

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST MASTER PLAN

MASTER PLAN PURPOSE

To guide future development within the Forest for outdoor recreation, resource protection, and environmental education.

MASTER PLAN GOALS

Enhance Visitor Experience

- Establish conceptual designs for Forest amenities
- Prepare design schemes for visitor use areas
- Address forest access, gateway/entrance, and way-finding

Improve Operational Efficiency

- Explore park expansion for better connectivity and cohesiveness
- Promote resource protection, restoration, and biological diversity
- Identify optional location and physical components for environmental learning center

Increase Revenue Opportunities

- Address fee based and non-fee based programs, services, and facilities
- Find examples of successful fee-based (nature preserve) operations and facilities
- Explore potential for new or expanded revenue generators like lodging, conferencing, etc.

Define role of Jefferson Memorial Forest within the Community

- Significance as a natural resource and place within the park and open space system
- Uses and activities appropriate for preserving and enhancing forest ecology
- Internal and external education programs
- Relationship to Fairdale and larger Louisville community

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PLANNING PROCESS

TASK A

PROJECT INITIATION & SITE RECONNAISSANCE

- Hold kick-off meeting with Metro Parks
- Confirm project goals and objectives with Metro Parks
- Clarify process for stakeholder coordination and public involvement
- Refine project schedule
- Conduct site reconnaissance of forest preserve

TASK B

DATA GATHERING & REVIEW OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Assemble map data—land use, ownership, roads, trails, terrain features, utilities, etc. (GIS format) – making use of a LOJIC digital basemap
- Collect and review relevant reports and studies—1995 Forest Management Plan and maps, transportation studies, resource assessments, comprehensive land use plans, neighborhood plans, etc.
- Collect data on adjacent network of open space and park lands
- Review existing vehicular, pedestrian and equestrian circulation
- Assess existing utility infrastructure
- Identify/assess natural resources & systems, including wildlife corridors
- Inventory historic and cultural resources
- Assess current safety and security
- Evaluate scenic quality, viewsheds, and major viewpoints
- Inventory existing buildings
- Review findings with Metro Parks and community

TASK C

DETERMINE FOREST NEEDS & REQUIREMENTS

- Review recommendations of '95 Forest Resource Management Plan
- Conduct forest user surveys
- Confirm general requirements for activity areas and forest amenities
- With Metro Parks, determine general requirements for education programs, visitor activity areas, circulation and way-finding, utilities, maintenance, safety and security, etc.

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PLANNING PROCESS

TASK C (CONTINUED)

- Identify opportunities for increasing revenue
- Identify examples and models for environmental education programs and facilities
- Clarify objectives and identify opportunities to improve ecological function, wildlife habitat connectivity, and park expansion
- Explore ways to express and interpret historic and cultural heritage
- Outline goals to preserve visual character and aesthetics
- Prepare site suitability analysis—places to preserve, restore, expand
- Review material with Metro Parks and Steering Committee

TASK D

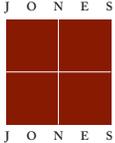
FOREST MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- Develop two to three alternative schemes showing general layout for proposed circulation, facilities siting, utility infrastructure, preservation and restoration areas, park expansion, wildlife connectivity, and 100-mile Loop Trail connections
- Review alternatives with Metro Parks and select preferred scheme
- Based on preferred overall land use scheme, develop refined design guidelines and concepts for:
 - new visitor facilities and activity areas, including education facilities
 - neighborhood connections and integration
 - utility infrastructure
 - roads, walks, parking, including 100-mile Loop Trail and connections
 - protection/management/restoration of natural areas, including wildlife linkages
 - overall design aesthetics
- Conduct workshop with Metro Parks and Steering Committee to review design concepts and receive input and comments
- Generate construction cost opinion and determine phasing options
- Refine design concepts and overall master plan based on review comments
- Present overall master plan and design concepts to greater community to obtain feedback and comments
- Synthesize comments into final master plan and design concepts; present compiled document to Metro Parks

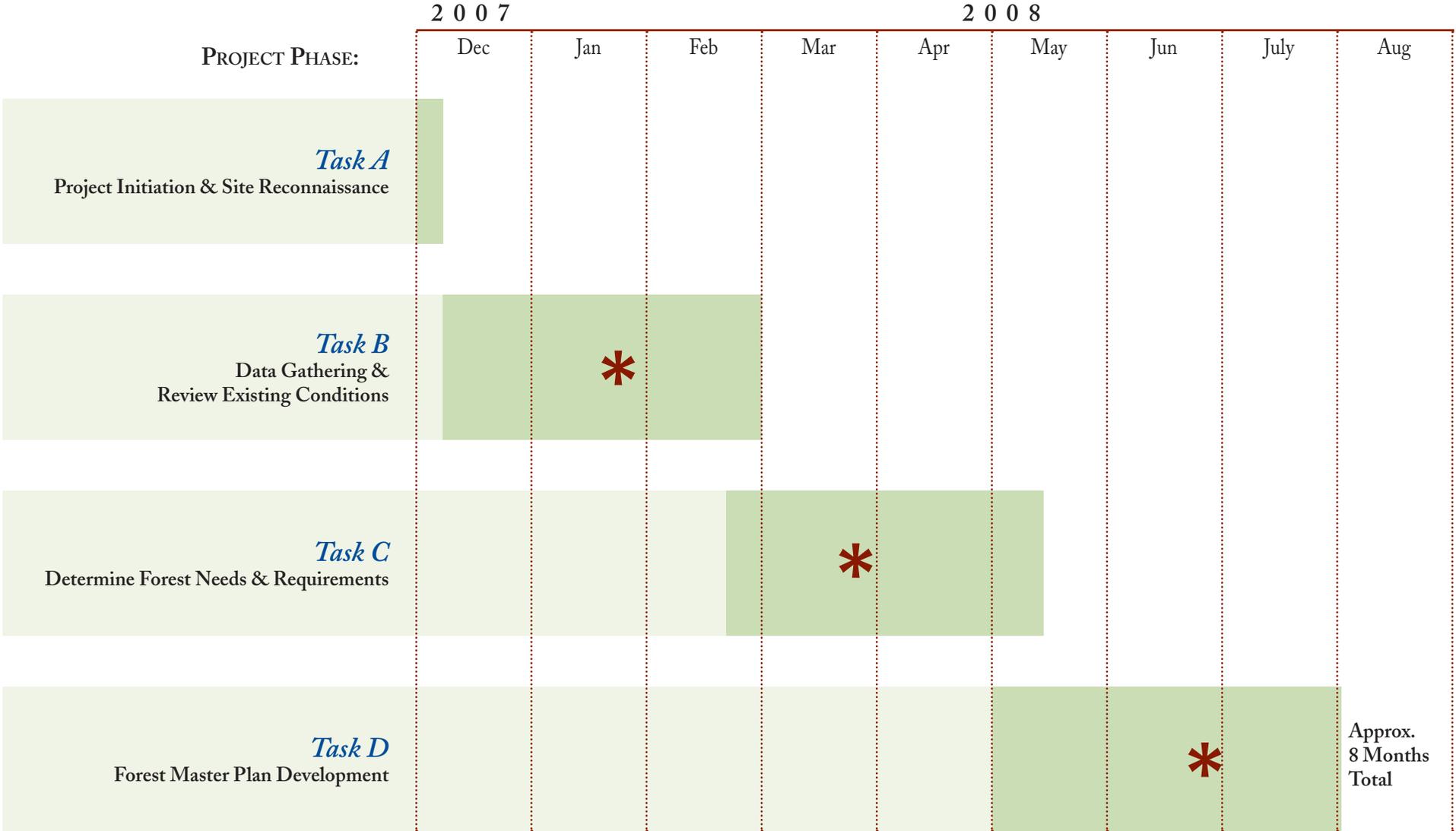
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VISION STATEMENT FROM 1995 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

“to promote awareness of natural resources through quality programs, facilities, and recreational opportunities; and to continue the augmentation and protection of forest lands and resources for the citizens of Jefferson County.”



PROJECT SCHEDULE



 MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS WITH METRO PARKS & STEERING COMMITTEE