

Jacksonville Woodlands General Management Plan

The *Jacksonville Woodlands Historic Natural Park and Trail System's* General Management Plan (GMP) was approved in 1999 by the Jacksonville Woodlands Association, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Jackson County, City of Jacksonville, and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. The Plan provided the vision and goals for the development, management, and maintenance of the Jacksonville Woodlands. For the past twelve years, the original General Management Plan has guided the implementation of property acquisitions, trail construction/maintenance, and resource interpretation. The following Addendum represents a review and update of the original GMP with emphasis shifting from development to maintenance of the resource as it exists today. Outdated policies found in the original GMP have been replaced or modified to better reflect current conditions or community desires. The most recent Jacksonville Woodlands trail and boundary map illustrates the current status of the resource and will guide the Woodlands' development for the next ten years.

The review process entailed several meetings attended by a representative from the City of Jacksonville, Bureau of Land Management, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, Jacksonville Woodlands Association (JWA), and Jackson County. Other participants included founding members of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association plus an individual representing the public at large. Concurrently, an article was posted in the December issue of the local newspaper, *The Jacksonville Review*, asking the public for any and all comments or concerns regarding the Jacksonville Woodlands management. Submitted citizen comments were reviewed and, where appropriate, reflected in the revised GMP Addendum. The document was once again posted for additional public consideration on the JWA website. The final product (GMP w/Addendum) was presented to the JWA membership as part of the 2013 annual membership meeting. Final approval was by the *Jacksonville Woodlands Management Group*.

As the *Jacksonville Woodlands Management Group* embarks on its update of the GMP, a review of what has been accomplished since 1999 seems appropriate:

- Approximately 255 acres of scenic woodland habitats and historic sites have been acquired and continually maintained.
- Nearly 14 miles of hiking trails have been constructed and repaired as needed.
- Educational interpretive panels and displays have been installed at historic locations within the Woodlands, with emphasis on the Rich Gulch Mining Area.
- The Rich Gulch Mining Area was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service on March 22, 2000.
- The Sarah Zigler Interpretive Trail was designated as a National Recreational Trail by the National Park Service on April 14, 2000.

- Strategically placed benches have been installed to afford opportunities for rest and contemplation.
- A Jacksonville Woodlands information kiosk and drinking fountain have been installed at the Rich Gulch trailhead.
- Discreet directional and informational trail signs have been placed at key trailheads and intersections.
- Multiple informational brochures, including the *Beekman Native Plant Arboretum* and *Flowering Plants of the Jacksonville Woodlands*, have been published.
- The French Gulch Mining Interpretive Trail and display were completed and dedicated.
- A forest fire fuel-reduction effort was completed in 2004 to reduce the fire danger within the Woodlands.
- The Beekman Arboretum, with its information kiosk and water feature, was established adjacent to the historic Beekman House.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDENDUM

This 2013 addendum to the *Jacksonville Woodlands Historic Natural Park and Trail System General Management Plan* (GMP) is intended to supplement and clarify provisions found within the original General Management Plan— and not designed to replace the original plan in its entirety. Those provisions in the original GMP that have been modified, or made irrelevant by this addendum, will no longer be applicable.

The review and update reflected in this addendum is based on current conditions found within the Woodlands and accomplishments achieved since the original GMP was drafted. The Woodlands' current status was used as a starting point for adoption of policies, goals and standards projected forward from 2013.

MISSION STATEMENT ¹

The *Jacksonville Woodlands Historic Natural Park and Trail System* (Woodlands) has been set aside to protect Jacksonville's natural and historic landscape for present and future generations. The Woodlands is an area that provides Jacksonville with a scenic backdrop, recreational use, and educational opportunities for everyone. Preserving the natural and rural flavor of the land surrounding Jacksonville also enhances the City's National Historic Landmark District designation.

The Woodlands, as envisioned, suggests a primary emphasis being placed on the protection of the community's hillside landscape and a return of the woodlands to as close an approximation of its natural, pre-development state as the attainment of limited secondary purposes will allow.

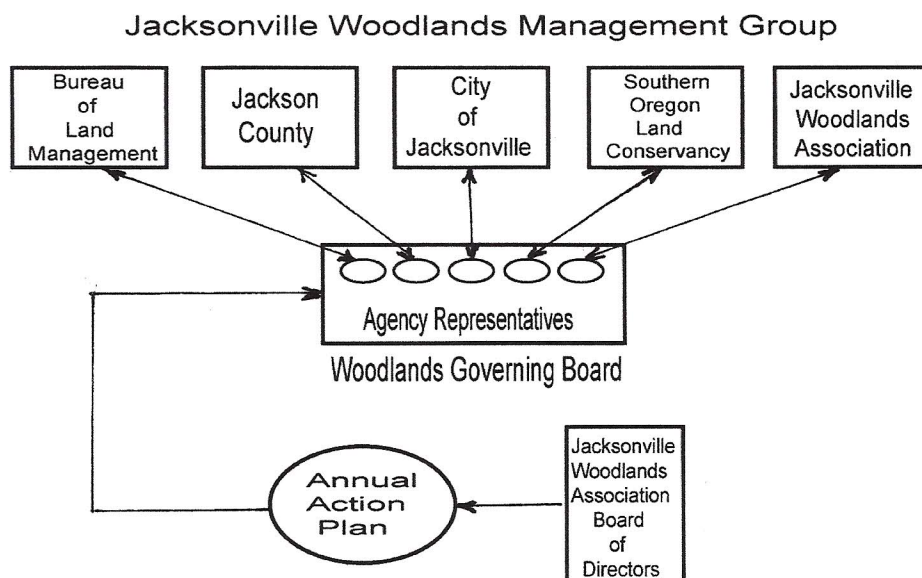
Desired secondary purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Providing a natural setting for passive, low-volume recreational activities.
- Providing an outdoor classroom for the study of natural ecological systems.
- Preserving the historical remnants of mining and pioneering activities remaining within the hillsides surrounding Jacksonville.
- Developing on-site interpretive displays that will explain the historical and natural history elements found within the Jacksonville Woodlands.

The attainment of secondary purposes must be balanced against the primary need to preserve the natural, open space quality of the hillsides, and protect the conditions necessary for a healthy watershed.

¹ . Restatement and elaboration of *Vision Statement & Woodlands Purposes and Goals* statement; pp. 2,3,7 & 8 General Management Plan.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE ²



The *Jacksonville Woodlands Management Group* (JWMG) is a mutual partnership between the following private and public entities:

- United States Bureau of Land Management
- Jackson County, Oregon
- City of Jacksonville, Oregon
- Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
- Jacksonville Woodlands Association

The decision-making authority for the *Jacksonville Woodlands Management Group* will be the *Woodlands Governing Board* (WGB) composed of a designated representative selected by each of the partnership organizations to serve as their point-of-contact and information conduit. The WGB will meet on an annual basis for the following purposes:

- Review the *Annual Action Plan* which details all management activities proposed for the Jacksonville Woodlands during the designated year.
- Verify that the proposed activities comply with all legal constraints and policy positions recognized by the partnership organizations.
- Provide support for, or alternate recommendations to, any management activities planned for the Woodlands.
- Veto any planned activity on a land parcel represented by a partnership organization when the organization holding jurisdiction believes that the

² . Replaces *Steering Committee* and *Woodlands Manager* sections; pp. 19 GMP.

proposed activity violates existing legal restrictions, or is otherwise perceived to contradict best-management practices. A single veto by the affected organization will be sufficient to preclude the activity planned.

- Review the *General Management Plan* (GMP) for any needed revisions.
- Confirm that proposed projects within the Woodlands conforms with the intent of the GMP.

The *Jacksonville Woodlands Association Board of Directors* will be responsible for creating the *Annual Action Plan*, and presenting it to the WGB for approval. The *Annual Action Plan* will include:

- Any land acquisitions, conservation easements, or other land covenants proposed for the Woodlands.
- All trail and vegetation maintenance planned for the Woodlands.
- All trail construction anticipated for the Woodlands.
- All interpretive displays, signs and related disturbances associated with educational purposes.
- The removal of any infrastructure, signs, trails or other development in order the return the woodland to it's more natural state, or otherwise accommodate desired objectives.
- Any recreational-use support materials or facilities.
- Proposed grant applications.
- Major expenditures anticipated for any of the above activities
- Proposed large-group activities planned for the Woodlands.

The City of Jacksonville is the partner organization that will be most responsible for facilitating the implementation of actions approved by the WGB.

WOODLANDS MANAGEMENT AREAS ³

- Primary Public-use Areas: These will be the areas where public use will be concentrated. Multiple forms of recreation will be allowed and support facilities developed.
- Passive Public-use Areas: These areas will have minimal development or support facilities. Less intensive use will allow these areas to act as buffers or transitional zones to absorb the affects from primary-use areas. Pedestrian use will be encouraged, while equestrian and cycling activities are allowed, but not particularly encouraged.
- Special Protection Areas: These areas contain fragile ecological systems or threatened species, and public usage should be avoided or reduced.

³ . Modifies and elaborates on Management Areas section; pp. 20-21 GMP.

- Private Property Buffer Zones: These areas are intended to keep Woodlands visitors from incursions onto private property and prevent recreational or other disturbances to private property.
- Beekman Arboretum Special-use Zone: The Beekman Native Plant Arboretum occupies a 3-acre site adjacent to the historic Beekman House and Beekman Woods trail head. The site was developed under the guidance of Jacksonville Woodlands board member Alan Horobin, and contains a collection of trees and shrubs native to Jackson County. Meandering paths allow visitors to experience eight Siskiyou Mountains biological habitats including chaparral, native grasses, and conifer forests. The arboretum includes a water feature, benches and informational panels explaining the flora and ecology. The arboretum is supported by the Jacksonville Woodlands Association, City of Jacksonville, and local volunteers.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS⁴

The attachment of conservation easements to public and private parcels acquired for inclusion into the Jacksonville Woodlands system has been, and will continue to be, a vital component in the preservation of Jacksonville's hillside landscape. Conservation easements will be secured and granted to the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy to protect the land's open space, passive recreational use, and historic values. The applicable conservation easements will be adhered to in the implementation of the Jacksonville Woodlands General Management Plan and Addendum including following, where required, the Notice and Approval process for land management activities.

Currently, the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy holds seven conservation easements within the Jacksonville Woodlands representing 133 protected acres.

WOODLANDS PARCEL INVENTORY⁵

- **See Addendum Appendix I.**

⁴ . Summarized from Appendix II of the GMP. See Addendum Appendix I for additional on conservation easements and a list of parcels having easements attached.

⁵ . Updates Woodlands Boundary section and **Maps**; pp. Vii, and pps. 4-6 GMP.

TRAIL, BOUNDARY, AND OWNERSHIP MAP

- See Addendum Appendix II: *"Jacksonville Trails Map"*

RECREATIONAL USE POLICIES⁶

All organized activities and special events, not otherwise prohibited, which are planned for the Jacksonville Woodlands must comply with City of Jacksonville permit requirements.

Examples of Woodlands usages and restrictions include:

- Motorized Vehicles: Motorized vehicles will not be allowed within the Woodlands. Exceptions include emergency vehicles responding to an identified emergency, and maintenance vehicles necessary for approved projects within the Woodlands.
- Hiking/Running: Hiking and running on the developed trails will be encouraged throughout the Woodlands system.
- Bicycling: The Jacksonville Woodlands will not be developed or managed for bicycle trails. However, personal bicycle recreation will be allowed on the trail system with the exception of the Grove and Quarry parcels where it is prohibited by conservation easement restrictions. No group, or group sponsored, cycling event will be allowed. On those properties restricted by conservation easements, the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy may restrict bicycle use if, for any reason, it is apparent that the use, or level of use, is threatening the conservation values protected by the easements. Trail conditions during the wet season which create potential hazards or probable damage to trails may result in temporary use restrictions.
- Equestrian Usage: Horses will be allowed on the Woodlands trail system. Seasonal trail conditions which suggest excessive damage to trails and surrounding terrains may result in temporary use restrictions.
- Pets: An on-leash requirement will be imposed throughout the Woodlands system. It is inappropriate to allow pets to run loose in a natural area such as the Woodlands. Unrestrained pets can disturb wildlife, confront other pets and users, forage for food, or trespass on private property.

⁶ . Modifies and elaborates on Recreational Use Policy section; pp. 23 GMP.

Conflicts between different trail-user groups will be minimized through proper trail design and trail user education. User education on appropriate usage will include explanations of ethical behavior on trail signs, brochures, and other suitable materials and means.

Any usage that can be demonstrated harmful to the *Jacksonville Woodlands Historic Natural Park and Trail System* because of increased danger to users, an unacceptable level of user conflicts, or accelerated erosion, may be subsequently prohibited.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND FEEDBACK PROCEDURES ⁷

All reasonable efforts will be implemented to inform the JWA membership, City of Jacksonville residents, and the Southern Oregon community in general about the current condition, and proposed management of the *Jacksonville Woodlands Historic Natural Park and Trail System*. Information will be distributed in a timely manner so as to allow appropriate community feedback prior to any major revisions being implemented. The *Woodlands Management Group* will include such feedback into deliberations related to their Annual Action Plan review. Public information resources include, but are not limited to:

- *Jacksonville Review* articles and announcements.
- JWA newsletter and web site.
- Jacksonville Woodlands Association annual meeting

VEGETATION CONTROL AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

• WOODLANDS FIRE-FUEL MANAGEMENT PLAN ⁸

The primary purpose of the proposed *Woodlands Fire/Fuel Management Plan* is to provide a well-thought-out prescription to reduce the fuel loads and ladder fuels within the Jacksonville woodland-urban interface in an effort to reduce the probability of a stand-replacing, catastrophic wildfire. The density of the vegetation within the Woodlands will be reduced so the retained larger trees will remain healthy, and be resistant to fire, insects, and disease. Another intended effect would be to preserve the wooded backdrop surrounding Jacksonville in a scenic condition.

⁷ . Modifies and elaborates on *Planning and Public Involvement* section; pp.1 GMP.

⁸ . Policy statement based on current urban/woodland interface conditions. Replaces *Fire Policy* statement; pp. 29. GMP. Specific actions listed in items 1-8 will be addressed within the *Annual Action Plans*; see pp. 29 GMP.

A significant component of the Jacksonville Woodlands consists of Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) savanna and woodland— as well as chaparral terrain. These are unique ecosystems that respond differently to thinning, pruning and vegetation-management practices than does the typical conifer resource. Woodland white oak and chaparral-specific forest management practices will be implemented through the appropriate Jacksonville Woodlands *Annual Action Plans*.

- **WOODLANDS NON-NATIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN** ⁹

The *Woodlands Non-native Plant Management Plan* will describe prescriptions by which most, if not all, invasive plant species can be prevented, controlled and/or eliminated. This plan will include approximate dates for control efforts, the tools and mechanisms by which invasive species can be treated, approximate associated cost, expected time frames for eradication, and predicted outcomes. Left unchecked, these invasive species threaten to replace native species including the State of Oregon and federally-listed endangered Gentner's fritillaria (*Fritillaria gentneri*).

SUPPORT FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION ¹⁰

Any new trail construction, or the installation or removal of support facilities, interpretive panels or other infrastructure within the Jacksonville Woodlands, must have been included in an appropriate Annual Action Plan and approved by the Woodlands Governing Board. An exception to this restriction is the replacement of existing materials because of ageing or vandalism.

Any unforeseen event or condition that constitutes a potential, or immediate hazard to public safety may be remedied without resorting to the Annual Action Plan-Woodlands Governing Board approval process. Examples would include the presence of a hazardous tree or slumping of a trail section. Notification of the affected agency(s) would be required.

⁹ . Policy statement modifying and expanding *Management Goals* section; pp. 8 GMP.; *Management Issues* section; pp. 17 GMP.; and *Control of Non-native and Invasive Plants* section; pp. 31 GMP.

¹⁰ . Policy statement which places responsibility for compliance with the *General Management Plan* provisions on the Woodlands Governing Board; see *Management Restrictions* section; pp. 19 GMP.; *Recreational Use Policy* section; pp. 23 GMP.; Infrastructure elements; pp. 27 GMP.; and *Conclusions and Recommendations* section; pp. 30 GMP.

ADDENDUM APPENDIX I

Woodlands Parcels

Property	Acreage	Owner
Beekman*	20 acres	City of Jacksonville
The Grove*	6 acres	City of Jacksonville
Britt*	72 acres	City of Jacksonville
Rich Gulch – Begley*	10 acres	City of Jacksonville
Rich Gulch Road access	1.5 acres	City of Jacksonville
Jackson Ck/Sarah Zigler Riparian	8 acres	City of Jacksonville
Quarry*	9 acres	City of Jacksonville
Beebe Woods*	8 acres	City of Jacksonville
Burkhalter *	7.5 acres	City of Jacksonville
Panorama Point/Burkhalter	7.5 acres	Bureau of Land Management
BLM 40	40 acres	Bureau of Land Management
BLM 20	20 acres	Bureau of Land Management
Chinese Diggings	10 acres	Bureau of Land Management
Frontino-Petard Trail	27 acres	Bureau of Land Management
Beekman Arboretum	1 acre	City of Jacksonville
Jackson Forks Pking– 2 parcels	1 acre	City of Jacksonville
Two parcels below Quarry	.5 acre	City of Jacksonville
Liz's Trail Easements (5)	3 acres	City of Jacksonville
Trail access from Cemetery to Par-a-dice Ranch Road	3 acres	City of Jacksonville
	255 acres	

*SOLC Conservation Easements

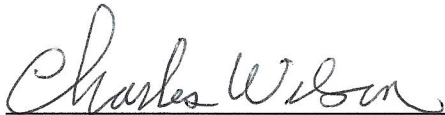
The following land-acquisition and management techniques were available to accumulate parcels for development of the *Jacksonville Woodlands Historic Natural Park and Trail System*. A similar approach is anticipated for any future additions to the Woodlands.

- I. Fee Simple Acquisition: The land is purchased from a private land owner and subsequently donated to a non-profit or public-sector agency (City of Jacksonville). An additional layer of protection to the now-owned public land may include the application of a conservation easement to the parcel.
- II. Conservation Easements: The landowner gives up certain uses and development rights to the land by way of a series of restrictions. It also grants certain affirmative rights, including the right to enforce the restrictions, to a third party, usually a non-profit conservation organization (S.O.L.C.), or government agency involved in natural area protection. Conservation easements are intended to provide benefits to the public at large and may accommodate low-impact recreational usage.
- III. Cooperative Agreements: A memorandum of understanding and/or agreement between agencies or organizations with similar missions. Such agreements currently exist between members of the *Jacksonville Woodlands Management Group*. This represents a less permanent solution since these types of agreements contain an escape clause that allows signatories to withdraw with reasonable notice.

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Signature Page

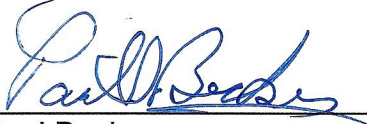
The means by which the *General Management Plan* may be modified or terminated are stipulated within Section III: Responsibilities and Provisions of the *General Management Plan*. Those procedures will likewise apply to this *Addendum* to the *General Management Plan*.

Signatures:



Charles Wilson
President – Jacksonville Woodlands Association

Date 5-6-13



Paul Becker
Mayor – City of Jacksonville

Date 5-6-13



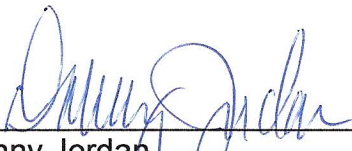
Diane Garcia
Director – Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Date 6/20/13



Dayne C. Barron
District Manager – Bureau of Land Management

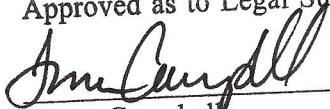
Date 5-8-13



Danny Jordan
County Administrator – Jackson County, Oregon

Date 6/19/13

Approved as to Legal Sufficiency:



Teresa Campbell
Sr. Assistant County Counsel