PROPOSED SENSITIVE LANDS REVISIONS

One of the City Council's current priorities is to revise the Sensitive Lands program and create a new approach to natural resource protection that reduces the regulatory burden on private property owners. The City is proposing to replace the Sensitive Lands regulations with a new Natural Resource Protection Program that:

- Aligns the City's regulations for stream and wetland protection with minimum Metro Title 3 requirements;
- Increases protection of riparian and upland wildlife habitat (Metro Title 13 resources) on public property and private open space tracts; and
- Replaces Title 13 regulations on private property with incentive-based programs.

In June, a draft framework of the new program was presented for Council feedback. In July, the Council received information on how to best coordinate the proposal with the City's compliance of the Clean Water Act — specifically with the requirement to maintain tree cover and riparian vegetation to shade streams and protect water quality.

Using new topographic data available this fall, the City will perform an analysis to ensure the new program meets federal, state, and regional requirements. To perform this analysis and make any needed adjustments to the program, the timeline for completing the Sensitive Lands revisions has been extended into 2015.

In the interim, the City will pursue a series of quick fix code amendments to address specific issues with Sensitive Lands regulations. The proposed amendments will be available for public review in September. The Planning Commission and Council will hold study sessions in October and hearings in November and December.

If you have questions about the Sensitive Lands revisions or interim code amendments, please contact Scott Siegel, Planning and Building Services Director, at 503-635-0290 or ssiegel@ci.oswego.or.us.

MAYOR STUDEBAKER

have shown. Our staff has also responded to several complaints of undue inconvenience to try to alleviate noise and safety concerns.

Speaking of staff, there has been some recent expression of concern that staff is driving the direction of city activities. First, a little information about Council's authority. We have the power to hire and fire only three people – the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the Municipal Judge. The City Manager is the person with the power to hire and fire employees. He is akin to a CEO of a 350-person business, and the City Council is akin to the Board of Directors of that business. Getting back to the issue of staff driving the direction of our activities, and at the risk of sounding naive, I have found very few instances where that seems to be occurring. If it is occurring in a way that is contrary to the path Council wants to follow, then the blame rests ultimately on us.

Council is supposed to set policy and by doing so, set City direction. We cannot and should not deal with every day-to-day detail. That responsibility rests with department heads and the City Manager. Again, it is my experience so far that if Council is clear about the policy we want to prevail, staff will follow our direction. At the same time, it is up to staff to inform us how that policy can be best carried out. Sometime Council may disagree with a staff recommendation and need to provide further direction. There may also be instances when a staff member is resistant or unenthusiastic about a Council policy. We rely on our citizens to help us determine when that occurs. But please be assured that Council is working hard to be clear about our policies and to get them fully implemented.

I hope all of you are enjoying the beautiful weather we are having and are also enjoying the many activities available to you here. We have the concerts, the movies in the park, the arts, the golf course, and the lake. I find I have to remind myself occasionally to take the time to enjoy the ambiance here, particularly before the winter weather hits, and we have to spend so much more time indoors.

CONSTRUCTION & ROAD CLOSURES

Water Partnership pipeline construction and road closures during September:

- Iron Mtn. Blvd. – paving continues in early September. A single lane will be open during paving, so expect delays, or find an alternate route.
- B Avenue – crews are installing a storm drain line on B Avenue between State and 7th Street. One block and one intersection will be closed at a time between 7am and 6pm, Monday through Friday as work progresses west.
- Laurel Street and Erickson Street – various segments of these roads are closed to through traffic between 7am and 6pm, Monday through Friday through October as pipeline work progresses.
- Highway 43 – crews are expected to begin laying pipe on Hwy 43 near Laurel Street in mid-September. Work will progress south towards West Linn. All work on Hwy 43 will be conducted at night between 7pm and 5am. In most areas on Hwy 43, two-way traffic will be maintained during construction. All lanes of traffic will be open during the day.

Your patience is appreciated during construction. For the most up-to-date information on construction, visit the “work underway” page on lotigardwater.org, email lwwater@ci.oswego.or.us, or call 503-677-1230.2

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Please put all pill/tablet medications into a zip-seal bag. We do not want the plastic prescription containers. If you bring in a liquid medication, please put the bottle in a sealable plastic bag to prevent leaks.

For more disposal options, visit www.ci.oswego.or.us/ police/drug-medicine-disposal.

STREETLIGHT UPGRADE

LED UPGRADE TO START IN OCTOBER

While driving through the City, it is impossible to miss the new vibrantly white LED streetlights. There are many benefits of LEDs. LEDs promote safer roads, provide better color rendition, lower energy costs, increase sustainability, and discourage crime.

The City is making preparations for the phase 2a project to upgrade approximately 800 additional streetlights to LEDs. This project will install screw-in LED lights inside all of the City’s existing Town & Country-style streetlights and will replace the outer housings of fixtures that are damaged. Also, the City is planning on upgrading the Acorn fixtures to LEDs in the downtown and Marilynhurst areas. The City anticipates starting installations citywide in October. This phase of the LED project is expected to cost $200,000, will save the City about $55,000 per year in reduced energy and maintenance costs.

Quick Facts for the Completed Phase 1 LED Project:

- 1,400 Streetlights were upgraded to LEDs.
- The project cost a total of $429,026 which was about $41,000 under budget.
- The City was awarded an Energy Trust of Oregon Inc. incentive for $80,086 in one-time revenue.
- The old fixtures were recycled, and the City received $5,292.
- The City will save $132,000 per year in lower payments to Portland General Electric (PGE).
- The project will be paid back by the end of 2016.
- The new LED fixtures are under warranty for 10 years, but are expected to last for 20 years.
- In 20 years, the City will have saved about $2.3 million through lower payments to PGE.
- The project was completed seven months early.
- The City received a total of six complaints and all were resolved.
- The project will save 7,400 tons of carbon dioxide each year which is equal to taking 141 passenger vehicles off the road permanently.

RULES FOR POSTING POLITICAL SIGNS

Local elections will take place on Tuesday, November 4. Before posting political signs, here are some helpful reminders:

- No application or fees are required to post a sign on your own private property.
- No sign shall extend into or over the public right-of-way of any street.
- Signs on public property (such as schools, parks, fire stations, and City Hall) or placed in the public right-of-way are subject to removal and a $26 retrieval fee.
- Signs must be removed no later than the fifth day after the election (November 9).

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