacting with this exhibit, visitors will:

- Be able to name at least 3 uses of cedar by Native Americans
- Understand that the forest in Tryon during pre-contact times probably had more cedar and less alder.

Description and Concept

This exhibit focuses on the pre-contact period of human use of the resources in Tryon Creek, using cedar to highlight the Native American connection to and use of natural resources. The components in this exhibit will focus on Native American uses for cedar. The interactive approach used for the Cedar Snag should be continued with this exhibit. Possible features include:

- Open a drawer to discover cording, capes and other items made from cedar bark; participants can also try their hand at braiding cord from cedar bark;
- Feel the bow of a canoe made from a cedar log;
- Feel the rough-hewn surface of a plank from a Native American plank house made from cedar;
- View a scene of a Native American village and answer the question “How Many Ways can you find that the Native Americans used cedar? The exhibit plate should slide away to reveal enlarged visuals of Native Americans using cedar in a variety of ways. This can also be accomplished using a tree image as a backdrop for doors that open to reveal 3-dimensional items such as cording, a miniature canoe; a doll dressed in a cedar cape or skirt; a miniature basket, etc.

In addition to uses by Native Americans, one section of the exhibit should include ways in which cedar is used today. It could include the following interactive elements:

- Smell cedar shavings for potpourri,
- Open a small cedar chest and smell the interior
- Build the roof on a small model using miniature cedar shakes

Finally, the concept of wildlife integrated into the landscape of TCSNA should be carried through by including birds and wildlife in the exhibit that use cedar for habitat.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 4: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is a vital urban refuge for wildlife and native plants that also provides an important migration link between natural areas.

Sub-theme 4-1: The Tryon Creek corridor supports a wealth of resident and migratory wildlife populations including coyote, black tail deer, beaver, red fox, squirrel, bats, owls, anadromous fish and neo-tropical birds.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Helping visitors understand the value and necessity of co-existing with urban wildlife; park staff and volunteers actively involved in stream restoration that encourages the return of healthy salmon populations to Tryon Creek; Tryon Creek is linked to other urban greenspaces by bird, salmon/steelhead and seed migrations

Sub-theme 4-2: Adaptable invertebrates live within the forest, creek and soil habitat playing a vital role in the healthy ecology of the forest.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek is home to a diverse population of decomposers such as worms and various insects, which can be seen in action by visitors in nurse logs and examples of the soil cycle at work in the forest

Sub-theme 4-3: The forest at Tryon Creek offers a pocket of habitat for native plants and fungi to thrive.

Examples of Supporting Stories

In a natural area such as Tryon Creek, native plants, fungi and other species are encouraged to thrive with little management from humans; this park is made up of trails with little mowed or managed areas, which allows for natural succession of plants/fungi

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

Cedar – the Tree of Choice

The natural resources of this area were the reason the Clackamas people could live and thrive along Tryon Creek. They took fish from the streams, hunted deer in the valley, and harvested a wide variety of plants for food and materials.

With a high resistance to decay, cedar was the most important of the trees in this wet climate– it provided wood for building; fiber for cording and fishing line; and bark for clothing.

Although EuroAmericans did not value it as much, cedar is still prized today for its aroma and resistance to decay. Do you use cedar in your life?

Douglas-fir Sapling Exhibit

Location

In the area between the Cedar Snag and the Retail Space

Objectives

As a result of interacting with this exhibit, visitors will:

- Be able to name at least 3 uses of the Douglas-fir in the Tryon Creek Valley by early pioneers and entrepreneurs;
- Understand that the forest in Tryon during early pioneer times probably had more Douglas-fir and less alder;
- Understand that early pioneers viewed the natural resources differently than the Native Americans.

Description and Concept

This exhibit focuses on the early period of EuroAmerican use of natural resources at Tryon, using Douglas-fir to highlight the EuroAmerican connection to and use of natural resources. The components in this exhibit will focus on EuroAmerican uses for Douglas-fir for building materials and fuel. The interactive approach used for the Cedar Snag should be continued with this exhibit. Possible features include:

- Open a drawer to discover lumps of charcoal and pig iron with a brief explanation of that era of history;
- Use a set of Lincoln logs to make a log cabin;
- Leaf through a scrapbook with historic photos of charcoal making and logging;
- View a scene of an early stage of the development of Portland and answer the question “How Many Ways can you find that early settlers and developers used Douglas-fir? The exhibit plate should slide away to reveal enlarged visuals of EuroAmericans using Douglas-fir in a variety of ways, specifically, as personal building materials, commercial lumbering operations, and as fuel for making charcoal for iron smelting. This can also be accomplished using a tree image as a backdrop for doors that open to reveal 3-dimensional items such as a chunk of pig iron and charcoal; a model of a log cabin; and a log truck filled with large sections of trees.
- Open an image of a mature Douglas-fir tree to reveal a diagram of lumber set into the tree so visitors can get a feel for how much lumber a pioneer could extract from a single tree.

The concept of wildlife integrated into the landscape of TCSNA should be carried through by including birds and wildlife that use Douglas-fir for habitat. The species selected should differ from those that appear in the other two sapling exhibits.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 1: People have shaped the landscape of Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Sub-theme 1-2: Tryon Creek’s namesake, Socrates H. Tryon, valued the land as a place to make his fortune, build a home and raise a family.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Socrates H. Tryon settled this land through the Oregon Donation Land Claim; Tryon family history reveals how the land was used during settlement of the Portland/Lake Oswego area

Sub-theme 1-3: Early Euro-Americans valued the trees in Tryon Creek for charcoal, fuel, railroad ties and building materials. A wonderful example is the Arnold/Park log homes.

Examples of Supporting Stories

The logging that took place in Tryon Creek State Natural Area supported the growth of the charcoal industry in Lake Oswego; lumber logged from TCSNA built homes in the local community such as the Park/Arnold historic log homes that are now on the National Registry of Historic Places

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

Douglas-fir as the Tree of Choice

It wasn't long after Socrates Tryon harvested a few of the stately trees of Tryon Creek for building and heating his cabin that forests of Douglas-fir all over the state were disappearing, and reappearing as walls, floors and roofs for houses and businesses. But the Douglas-fir of Tryon Creek were destined for a different fate.

The industrial era brought a need for iron and a need for charcoal to fuel the iron smelters. Tryon Creek was a ready source of timber to make into charcoal, so the forest once again changed, this time to alder.

Alder Sapling Exhibit

Location

In the area between the Cedar Snag and the Retail Space

Objectives

As a result of interacting with this exhibit, visitors will:

- Understand why Tryon Creek is dominated by alder;
- Understand that the forest is continuing to change through succession;
- Understand that the changes in the canopy forest will lead to changes in the flora and fauna in the Natural Area.

Description and Concept

This exhibit focuses on the present and potential future period of human interaction with the resources of Tryon Creek using alder to highlight the connection of users today with the Natural Area. The role of the natural resources in this exhibit to human use relates much more to habitat for fish and wildlife and a natural environment for recreation. The interactive approach used for the Cedar Snag should be continued with this exhibit, but the type of use dictates a focus on wildlife. One possible concept is to use a "Where's Waldo" approach to discovering several birds and species of wildlife, and wildlife sign such as woodpecker holes, animal tracks, cone stalks and scales, and bark rubbed off by deer antlers. Flip plates with animal sign could ask "what caused this?" Opening the flip plate could reveal an image or mount of the organism. Spotlights triggered by a button could highlight birds after a person has tried to locate the bird by the listening for a call in the exhibit. One part of the exhibit should ask questions to motivate participants to compare the wildlife in this exhibit with the wildlife in the other two sapling exhibits. The answer should focus on the concept that different habitat supports different species of birds and wildlife at Tryon. Finally, one part of the exhibit should ask the question,

“What will Tryon Creek look like in 50 years?” The answer should focus on the fact that we don’t know, but it will depend largely on people like you.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 4: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is a vital urban refuge for wildlife and native plants that also provides an important migration link between natural areas.

Sub-theme 4-1: The Tryon Creek corridor supports a wealth of resident and migratory wildlife populations including coyote, black tail deer, beaver, red fox, squirrel, bats, owls, anadromous fish and neo-tropical birds.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Helping visitors understand the value and necessity of co-existing with urban wildlife; park staff and volunteers actively involved in stream restoration that encourages the return of healthy salmon populations to Tryon Creek; Tryon Creek is linked to other urban greenspaces by bird, salmon/steelhead and seed migrations

Sub-theme 4-2: Adaptable invertebrates live within the forest, creek and soil habitat playing a vital role in the healthy ecology of the forest.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek is home to a diverse population of decomposers such as worms and various insects, which can be seen in action by visitors in nurse logs and examples of the soil cycle at work in the forest

Sub-theme 4-3: The forest at Tryon Creek offers a pocket of habitat for native plants and fungi to thrive.

Examples of Supporting Stories

In a natural area such as Tryon Creek, native plants, fungi and other species are encouraged to thrive with little management from humans; this park is made up of trails with little mowed or managed areas, which allows for natural succession of plants/fungi

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

Seeing The Forest For The Trees

Today people value the trees of Tryon Creek, such as this young red alder, as a setting for recreation, as habitat for fish and wildlife, as a place of contemplation and escape from their urban world, and as place to connect with nature.

What do you find special about this forest?

Naturalist Discovery Corner

Location

The movable parts of this exhibit should be located to the left of the entryway into the Kraft Room, but with room so visitors can access the carts from all sides and also look out the window. The “What’s New” part of the exhibit could be in the corner.

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Be aware of what is new at the park;
- Be motivated to check out seasonal wildflowers or wildlife and anything else that is new.
- Be motivated to examine specimens and engage in activities that lead to a better understanding of the natural world outside the walls of the nature center.
- Be motivated to explore the Natural Area using the Discovery Guide and Explorer's Kit to find, identify and learn about the flora and fauna of TCSNA.

Description and Concept

This area contains a variety of opportunities, including movable carts with changeable exhibits on top, such as pelts, an interactive exhibit with sand (or simulated), water, wildlife, and vegetation so visitors can “build” a watershed, or where they can make animal tracks from stamps; and perhaps a small interactive scale model of the watershed could be included on one of the carts. Within the exhibit, a visitor can pull up “cores” to see and learn about the geologic story of the watershed; push buttons to initiate an optical system that highlights the flow of water through the system, extending into the urban areas surrounding the park; flip plates that reveal images of areas of the park during different seasons; and the sound of running water permeating the entire experience.

It also includes a **What’s New at Tryon Creek?** exhibit. This is a changeable exhibit focusing on what can be discovered in the park now. It includes a journal where visitors log their sightings of birds, wildlife and flowers in bloom. It also includes a magnetic board that allows visitors to create a visual representation of what they saw and where they saw that attraction. It also contains a sample “Discovery Pack” with instructions on how to check one out. Binoculars on a cable allow a visitor to try using binoculars to find birds and wildlife outside the window. Finally, it should have keys for plant, bird and wildlife identification.

Tryon’s Living Forest

Location

On the wall above the entry to the Kraft Memorial Room, on the upper wall above the Cedar Snag exhibit and on the beams

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know that TCSNA contains a lot of wildlife and birds in the trees.

Description and Concept

The main exhibit area will have murals of the forest with specific species of flora and fauna hidden in the mural for visitors to find, ala Where's Waldo. This area contains a similar mural, with 3-dimensional elements built in, such as specimens mounted on the beams.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 4: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is a vital urban refuge for wildlife and native plants that also provides an important migration link between natural areas.

Sub-theme 4-1: The Tryon Creek corridor supports a wealth of resident and migratory wildlife populations including coyote, black tail deer, beaver, red fox, squirrel, bats, owls, anadromous fish and neo-tropical birds.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Helping visitors understand the value and necessity of co-existing with urban wildlife; park staff and volunteers actively involved in stream restoration that encourages the return of healthy salmon populations to Tryon Creek; Tryon Creek is linked to other urban greenspaces by bird, salmon/steelhead and seed migrations

Sub-theme 4-2: Adaptable invertebrates live within the forest, creek and soil habitat playing a vital role in the healthy ecology of the forest.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek is home to a diverse population of decomposers such as worms and various insects, which can be seen in action by visitors in nurse logs and examples of the soil cycle at work in the forest

Sub-theme 4-3: The forest at Tryon Creek offers a pocket of habitat for native plants and fungi to thrive.

Examples of Supporting Stories

In a natural area such as Tryon Creek, native plants, fungi and other species are encouraged to thrive with little management from humans; this park is made up of trails with little mowed or managed areas, which allows for natural succession of plants/fungi

Kraft Memorial Room

The approach to developing the experience in the Kraft Memorial Room is to provide a series of strategies that encourages a clockwise traffic flow through the exhibits located in the east part of the room followed by a visit to the Trip Planning Area in the southwest corner. In addition to clear visual access to exhibits on the left side of the north wall, vertical banners could be hung in such a way as to direct flow to the right. This could be reinforced by an image on the floor, such as a “stream” of blue set against the color of the carpet, which “flows” to the beginning of the exhibits on the north wall. It is expected that the library will be used primarily by return visitors, which is why it is not included in the basic traffic flow. Using the existing library cart to block flow into that space could further encourage people to move to the right. A basic floor plan is depicted in Figure 9.

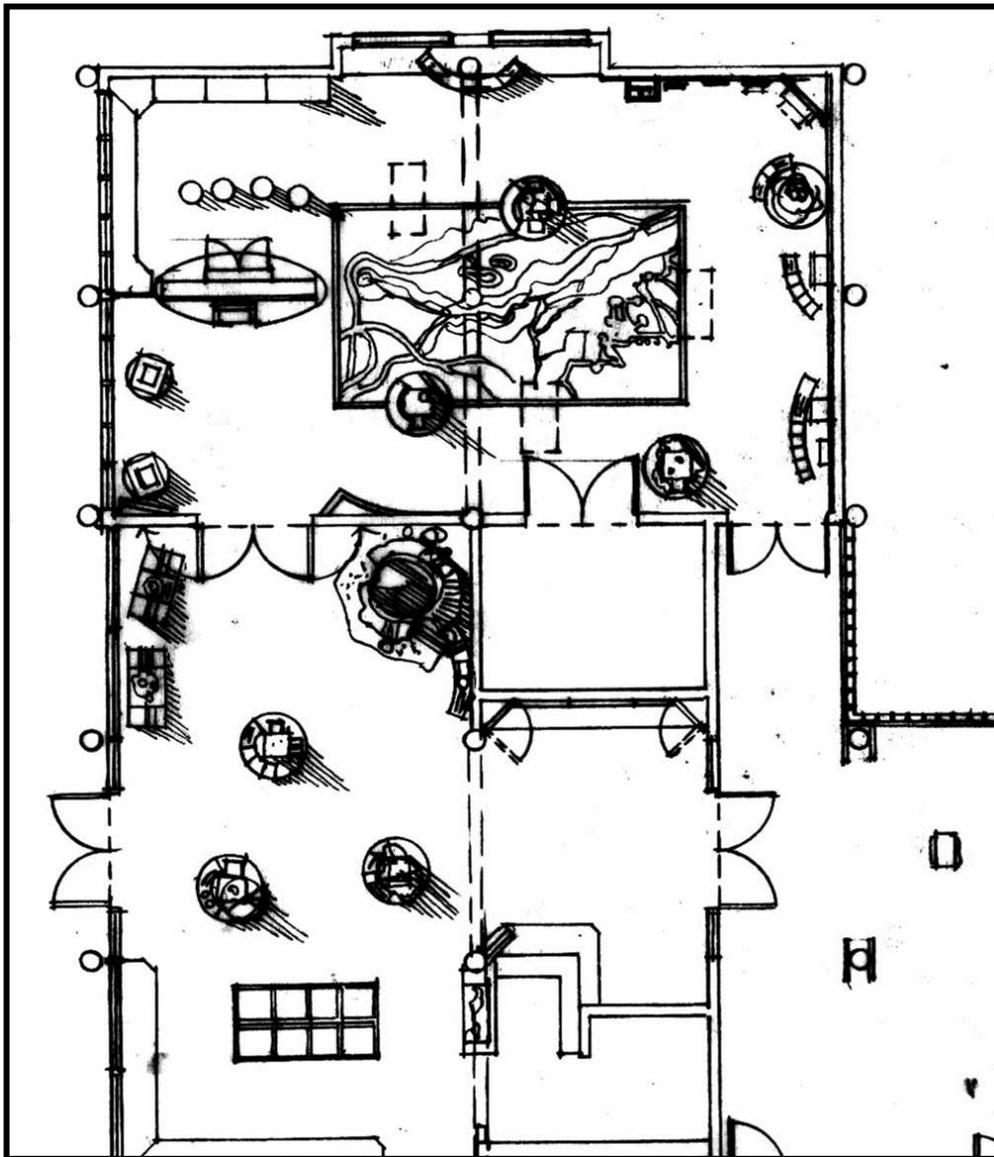


Figure 9: General layout of Lobby and Kraft Room

Experience Objectives

The objectives of the exhibits and other opportunities in the Kraft Room are:

- To motivate visitors to explore the grounds of TCSNA;
- To motivate people to become active supporters of TCSNA (join the Friends Group, volunteer for conservation projects, donate money, etc. .
- To motivate people to become active supporters of OPRD (volunteer time, vote yes in 2014, etc.;
- To excite visitors about becoming detectives of the landscape
- To motivate visitors to want to learn more so they engage in post-visit educational opportunities;
- To motivate people to become repeat visitors (which requires changing exhibits, events and programs).
- To enable visitor's to look at the environment in a different way;

Future Experience

The interpretive approach to the main exhibit area is to create an experience that corresponds with what a visitor can see outdoors, while integrating the cultural story into the context of the 'natural' setting. The intent is to excite visitors about exploring TCSNA while at the same time providing the basic storylines so they can understand what they are seeing during their explorations and how it got that way through a combination of forces of nature and human actions. Consequently, we propose to create a basic infrastructure resembling the outdoors in which we will place a variety of interpretive opportunities. The **North Wall Exhibits** will focus on the era of history corresponding to use by Native Americans; the **East Wall Exhibits** will focus on EuroAmerican history from the time of contact to present; and the South Wall Exhibits will focus on present and future history of TCSNA. The center of the room will contain a **Watershed Exhibit** with movable pods. All opportunities in the main floor will be movable so the room can be used for meeting space.

After viewing the exhibits, visitors leaving the Kraft Room will have easy access to the **Technology Library** and **State Parks Trip Planning Station**.

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Remove the exhibits from the room and develop a reading library in the northwest corner (see Figure 10). To house all the books, a shelf will be added that is anchored to post in middle of large windows coming out at 90-degree angle from wall and possibly up edges of windows.
2. Develop the exhibits and other opportunities described in this section.

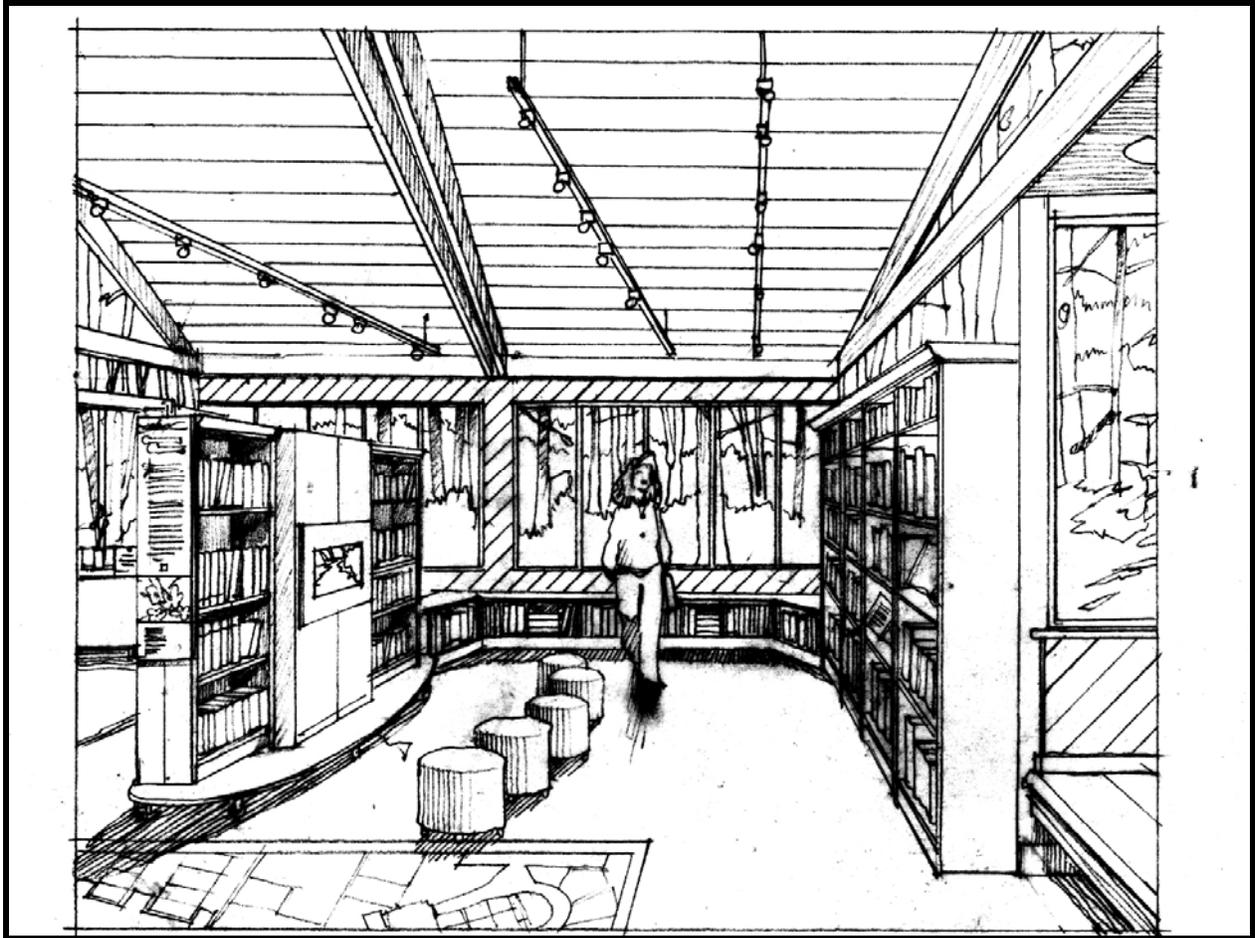


Figure 10: Library area in northwest corner of Kraft Room

North Wall

General Concept

The story of human use of Tryon Creek begins along this wall. The upper part of the wall contains an interactive mural with birds and wildlife half hidden in the forest scene, painted so that you can find different elements in the mural but not like a photograph (see Figure 11). This will be similar to a Where's Waldo type of experience. The mural will also have an associated soundscape that is activated by visitor presence. The soundscape can be turned off, and can be localized to a part of the exhibit. It will link sounds to visuals that are on the mural - (pass a chickadee and you hear its call). Ideally, places to sit would be strategically placed so people could sit to view the mural, hear sounds associated with the mural and smell odors associated with the forest. Small monitors could be used on a limited basis to provide more information on fauna that live in the forest.



Figure 11: North Wall of Kraft Room with mural

The mural will be the backdrop for interactive opportunities lower on the wall focusing on Native American use of the forest resources. Possibilities include black boxes requiring identification of pelts using touch; identifying birds by bird calls; braiding and testing cord from cedar bark; trying on clothes made of cedar bark; using an awl made of deer antler to sew leather; assembling a miniature plank house, sitting on a log and listening to a story of the salmon told by an elder, and making a fish hook from animal bone. A set of hand puppets representing a Native American family could be available along with ideas for “scenes” to act out involving living in the Tryon area and interacting with the natural resources. With different components requiring use of different senses, and with supporting information provided in both text and audio format, the experience offered by the exhibit will be fully accessible.

The lower part of the exhibit should include areas where carts with supplies for activities such as dressing up in Native American clothing and assembling a miniature plank house can be stored. It also should continue the opportunities to discover what lives in the forest and how it might have been used by Native Americans. Possibilities include:

- A web cam can provide a live feed (and taped footage) of a bird's nest or roost. The associated information will focus on the importance of snags for food, nesting, and as a perch for raptors.
- A series of opportunities focusing on life at the bottom, which focus on what goes on underground, especially around snags of trees. A variety of methods can be used to give the desired impression. For example, visitors can look through a clear acrylic covering to roots, and a soil profile. That profile could have windows into a mouse den and other such homes for wildlife. Again, a web cam could be used if appropriate. The underground area could also have tubers and other plants that the Native Americans dug up and ate.
- A drawer containing a tree ring exhibit. Different events in the Native American history of the surrounding area would be chronicled using the tree rings.
- A window or door into a nurse log that reveals what uses the inside of hollow logs as runways and how Native American snared such species.
- An opportunity to strip cedar bark from a tree.
- Opening up a rotting log to see what lives there.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 1: People have shaped the landscape of Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Sub-theme 1-1: Before European contact, indigenous people utilized this forest and its surroundings for its abundant food, medicine, building, clothing, and tool supplies, as well as for its convenient location.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Native Americans valued many of the natural resources found in the Tryon Creek watershed, especially cedar trees, to support their lifestyle.

Sub-theme 1-2: Tryon Creek's namesake, Socrates H. Tryon, valued the land as a place to make his fortune, build a home and raise a family.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Socrates H. Tryon settled this land through the Oregon Donation Land Claim; Tryon family history reveals how the land was used during settlement of the Portland/Lake Oswego area

Sub-theme 1-3: Early Euro-Americans valued the trees in Tryon Creek for charcoal, fuel, railroad ties and building materials. A wonderful example is the Arnold/Park log homes.

Examples of Supporting Stories

The logging that took place in Tryon Creek State Natural Area supported the growth of the charcoal industry in Lake Oswego; lumber logged from TCSNA

built homes in the local community such as the Park/Arnold historic log homes that are now on the National Registry of Historic Places

Sub-theme 1-4: The Friends of Tryon Creek State Park valued the land in its natural state for fish and wildlife, environmental education and recreation, and were the driving force behind the creation of a state park, saving the land from residential development.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Grassroots efforts by the Friends of Tryon Creek State Park saved the park land from residential development; The relationship between the Friends and Oregon State Park is an example of public/private relationships and how mutually beneficial they can be

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

A Fruitful Landscape

Where do your water, food and shelter come from? From the same place it has always come – the natural world. Today we don't have to collect it directly from nature, but the Clackamas did.

The Clackamas met their basic needs by hunting in the forests, fishing in the rivers and streams, and collecting other food, tools and materials from wherever they could find them.

See if you can find all the ways in this exhibit that the Clackamas used resources. Each time, ask yourself how you get the same food, tool or material.

East Wall

General Concept

The focus of the exhibits on this wall is on EuroAmerican use of and impact on Tryon Creek from the time of settlement by Socrates Tryon to the period of time during which the area was protected by the Friends Group prior to it becoming a State Park. The key focal points include the settlement period represented by the story of Socrates Tryon and the industrial development period represented by the production of charcoal to fuel the iron smelters. As with the north wall, the cultural story is embedded in the natural landscape. Figure 12 depicts the general concept for the East Wall.

The exhibit could be anchored on the left by a component that allows a person to identify the barks of different types of trees found in the ecosystem at the time and on the right by the an exhibit component with the bark of a different set of trees – primarily hardwoods – to indicate the major shift in the dominant flora found in the watershed. Another possibility is to anchor the exhibit on the left by a 3-dimensional Douglas-fir stump in the corner with a springboard notch to signify the shift to EuroAmerican impacts on the natural landscape, and on the right by a 3-dimensional clump of young alder to depict the result. If the stump is used, visitors could also

climb up on a springboard to examine holes made by different woodpeckers and listen to the differences in the tapping as they drill. They could also peel away the bark to see what the woodpeckers are searching for.

Regardless of what anchors are used, the intent is to depict the starting and ending point of the forest at Tryon. In between would be a major exhibit component focusing on the pioneer and settlement era and another component telling the story of production of charcoal. The culmination of the exhibit should be a view of the state of the natural ecosystem at the time the Friends Group became involved. That will set the stage for the South Wall Exhibits.



Figure 12: View of East Wall of Kraft Room

The backdrop on the east wall is a continuation of the interactive mural begun on the north wall, but with the forest shifting first to patches of forest with a few cut areas and then to a scene dominated by cut areas interspersed with patches of alder growing up in older clearcuts. As with the north wall, the mural will contain birds and wildlife that can be discovered in the canopy. However, the specific species should change with the changing of the habitat.

The Pioneer Era: The Socrates Tryon story should be told with images and supporting text. The background at this point should include a clearing with a cabin and associated outbuildings, and with crops planted. If possible, the cabin should be large enough for visitors to look in the

window to glimpse a pioneer home, with an interactive element that asks the visitor to guess how many objects in the view were crafted or came directly from the surrounding forest. Visitors could also sit on a rough hewn bench and list to what “Tryon” had to say about the land.

Associated interactive elements could include building a log cabin out of Lincoln logs and dressing up in pioneer clothing, especially clothing made from materials acquired from the natural resources of the landscape, such as hides or furs. A set of hand puppets representing a pioneer family could be available along with ideas for “scenes” to act out involving living in the Tryon area and interacting with the natural resources.

The Charcoal Era: The charcoal story should be set against a backdrop depicting most of the forests cut down and depicting the charcoal operation at Tryon. Visitors can peer inside the log structure used to make charcoal and learn about the process. An interactive opportunity allows them to calculate how much charcoal is made from a tree, how much charcoal was needed to keep a single smelter going for a year, and how much iron was produced from such a smelter. Inset images of Portland at the time would emphasize the change in the cultural context. Associated interactive elements could include a coal cart with charcoal pencils for children to draw with, and a model of the structure used to make charcoal to assemble.

Transition: The final part of the exhibit should include images of Portland in the first half of the 20th century to provide a contrast to the earlier images of Portland, and to set the stage for focusing on potential futures of Tryon Creek. We want people to understand that the ensuing story is unique in Oregon, and that Tryon could have ended up with condos all over the watershed.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 1: People have shaped the landscape of Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Sub-theme 1-1: Before European contact, indigenous people utilized this forest and its surroundings for its abundant food, medicine, building, clothing, and tool supplies, as well as for its convenient location.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Native Americans valued many of the natural resources found in the Tryon Creek watershed, especially cedar trees, to support their lifestyle.

Sub-theme 1-2: Tryon Creek’s namesake, Socrates H. Tryon, valued the land as a place to make his fortune, build a home and raise a family.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Socrates H. Tryon settled this land through the Oregon Donation Land Claim; Tryon family history reveals how the land was used during settlement of the Portland/Lake Oswego area

Sub-theme 1-3: Early Euro-Americans valued the trees in Tryon Creek for charcoal, fuel, railroad ties and building materials. A wonderful example is the Arnold/Park log homes.

Examples of Supporting Stories

The logging that took place in Tryon Creek State Natural Area supported the growth of the charcoal industry in Lake Oswego; lumber logged from TCSNA built homes in the local community such as the Park/Arnold historic log homes that are now on the National Registry of Historic Places

Sub-theme 1-4: The Friends of Tryon Creek State Park valued the land in its natural state for fish and wildlife, environmental education and recreation, and were the driving force behind the creation of a state park, saving the land from residential development.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Grassroots efforts by the Friends of Tryon Creek State Park saved the park land from residential development; The relationship between the Friends and Oregon State Park is an example of public/private relationships and how mutually beneficial they can be

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

A Productive Landscape

Pioneers such as Socrates Tryon settled this watershed for the same reasons as Native Americans – land to live on with resources for food, tools, building materials and something to trade or sell to obtain what nature could not provide. For the Clackamas it was salmon; for the pioneers it was timber.

As Portland grew, the demand for iron grew – as did the need for fuel for the iron smelters. Tryon Creek provided an easily accessible source of wood for conversion to charcoal, which – unlike wood – burned hot enough to smelt iron. The Douglas-fir forests of the watershed quickly disappeared, replaced by stands of alder.

With an exploding population and land becoming valuable for homes, something had to be done or Tryon Creek would become a part of the urban landscape.

South Wall

General Concept

The focus of the exhibits on this wall is on EuroAmerican use of and impact on Tryon Creek during the Restoration and Recreation Era, from the time of acquisition by the Friends Group to the present. The emphasis is on the present and on the future – what will become of Tryon and who is to decide its fate? The key focal points include the work by the Friends to preserve the area, the partnership with OPRD, the ongoing management to rehabilitate the area as a natural area, and the future of the Natural Area. Figure 13 depicts the general concept for the South Wall.

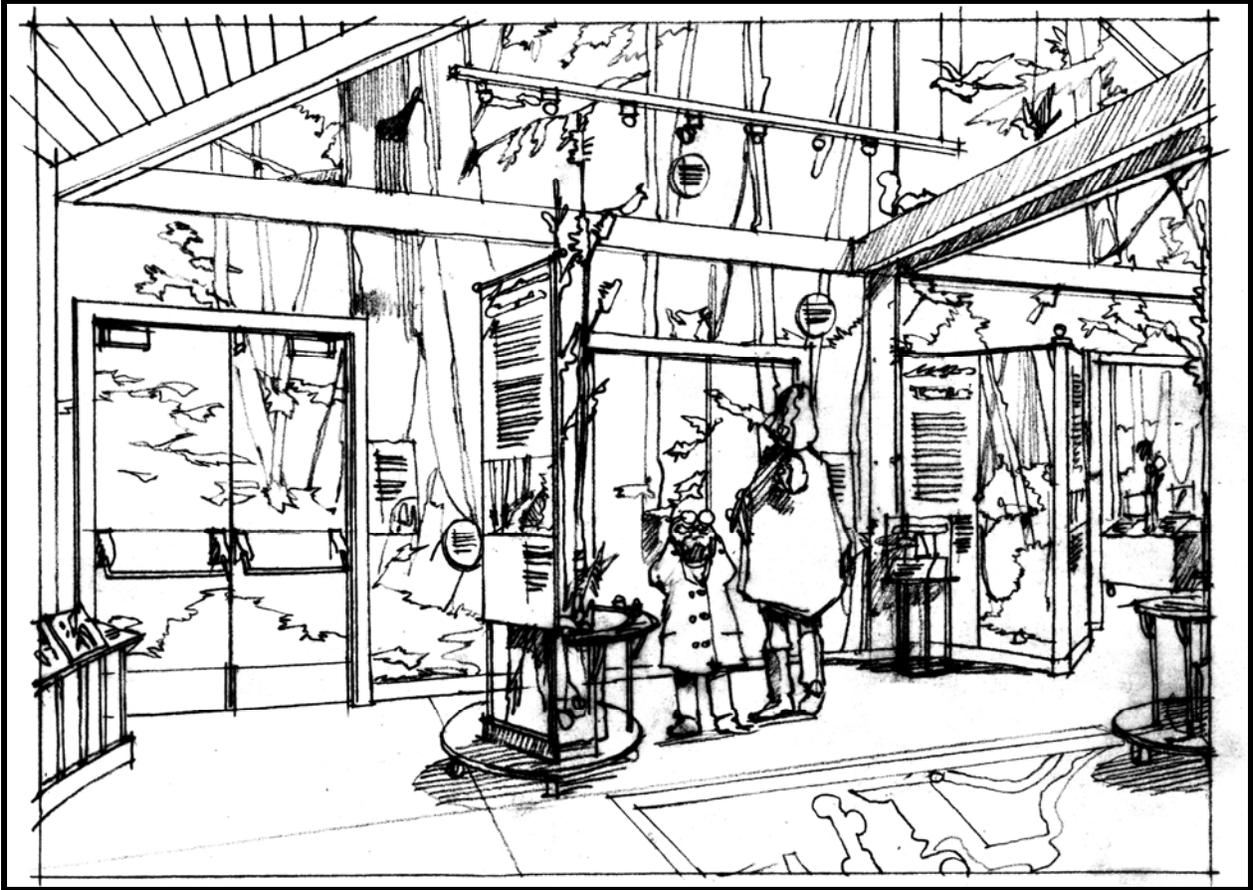


Figure 13: South Wall of Kraft Room

The backdrop on the south wall is a continuation of the interactive mural begun on the north wall, but with the forest shifting from clearings with patches of alder and a few evergreens to what it looks like today. As with the north wall, the mural will contain birds and wildlife that can be discovered in the canopy, but the gradual evolution from a cut over landscape to one with much of the native flora restored should be reinforced with a gradual increase in number of species found in the upper mural and in the backdrop for the exhibit elements. The species should also change as the habitat changes.

Individual exhibits, arranged in chronological order, should focus on the Friends Era prior to Tryon becoming a State Park; the gradual evolution of the landscape during the years of partnership between the two as the forest began to grow back and management activities made progress on putting the “natural” back in Natural Area; the setting now; and the potentials for the future. In all the separate exhibit elements, individuals should be highlighted to help send the message that ordinary people [like the visitor] were responsible for the jewel that is TCSNA. As with the exhibits on the other walls, the exhibit components should be set against a backdrop of an evolving natural environment.

In addition to the interactive opportunities afforded by the “Where’s Waldo” approach to discovering birds and wildlife, possible elements along this wall include:

- An interactive program in the initial exhibit component that allows visitors to track potential actions from that time period to see the likely outcomes, with the message

being that the area likely would have ended up as part of the urban landscape without intervention by the Friends Group. (Without hitting people over the head with the concept of stewardship, we want to at least instill the sense that the fact that they can enjoy such a natural oasis is largely due to the efforts of people – the Friends Group, OPRD and users of the park.)

- The interactive program to explore ramifications of management decisions can be carried through to stations located in the Partnership Story and the Future Story. The program in the latter will focus on telling the story of or posing questions focused on the future with emphasis on the viewer as a potential player who can be a part of the story. The message here is that human actions have affected the future of the forest and will continue to do so - we don't know what the future will be but the visitor can help shape it.
- At the final station, an interactive program allows visitors to make choices of actions today, and see what the consequences for Tryon are in the future.
- For the sake of continuity, this station could have one more opportunity to identify trees by feeling and looking at the bark. This version would include bark or simulated bark from the five major species of mature trees found in the forest today - alder, maple, old-growth cedar, old-growth hemlock and Douglas-fir.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 1: People have shaped the landscape of Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Sub-theme 1-1: Before European contact, indigenous people utilized this forest and its surroundings for its abundant food, medicine, building, clothing, and tool supplies, as well as for its convenient location.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Native Americans valued many of the natural resources found in the Tryon Creek watershed, especially cedar trees, to support their lifestyle.

Sub-theme 1-2: Tryon Creek's namesake, Socrates H. Tryon, valued the land as a place to make his fortune, build a home and raise a family.

Examples of Supporting Stories

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Examples of Supporting Stories

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driving force behind the creation of a state park, saving the land from residential development.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Grassroots efforts by the Friends of Tryon Creek State Park saved the park land from residential development; The relationship between the Friends and Oregon State Park is an example of public/private relationships and how mutually beneficial they can be

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Yesterday's residents, a Friends Group before a park existed, saved this area and then partnered with Oregon State Parks to pave the way to making this area natural and giving you the experiences you enjoy here. But it hasn't been easy.

Sharing a watershed with a highly developed urban landscape brings a set of issues that can only be solved by lots of concerned people working together over time. And so it has been with the Friends Group, OPRD and local residents.

Yesterday's residents helped preserve this natural island in an urban sea. How do you want to be remembered?

Main Floor

General Concept

The floor of main room contains a depiction of a watershed (16' map) that will be used as a teaching tool for programs and as a backdrop for movable exhibits. It is important that it is of the entire watershed to facilitate programs focusing on the definition of a watershed, the interconnectivity of all elements in a watershed, and the need for everyone living in the watershed to engage in sustainable practices to help sustain and restore the Natural Area. Possible techniques for providing interactive opportunities using the base map, in addition to the movable modular components, include:

- Using full or partial overlays to alter the image to tell specific stories, such as an overlay depicting how the area would have looked after the forests had been cut to make charcoal. The location of the charcoal operations could be included;
- Designing the overlay in such a way that large items such as cabins, plank houses, and contemporary buildings could be moved around on the landscape and like magnets;
- Developing overlays that enlarge specific areas, such as riparian and aquatic ecosystems and designing them so rocks, large woody debris, bridges, and other such features could be moved around as magnets.
- Developing a string of stream sections that could be fitted together and put in different locations in the watershed to teach concepts related to geomorphology;
- Developing a large flat map of the Portland Metropolitan area designed to highlight different watersheds that can be rolled out on the floor so children (or adults) can find the watershed they live within.

Modular Exhibit 1: Aquatic/In-stream

This pod focuses on the aquatic and riparian habitats, with a focus on how important these areas are for sustaining the biota of the park. Possible interactive opportunities include:

- Lifting up rocks to view insects, magnetic bugs, nesting cavities, etc.
- A web cam so a person feels as if he or she is viewing the 'stream' in the exhibit area. A visitor can choose to see a live feed or see a taped replay of when activity was occurring in terms of migrating smolts. As the person is viewing, an audio program will briefly highlight the importance of Tryon Creek for fish, and also the key attributes of fish habitat that can be seen in the park.
- A flip plate on a chunk of large woody debris in the 'stream' that asks the question, "Why leave me here?" Upon opening the flip plate, visitors will learn the importance of large woody debris in terms of fish habitat.
- Using a microscope to look at macro-organisms that inhabit the stream and provide food for fish and wildlife.
- An opportunity to smell water from different sources resulting in different minerals. This could include Lithia water from Ashland, soda water from Cascadia and water from the Bull Run watershed from which Portland gets its drinking water;
- A beaver stick that has to be identified by feel;
- *A computer program that allows visitors to manipulate riparian vegetation and see the changes in water temperature, turbidity, amount and variety of microorganisms and the number of fish that can be supported;
- *A computer program that allows visitors to manipulate the amount of large woody debris in a stream and see the impacts on physical characteristics of the stream and on the biota that live in that ecosystem.

The tactile, audio and visual components will combine to make the exhibit experience fully accessible.

**The interactive computer programs could also be located in the Technology Library section.*

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 2: Urban water sources connect the Tryon Creek watershed, linking fish, wildlife, vegetation, soil and people.

Sub-theme 2-1: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is an integral part of a large urban watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek State Natural Area is the largest portion of land within the Tryon Creek watershed; Restoration projects completed by the state, citizen groups such as the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and the City of Portland creates a model of urban watershed health.

Sub-theme 2-2: Protecting the watershed depends on people making environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Sharing with visitors sustainable options and educational opportunities such as reducing your carbon footprint & water conservation

Sub-theme 2-3: The high quality of life that people enjoy in Portland is dependent on the health of watersheds like the Tryon Creek watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Neighbors of Tryon Creek SNA and the SW Portland community benefit from a healthy urban watershed; Seasonal flooding, directed by restoration projects onto managed floodplain areas, benefits neighbors by reducing erosion and hazardous tree conditions; Continual water quality testing is essential in order to establish and maintain watershed health and function

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

At the Heart of it All

What would happen if you cleared all the trees and bushes from the creek banks so you could sit on a grassy slope and enjoy a picnic?

Is it good to leave large trees lying in the creek almost blocking the flow of water?

What kinds of fish live in Tryon Creek?

What else lives there?

Come discover the core of Tryon Creek State Natural Area – the creek itself – and see if you can answer these questions and more.

Modular Exhibit 2: Uplands: This pod is focused on the land part of the watershed. Possible parts of the exhibit include invasives, water quality, and what actions people can take to protect the natural resources and water quality. The design concept is the same – interactive, multisensory and with an element of discovery. Visitors should be able to open compartments to view, touch, smell, and hear elements of the exhibit. Key restoration activities that should be a part of this exhibit include ivy pulls, planting stream banks, putting rock cribs in streams, covering exposed stream banks with burlap and any other activities that happen at TCSNA.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 2: Urban water sources connect the Tryon Creek watershed, linking fish, wildlife, vegetation, soil and people.

Sub-theme 2-1: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is an integral part of a large urban watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek State Natural Area is the largest portion of land within the Tryon Creek watershed; Restoration projects completed by the state, citizen groups such as the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and the City of Portland creates a model of urban watershed health.

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First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

Beware the Invaders!!

Look down into our uplands and see if you can find what doesn't belong there.

Did you see ivy? Blackberries? Weeds? Walk any trail in Tryon and you will find these invaders and others trying to take over the landscape and force the inhabitants out!

These invaders came with people – some were brought and others just tagged along. And now they compete for water, sunlight, nutrients and food – very successfully.

Keeping the right nature in Tryon Creek State Natural Area is an ongoing struggle, but we are winning!

Whose side are you going to take?

Modular Exhibit 3: Geology/Hydrology: This pod focuses on such topics as ground water recharge, water filtration, and layering of rock to make a connection between the substrate and the biotic elements that inhabit the ecosystem. Possible components of this exhibit include:

- Cores that can be pulled up to reveal different layers of the substrate;
- Doors that open for viewing soil profiles and the connections between plants and substrate;
- Rocks that can be lifted to compare weight (density);
- Soda water, Lithia water and local water to taste and compare;

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 2: Urban water sources connect the Tryon Creek watershed, linking fish, wildlife, vegetation, soil and people.

Sub-theme 2-1: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is an integral part of a large urban watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

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First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

What Do You See?

What do you see when you look out the window? A volcano? An ocean? A massive flood with icebergs? They have all been here! This is just the current version of a landscape that is always changing.

Why does it matter? The bedrock and soil control the flow of water, which affects the plants that can live here, which affects the fish and wildlife that can survive here, and on and on it goes. What you can't see controls that which you can see.

Come read the story of these events and see if you can answer the question,

What's Next?

Possible Sidebar (if you have water to taste)

Did you ever go somewhere and think the water tasted funny? That was probably because Mother Nature added a bit of spice along the way.

Water does not just flow in rivers and streams – it also flows underground, and even through bedrock (verrrry slowwwly . . .). As it does, it picks up minerals from the rock, which gives some water a unique flavor.

The Lithia water famous in Ashland; the soda water at Cascadia State Recreation Site and the water you drink all taste differently because of where they come from.

Trip Planning and Resource Center

General Concept

This area is located so it is the last area that visitors reach in the Kraft Room. Its purpose is twofold: first it is an opportunity for those who want more information to view longer, more in-depth programs related to Tryon Creek; second, it is a trip planning center for those interested in visiting other State Parks in the region and in the rest of Oregon. These two functions do not have to be confined to specific areas within this space. In fact, it might be advantageous if someone is watching a DVD about Tryon Creek to be able to also access some information about other State Parks in the region at that same station.

Figure 14 depicts how this area might look.

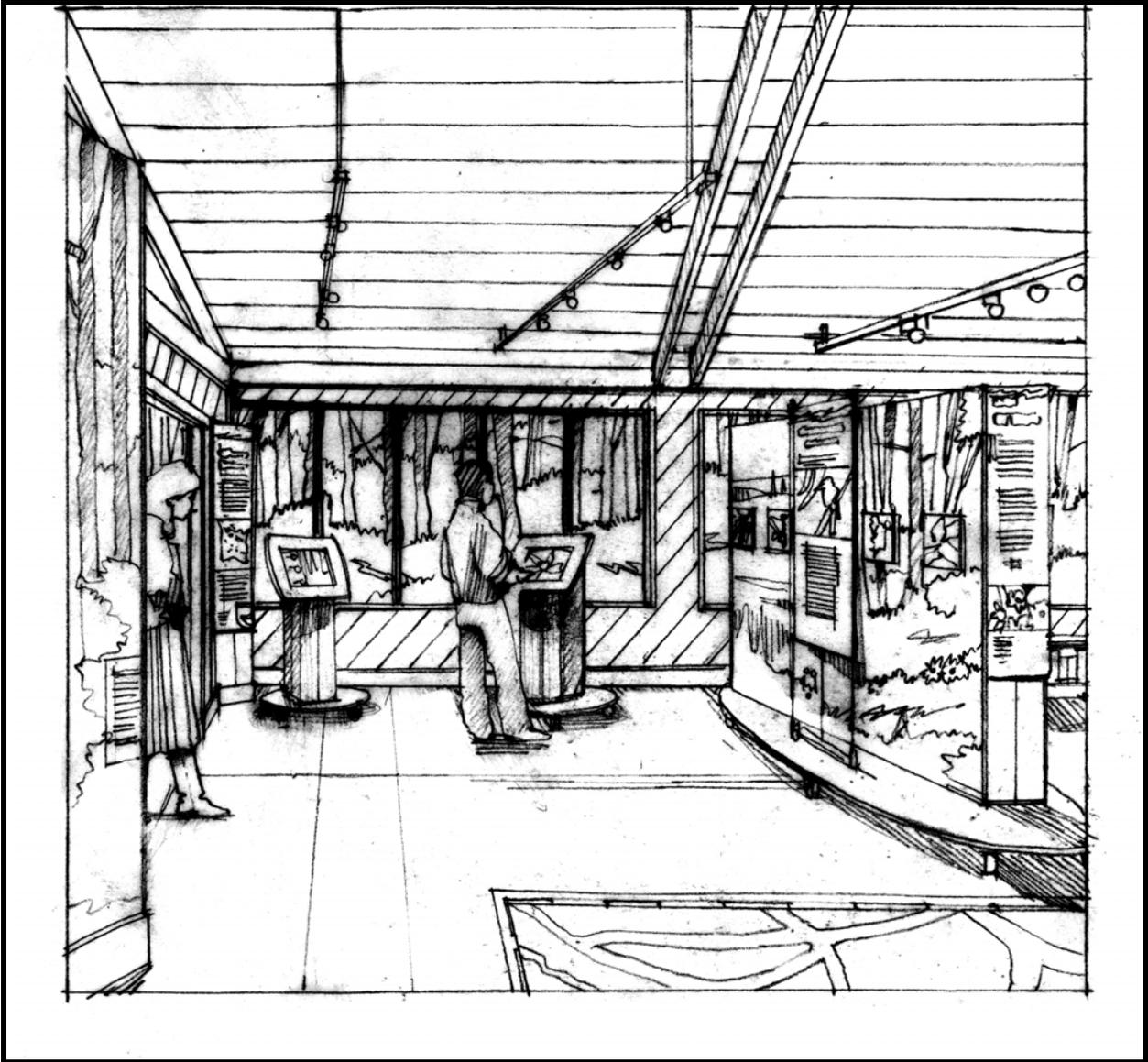


Figure 14: Trip Planning and Resource Center

The focus of the entire area is to function as a gateway both to Oregon State Parks and to the more detailed story of the natural and cultural history of TCSNA. Possible opportunities and delivery strategies for this area include:

- A DVD program focused on TCSNA. The program could be divided into short segments focusing on different aspects of the cultural and natural history that visitors could select with a menu.
- An interactive trip planning program using a touch screen monitor;
- An exhibit focusing on the other State Parks in the region. One possible concept is to use a map of the area as a backdrop for clusters of photos depicting the different activities and attractions at the various State Parks in the area. Brochure holders would distribute the basic map/brochure from each of these parks.
- A computer touch screen kiosk where visitors can get information on any State Park in Oregon and reserve a camp site.

Deck Area

This area needs to be expanded to provide additional opportunities for programs and to better serve visitors to the Center by providing immediate opportunities to use an Explorer's Kit or Discovery Guide to find some of the species of flora and fauna that the visitor found in the Lobby and Kraft Room exhibits.

Experience Objectives

The objective of the opportunities in this area is:

- To facilitate a visitor's efforts to see different aspects of the surrounding environment;
- To provide an immediate opportunity to "discover" some of the flora and fauna of TCSNA that was highlighted in the Kraft Room and Lobby Exhibits.

Future Experience

Visitors to the deck area will encounter "find me" panels that help them to discover many of the same plants, signs of wildlife and wildlife they encountered in the Kraft Room. Some of these will be Watchable Wildlife panels and some will focus on the flora of the area. The "W" for Watchable Wildlife should be associated with the back deck.

Figure 15 is a possible configuration for an expanded deck and Figure 16 is a perspective of the viewing area with such an expansion. Figure 17 is another possible configuration for an expanded deck. Figure 17 depicts exhibits a concept for a Viewing Area on the expanded deck.

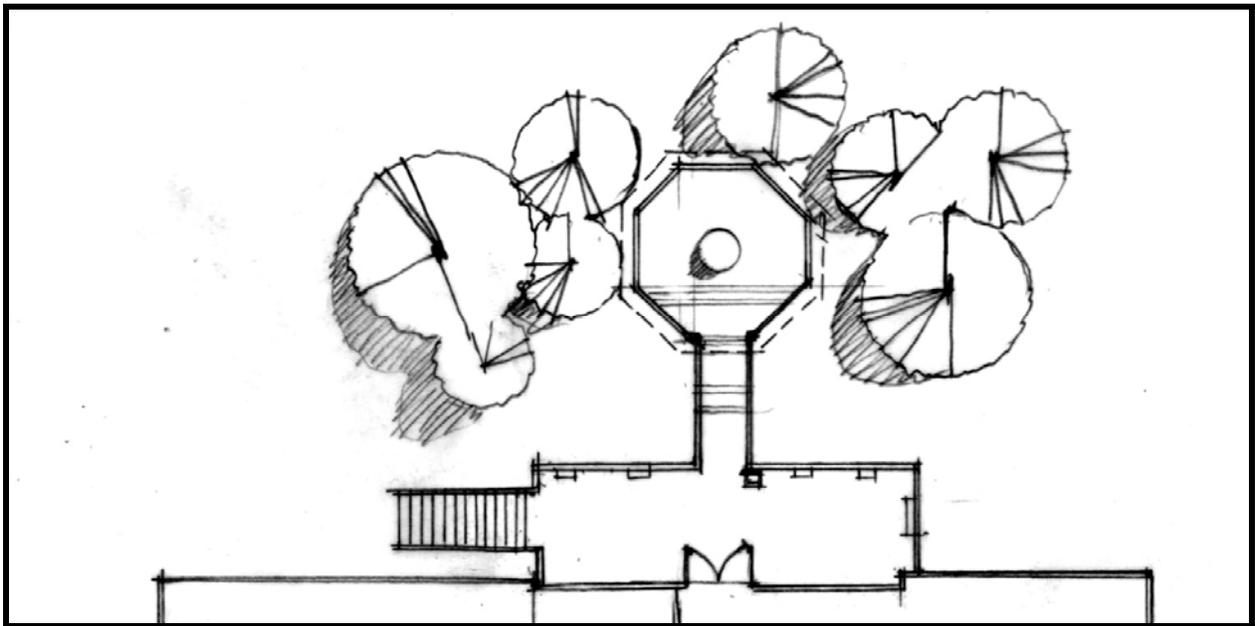


Figure 15: Possible configuration for deck expansion



Figure 16: New Viewing Area on expanded deck

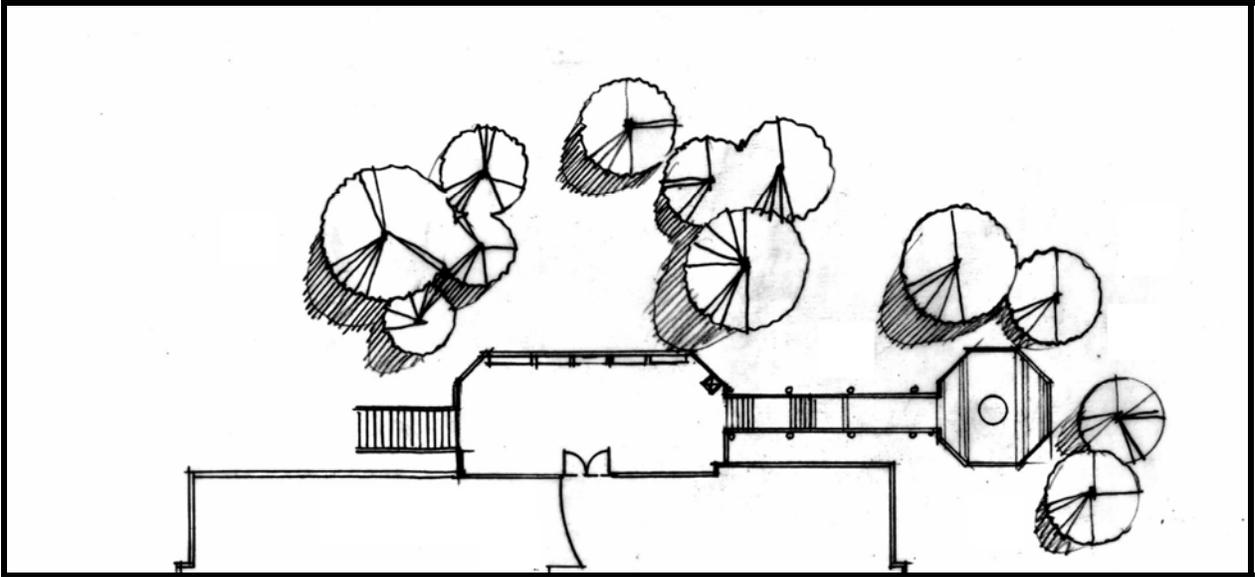


Figure 17: Another possible configuration for deck expansion

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Modify the deck to create more space for programs and general enjoyment of the natural area (see Figures 15 and 17)
2. Plant the area around the decks to attract more wildlife.
3. Develop the following information delivery strategies.

Find Me Panels

Location

On the deck – possibly in the new part when it is built (see Figure 16)

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Understand that they can read the landscape and discover hidden treasures by looking closely.

Description and Concept

These tie directly to the Sense-ational Treasure Hunt and to the exhibits in the Nature Center. The focus is on drawing attention to plants, wildlife or signs of wildlife that appeared in the exhibits and that can be seen or heard from the deck. The panels should have an audio component with bird calls and wildlife sounds that will help achieve Universal Access while enriching the experience for those without disabilities. The information on the panels should use visuals and text to help visitors find and identify a species. These could be made so they are changeable based on the season – what birds are here this time of year, what flowers are blooming, how can you recognize birds in winter plumage, how can you recognize winter plants, etc. One possible approach to the Watchable Wildlife panels is to develop one primary panel that uses the scene in front of the visitor as a backdrop to highlight birds and wildlife that live in the area and could be seen. Smaller panels would highlight single species with clues on where to look, how to identify, and the positive impact of sustainable practices on the populations of the species.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 2: Urban water sources connect the Tryon Creek watershed, linking fish, wildlife, vegetation, soil and people.

Sub-theme 2-1: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is an integral part of a large urban watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek State Natural Area is the largest portion of land within the Tryon Creek watershed; Restoration projects completed by the state, citizen groups such as the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and the City of Portland creates a model of urban watershed health.

Sub-theme 2-2: Protecting the watershed depends on people making environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Sharing with visitors sustainable options and educational opportunities such as reducing your carbon footprint & water conservation

Sub-theme 2-3: The high quality of life that people enjoy in Portland is dependent on the health of watersheds like the Tryon Creek watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Neighbors of Tryon Creek SNA and the SW Portland community benefit from a healthy urban watershed; Seasonal flooding, directed by restoration projects onto managed floodplain areas, benefits neighbors by reducing erosion and hazardous tree conditions; Continual water quality testing is essential in order to establish and maintain watershed health and function

Trails

Experience Objectives

The objectives of the interpretive opportunities along the trails are:

- To provide specific identification and interpretation of features in TCSNA to help people become detectives of the landscape;
- To encourage visitors to engage in additional exterior opportunities;
- To encourage visitors to visit the Nature Center.

Future Experience

Most visitors will have picked up the **Sense-ational Treasure Hunt** and **TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure** from the publication holders in the Orientation Circle or inside the Nature Center. Ideally they will have checked out an **Explorer's Kit** and **Discovery Guide** from the front desk. At the least they would have laminated identification cards to help them explore the Natural Area. Some visitors will have downloaded a **podcast** to help them explore. The **Trail Orientation Panel** in the Orientation Circle will provide an overview of the opportunities so visitors can choose where to walk and the map/brochure will function as a wayfinding tool, reinforced by **Directional** and **Trail and Bridge Identification Signage** along the trails.

Interpretive Panels at nearby bridges – **Red Fox Bridge, High Bridge, Obie's Bridge, Iron Mountain Bridge, and Beaver Bridge** – focus on different aspects of the aquatic and riparian ecosystems. Figure 18 depicts the concept for the interpretive panels at bridges.

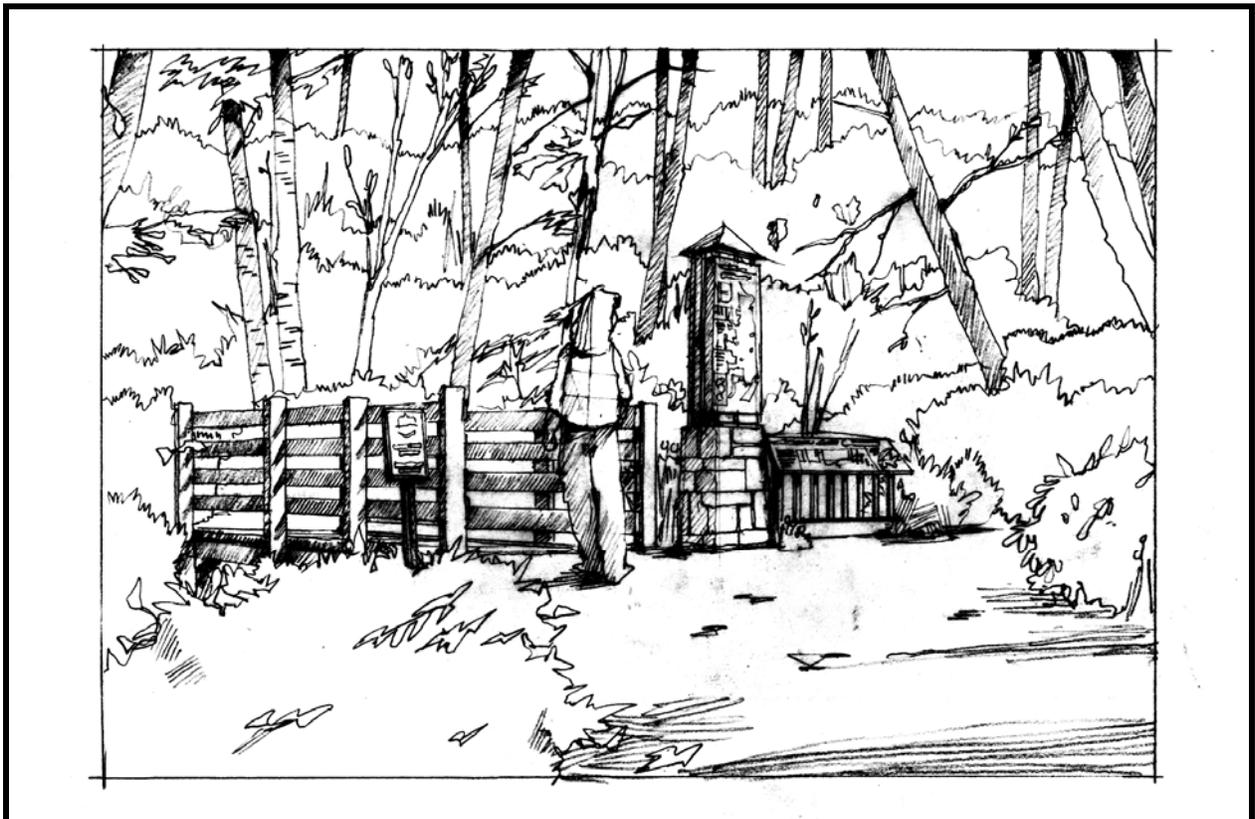


Figure 18: Concept for Bridge identification and orientation (vertical structure) and interpretive panels (horizontal structure to the right)

At the **Friends Circle Interpretive Panels** they stop and learn about the why this park is here. The information focuses on the history of the use of Tryon Creek State Natural Area over time, highlighting the contributions of the Friends Group to bring it to its status today as one of the jewels in the OPRD State Park system. Figure 19 depicts a concept for the arrangement of panels in the Friends Circle. The next destination is the **Trillium Loop Interpretive Trail**, which uses interpretive panels to provide an overview of the key stories at Tryon, and provides benches tucked away along the route to encourage contemplation.

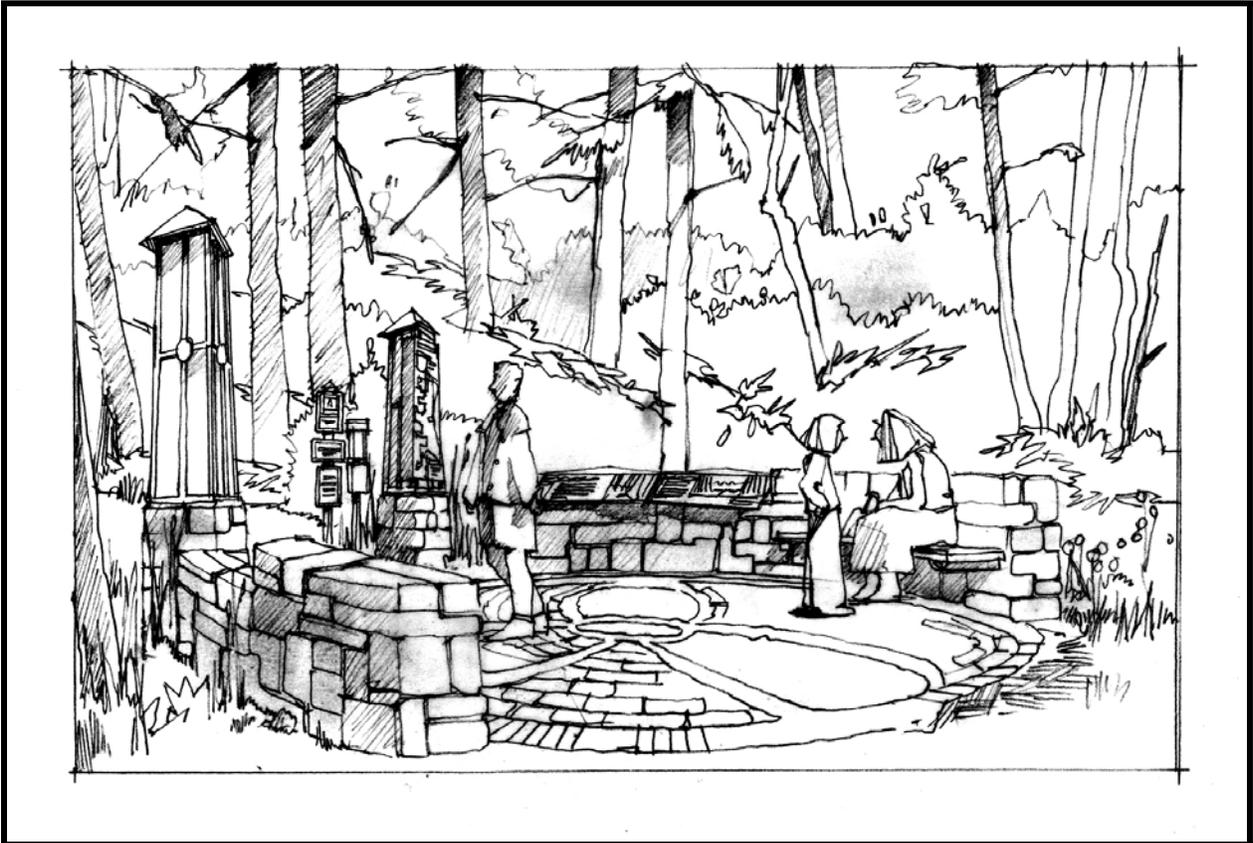


Figure 19: Friends Circle with interpretive panels and trailhead to the Trillium Loop Interpretive Trail

Summary and Description of recommended actions

1. Develop the following information strategies:

Trail Orientation Panels

Location

In the Orientation Circle next to the TCSNA Orientation Panel

Objectives

After interacting with this exhibit, visitors will:

- Be aware that TCSNA has a lot of different trails to choose from;
- Be motivated to walk at least one loop in the Natural Area;
- Be inspired to look for intriguing features and wildlife along the way;
- Be inspired to visit the Nature Center before their walk to pick up interpretive information for their trip on trails;
- Understand the basic themes associated with Tryon Creek.

Description and Concept

The purpose of this panel is to orient visitors to the trail system, make them aware of interesting features and wildlife they could see on different trails, motivate them to stop at the Nature Center preferably before their walk to purchase a Discovery Guide and learn the basic stories, or afterwards to learn more about what they saw, and to give them a brief overview of the key stories. With the number of trails and natural division of north and south, this information could be presented on two panels or on one long panel. One long panel is preferred if the budget allows.

One possible design concept is to use the same approach as for the overall TCSNA orientation panel – a stylized, oblique perspective that emphasizes the trails in TCSNA, specific features and wildlife (and/or signs of wildlife) that can be seen along the trails and interpretive opportunities along the way. Where the orientation panel should highlight the Nature Center and include overview information about all the opportunities at TCSNA, this panel should focus on the trails, highlighting different opportunities on different trails. The actual image should be of the entire watershed to provide a reference for a text block focusing on the uniqueness of a large natural area in the middle of an urban landscape and how that is made possible with sustainable practices and a lot of effort. This can be a segue into projects or results of projects that can be seen along the trails.

To convey the human story at Tryon, a timeline across the top could be used to feature how Tryon might have looked at that time, with a connector from that point in time to features that can be seen along the trails today. For example, a line would connect an old-growth cedar that can be seen today with the era on the time line during which Native Americans were using cedar as a key resource in their lifestyle. A brochure dispenser attached to the panel or structure would be used to distribute the Sense-ational Treasure Hunt.

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

Your Path to Discovery— Follow Your Senses!

Footfalls on the earthen trail, wind rustling the trees, birds calling from the shrubs, water trickling in the stream, the scent of fir needles in the sun, and a myriad of intriguing stories to be discovered in the landscape.

The trails of Tryon Creek offer experiences for everyone: from a heart-pounding power walk to a reflective saunter, these trails offer physical, intellectual, and spiritual benefits for walkers of all levels.

Start your voyage of discovery at the Nature Center where you can learn how to read those stories in the landscape, pick up an Explorer's Kit and the Discovery Guide to TCSNA.

TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Feel comfortable in their ability to find their way to and around the site;
- Feel like spending some time taking advantage of the interpretive and recreational opportunities;
- Be aware of all the interpretive and recreational opportunities;
- Be aware of the opportunities that are fully accessible;
- Have a simple map of the site;
- Be inspired to contribute time and/or money to the effort;
- Be inspired to come back in the future;
- Have contact information.

Description and Concept

This publication is intended to provide brief, user-friendly orientation to the site and associated interpretive and recreational opportunities. This strategy is useful in that it can be offered for general distribution at various locations indoors and outdoors at a relatively low cost. It could also be used as a part of the packet of information sent out to people requesting information about TCSNA. The publication should be small enough to be carried easily, and should be available to people free of charge. It should include the following elements:

- Map showing how to get to TCSNA. (This is important because brochures are often taken home and shown/given to friends or relatives when talking about a rewarding experience.)
- Map of the site with recreational and interpretive opportunities identified (this includes a trail map with mileages);
- Brief description of the interpretive and recreational opportunities;
- Where to get additional information (such as the web site);
- 'Didjacks' related to interior exhibits;
- Related sites to visit.

Comments

Ideally, this brochure would use the same graphic style as the TCSNA Orientation panel.

Note: All orientation information, including directional signs, must contain information—usually in the form of symbols—as to the opportunities and services available to persons with disabilities. As much as possible, all information opportunities, whether orientation or interpretation should be designed to meet the limitations of the few, while enhancing the recreational experience of everyone.

Note: The orientation system should be supported by appropriate signage, specifically, identification and directional signage at key locations, especially within the trail system.

Sense-ational Treasure Hunt

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Have personally experienced key features of TCSNA using all of their senses;
- Be motivated to explore the natural and cultural environment both within and outside the site.

Description and Concept

This strategy focuses attention on different aspects of the interpretive experience and encourages visitation to all parts of the interpretive network and beyond by asking participants to find various features or engage in various experiences throughout TCSNA. The actual device can be anything easily carried and used as an identification guide and check-off list, such as a small booklet or set of cards with pictures. Whatever is used, it should contain descriptions and images of features to look for and check off. In this case, each item to be experienced will have two columns for check marks, one for the presentation of information in interpretive opportunities such as exhibits and signs, and one for the actual features. For example, a visitor could hear a bird call in an exhibit in the Nature Center and hear the bird call while walking the trails. That item will have two columns to check in the Sense-ational Treasure Hunt – one for experiencing the feature in the exhibit and one for experiencing the actual feature. Experiences should involve all senses, such as smelling cedar bark, hearing a bird call, identifying a tree by the feel of the bark, etc.

Comment

This strategy should be developed with extreme sensitivity to protection of cultural and natural resources.

Discovery Guide to TCSNA

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know all the major themes;
- Know Be aware of all the recreational and interpretive opportunities;
- Know which trails are fully accessible;
- Be inspired to walk the trails and become a detective of the landscape;
- Have contact information.

Description and Concept

This differs from the existing book in that it is more focused on being a field guide to facilitate exploration and discovery in the Natural Area than as a publication encompassing the cultural history as well. Information should include the following:

- A map of TCSNA with the Nature Center and key attractions highlighted;
- Distances, trail difficulty and time required for different combinations of trails;
- Suggested itineraries for those new to TCSNA;
- Potential hazards;
- What to take along;
- A key to wildlife signs;

- A key to basic plants, with “didjacks” focusing on key aspects of cultural and natural history associated with TCSNA;
- Associated opportunities that might be of interest;
- Trail logs with interpretive tidbits;
- An insert advertising upcoming special events;
- Contact information.

The information should be organized so it is easy for a person to plan and execute an outing in TCSNA.

Comment

A possible first step in developing this guide is to develop a common format for laminated identification keys and associated species lists that can be used individually. Eventually these can be combined and condensed into the core of the Discovery Guide.

Friends Circle Panels

Location

At the Friend’s Circle

Objectives

After interacting with this exhibit, visitors will:

- Be aware that TCSNA is what it is due in no small measure to the efforts of the Friends Group;
- Know that the Friends Group is capable of large projects that have significant impact on restoring and maintaining the Natural Area, and on enriching the experience of visitors;
- Be inspired to support the Friends Group and OPRD.

Description and Concept

This information will focus on the history of the use of Tryon Creek State Natural Area over time, highlighting the contributions of OPRD and the Friends Group to bring it to its status today as one of the jewels in the OPRD State Park system. We envision two panels – one focusing on the effort so of the Friends Group to protect this site before it became a State Park, and one on the types of projects the Friends Group has worked on through the years. The intent is to convey the idea that a Friends Group can and does engage in large projects that have significant impact so visitors understand that they can engage in meaningful projects.

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 1: People have shaped the landscape of Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Sub-theme 1-4: The Friends of Tryon Creek State Park valued the land in its natural state for fish and wildlife, environmental education and recreation, and were the driving force behind the creation of a state park, saving the land from residential development.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Grassroots efforts by the Friends of Tryon Creek State Park saved the park land from residential development; The relationship between the Friends and Oregon State Park is an example of public/private relationships and how mutually beneficial they can be

Theme 3: As a restored and protected natural forest and stream ecosystem in an urban setting, Tryon Creek State Natural Area offers a gateway opportunity to connect city dwellers with nature and the state park experience.

Sub-theme 3-1: Stories of volunteerism and citizen action in the park inspire a stewardship ethic in others statewide.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Stories of outstanding volunteers and their efforts, stream restoration projects, partnerships with citizens and other government agencies, state park efforts to protect and preserve the park (i.e. the citizen donation of the Arnold/Park cabins)

Sub-theme 3-2: TCSNA is a gateway to the OPRD system that provides recreational access and interpretive opportunities to Oregon's largest population.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Outreach programs with local community groups such as REI, PCC to introduce state parks to the public, Let's Go Camping program, campfire cooking and outdoor recreation skill building – map and compass, shelter building, hiking safety

Trillium Loop Interpretive Trail

Location

Existing

Objective

After interacting with this exhibit, visitors will:

- Be able to name at least 3 ways that people value TCSNA today;
- Be able to name at least two other eras in the human history of Tryon Creek and how the natural resources of the area were valued during those eras;
- Know that sustaining the natural area requires constant active management to remove exotics and mitigate impacts from the urban interface;
- Know that they as individuals should engage in sustainable practices to conserve the natural environment.

Description and Concept

The interpretation along this trail will focus on communicating the big story of Tryon Creek because it is the one trail that is accessible to everyone. Because we are not certain what will become of the art and the panel frames and panels interpreting the art, the following design concept will identify the sequencing of information and the type of site appropriate for locating a panel to convey a particular chapter in the story. Since this is a fully accessible trail, it is critical

that the experience be developed using a Universal Design approach. To that end, opportunities for involving multiple senses are identified, but we expect that additional opportunities will be identified in the design stage. Consider the following concept:

Key Themes/Sub-themes

All the key themes should be communicated.

Trail Orientation Panel (at the trailhead)

In keeping with the other orientation panels, we suggest using the same approach – a stylized oblique aerial perspective highlighting the trail and the key features along the way.

Thematic Overview Panels

Panel 1: What do you see?

This panel focuses on how different people have valued and used this area through the years, from Native Americans through EuroAmerican history, with an emphasis on how the landscape changed due to human impacts. One possible design concept is to use a movable wheel with a quarter or fifth panel cut out so turning it would reveal a different “spokesperson.” Spokespeople could include Native Americans, Socrates Tryon, an owner of an Iron Mill and someone associated with saving the area for a park. A short text block and supporting visuals would indicate how that person used the area and the resulting changes to the landscape. Another possible concept is to use a time line approach showing how Tryon Creek changed over the years due to human impact.

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

Tryon Creek – The Tie that Binds

Both eroding and nurturing, Tryon Creek’s flowing waters link all parts of this natural neighborhood.

The Tryon Creek watershed has been shaped over time by natural forces: processes of rock, water, and living things interact to form this natural oasis in an urban setting.

Drawn here by the wealth of resources, humans affect the watershed, too—in the past, present, and future. The diverse groups of people valued different natural resources for different reasons.

This complex and dynamic part of your city continues to evolve through today’s partnerships.

We Each Leave Our Mark

What Effect Do You Want To Make?

Panel 2: Discovering and becoming part of the story

This panel focuses on Tryon Creek today as if it is the next part of the story begun on Panel 1. It looks at how Tryon Creek continues to evolve as a product of both natural

and human impacts. This will include the fact that the mere presence of the visitor at the panel means that the person has become a part of the never-ending story of Tryon Creek, but the person still has a say in the role he or she wants to play. It should also include the concept that a person can see evidence of different and current uses if only one learns to read the landscape.

Trail Panels

As noted, the following panels are not assigned a specific location, but rather are presented in a sequence in which they should be encountered along the trail. Features that should be in the visitor's field of vision when viewing the panel are noted to help the eventual designer develop a specific location plan for each panel. Note that an audio component should be included on each panel so those with visual impairments can still hear the story.

Stop 1: Location containing a view of a cedar tree, or if not, a tree or other plant used by Native Americans as a key part of their lifestyle. The focus of the panel is on how the Clackamas used and valued the resources of Tryon Creek. A replica of cedar bark or cording embedded on the panel could be included, as could some way to smell cedar.

Stop 2: Location containing a view of a tall straight tree. The focus on the panel is on Socrates Tryon and other pioneers who valued the tall straight timber as building materials for cabins and associated outbuildings.

Stop 3: Location containing a view of Douglas-fir. The focus of the panel is on the use of the forests of Tryon Creek as fuel for iron smelters. A replica of Douglas-fir bark next to cedar bark could be included as could the opportunity to smell the scent of each. Cones could be embedded on the panel with keys to identification.

Stop 4: Location containing view of patch of alder or stand of trees about 75 years old. The focus of the text is on the initial work of the Friends Group in saving this area, and on the Friends Group and OPRD partnering to work together in preserving and restoring the natural. Again, the bark of all three trees introduced to this point could be included as tactile elements. In each of the panels, if a view of Tryon showing the tree cover in the different eras is included, different surfaces could be used for different species so people could feel the changes in the canopy over time.

Stop 5: Location with view of more mature stand of trees. Focus is on how the area supports a large array of fish and wildlife. The previous panels should include sidebars noting the changes in species composition as the environment changed through human actions.

Stop 6: Location under an old-growth tree or at least a mature tree. The information is keyed to a contemplation bench. The bench itself should be designed so people can lay back and look up through the branches of a mature tree – old-growth if possible. It could be located so a piece of art is visible in the distance. The focus of information presented at this location, which could be presented as labels on the bench, in an audio presentation or by a publication, should focus on how humans value the land and resources of Tryon Creek today, including as inspiration for art. Note that the inspiration focus could be the subject of an entire panel located with visual access to a piece of art. However, the panel would not interpret the piece of art, but rather use it as evidence that people use nature for creative inspiration.

Stop 7: Location with a view of the surrounding urban area or up to a ridge encompassing the watershed. The focus of the information is on the need for widespread use of sustainable practices in order for the Natural Area to survive and coexist in the same watershed as a developed urban area. Using the approach of feeling the landscape, the extent of urban development could be included on all panels representing different eras in the human history of Tryon Creek so visitors could feel the natural area surrounded by an urban sea.

Stop 8: Location with a pleasing view of TCSNA or a part of it. The focus of the information is on the fact that it was efforts by many people in previous and present generations that made it possible for the person to have this experience as a prelude to asking what role the visitor is going to play.

Bridge Interpretive Panels

One each of the following panels should be sited at one end of each of the five major bridges near the Nature Center. This includes High Bridge, Obie's Bridge, Iron Mountain Bridge, Beaver Bridge, and Red Fox Bridge. Each panel will include objectives, description and concept, and a recommendation for the bridge that appears to be most suited to the panel.

All the panels are focused on one or more of the following themes and sub-themes:

Key Themes/Sub-themes

Theme 2: Urban water sources connect the Tryon Creek watershed, linking fish, wildlife, vegetation, soil and people.

Sub-theme 2-1: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is an integral part of a large urban watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Tryon Creek State Natural Area is the largest portion of land within the Tryon Creek watershed; Restoration projects completed by the state, citizen groups such as the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and the City of Portland creates a model of urban watershed health.

Sub-theme 2-2: Protecting the watershed depends on people making environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Sharing with visitors sustainable options and educational opportunities such as reducing your carbon footprint & water conservation

Sub-theme 2-3: The high quality of life that people enjoy in Portland is dependent on the health of watersheds like the Tryon Creek watershed.

Examples of Supporting Stories

Neighbors of Tryon Creek SNA and the SW Portland community benefit from a healthy urban watershed; Seasonal flooding, directed by restoration projects onto managed floodplain areas, benefits neighbors by reducing erosion and hazardous tree conditions; Continual water quality testing is essential in order to establish and maintain watershed health and function

Riparian Vegetation and Fish Habitat Panel

Recommended location: High Bridge

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know that restoration of the watershed is ongoing;
- Understand the importance of restoring stream bank and riparian vegetation to water quality and fish habitat;
- Be inspired to volunteer at TCSNA or elsewhere for a conservation project.

Description and Concept

This panel or panels will focus on restoration efforts. One possible design concept is to recreate the scene in front of the visitor and use it as a backdrop for highlighting people engaging in restoration activities. Supporting text focuses on why that action is taken. A visual of how the stream might look (cut-away section to show aquatic habitat) without these efforts would be a good visual to reinforce the importance of the efforts.

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

Putting back the Temperature Control, Food Market and Purifier

Imagine the creek banks stripped of vegetation. What would happen over the course of a hot summer month? What about during a rainy November with water running down the hillsides toward the creek?

Riparian vegetation is critical to the aquatic ecosystem. It keeps the water cool by shading it from the sun. Trout and salmon like cool water and cannot survive if it gets too hot.

It intercepts runoff to help keep the water clean. If the stream silts up, the fish cannot spawn.

It also dumps leaves and wood into the stream that become food for organisms that then become food for fish.

That is why we – with the help of volunteers like you – are doing what we can to put the plants back.

Riparian habitat and wildlife panel

Recommended location: Obie's Bridge

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know that a wide variety of wildlife species depends on riparian areas for part of their life cycle needs;
- Be able to name at least 3 species of wildlife at TCSNA that depend on riparian areas as part of their habitat;
- Be able to describe at least one impact from removing riparian vegetation that they would consider negative from their perspective.

Descriptions and Concepts

This panel focuses on the importance of the riparian area to wildlife. One possible design concept is to have a movable wheel with 4 different images of the scene in front of the viewer, each representing one of the seasons. In each view, different wildlife would be seen using parts of the riparian area. The wildlife species could be somewhat hidden with the visitor instructed to see how many species he or she can find in the image. Text on the movable section focuses on wildlife and wildlife sign to look for at that time of the year. Text focuses on the importance of the riparian area to wildlife.

Woody Debris Interpretive Panel

Recommended location: Iron Mountain Bridge

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know that large woody debris is a natural and very important part of fish habitat;
- Be able to name at least two ways in which large woody debris contributes to fish habitat.

Descriptions and Concept

This panel focuses on the value of large woody debris as a hiding place from predators, as a creator of resting areas, and as a substrate for macro invertebrates that become fish food. One possible design concept is to use a cut-away of the stream with large woody debris as a backdrop for enlarged images depicting ways that the large woody debris contributes.

First Draft Text for Primary Text Block

The Stream Waters the Trees; The Trees Feed the Stream

What do you think? Take the big pieces of wood out so they don't block the water or leave them in?

We used to think that taking them out was better for the fish. Now we know better. Let's think like a fish and see why we might like big pieces of wood.

Sometimes I get tired swimming upstream all day. Wood slows the water, creating resting places. Can you find any in the stream?

Hérons, raccoons and other birds and wildlife want me for dinner. The wood creates hiding places for me. Can you find any hiding places I might use?

When I am hungry, I am really glad that the wood, leaves and other plants are on the diet of insects and other aquatic organisms so I can make them a part of my diet!

If you take away my resting places, hiding places and sources of food, you might as well take me away too.

Linkages and water quality panel

Recommended location: Red Fox Bridge

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know that upstream uses of water all affect downstream quality and quantity due to connections in the watershed.

Description and Concept

This panel focuses on the impact of human activities on water quality. In so doing, the linkages that tie the whole system are introduced. One possible design concept is to use a bird's-eye-perspective of the watershed as a backdrop for enlarged images of human activities that have a positive and impact on water quality and fish health. This could include people planting trees in riparian areas, putting rock cribs in the water, people in town keeping oil from going down a drain, and road building and construction activities projects with barriers to protect the watershed from runoff. The image and activities should extend throughout the watershed to emphasize the point that everything that happens in a watershed affects other parts of the watershed through connections. Supporting text should focus on the impact of such activities and the impact if such preventative and restoration measures were not employed.

Fish Panel

Recommended Location: Beaver Bridge

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know that Tryon Creek supports a lot of fish, and some very BIG fish.

Description and Concept

This panel focuses on the fish runs in Tryon Creek. One possible design concept is to use a drawing of a full-grown steelhead set into Tryon Creek to show the size of the fish that come up to spawn. Supporting information would focus on the historic fish runs and the recent numbers in runs. If specific numbers per year are included, it will date the sign unless a digital readout element could be used to keep up-to-date numbers on fish runs.

Additional Strategies

Event Series

Objectives

The objectives will vary according to the event, but every event should result in achieving the following objectives:

- Participants will be aware of the interpretive and recreational opportunities offered at Tryon Creek;
- Participants will be motivated to come back again;
- Participants will be aware of the agencies and entities providing those opportunities.

Description and Concept

The purpose of this strategy is to make residents and/or visitors aware of the interpretive network in hopes they will choose to participate in some of those opportunities. Consequently, events should be held on-site and/or the topic should be related to the interpretive focus at TCSNA. Events could include on-site talks, a speaker series, demonstrations, festivals, and field trips. One event could be a series of "What's in Your Backyard" field trips. These are tours designed specifically for nearby residents. They should include opportunities not available to the general public.

Podcasts

Objectives

The objectives will vary according to the program, but the key objective is not so much in terms of information, but in terms of behavior. Specifically, we want to motivate younger visitors to use the interpretive program.

Description and Concept

Not all visitors will want to be inside or connect with the official aspect of the park – this is their backyard and they want to explore it on their own. Podcasts developed professionally or by staff can offer that opportunity. Some aspects of podcasts that should be considered:

- Topics could be rotated monthly/weekly/daily to build a library of subjects and topics – then visitors could choose what they like;
- Programs could be uploaded to the web and downloaded by visitors. If visitors did not know how to do this and they have an MP3 player, you could have a Podcast day and recruit teens and/or Lewis & Clark College students to help folks out.
- If this is a strategy you want to proceed with, you should organize an advisory group of potential users (different ages, etc.) to guide the process – selection of topics, marketing, etc.
- Consider developing audio, visual and text versions of every podcast.

Cost Range Estimates

Introduction

As with construction of anything from an exhibit to a house, accuracy of the estimate is relative to the accuracy and detail of the design. An interpretive prospectus does not include designs, but rather design concepts, and those are limited to the interpretive strategies rather than infrastructure. Consequently, it is not possible to develop estimates with any meaningful degree of accuracy. However, it is possible to make some basic assumptions for interpretive panels and a few other strategies in order to develop cost range estimates that can be useful for budgeting.

Cost Information

Interpretive Panels

A typical, digitally produced panel containing about 9 square feet of surface (2'x 3'), with extruded aluminum frames and metal posts will cost between \$1500 and \$3500 for all design, text writing and fabrication. Shipping and installation are not included because those costs vary significantly with location of the site. The variation in cost is primarily due to the design. Signs with original artwork and complex text are going to cost more than signs with embedded photos and limited text. Additional panels with the same design can cost as little as \$1000. So if

Using those cost range estimates, the following are estimates for interpretive panel clusters with different numbers of signs:

Single panel	\$1500-3500
2-panel cluster	\$3000-6500
3-panel cluster	\$4500-9500

Publications

Publications have many variables that significantly affect the cost, such as number of pages, folds, binding, colors, source of text, type of artwork, and other variables. However, as a means of providing a basic ballpark cost, we offer the following example: Interpretive Exhibits recently designed (text was supplied) and printed 2000 copies of a 3-fold, four-color brochure with printing on both sides for a cost of around \$2000. If they had chosen to have the paper laminated instead of folded, the cost would have doubled. Those prices could provide some insight into the cost of developing the smaller publications, such as the map/brochure.

Exhibits

Exhibits can cost as much or as little as you want. However, as a general rule of thumb you can obtain some idea of cost using the total area of exhibit space. In general, a set of relatively simple exhibits will cost around \$250 per square foot of exhibit space. If more complex exhibits are used, such as dioramas, the cost will be closer to \$500 per square foot. If electronics are used, particularly interactive components, the cost-per-square foot application does not apply. The smaller the facility, the less accurate the cost-per-square foot approach.

Cost Range Estimates for Key Interpretive Strategies

The following cost range information is based on the general cost information in the preceding section.

Site Orientation (2 panels essentially the same)	\$2500	\$4750	
Trail Orientation (10 panels essentially the same)	\$10500	\$15000	
Bridge Interpretive Panels (5 different panels)	\$7500	\$15000	
Trillium Trail interpretive panels (10 different panels)	\$15000	\$27500	
Find Me Interpretive panels (8)			
Total Exterior interpretive signage (does not include directional signage)	\$36,500	\$62,250	
Nature Center Exhibits (800 Square feet of exhibit space),	\$280,000	\$360,000	
Brochure			Not enough parameters for a meaningful estimate
Welcome and Identification Sign			Depends heavily on size and materials
Directional signage			Minimal cost compared with other strategies
Total excluding items not priced	\$316,500	\$422,250	

Implementation Plan

Introduction

Specific actions for implementing the interpretive network are noted in the Plan section. This section focuses on establishing a general priority for implementing strategies. In reviewing the recommended priority, please keep the following points in mind:

1. Because this was designed as a network, all strategies are interconnected with others. Thus if one strategy is modified significantly, the network does not function as effectively. With that in mind, we recommend designing all strategies in the first phase, even if not all will be implemented immediately. We also recommend beginning the design process by establishing a set of design guidelines (fonts, color palette, etc.) so that individual strategies will all be designed so they appear to be interconnected, even if developed by multiple fabricators, thus avoiding the “hodge-podge” look.
2. In our experience, specific strategies are often modified by designers to the point that they no longer effectively fulfill the role for which they were planned and conceptually designed. For this reason, we suggest that the interpretive plan be used actively by OPRD as a reference to ensure that the interpretive intent is maintained.
3. If this is a phased implementation, several strategies – notably those that focus on orientation to interpretive and recreational opportunities – will only be accurate temporarily until the next phase is implemented. That will continue until all significant parts of the network are implemented. To maintain a cost-effective approach, we suggest all orientation panels and the orientation map/brochure be produced as temporary strategies that provide the necessary information, but also take the opportunity to market the next phase, so people become interested in coming back to see the next iteration of the interpretive network.
4. A re-development of the parking and the area just outside the Nature Center will significantly affect pedestrian traffic patterns. The panels in the Orientation Circle are based on that modification occurring. However, the orientation information offered on those signs is critical to the visitor’s experience so the signage cannot wait until the re-development of that area. For that reason, we suggest developing temporary interim versions of the panels in that area.

Next Steps

Because the entire interpretive network recommended in this plan is likely to take several phases and many years to complete, the implementation plan is organized into phases that are manageable and complete chunks. Complete refers to the fact that all parts of a given strategy, and in some cases multiple strategies, have to be completed at the same time in order to provide a complete experience. For example, all thematic overview panels have to be completed at the same time.

One of the difficulties in prescribing an implementation plan is that many of the strategies depend in part on other improvements, such as the Friend's Circle, the Parking area and hub and the deck expansion. With that in mind, it is important to include strategies within a remodel or landscape modification so they are planned/designed as a part of the new configuration.

Several of the strategies, such as upgrading the Web Site, developing podcasts and developing virtual tours can be ongoing. Among the other strategies, the highest priority at TCSNA is on strategies that increase use of the Nature Center and that help orient visitors to the park. With that in mind, we suggest the following:

Phase 1

The primary focus in this phase is on developing a basic integrated orientation and wayfinding network and on setting the stage for developing interpretive strategies.

Strategies or actions that fit that focus include:

- Develop graphic design standards so all strategies will be designed as if they belong with the same network.
- Begin working with ODOT on the signage for the approach highways.
- Develop the key orientation and wayfinding strategies, including the TCSNA Orientation Panel, the TCSNA Orientation Map/Brochure, the Trail Orientation Panel, the What's Happening Exhibit within the Nature Center, and any directional signage for the parking areas and trails.

All of these strategies are either located so they will receive a lot of use. They are also improvements that are very visible, which helps in building momentum and gaining support.

Phase 2

The primary focus in this stage is on developing the overview opportunities so visitors can understand the basic stories. Strategies that fit that focus include:

- Develop the exhibits for the Lobby.
- Develop the Trillium Loop Interpretive Trail
- Develop the Thematic Overview panels for the Orientation Circle
- Redevelop the entryway and lobby, including the exhibits across from the staff desk, the banners, the brochure holder and the topographic model.
- Develop the Explorer's Kit, laminated identification keys and species lists to take advantage of interest generated by the Lobby exhibits and facilitate exploration of the Natural Area.

Phase 3

The focus is now on the reconfiguration of the Kraft Room and development of the basic exhibit package. Strategies that fit that focus include:

- All the wall exhibits for the Kraft Room
- The watershed map on the floor with overlays and all interactive opportunities. If budget is an issue, the modular pods can be developed later.

Note that many of the interactive opportunities for the exhibits on the wall can be developed early in the process and used in programs. This includes the opportunity to build a plank house and a log cabin; to dress up as pioneers or Native Americans; to braid cedar bark into cord; and to draw with charcoal.

Phase 4

This phase focuses on filling in the gaps. Strategies that fit this focus include:

- Develop the deck exhibits and the exterior interpretive panels
- Develop the panels for the Friendship Circle (note that these can be developed at any time as can the panels, but they are not as critical for connecting the visitors with nature as many of the other interpretive opportunities).
- Combine the identification keys and checklists with additional information to develop the Discovery Guide.

Appendices

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Appendix B: Background for Goals

Appendix C: Audience Profiles

Appendix D: Parameters

Appendix E: Inventory of Interpretive Opportunities

Appendix F: Behavioral Outcomes Input from Working Group

Appendix G: Theme Input from Working Group

Appendix H: Introduction to Interpretive Networks

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

The following terms are used in this document:

Visitor Interpretive Network

All of the information that supports a visitor's interpretive experience in Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Components of such a network typically include:

- Interpretation – informal education strategies, such as signs, exhibits and presentations that typically focus on history, natural history and management.
- Orientation – strategies designed to provide overall orientation to a visitor to a location and increase awareness of visitor opportunities in that area. This is typically in the form of a map.
- Wayfinding – strategies focused on guiding that person to all interpretive sites and features, i.e., showing them the way. It includes maps, directional signs, orientation panels and similar strategies.
- Safety and Regulation Information

Outreach

The term “outreach” as it is used by reviewers of this document appears to indicate strategies focused more on public relations than interpretation, such as tours for government officials and University faculty. Although the messages and audiences are often the same as those served by the interpretive network at TCSNA, such strategies are not a part of the interpretive network so they have not been included in this plan. Note that the term should not be confused with “educational outreach,” which is focused on strategies for formal education, whether adults or children.

Universal Design Standards

Standards for the design of facilities, sites, products, services and environments that accommodate the widest range of potential users, including people with mobility, visual and auditory impairments and other special needs.

Appendix B: Background for Goals

The following information was used as a basis of developing the goals and objectives for the interpretive network at TCSNA.

OPRD Mission Statement

To provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

Friends of Tryon Creek Mission Statement

To conserve and enhance the natural resources, and promote the educational, interpretive and recreational programs of Tryon Creek State Park.

OPRD Target 2014 Goals

The following OPRD Target 2014 Goals were used to help formulate the goals and objectives for the interpretive network:

- Design and deliver powerful interpretive experiences that create enduring memories for our visitors while promoting learning, appreciation and enjoyment of Oregon's natural and cultural history.
- Manage State Parks to ensure overall health and beauty of the ecosystem and the protection and recovery of rare, sensitive, threatened and endangered species.
- Encourage visitors to utilize state parks for camping and other recreation throughout the year.
- Offer outdoor recreation experiences that foster life-long appreciation for Oregon's natural and scenic landscapes.
- Advance the principles of conservation and sustainability in land management, development and business practices.
- Deliver world-class experiences to park visitors.
- Promote outdoor recreation in Oregon.

Resource Management Goals

Although no formal resource management goals exist, the information on mission statements and goals all point to the following priorities in managing Tryon Creek Natural Area:

1. Preserve the park and its stories for present and future generations. This includes protecting, conserving, and when appropriate, restoring native flora and fauna.

2. Manage natural resources to protect wildlife habitat. This includes protecting water resources to protect endangered aquatic organisms.
3. Be a good neighbor by offering quality interpretive and recreational opportunities to the local people and by minimizing the negative impacts of park use on the lifestyles of the local residents.
4. Maintain and enhance appropriate recreational opportunities.
5. Become a model for Oregon State Parks in terms of management, relationship with the Friends program, facilities, interpretation, environmental education, outreach, planning and in all other aspects.
6. Increase public support for and use of Tryon Creek State Natural Area. This includes continuing to develop memorable interpretive and recreational opportunities of interest and develop and maintain a good orientation and wayfinding network.

These are all consistent with the desired behavioral changes identified during the initial work session that took place on December 5, 2006. Results of that part of the work session are included in Appendix E.

1973 Master Planning Goals

Although it does not have recent Resource Management Goals established within a Master Plan framework, it does have master planning goals established in a 1973 Master Plan developed by the Friends Group. Those are as follows:

1. The undeveloped, natural environment is the park's greatest resource. Protection and perpetuation of it should be the overriding concern in the use and management of the park.
2. Only those uses compatible with a natural area, such as hiking, riding, nature study and enjoyment, and photography will be permitted in the park. Any uses that conflict with this value should not be accommodated. Any use found to be detrimental to the natural environment should be terminated.
3. The park shall be managed to protect and encourage the native wildlife and plant species. Where desirable, native plants and animals may be re-established, but the area, generally, will be left to natural progression.
4. Development in the park will be limited to those facilities necessary to make it usable as a natural area.
5. Access throughout the park shall be only on foot or horseback. With the exception of automobile roads into parking areas, there will be no roads or motorized vehicles in the park.
6. Citizen participation in park activities and projects shall be encouraged.

Appendix C: Audience Profiles

Introduction

The challenge with planning the interpretation for a park or site is in understanding the audiences targeted by the opportunities. The goal is to build profiles of the different audiences to determine the type of experiences they seek to “buy” with their time as a precursor to determining the array of orientation and interpretive strategies that would be effective in enhancing those experiences. In general, experiences that audiences are willing to buy can generally be described as ones that:

- Meet their needs;
- Meet their expectations;
- Are within their limitations of time, money, energy, and other such personal resources;
- Can compete successfully with other options for spending time, usually through association with interests that were the reason for the visit in the first place.

In summary, those categories of characteristics are as follows:

Needs include basic amenities, such as food, shelter, bathrooms, and orientation information. The interpretive network and associated infrastructure does not need to fulfill all the visitors’ needs, but may need to direct visitors to locations where such needs can be filled if the visitors are not from the area, such as to Lake Oswego. In terms of information, orientation to the site is a need and must be supplied at the beginning of the visitor experience. Visitors need orientation information to feel comfortable in their ability to cope with an unfamiliar environment and are less receptive to interpretive information until oriented.

Expectations are more variable because they are created. Visitors will expect a certain level of service, a certain type of experience, and certain information based on what they’ve heard and seen regarding the facility. In terms of interpretation, visitors will expect the opportunities to be high quality. They will also expect to have prominent features interpreted, such as a forest and natural area in the middle of a metropolitan area. As a final example, visitors will expect every person who appears to be connected with the park to answer questions, especially orientation questions.

Limitations are factors that tend to offset the reward for engaging in an experience and can therefore cause a potential user to bypass an opportunity. For example, visitors are often on vacation and do not want to ‘work’—either physically or mentally—at their recreation unless the reward is worth the effort required. This has important implications in the selection and design of interpretive strategies and programs. For example, interpretive trails must be within the energy and time limits of the visitor. Limitations can be related to physical ability, language, education level and many other characteristics.

Opportunities relate to a visitor’s interests. The interests can exist prior to arrival, such as is the case with birders bird watching at the park, or they could be generated by features or activities on-site, such as a talk on migrating fish. On-site features are

of key importance because they represent one of the best opportunities to capture the interest of a visitor and begin the communication process.

Since needs, expectations, limitations and opportunities are directly related to, determined by, and vary according to the user, it is important to identify general target audiences for the interpretive network and then build profiles of those audiences.

Target Audiences

In order to arrive at a complete set of visitor characteristics to guide the selection and design of interpretive and orientation opportunities, it is necessary to categorize potential visitors in several different ways. Although overlap exists, such as a resident who is also a casual visitor, each has distinct characteristics that help guide development of an effective network. Just because a group is not identified does not mean that they will not be served. It just means that no additional information related to that group was necessary to help develop the interpretive network.

One way to categorize visitors is as follows:

Category #1 - Destination Visitor

Destination visitors come to Tryon Creek State Natural Area as a destination for a specific purpose. They are attracted to a specific class or program or a special event such as a concert or festival. They may come with family or friends from out of town just to walk the trails that day. These visitors usually stay just for the purpose they intended and then may not return for weeks, months or possibly years. The Nature Center may or may not be visited during their stay.

These could be residents, friends of residents, people who live in the metropolitan area, first time users, repeat users, families or seniors. The key for this group is to make sure they know that TCSNA has a lot of intriguing opportunities, and that those opportunities change all the time. It is especially important to convey that web cams provide live feeds. To do so, it is important that interpretive opportunities be marketed at the event to which they are coming.

Category #2 – Casual Visitor

Casual visitors are visitors to Tryon Creek on an irregular schedule but may come several times a month on an occasional visit to walk or hike the trails or to check out favorite places in the park. These visitors would not be likely to use the Nature Center on a consistent basis.

These are likely to be residents of the Portland metropolitan area. They are repeat visitors, but again, may be seniors, couples without kids, or families. The key is to ensure that they know that the Nature Center has new opportunities and that the opportunities change on a regular basis. It is especially important to convey that web cams provide live feeds. Again, the key is to market additional opportunities at the park. This should occur at the art/information kiosk to catch them before they begin their experience and without going into the Nature Center.

Category #3 - Exertion Visitors

These visitors use Tryon Creek on a regular basis – sometimes daily or weekly – for recreational and exercise purposes. They may come alone or with others in small groups with a direct purpose in mind such power walking, hiking, bicycling or walking a dog for daily or regular exercise. These visitors know the park well (at least the portion of the trail system they use) and tend not to come inside the Nature Center. This group of visitors is focused on the task at hand and is challenging to reach with conservation messages or educational programming. There are some behaviors (i.e. dogs on leash, trail etiquette, etc.) within this groups that should be the focus of future outreach.

These are likely to be residents of the Portland metropolitan area. They are repeat visitors, but again, may be seniors, couples without kids, or families. The key is to ensure that they know that the Nature Center has new opportunities and that the opportunities change on a regular basis. It is especially important to convey that web cams provide live feeds. To reach this group, it may be necessary to put ‘didjacks’ connected to opportunities in the Nature Center to motivate them to stop by and become, hopefully, a regular visitor to the Nature Center.

Other ways to categorize the visitors are as follows:

Independent Travelers

Independent travelers just means that they are not part of an organized group and are therefore not on a time schedule imposed by the group. Sub-groups in this category include the following:

- **Residents.** This refers to visitors who live around Tryon Creek. They will typically have a more extensive knowledge about the area and are more likely to be using the park for recreational activities. This can be further sub-divided into families, seniors, youth, and young adults.
- **Non-residents.** This refers to all other leisure-oriented travelers, such as vacationers and day-trippers, and also other travelers with some discretionary time to spend, such as business travelers and people visiting friends or relatives in the area. They can also be sub-divided into the aforementioned groups
- **Natural heritage travelers.** This refers to visitors who are attracted to the site because of an interest in the natural history. They may have a more extensive knowledge of flora and fauna of the area. This group includes bird watchers.

Organized Groups

- **Other groups.** This includes scouting groups and other youth groups.

Characteristics and Profiles

All Target Audiences

The following set of characteristics should be considered as part of the profile for all the target audiences:

Characteristics with regard to information

- All visitors will expect anyone associated with the park to answer basic questions regarding basic history and natural history of the site. This is supported in the list of typical questions identified from park visitors.
- Every audience will ask questions that cannot be answered.
- Visitors from every audience will expect orientation information to interpretive and recreational opportunities in the surrounding area, especially opportunities with a similar focus.

Implications with regard to information

The following are key implications of these data points:

- All on-site staff should be trained to answer basic questions and direct visitors to on-site locations where they can obtain additional information.
- The interpretive network should contain a list of references for people to pursue answers to questions. (*Note: Interpretation is designed to 'uncover' a subject, not cover it. For that reason, it does not generally serve experts; they can be served by publications, books and specialty programs not targeting the general public.*)
- The interpretive network should provide orientation information to nearby attractions and opportunities and could present a visit to the park as part of a package of complementary opportunities in the area.

Characteristics with regard to limitations

- Any given audience will have a variety of impairments represented.
- Users will have varying limitations in terms of energy, time, interests, and preferred learning styles.
- Users will have varying degrees of educational background.
- People tend to visit in groups—family or friends. Families and other similar groups have a variety of educational levels *within the group*.
- Groups, especially families, will interact with each other while participating in an interpretive experience.
- Families tend to visit more often in summer months, when most school children are on summer vacation.

Implications with regard to limitations

The following are key implications of these data points:

- Interpretive opportunities such as signs and exhibits should be designed to accommodate at least small groups.
- Frequent and well-placed opportunities to sit and rest will enhance the experience for many people.

- The interpretive program should provide opportunities that allow all members of a family or group to be involved at the same time and place, despite having different educational or experiential backgrounds. This can be accomplished by providing *several* opportunities, each catering to a different educational level, in one location, or a single strategy that is designed in such a way that everyone in the group can find something of interest.
- The interpretive program must offer opportunities that are understandable to audiences with limited expertise and knowledge.
- As a whole, the interpretive program should use universal design standards to make the information accessible to all people, despite any impairment, whether it is visual, auditory, physical or otherwise.

Note: *An interpretive program that addresses all impairments will also serve an aging population because impairments—not age—ultimately limit a person’s ability to engage in interpretive opportunities.*

- To the extent possible, the interpretive program should provide an array of strategies that include opportunities for each of the basic learning styles – observation, social interaction, and hands-on.
- To the extent possible, the interpretive program should present information in a way that is rewarding, within a visitor’s limits imposed by a ‘leisure’ activity, and arranged thematically to keep effort low.
- To the extent possible, the interpretive program should offer opportunities to “skim,” “browse,” or “gorge” the information to accommodate preferences and to accommodate visitors on a tight schedule.
- The interpretive program should provide an ‘opportunity menu’ that lists time required for each activity and suggested itineraries based on time available. For example, it should suggest an itinerary for the visitor that has a half-hour, 2 hours and a half-day.
- The interpretive program should offer information at different levels corresponding to different educational backgrounds.
- Programs in the summer months should be more family-oriented.

Independent Travelers

Key Characteristics

In addition to the characteristics for all visitors, the following are key characteristics of independent travelers, whether resident or non-resident, which apply or could apply to visitors to the park and surrounding environs and should therefore be considered in developing the interpretive network.

- Many travelers prefer to plan part of their trip, including itinerary, prior to arriving. Many will use the INTERNET to access information in order to plan.
- Travelers prefer user-friendly, easy-to-access orientation information at the beginning of and throughout their experience. Again, this will include information accessible via the INTERNET, but also information accessible at locations along their travel route and at their destinations so they are reassured that they are not lost.
- Many visitors from outside an area prefer or desire recommendations for itineraries or places to visit during their visit to that area. Many prefer those

itineraries to include time required instead of or in addition to distance so they can plan accordingly.

- Many visitors to the area are coming to visit friends or relatives (such as students at Marylhurst and other local colleges).
- According to 2002 Recreation Demand In Planning Regions 2 and 3 (encompassing the counties in the Willamette Valley), the most popular activities occurring in these regions include walking for pleasure on trails, bird watching and nature/wildlife observation. All of these are available at Tryon Creek. Other popular activities possibly related to Tryon Creek include visiting cultural/historical sites (1.6 million annual user occasions).
- Travel patterns for general travelers usually show families traveling more in the summer months and retired travelers traveling more in the spring and fall.
- A number of sources indicate that a growing number of tourists identify authentic experiences as an important factor in travel plans.

Implications

The following are key implications of these data points:

- A web page should be a key part of the interpretive network. It should be set up to allow potential visitors to easily find information on sites and opportunities that reflect their specific interests. It should also include suggested tours and itineraries based on topics of interest and on time constraints.
- The web page and information packets should highlight opportunities and experiences with attributes that might be effective in attracting more visitors and holding them longer, such as family oriented, exciting, fun, relaxing, an escape from schedule, culturally enriching, authentic, safe and different. It should also highlight opportunities for bird watching and nature/wildlife observation.
- It will be important to develop strategies for making residents aware of the interpretive and program opportunities in the park and at the nature center because they will be a main source of information for friends and relatives who are visiting. This could include some investment in partnerships with schools as a means of reaching parents and families through children. No study has been located that looked at the impact of education on increased visitation, but it seems that indirectly, if such programs made families more aware of opportunities, and if a major reason for traveling to the surrounding area was to visit residents, a positive impact is highly likely.
- Seasonal shifts in programs should be considered to focus on families in the summer, educational groups and travelers without children in the fall and spring.

Residents

***Note:** Residents are a key target market for this effort. They are currently the largest single group of visitors, they are repeat visitors, and the majority of them do not currently take advantage of the nature center or the programs.*

Key Characteristics

In addition to the characteristics noted for all audiences, the following are key characteristics of residents in general that probably apply to residents of the surrounding area and should therefore be considered in developing the interpretive network.

- Residents often desire experiences that are only for residents and don't require

competing for space with people from outside the area. This is probably exacerbated by the limited parking available near the Nature Center.

- Residents often prefer opportunities that fit their time frame, which is often concentrated in evenings and weekends. Those time slots for residents are available throughout the year.
- According to staff at similar facilities, living history and events are popular with residents because they are not on a specific itinerary in contrast to most travelers.
- Residents often prefer new material since they are more likely to be repeat visitors.
- Residents often prefer more in-depth material if about the area, and/or can handle more in-depth material because of familiarity with area and issues.
- Residents are often interested in local issues, such as problems with exotics and issues with watersheds.
- Residents often feel a sense of ownership for areas they have used for various purposes over the years and may feel as if the interpretive program and facilities in the park should be providing for their needs and interests specifically. They will want to know how any changes or improvements to the mill connect with their quality of life.

Implications

The following are key implications of these data points:

- Serving residents effectively may require programs specifically designed for this audience and scheduled at times they can attend, including offerings year round.
- New material and programs need to be developed continuously to take advantage of the opportunity for repeat visitation from this group.

***Question:** There is a growing Hispanic population in the Willamette Valley. However, it does not seem as if there are many Hispanic families in the area of Tryon Creek. As a long term goal we want State Parks in Oregon to serve the needs of everyone in Oregon. This means modifications in infrastructure as well as programming and interpretation. For example, Hispanics are more likely to visit in large family groups and be more focused on picnicking than interpretive opportunities. With that in mind, parks with large picnic areas are more suited to that type of activity. The question is to try to modify a park like Tryon to attract more diverse audiences if they are not in the area, or put the money into modifying parks closer to large areas of concentration of Hispanics?*

Non-Residents

Key Characteristics

In addition to the characteristics noted for all audiences, and in addition to having many of the general characteristics of independent travelers, non-residents are likely to have the following characteristics that will have impact on the development of an effective interpretive network:

- Non-residents may be more unfamiliar than residents with the history of Portland and the role of Tryon Creek in that history. (This is not to say that all residents will be aware of this information.)
- Non-residents may be unfamiliar with the area.
- Non-residents may desire information on places to stay and eat.

- Non-residents are likely to be staying in campgrounds, RV parks or motels/hotels. They are also likely to be eating in restaurants.
- Non-residents are affected by watershed issues no matter where they live; consequently, we can make connections with them on that topic.

Key Implications

- The interpretive program must not make assumptions about what constitutes basic knowledge on the part of the visitor regarding Portland, the Willamette Valley and history of Oregon in general.
- The orientation information must be presented in such a way that people from outside the area feel comfortable in their ability to find their way around the area.
- Although orientation to the surrounding area is not necessarily the role of the interpretive program, having some basic information available, or at least telling visitors where they can get such information, should be considered.
- The interpretive program should use site-specific features and associated stories to convey transferable concepts that apply to many other parts of the United States and, if possible, the world. The role of water and watersheds, and role of wood as a resource in EuroAmerican history of an area and the importance of this resource in quality of life are transferable to other areas.

Natural Heritage Travelers

Key Characteristics

In addition to the characteristics noted for all audiences, the following are key characteristics of this audience that should be considered in developing an interpretive network.

- Serious natural heritage tourists, such as bird watchers, will have extensive grounding in their subject matter so interpretive strategies will not be sufficient to provide desired information.
- This group wants to be immersed physically in natural settings.
- This group tends to be interested in interpretive opportunities, whether cultural or natural history.
- This group is most likely to understand and appreciate restoration efforts focused on elimination of exotics.

Implications

The following are key implications of these data points:

- An interpretive nature trail would be an attractive interpretive opportunity for this group.
- The interpretive program should consider including information about other opportunities to experience natural history in the area.
- For natural history buffs from out of the area, literature such as identification keys could be effective.

Activity-Oriented Visitors

Activity-oriented visitors are those that are engaged in a specific activity, usually one that is physically active, such as hiking, skiing, and canoeing. At this time the primary activity-oriented visitors that might visit the park are joggers, walkers, equestrians, cyclists and dog-walkers.

***Note:** The proximity of a nearby bikeway and the popularity of rural roads for cycle touring and road biking could attract this group of visitors into using Tryon Creek as a rest stop on a tour. This could create the opportunity for exposing a large group of potential users to what the park has to offer.*

Key Characteristics

- These visitors are likely to be interested in places to rest, get a drink of water and possibly get a snack.
- People engaging in regimented exercise are not likely to want to stop during the middle of their routine.
- Activity-oriented users often desire orientation information focused on their activity, such as a map of trails.

Implications

The following are key implications of these data points:

- Providing the infrastructure and amenities that create desirable rest stops also creates the opportunity for this user group to ‘discover’ the interpretive opportunities if such opportunities are coordinated with places to rest.
- The group may be especially amenable to interpretive opportunities if they are easily accessible from the location that is being used by the group. (Bike stands, shade, water, shelter.)
- Interpretive orientation can be coupled with activity-specific orientation information to reach specific users.

Organized Groups in General

Key Characteristics

The following are key characteristics of organized groups that should be considered in developing an interpretive program.

- Groups are often on a set time schedule and want to get as much out of a visit as possible.
- Group size often exceeds the capacity of any single interpretive opportunity, thus reducing the effectiveness of that opportunity.
- Groups need a staging area as a focal point for organizing and orienting members prior to a visit and for gathering at the end of a visit.
- Groups often arrive in buses.
- Most school groups visit in spring and fall months.
- Specialty group tours are becoming more common and commercialized (photography workshops, professional society training events, craft guilds etc)

Implications

The following are key implications of these data points. Many of the implications relate to the infrastructure necessary to serve this audience.

- Infrastructure needs include a covered staging area for providing an immediate focal point for organizing and orienting group members and a place to meet before leaving; facilities with multiple toilets and urinals; parking and turn-around space for large vehicles (buses); and covered or indoor picnic areas for eating lunch. Large flat areas along interpretive trails (teaching stations) are also often used heavily by school groups.
- The interpretive program should, if possible, offer at least four opportunities of approximately the same length in the same general area to allow large groups to be split into several smaller groups and pulsed through the facility and site.
- To be most effective, a visit by an organized group should be run on a well-organized schedule, with no waiting and with clear directions. A staff member should be assigned that can help with the management of the group and answer questions.

Local Youth Groups

Key Characteristics

In addition to sharing many of the characteristics of groups in general, this audience has the following key characteristics that should be noted when developing the program for the site:

- They may be working toward a specific goal, such as a merit badge;
- They may be interested in service projects.
- Typically, the youth in these groups are linked to family members, who are also a potential audience.
- These groups are usually interested in a visible product for their volunteer time rather than mundane maintenance work. In other words, they would be more interested in building a trail or planning and producing a temporary exhibit than simply contributing hours.

Implications

The following are key implications of these data points:

- Organizations could develop long term partnerships/relationships with the park and as such, become sources of labor for projects.
- Visible projects for such groups are effective in attracting children to return with relatives.
- Volunteer appreciation days at which youth groups are recognized for contributions are also a tool for attracting relatives.

Senior Groups

Key Characteristics

In addition to sharing many of the characteristics of groups in general, this audience has the following key characteristics that should be noted when developing the program for the site:

- They will have a greater knowledge of the eras represented within the park history.
- They are likely to have leisure time and would therefore be a source of volunteers.
- Members of this group often have stories to share that are relevant to the overall story being interpreted and would like to share those stories.
- As a general rule, many of the visitors in this group tend to move slower.

Implications

The following are key implications of these data points:

- The interpretive network should include information on volunteering.
- The interpretive network should include opportunities, such as within senior tours, with a chance for participants to share stories;
- Frequent resting areas within the grounds and facilities will be important.

Appendix D: Parameters

Introduction

Parameters are those conditions under which an interpretive program must be developed, such as monetary constraints, and under which it must function, such as climate. Identifying parameters ensures selection and development of interpretive and wayfinding strategies and infrastructure that are effective and realistic, not idealistic. The following section contains key parameters that could affect the interpretive program at Tryon Creek. In reviewing the parameters, it is important to remember that they represent what is, not what should be or what is desired.

Key Parameters

Budget

B-1: Funds for implementation and ongoing operation and maintenance are likely to be limited. This has several implications:

- A phased approach to developing the interpretive network will be important.
- The first phase should contain projects that can be completed easily and show results in order to maintain enthusiasm and motivation.
- Low maintenance opportunities should be prime components of the basic program.

Staffing

S-1: Staffing for interpretation and orientation may be limited. Paid staff may or may not be dedicated to providing or assisting with interpretive opportunities in the Project Area on a full-time basis. Volunteers will be available, but depending on volunteers is not without issues. Consequently, self-guided opportunities should form the basis of the interpretive network.

Note: *Additional state staff presence is needed to fulfill Tryon Creek's level five service requirements. OPRD requires all level 5 parks to have one permanent employee whose primary responsibility is coordination and implementation of interpretive programs and one seasonal employee whose primary responsibility is frontline interpretation during peak season. However, this will depend on funding.*

Note: *This is not a recommendation against personal interpretive services. In fact, teachers have indicated that a staff person to answer questions and give a brief tour is a highly desirable part of a field trip experience and is a factor in attracting that target audience. Rather this is a recommendation against personal interpretive services as a critical part of the program for the general public. In other words, the program should be designed so it can function without personal interpretive services, but be enhanced by the addition of such opportunities.*

SA-2: A well-organized and extensive Friends group exists. The potential for help in terms of volunteers is high. They could be used to guide, monitor and/or manage specific aspects of the site.

SA-3: Pre-trip planning and information needs can be satisfied for some visitors by providing a good website. Significant efficiencies may be gained by utilizing the Internet – online information about hours of operation, tours, fees, accessibility and events will take pressure of reception staff.

Vandalism and Theft

V-1: Being in an urban setting, vandalism and theft are potential issues. Outdoor signage should be constructed of vandal-resistant materials.

V-2: Facilities similar to the Nature Center in other parts of the United States suffer from visitors removing artifacts or pieces of artifacts as souvenirs. Limiting access, fastening artifacts in place, using remote surveillance, using security alarms and maintaining a personal presence in the nature center and on the grounds may be required.

***Note:** According to personnel at self-guided sites such as The High Desert Museum in Oregon, Lyman Museum and Mission House in Hilo, Hawaii, and the Museum in Pella, Iowa, ropes demarcating the limits of public access are not sufficient to prevent theft. Alarms are necessary to alert staff when a person moves into that space or artifacts are contacted in any way.*

Location and Access

LA-1: Although Terwilliger is a major transit corridor for people within the Portland area, it is not obvious or well-marked for people from outside the area. Good identification signage is required along the major routes in the area to alert travelers and guide them to the park.

LA-2: The park has one main vehicular access and seven pedestrian accesses from various neighborhoods around the park. It also has an extensive trail system. A good orientation and wayfinding system will be essential.

LA-3: The park is located within the Portland metropolitan area. This has several implications. First, the potential for high visitation is significant as is the potential for attendance at special events. It also has the potential for overuse. Also, the potential for partnerships with sites or facilities with similar opportunities is high, which leads to the possibility of developing tours for people so they can visit two or more sites with complementary opportunities.

LA-4: Since Tryon Creek is located between two cities, in an area containing a large part of the state's people, there is the issue of overuse. In terms of the interpretive network, it becomes even more important to convey messages of stewardship to visitors to the park and to try to disperse use to all parts of the park that are accessible to visitors.

LA-5: There are several other interpretive or recreational opportunities in the immediate vicinity. The interpretive opportunities should attempt to complement, not compete with other opportunities in the area.

LA-6: Tryon Creek State Natural Area is open year round. Program attendance is substantially lower during the winter months. The interpretive plan should aid in strengthening winter interpretive opportunities.

LA-7: Tryon Creek is a watershed with urban areas within the watershed. It is an excellent opportunity for education about watersheds.

LA-8: The bulk of people using hiking trails, nature trails, and the Nature Center will arrive by car. The parking lot is a focal point for orientation information.

LA-9: Only 10% of those using equestrian trails arrive by car. Most arrive by trail. Trailhead orientation signage is important for reaching this user group.

Environmental Conditions

E-1: Summers are likely to be warm and winters relatively cold and wet. Exterior informational and interpretive opportunities must be either stored during winter months or constructed of materials highly resistant to the anticipated weather conditions.

E-2: Tryon Creek is an urban watershed that is susceptible to human impact and pollution. Interpretive programs and displays should include information about watershed health and how humans affect the creek.

E-3: Tryon Creek State Park has one of the prime salmon restoration opportunities in the Portland area. The enhancement project is reshaping a critical section of Tryon Creek to restore healthy conditions for native trout and salmon. Major funding for the Tryon Creek Restoration Project is being provided by the City of Portland and NOAA Fisheries, with contributions from PGE and Pacific Power renewable energy customers. This is a good opportunity to interpret the plight of salmon and to highlight the importance of cooperative efforts.

Policy and Legal Issues

PL-1: Interpretation is allowed only in areas designated by the park manager. These areas must be clearly identified with signage. Also, they present a good opportunity to interpret why use is not allowed at this time.

PL-2: Protection and perpetuation of Tryon Creek's undeveloped, natural environment is a primary goal of the park master plan. Interpretation shall only take place if compatible with a natural area, for example, hiking, riding, nature study, and photography.

PL-3: The Nature Center and entire interpretive network must comply with ADA rules and regulations. All significant areas of the Nature Center will be accessible to all people. Also, all information presented within the interpretive network will be accessible in some way for those with disabilities.

PL-4: TCSNA is managed by OPRD but the building was constructed and the programs offered primarily through the efforts of the Friends Group. It will be important to maintain a close working relationship in the development of interpretive opportunities so everything appears to be and actually is a part of an integrated comprehensive interpretive network. This may require developing graphic and interpretive standards prior to developing any of the recommended strategies.

Physical Infrastructure and Layout

PI-1: Tryon Creek State Natural Area currently has the following infrastructure and features available to the interpretive network:

- An extensive interconnected trail system with bridges, benches and other amenities
- A short, looped fully accessible (ADA) trail (The Trillium Trail)
- ADA accessible platforms with wooden railings along the Trillium Trail
- A small Nature Center with an outdoor deck
- A large covered wooden deck for programs (Jackson Shelter)
- A community room in the Nature Center
- A library
- Some picnic tables.

***Note:** Although there are picnic tables, there is not designated Picnic Area, unlike most State Parks. This may have to be communicated to visitors because a picnic area in Oregon State Parks is likely to be an expectation of most first time visitors to Tryon Creek.*

PI-2: The current arrangement of displays and/or exhibits in the Nature Center and the desired traffic flow within the facility are confusing. The interpretive plan must identify an ordered, logical progression of information in the Nature Center.

PI-3: Currently, there is a lack of storage space within the Nature Center. Storage of artifacts and exhibit material will need to be identified so as not to disrupt the visitor experience. Storage for education programs will need to be in the education room only.

PI-4: The parking area is small. This is not an issue that can be covered with the interpretive program, but a decision has to be made on how long you want a visitor arriving in a vehicle to remain on-site.

P-5: Plans are underway to reconfigure the parking area and area to the east of the Visitor Center. This is critical to the interpretive network as the transition from parking area to recreational/interpretive opportunities is the critical location for orientation and marketing information.

Existing Interpretive Opportunities

EO-1: TCSNA currently offers numerous interpretive opportunities, the bulk of which are programs. Most fixed opportunities are within the Nature Center. The new interpretive plan should seek to incorporate as many of these existing programs as possible. A sampling of programs is included in Appendix C.

EO-2: A Guidebook (A Forest in the City) exists for Tryon Creek State Park.

Surrounding Attractions and Events

SA-1: Tryon Creek State Natural Area competes with nearby outdoor trail systems, which may have higher visibility. Trip planning information and brochures about Tryon Creek should be made available at surrounding parks and competing visitor attractions.

SA-2: The following sites offer similar interpretive opportunities. Ideally, the program and opportunities should be complementary, not competing. For example, interpretive opportunities at Tryon could introduce the issues of fish habitat and send people to Bonneville for more information.

***Note:** The following list of sites with descriptions was taken verbatim from the 2003 plan because it is an excellent compilation of this information. Our thanks to the preparer of that document.*

Bonneville Lock and Dam Army Corps of Engineers

<http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/b/>

Exhibits at Bonneville Dam focus on the life cycle of salmon within the Columbia River system, the journey of salmon to the ocean, physical adaptations of anadromous fish and management attempts to increase their population levels. Interpretive presentations include fish talks, hydropower talks, history talks and audiovisual presentations.

Oxbow Regional Park Metro Parks, Trails, and Green spaces

<http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?articleid=150>

Signs interpret the orientation area, Sandy River Overlook, old growth area, and salmon. The salmon overlook also has environmental education curriculum developed for self guided use by teachers and elementary school students. Metro also provides opportunities for visitors who stay on-site longer, like evening campfire programs, guided interpretive hikes, cultural interpretive demonstrations, wildlife tracking activities and riverfront talks and demonstrations. In-depth opportunities for study include Salmon Festival activities and exhibits, E.E. classroom, Nature Center Discovery Room, sales area (books, items to further study), research library, wildlife taxonomic study collection and herbarium.

Tualatin Hills Nature Park

Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation Department

<http://www.thprd.com/Facilities/Nature/Default.htm>

The park has an interpretive center with a reference library, classrooms, nature store, and exhibit area. The interpretive center offers a variety of environmental education and outdoor recreation classes for all ages. Special programs include junior ranger programs, Earth Day, Bug Fest, spring bird migration walks, summer camp, school vacation and day off programs, and nature kids preschool. THNP uses themes related to their ecologically diverse park and nature in an urban setting.

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve

Metro Parks, Trails, and Green spaces

<http://www.jacksonbottom.org/about.htm>

This 6,000 square-foot farmstead-style building includes a display showing Tualatin Watershed changes occurring over the past 100 years. In addition, an interactive exhibit in the form of a computer collects real time information on the flow of the river as it passes through Jackson Bottom. The project room makes microscopes, spotting scopes, wastewater treatment information, pelts and bones available to visiting students. Interpretive signs connect the center with trails that lead to the Preserve and the river. Interpretive signs at the parking lot explain a surface water experiment.

The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

<http://www.endoftheoregontrail.org/>

Covered wagon shaped buildings house two mixed-media theatres and an exhibit hall with rotating exhibits on pioneers. Out back is a Willamette Trades Workshop with hands on activities for children. The interpretive center hosts special events during the spring and summer months. Past events include the Oregon Trail Pageant and the Mormon Trial Sesquicentennial pageant. The center offers maps and guidebooks for those planning to follow the Oregon Trail. Also, information is offered on other historic point of interest in Oregon City and the surrounding communities.

World Forestry Center

Magness Memorial Tree Farm

Non-profit Organization

<http://www.worldforestry.org/>

The World Forestry Center Museum features permanent exhibits on tropical rainforests and old growth forests. Interpretive signs and life-sized dioramas are used to display these Classic exhibits such as the talking tree and the 900 year-old *Oregon Centennial Tree*. Group field trips are led by Forest Rangers on a variety of topics.

Magness Tree Farm's outdoor education site has a large natural area, stream, nine comparative forest management zones, hiking trails, fire lookout tower, recreation field, picnic shelter, log camping cabins, outdoor schools and retreats. The Edmund Hayes Education Center features a classroom, restrooms, showers and kitchen. This area is used for meetings, workshops and retreats with many schools, youth groups and professionals. Interpretive walks are held every Sunday covering history, purpose, interesting forest sights and local flora and

fauna. Interpretive programs also include Magness guided tour, Forest Focus and Saturday Forestry programs.

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

Non-profit Organization

<http://www.oms.edu/>

The Earth Science Hall of OMSI is most closely related to the themes of Tryon Creek. It is divided into several hands on labs, two of which we will look at. The watershed lab allows visitors to create their own rivers; watch salmon develop from eggs to smolts; explore the microscopic world that supports us all, and see how we all fit into the region we call the Northwest. The Recyclotron is a colorful, interactive way to follow the path of trash: reduced, reused, recycled or dumped.

The Life Lab, located in OMSI's Life Science Hall hosts an exhibit on hydroponics, which is full of lights, pumps, growing plants and fish that are the basis for a future exhibit under development.

Other

O-1: There are a number of currently existing interpretive opportunities at Tryon Creek, such as winter and summer day camp, nature explorations for school groups, night hikes and Saturday guided hikes. The interpretive plan should incorporate existing interpretive opportunities into the network and phase out those that do not support the interpretive themes.

O-2: Currently displays and/or exhibits in the Nature Center do not change over time. Rotating exhibits is one way to maintain interest from repeat visitors, but it is labor-intensive in terms of staff time for designing, fabricating and installing new exhibits. It is also somewhat costly. However, the opportunities must change periodically to maintain interest. One option is to provide different programs; another is to change just a part of the exhibits or to have space for traveling exhibits and also change the programs.

O-3: One of the exhibit rooms will need to be used as an occasional meeting area. A schedule will be set ahead of time in order to plan designated uses of this exhibit room and plan displays so that it can function effectively for both purposes.

O-4: Plans for re-locating and re-configuring the parking area are underway. The interpretive network must take into account new opportunities and conditions imposed by this change.

O-5: The National Interpreters Workshop (NIW) of the National Association of Interpretation (NAI) is scheduled to happen in Portland in the fall of 2008. The implementation plan should consider that as a deadline for having a basic set of interpretive opportunities in place.

O-6: Although the park is owned by the State of Oregon and managed by OPRD, there are numerous stakeholders involved in Tryon Creek, including the following:

- Friends of Tryon Creek State Park www.tryonfriends.org

- City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=dccaa>
- SOLV – Team Up for Watershed Health <http://www.solv.org/>
- Tryon Creek Watershed Council
- 40-Mile Loop Land Trust <http://www.40mileloop.org/about.htm>
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ReTree International
- Portland State University

The interpretive planning process should strive to involve as many of these stakeholders as possible to develop a broad base of support for implementation of the plan.

O-8: The Friends of Tryon Creek were recently awarded a grant for a Trout and Lamprey Restoration Project. Again, this is a good opportunity to interpret restoration efforts and the importance of partnerships. It is also a good opportunity to interpret the relationship of fish and wildlife to habitat.

Appendix E: Inventory of Interpretive Opportunities

Introduction

In general, people become more interested in a subject when they can see something related to it, and they are more likely to believe what they can see than what they only hear or read. Therefore, the more an interpretive program connects with and uses actual artifacts or features in conveying information, the more effective the program will be. The inventory of interpretive opportunities within the context of Interpretive Planning focuses on inventorying artifacts and features available for use as supporting visuals for interpretive opportunities in order to develop themes and storylines based on what visitors can see or *experience*. Note that the inventory of interpretive opportunities is like a menu – just because it is possible to tell a particular story does not mean that it should be told.

Key Stories

Based on the prominent visuals, human history and current situation, the following appear to be the key stories that can be communicated effectively within the interpretive network. They are not the only stories, but they are the major ones because Tryon is well situated to tell these stories and other sites in the area are not as well situated.

The dynamic ecosystem, changing all the time due to a variety of forces, both natural and human.

Like everywhere else, a variety of natural events have combined to form the basic landscape. Some of those are large events, such as the Ice Age Floods; others are slower and have impact over a longer period of time, such as uplift, subsidence and erosion. Tryon Creek has floods, earth movement, fire, wind, rain and other forces that have all played a role in forming what we see today. It has also had impact from human activities. The landscape at TCSNA is relatively unique in an urban area in that it was heavily affected by human activities and changed dramatically as a result, but was then protected and has become an oasis of green in the middle of an urban sea.

People can make a difference

This is an important story for any site, but it can't be told as effectively as it can at Tryon because the visible features at the park are evidence that support this story. The mere presence of the park within an urban environment is a result of action by people in addition to the constant battle against invasives and degradation.

Secondary Stories

These are stories that can be told effectively at Tryon, but are either not as visible in the landscape or can be told in a variety of locations in the area.

The interconnectedness of an ecosystem, especially within a watershed and the concept that everything in an ecosystem therefore has a role and has impact

Everything in an ecosystem is linked. Consequently, events in that ecosystem cause a ripple effect that affects other components of the ecosystem. This is a key concept that forms the basis for many resource management actions. For example, managing wildlife depends heavily on managing the habitat of a species, which is what is happening in managing water flows for fish, keeping snags for wildlife and other such actions. This also encompasses the story of human impacts on watersheds in general and Tryon Creek specifically.

The changing value of resources over time and their role in evolving human civilization

Humans value the same resources in different ways during any given time period, and in different ways over time. That is evident in Tryon Creek State Natural Area – if you look closely. For example, cedar and many other species of flora and fauna were valued by Native Americans as food and materials to support their lifestyle; the forests were later valued as fuel for the iron industry; and the area is now valued as a natural oasis in a built environment, to the extent that non-native species area being ripped out.

Existing Features and Stories

Table 1 contains the key features and associated stories that could be told using those features. This table does not include what could be brought to the park and displayed outdoors or indoors in existing or new facilities.

Table 1: Key Features and associated stories

Story or sub-story	Features/events supporting the story	Comments
<p>Interconnectedness of an ecosystem and everything having a role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cedar nurse logs and stumps • Epiphytes (such as moss) • Conks on tree trunks • Woodpecker holes in snags • Large woody debris in streams as a key part of steelhead habitat • Decaying leaves and other detritus as key parts of insect habitat and therefore, fish habitat • All decomposers such as slugs, bark beetles, and other insects • Tryon Creek as healthy indicator for entire Tryon Creek watershed 	
<p>Human impacts on and connection with an ecosystem</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manhole covers and sanitary sewer lines • Trails and bridges • Invasives – especially ivy, but including nutria, some species of crawdad, and some species of insects • Removal of invasives • Restoration efforts • Pollution in streams • Old mill site and photos • Native American use of the land • Socrates Tryon (photos, letters, etc.) • Evidence of logging and charcoal production (pit sites, evidence of old roads, stumps with springboard notches) • Park bridges (each tells a story) • Two historic log dwellings • 4th Avenue Stream restoration project for steelhead, native plant restoration, invasive species removal and re-routing of stream away from sewer line. • Removal of culvert from High Bridge area – restore fish 	

	<p>passage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron Mountain/South Creek trail restoration project – stream restoration for steelhead, re-route stream away from sewer line and existing trail. Trail restoration work, log jam restoration • Story of Friends Group 	
Dynamic ecosystem affected by a variety of forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-growth after logging • The difference in vegetation around a tree that has fallen to let light in and the vegetation under the canopy • The evolution of the bog • The evolution of the forest from shade intolerant to shade tolerant trees • The un-even aged nature of the forest • Wind thrown trees and impacts, such as sediment being delivered to streams • Flood debris on banks of the creek • Signs of fire (Maple Ridge Trail and North Horse Loop) • All human impacts • Soils and geology • Outcroppings of basalt • Hydrologic changes such as ‘flashy’ creek with rain • Soil creep • Landslides 	
Human conservation efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park itself • Ivy that is pulled out and left in piles • Protecting places from human use • Boardwalks and bridges that keep people out of sensitive areas. • Other examples of restoration work including tree plantings, removal of other exotics (before and after photos) and the brush dam project. 	
Urban wildlife co-existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodpecker holes in trees • Cone scales and stalks 	The bird house may be an issue. On the one hand it

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal tracks in muddy areas • Bird calls • Nests • Deer droppings • Other wildlife scat • Wildlife migration and travel corridors • Amphibians (tree frogs) • Variety of owls • Variety of bats • Coyotes (including dens, scat and tracks) • Animal tracks in general • Lots of insects, including ants, different kinds of wasps • Deer (including scat, tracks, bedding areas, antlers, bones, signs of browsing) • Different kinds of hawks (coopers, red tail, sharp shinned – includes calls, sightings, feathers and nests) • Flying squirrels (nest) • Organisms in creek (macro invertebrates, sculpin, crawdads, steelhead, salmon) • Organisms that use creek heavily (nutria, beaver, otter, muskrat) • Predators • Rabbits (sightings, fur) • Woodpeckers (holes, calls, sightings) 	<p>is an effort to provide habitat. On the other, we do not want to give people the idea that we can mitigate our impacts through artificial means when our main message focuses on restoring natural environments to help support native fish and wildlife.</p>
<p>Changing value of resources over time and with different cultures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cedar trees and their value to Native Americans • Stumps representing a time period when the forest was valued for fuel • The use of the forest for recreation and wildlife habitat today 	
<p>Relationship of fish and wildlife to habitat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large woody debris in streams • Detritus in streams • Snags used by woodpeckers • Comparison of bog habitat to forest habitat 	

Appendix F: Behavioral Impacts Input from Working Group

Introduction

The following information was collected at a work session by having participants fill in the following sentence as many times as necessary:

As a result of participating in the interpretive program, [Target Audience] will/will not [Behavior] .

Results of work sheet on desired behavioral outcomes

Target Audience	Will/Won't	Behavior
Visitors	Will	Visit other parks
Dog owners	Will	Use leashes/clean up
Visitors	Will	Value park more
Visitors	Will	Volunteer
Visitors	Will	Donate money
Visitors	Will	Become excited about science
Visitors	Will	Extend learning beyond
Visitors	Will	Stay out of rehab areas
Visitors	Will	Return to visit/Return with others
Public	Will	Support preserving nature areas
Youth	Will	Be inspired to protect natural areas
Public	Won't	Litter
Schools	Will	Utilize the park as an outdoor classroom
Families	Will	Attend park programs
Voters	Will	Vote yes in 2014
Public	Will	Appreciate the history of the park formation and support similar efforts
Horseback riders/runners/bicyclists	Will	Understand the value of preserving the natural area and respect it by staying on trails

Dog walkers	Will	Understand the value of preserving the natural area and respect it by staying on trails and keep dogs on leash
Public	Will	Join Friends of TCSP
Public	Will	Volunteer
Park users (adults)	Will	Join the Friends
Park users (adults)	Will	Become active volunteers
Dog walkers	Will	Keep dogs on leash
Children/adults	Will	Stay on trails
Park Users (All)	Will	Stay out of the creek
Park Users (All)	Will	Understand why this place is special
Parents	Will	Send their kids to camp
Families	Will	Spend time exploring nature
Seniors	Will	Have an opportunity to share memories
Teens	Will	Be able to hang out appropriately
All visitors	Will	Understand the value of this place
Dog owners	Will	Keep dogs on leash
Children	Will	Understand the process of forest succession
Adults	Will	Realize the historical significance of this park to Portland/Lake Oswego
Oregonians	Will	Vote yes on M66 in 2014
Visitors	Will	Feel compelled to volunteer here or another natural area
Neighbors	Will	Act to protect water quality and aquatic life
Visitors	Will	Be inspired to advocate for open space
Children	Will	Grow up healthier and stronger
Wildlife	Will not	Be abused or harassed
No one	Will	Feel unsafe in the outdoors
Oregonians	Will	Value the wonderful State Park System
Visitors	Will	Voluntarily reduce their ecological footprint
Complainers	Will	Stop calling me
Children	Will	Want to come back
Families	Will	Grow up here
Dog walkers	Will	Leash their pets and pickup waste
Visitors that don't	Will	Visit exhibits in NC

usually come into NC		
Visitors to the NC	Will	Experience exhibits and then attend a program or interp event
Park visitors	Will	Stay on trails
Park visitors	Will not	Pick wildflowers or mushrooms
Park visitors	Will	Understand why this park is here
Park visitors	Will	Learn more about Oregon State Parks
Park visitors	Will	Become volunteers
Park visitors	Will	Want to learn more about the park's history
Park visitors/neighbors	will	Educate themselves to take action in the watershed
Equestrians	Will	Support trail maintenance activities and be more actively involved
Children	Will	Have fun and play
Parents/older siblings	Will	Teach young children and learn from that process
Curious/knowledgeable people	Will	Be challenged and learn
People without prior knowledge	Will	Be challenged and learn
Older adults and people with physical disabilities	Will	Feel safe and comfortable
All/any visitors	Will	Want to return/share/spread the word to others
All/any visitors	Will	Decide to participate in programs base on their experience in the exhibits
Students at Lewis and Clark College	Will	Feel comfortable using the space for research/reading
Joggers/dog walkers/exercisers	Will	Come into the nature center more often
Young people	Will	Gain a curiosity about the natural world
Minorities	Will	Come and have access

Appendix G: Theme Input from Working Group

Introduction

The following information was collected at a work session by having participants fill in the following sentence as many times as necessary:

When (target audience) finishes learning about (topic), I want them to know that (theme).

Input from work session

Target Audience	Topic	Theme
Visitors	Tryon Creek SP	The Tryon Creek canyon has dramatically changed due to natural process and human activity.
Visitors	Weeds	Invasive plant and animal species are changing the forest around us.
Joggers/Dog Walkers	Appropriate Use	Everyday uses of the park can have long term effects on the landscape.
Passive Recreationists	Forest Ecology	The trees of Tryon Creek are integral to the history and development of Portland and Lake Oswego.
Neighbors	Watershed Health	The urban lifestyle of Portland is threatening the health of Tryon Creek.
Potential Friends	FOTC	The Friends of Tryon Creek State park are a unique organization.
Oregonians	State Park	Tryon Creek is a recreational gateway to Oregon State Parks.
Neighbors	Plants/Animals	The flora and fauna of Tryon Creek SP live in a delicate balance with the people of Portland & Lake Oswego.
	History	The story of Tryon Creek mirrors the story of Oregon.
Park Visitors	Steelhead/Salmon	Salmon need healthy habitat to survive.
Exhibit Visitors	Logging at TCSP	Logging shaped the forest we know today.
Exhibit Visitors	Park Preservation	Concerned citizens saved this park and why you should care.
Exhibit Visitors	Socrates Tryon, etc.	The park was named for Socrates H. Tryon and his role in shaping the park.
Hiker/Dog Owner	Salmon/Creek Health	Salmon need clean, cool and clear water to survive.
Exhibit Visitors	Tryon Creek SNA	The park is here for future generations to care for – inspire them to volunteer.
	Urban Wildlife	Tryon Creek is a vital urban wildlife corridor. People, wildlife can coexist in

		harmony.
Visitors	History – Charcoal	Played a significant role in Oswego's (and the West's) early iron industry – you can see it in the trees.
Visitors	Tryon Creek's Watershed	Tryon Creek is an urban stream changed/defined by its watershed and the people who live and work in the watershed.
Visitors	Native Americans	Portland area was central to Native American life. Native Americans in our area relied on many plants and animals you see here today.
Visitors	Wildlife	Tryon Creek SP is home to many kinds of wildlife beyond mammals, birds and salmon – underground, on the forest floor, in streams, etc.
Visitors	Plants	Hundreds of plants are integral to the forest ecosystem here and have a history with people as food, poison, medicine, shelter, etc.
Visitors	Tryon Creek	The shape, color and inhabitants of the creek are evidence of its health.
Watershed Residents	Creek	Their actions affect the creek.
Park Visitors	The Trees	Tell the story of the park's history.
Park Visitors	Cedar Stumps	Are linked to the development of the city.
Park Visitors	Loess (soil)	The wind and floods helped shape the canyon.
Park Visitors	Friends of TC	Individuals make a significant contribution to conservation.
Park Visitors	Invasive Plants	Controlling invasives protects plant and park diversity.
Park Visitors	Fish	Steelhead return each winter to spawn.
Park Visitors	Pioneers	The park trees supplied the first fuel for development.
Park Visitors	First People	Lived successfully in balance with this land.
Park Visitors	Coyotes	Are part of our urban population.
Public	Forest Preservation	That the preservation of the forest here benefits a diversity of life.
Public	Watershed	That you are living in a watershed and affect it with your daily actions.
Youth	Park Creation	That in the past a group of people worked together to create this park.
Public	2014 – OPRD	That OPRD offers many parks to enjoy nature and discover history.
Families	Nature	That nature is fun to explore.
Teachers	Environmental Education	That EE programs here enhance school curriculums.
Public	History	That previous cultures utilized forest products important to their survival in various ways.

Appendix H: Introduction to Interpretive Networks

People are receptive to different types of information at different places in the continuum of their experience. Typically, visitors considering visiting a site want information to help them decide to visit or not, which depends on opportunities at the site balanced against the cost in time, effort and money to visit. If their interest is such that they decide to visit, they will desire *wayfinding information*, which usually comes in the form of a map matched to directional signage. Upon arriving at TCSNA, if they are new visitors, they will desire *site-specific orientation and wayfinding information*.

When comfortable with their ability to find their way around TCSNA, visitors may choose to take advantage of *interpretive opportunities*. The array of interpretive opportunities can be thought of as a progressive dinner – if the visitor likes the first course, he or she will be more likely to try the second. Therefore, every opportunity at TCSNA should strive to give visitors the information they desire at the point they want it, pique their interest so they are motivated to visit other interpretive opportunities, and give them enough wayfinding information so they can easily get to those other opportunities.

Based in part on this concept, effective interpretive networks typically contain the following types of components:

Functional Orientation Information: This is information that allows a visitor to function in your environment, and includes a listing and location of opportunities and activities, location of restrooms and other amenities, and locations for more information. A map is a basic and common functional orientation device. Orientation is critical because feeling comfortable in an unfamiliar environment is essential in order to be receptive to interpretive information. Since functional orientation is a need, it should be available at the *beginning* of the visitor's experience in TCSNA in such a way that it is easily accessible to *all* visitors, whether the site is crowded or not. However, providing orientation information at the beginning of an experience is not enough because people are constantly seeking to reassure themselves that they are on the right path or in the right place. Therefore, effective orientation and wayfinding networks use reinforcing information at key decision points, such as at trail intersections, and they use confidence markers to reassure people they are on the correct route. Confidence markers on Scenic Byways are an example of providing continual reassurance. In the case of TCSNA, confidence markers along trails are important because the trail system is a network of interconnected trails. In sum, orientation and wayfinding is a dominant part of the interpretive network at the *beginning* of a visitor experience and a continual, although lesser part throughout.

Interpretive Information: This is information that helps the visitor understand the messages you wish to communicate. A typical interpretive network consists of the following components:

Grabbers: These are easily accessible, high reward opportunities that grab a visitor's attention, pique curiosity, and motivate the visitor to spend time with other, higher-effort interpretive opportunities. 'Didjknows' are a type of

grabber. This type of interpretive information is necessary to market and continue to market the interpretive experience so it should be present in some form at every point in the continuum of the visitor experience.

Thematic Orientation or Overview: These opportunities function like the executive summary in reports—they give the visitor the big picture so the details will make sense. Thematic overview occurs just after functional orientation, and is critical to the overall effectiveness of the communication effort because it is an initial organizer for all subsequent information. Studies have shown that people learn better if given a basic framework first so they can organize subsequent incoming information.

Holders (Detail): These are higher effort, often less visible opportunities that provide the detail in an interpretive network. Interpretive walks, exhibits, and presentations are all good examples of holders in this network.

If you put these concepts together, then overlay them on a physical landscape, the result is a network with grabbers in prominent places to attract users into the interpretive network and to different sites within the Project Area; strategies that provide functional orientation and thematic overview located in easily accessible locations at the beginning of the visitor experience; and the meat of the interpretive experience, the detail, concentrated in site-specific interpretive opportunities within the context of the main interpretive experience.

In addition to this basic philosophy of providing a continuum of information that matches the continuum of the visitor experience, we also follow a concept based on the “level-of-development” context of a visitor experience at TCSNA. Because the park is surrounded by a built-environment, all visitors will be progressing from a built environment into the park. New visitors will most likely drive in to the parking area. The entryway, parking lot, and plaza are still a built environment, but one that is subordinate to and on the edge of a relatively natural undeveloped landscape. Thus visitors can begin to decompress as they move through the transition into the natural area. Highly developed to moderately developed to undeveloped – that is the continuum of the visitor experience at TCSNA in terms of the physical context, and that is the continuum we intend to match with the level-of-development of the delivery system for the information.

In terms of TCSNA, if the park is divided into a series of concentric circles with the Nature Center and parking area at the hub, each circle will offer a progressively less developed experience and less visible information strategies, similar to the progressions found in the USFS Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) concept. In other words, the hub area will have highly visible delivery systems, such as the Nature Center, an outdoor kiosk and interpretive panels. As visitors move away from the hub, the delivery system becomes less and less visible, depending more on publications and such strategies as podcasts.