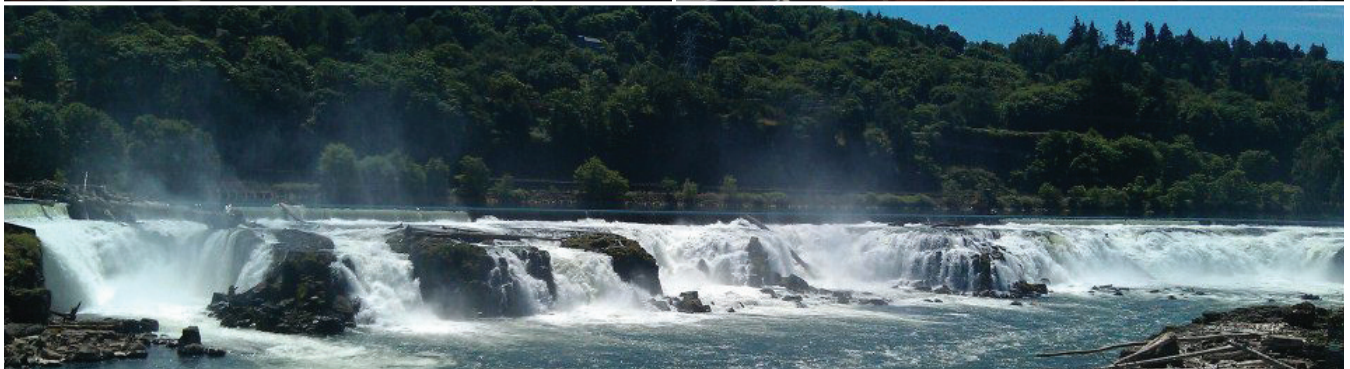


Willamette Falls

◦ LEGACY PROJECT ◦

Community Interactive Event #2 Summary



Final 11/11/13

Photo credits: Michael Keenan and Cogan Owens Cogan, LLC

Introduction

The Willamette Falls Legacy Project is a one in a generation opportunity to establish a vision and framework master plan for the redevelopment of the former Blue Heron Mill site in downtown Oregon City. This summary report highlights the second Community Interactive Event conducted at the Museum of the Oregon Territory in Oregon City on October 10, 2013. The purpose of the event was to launch the Alternatives Concept Review phase of community engagement and discussion.

Description

To impart concept alternatives as a basis for discussion, the evening was organized into three segments. First, team members gave an informative presentation on existing conditions and opportunities. Next, participants discussed in facilitated table discussions. Finally, participants were invited to take their time to view options at a gallery style open house. The presentation covered alternative concepts for the development of the project. Note-takers and facilitators were stationed at each table where participants sat during the presentation and during the next phase coordinated small group discussions with all participants. Three questions were asked of participants:

1. What inspired you?
2. What have we missed?
3. What will it take to keep you involved during the long haul?



After the small group discussions, participants were able to share their tables' thoughts on each of the questions. Key themes which emerged during this report-back session were as follows:

What inspired you most?

- Mix of industrial / commercial with greenway
- Water flowing through site and at the lagoon
- Connections such as a bike trail along the railroad and integrating habitat
- Recognition of generations of mill workers and their families

- Documented history now available to public
- Various views of the falls – new ways to see and experience the falls
- Enthusiasm of staff and the consulting team

What did we miss?

- Pioneers – history of people coming west across the plains
- Take advantage of legacy of Oregon Trail
- Rail spur and river as opportunity for light industrial movement of goods
- Consider the other side of river – what is the future of the whole area?
- Opportunity for commuter rail station – tourism-based
- Parking and vehicular access on site
- Something for kids



What will keep you involved for the long haul?

- Tours
- Continual communication
- Start getting people on site
- Progress
- Involvement of local schools
 - Design competitions
 - Use student creativity
- Solidify development scheme concern about public input and economic development overtaking other values
- Better publicity – newspapers
- More community meetings
- Volunteer opportunities



In addition, notes were taken at each table and digitally transcribed. They can be viewed in full in the Appendices.

After reports from the individual table discussions, participants reviewed enlarged images on boards from the presentation. They expressed their approval or disapproval for the images using green or red

dots. The results from this exercise were not counted per se as staff noted that participants disproportionately weighted their opinions by placing multiple green or red dots over images they liked or didn't like. We have included in the appendix images of the boards.

Feedback Forms

More than 60 comment or feedback forms were submitted, 57 at the event and 6 more online. Questions mirrored the in person discussions as follows:

1. What inspired you most?
2. What did we miss?
3. What will keep you involved for the long haul?
4. Would you consider yourself a Community Champion for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project?



General themes and sample quotes from the comment forms follow:

What inspired you most?

Participants were inspired primarily by opportunities to restore habitat, re-use opportunities for the industrial buildings, mixed-use development opportunities, and the emphasis on history and culture. Many participants reported that they were inspired by the level of thinking and thought that had already been put into the process. Overall comments showed satisfaction with the level of detail and consideration for alternative concepts on the site. Other key inspirations for participants were the opportunities for green spaces and open space and trail connections for cycling and walking to the site, and between other.



What did we miss?

Participants overwhelmingly emphasized the lack of parking and transportation access in the presentation. A number of participants suggested a vertical parking structure possibly combined with the reuse of an industrial warehouse. Other notable “misses” were a conversation around locating an Amtrak station on the site as well as utilizing streetcar/trolley and connection to the regional light rail network. A few participants emphasized water access via water taxi and other boats to the site. Within a cultural and historical context, participants also noted a lack of emphasis on Native American culture on the site.



What will keep you involved for the long haul?

Participants provided great reflections on what will keep them involved. An expressed priority above all is continued communication - clear, consistent, and well-advertised information. Second, respondents recommend making tours to the public available so people could feel connected and gain understanding of possibilities with the site. Another important factor for participants was to ensure that they are being

heard, that their input is valued, and that there are opportunities for involvement through volunteering or some other sort of civic involvement.

Would you consider yourself a Community Champion for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project?

Forty-two participants responded that they consider themselves community champions. Three stated they were not with ten unsure.

A complete transcription of comments is available in the appendices.

Next Steps

A third community interactive event will take place in Oregon City in December with finalized concepts for the Framework Master Plan. A survey is open from October 25 through November 15 to further refine alternative concepts through Metro's Opt In Online panel as well as through the project's website: www.rediscoverthefalls.com.

Appendices

Appendix A – Comment Forms Compilation

Appendix B – Notes from Table Discussions

