

BENTON COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET



SEPTEMBER 19, 2000

PUBLISHED BY THE
BENTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Please RECYCLE this pamphlet with your newspapers



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Dear Benton County Voter:

On September 19, 2000 a Special District Election will be held for the City of Corvallis. As a voter, you will have an opportunity to exercise your rights and privileges to enact new laws. For this election the Board of Commissioners has published a **Benton County Voters' Pamphlet** in order to provide important information concerning this measure.

Please remember that all ballots must be delivered by 8:00 p.m., September 19, 2000, to either the Benton County Elections Office, located in the historic Courthouse on 4th Street, **or** to one of the official ballot drop sites within the City of Corvallis. A list of those ballot drop sites is included in this pamphlet.

In addition to the ballot title, you will find an explanatory statement and twenty paid arguments in favor or against this measure. Also with this **Benton County Voters' Pamphlet** comes information on voting, how to register to vote, updating your voter registration, and how to apply for absentee ballots.

It is our hope that the information provided herein will assist you in becoming better informed about the issues involving your community as you prepare to make decisions on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Bob Speaker
Chair

Orville R. (Bob) Adams
Commissioner

Linda Modrell
Commissioner

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CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91

BALLOT TITLE

ORDINANCE AMENDING RIVERFRONT COMMEMORATIVE PARK AND RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN

QUESTION: Shall Corvallis adopt an alternative design for the riverfront by amending the City's Riverfront Commemorative Park and Riverfront Master Plan?

SUMMARY: This ordinance adopts the Friends of the Riverfront design in place of the City Council's adopted 1997 Riverfront Master Plan and Riverfront Commemorative Park Plan. Major effects are: minimizes roads; requires First Street to be single lane with no two consecutive blocks open to vehicles in the eight block plan area except for emergency, transit, and delivery vehicles; allows parking only on one side of First Street; vehicle traffic reduced to walking speed in pedestrian-shared areas; requires curbsless streets with colored, textured paving along the frontage of retail businesses; includes design guidelines restricting major construction, including plazas and multipurpose path, to the west of the Geotechnical Stability Line or 15 feet from the top of the bank, whichever is greater; requires natural bank stabilization methods be used; retains existing mature and healthy trees; prohibits further amendments until after January 1, 2001; thereafter, amendments require approval by seven of nine council persons at each of two City Council meetings; creates new Riverfront Park Advisory Commission to monitor compliance; and repeals inconsistent ordinances, plans, policies, or actions.

- Any amendments to the measure would require approval by an affirmative vote of seven Councilors at each of two readings.
- The measure would repeal all inconsistent ordinances, plans, policies, or actions of the City Council or staff.
- If passed, construction of the Corvallis Riverfront Commemorative Park would require additional planning, design work, and permitting.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Measure 02-91 is the result of an initiative petition. The measure would amend the City's adopted 1997 "Corvallis Riverfront Commemorative Park and Riverfront Design Master Plan," which, along with riverbank stabilization, was the basis for the \$9.5 million bond issue passed by Corvallis voters in November 1998. The measure would amend the original plan as follows:

- The measure would minimize the amount of space devoted to roads by requiring First Street to be a single lane with no consecutive blocks open to vehicles in the eight block plan area with the exception of emergency, transit, and delivery vehicles. The City's plan designed First Street as a through street with two-way traffic from NW Tyler Avenue to SW Washington Avenue and from Western Boulevard to B Avenue.
- The measure would prohibit any engineered solutions to bank stabilization on the west bank in the Downtown area, and would allow only natural stabilization methods. The City's plan designed riverbank stabilization with a combination of natural vegetation and engineered stabilization (pilings).
- The City's plan designed the park with a number of river outlooks, a multi-use bicycle and pedestrian path, and several pedestrian plazas. The measure would alter the City's design by moving all non-vegetative improvements, with the exception of river overlooks, away from the bank side of the "factor of safety line" (a point near the top of the riverbank beyond which slides or slippage may reasonably be expected to occur).
- The measure would feature design and construction so as to protect existing mature and healthy trees. The City's plan includes removal and replacement of many existing trees.
- The measure would provide that its provisions may not be amended until after January 1, 2001.

(Submitted by the City of Corvallis [Amended as per BCC 6.205])

CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**

Vote YES for the design that truly suits its setting.

The Friends' plan is Greener

- The city sacrifices green space to roadways. **We provide ~ 50% more usable green area than does the city – enough lawn and plantings to fill Reser Stadium!**
- The city would cut 117 trees in the park, leaving only two. They'll replant with spindly saplings. **We save healthy, mature trees in the park and the trees on the bank.**
- The city paves the narrow south end right to the edge of the riverbank. There's almost no green left. **We give the river a beautiful border by distributing green space evenly through the park.**

It's Friendlier

- The city wants to build a wide, two-lane bypass through the park. We cut that pavement to one lane to **save more space for people's activities.**
- The city thinks some stop signs, speed bumps and crosswalks are good enough for pedestrians. We protect families, children, and the differently-abled with **pedestrian-only zones, and by mandating pedestrian speeds for cars elsewhere.**
- The city's narrow, rigid sidewalks severely restrict outdoor dining space. And noisy, smelly traffic repels customers. **Our beautiful, curb-free patio setting allows flexible table placement. And diners enjoy a quieter, cleaner outdoor atmosphere.**

And it's Smarter!

- The city would spend ~\$1,000,000 on 700' of giant pilings driven into the riverbank. We place major construction behind the 'risk' line where the bank is already stable. Natural plantings do the rest for us – **we save all that money and stabilize the bank with nature's pilings: native trees and shrubs.**
- The city's acres of asphalt are gray and dull. But we **turn a 'street' into a work of art** – our decorative, colored paving looks like a fine patio next to a private home. **See our website (www.CorvallisRiverfront.org) for views!**

(This information furnished by Friends of the Riverfront)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Benton County, nor does the County warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in this argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Although the Pacific Green Party applauds the effort that has gone into planning Riverfront Park, we endorse Measure 02-91, and feel that the city's plan needs this correction. It appears the planning for the Riverfront park was biased by a strong conviction that there should be increased vehicular traffic through the park. From the beginning, there was strong public support for a plan with a park-like setting and decreased traffic. This was well documented, but there is no evidence this was taken into account. All the plans proposed assumed that the only option was to increase vehicular traffic. The efforts of the committee were certainly well intended, but they lost track of the desires of the community.

The Pacific Green Party supports sustainable development which enhances both community and business. We don't see why the connection between these is so often lost. Development directed at short term profit has left many cities blighted with sterile urbanization. Corvallis is rightly proud of its small-town atmosphere and this aspect must be promoted or Corvallis as we know it will cease to exist.

The city government has gone to absurd lengths to push a pavement-dominated vision of the Riverfront. This obstinance has eroded the public trust. More problematically, some property owners will see a short term increase in their property values if more drive-by traffic is brought through the Riverfront at the taxpayers expense. Their involvement further dilutes the legitimacy of the plan they seek to promote.

A lush riverfront Park would benefit the downtown area well into the future. Urban vegetation has many proven benefits, including cooling. The city is already working to develop a more park-like environment down Madison. Connect Central Park with Riverfront Park and we can include the downtown area in events like Fall Festival. Let's increase the greenery and let downtown Corvallis thrive.

(This information furnished by the Pacific Green Party of Oregon)

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CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

THIS BALLOT MEASURE WOULD REPLACE THE CITY'S PLAN FOR RIVERFRONT PARK WITH THE GREENER, MORE NATURAL, "FRIENDS OF THE RIVERFRONT" DESIGN:

The City's plan would **CLEARCUT THE TREES IN RIVERFRONT PARK!** All but two (117 out of 119) trees in the flat, usable area of the Park would be removed. Almost half of these have trunks that are 8" or more in diameter. Some of these trees are more than 30 years old.

They would be replaced with saplings that would take many years to grow--planted for the most part in linear formation along the pavement--rather than in natural groves, destroying the natural feel of the Park.

The "FRIENDS" plan would save all mature and healthy trees. It would design the Park around the site's existing features--ensuring that new plantings would be done in a natural and more park-like manner--enhancing the features already there, rather than destroying them.

The City's plan contains less Park GREENSPACE than exists now. Its main feature is a two-lane, two way road that runs through the entire length of 1st Street, (except for 1 block), in a straight, unimaginative design. Its main lawn area would be distributed around the very noisy Van Buren Street Bridge. Its design for the Southern end of the Park would dramatically minimize greenspace--in places, the pavement would be built right up to the River.

THE "FRIENDS" PLAN, OVERALL, CONTAINS ~50% MORE GREENSPACE THAN THE CITY'S PLAN, with much more even distribution of lawn area throughout the Park. It does away with roadway south of Adams, keeping the south end of the Park green.

VOTE **"YES"** ON THIS BALLOT MEASURE FOR A GREENER PARK!

(This information furnished by Jo-Ann Taylor)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Scientists Perspective on the Riverfront

While working with scientists, engineers, and citizens to save the trees from being replaced with plastic-lined terraces, we sadly discovered the focus of the City plan largely centered on paving much of the Riverfront. Because riverfront environments are incredibly diverse wildlife/fish habitats and preferred areas for people to recreate, we were surprised that the City of Corvallis would derive such a plan.

As specialists/researchers in river and floodplain restoration, we participated in committees and review groups that examined riverbank stabilization and restoration needs for the Corvallis Riverfront. Voters should be informed on a number of important conclusions:

- The Corvallis Riverfront is among the most stable of streambanks from Eugene to Portland.
- The riprap placed along the Riverfront in 1999 largely eliminates the threat of future slides (such as the 1996 slide).
- The current plan to spend about a million dollars to place concrete pilings on the south 3 blocks of the park is not to protect or enhance the riverfront trees or streambanks, but only to protect concrete and roads.
- Scientists/engineers concluded that a viable solution for park design is to not place concrete structures west of the stability line (about 15 feet from the riverfront edge). This solution, which is part of the initiative, would eliminate the costly expense of protecting concrete placed to the riverfront edge.
- Restoration and enhancement of the riverfront vegetation will increase bank stability and improve diversity.
- This initiative preserves trees and results in a dramatic increase in green space along the riverfront.

This initiative is clearly superior in terms of enhancing biological diversity, preserving aesthetic values, reducing pollution, promoting ecological sustainability, and preserving aesthetic values that promote community sustainability.

The environmental, fiscal, and aesthetic advantages of the initiative are quite apparent-- please vote yes to create a real park for the people of Corvallis.

(This information furnished by J. Boone Kauffman Ph.D. and Robert L. Beschta Ph.D.)

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CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**

The Friends of the Riverfront provide a creative and beautiful plan. VOTE YES.

Their website shows the same view for both plans. The city was consulted to make their view as accurate as possible.

http://www.corvallisriverfront.org/plans_compared.htm

Sarah Susanka, the da Vinci Days keynoter gave us guidelines for our park:

- ★ Big flat surfaces are not pleasing to the eye.
- ★ Building smaller allows more money to go into quality.
- ★ It takes about 20 years to recover from ripping out existing trees.

Opposition to a big road along the riverfront began in 1950. Some 35 organizations fought for our park. The city would replace it with a BIG ROAD URBAN PARK.

- ★ The city plan shows paved surface 82 feet wide at the north end and 47 ft wide by the post office. Go look at the completed section between Tyler and Van Buren.
- ★ The City's wide pavement extends over the GSL (geotechnical stability line), while Friends of the Riverfront plan stays safely behind the GSL so that no pilings are needed.
- ★ The city wastes about ONE MILLION DOLLARS on concrete pilings.
- ★ The city's BIG ROAD allows truck traffic both ways. Currently the post office semi trucks can only go north.
- ★ A 2-way street was not mentioned in the bond measure we passed.
- ★ Both plans keep the trees on the slope; but almost all of the 100 trees on the flat would be bulldozed to make way for the city's BIG ROAD URBAN PARK.
- ★ The Friends plan keeps trees on the flat, including the magnificent landmark weeping willow.
- ★ The city plan removes the Mater Engineering's decorative plantings and mature oak tree.

If only the city had maintained our current park. The city can call their plan an "urban park", but THE BIG ROAD by any other name is still THE BIG ROAD.

(This information furnished by Diane and Dick Thies)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Before you vote on the alternative plan for your Riverfront, the Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC) would like to provide some information for your consideration.

If you vote No and support the current plan:

- The amount of pavement along the riverfront will increase 47% - from 3.65 to 5.36 acres, increasing the area over which pollutants are collected and the rate at which these and surface water are delivered to the Willamette River during winter storms. This will degrade water quality and harm habitat for threatened salmon in the Willamette River. More pavement will also increase reflected heat in the park, making it hotter than natural.
- First Street will become a bypass route around downtown, increasing air, noise and evening light pollution in the riverfront park.
- 117 of the existing 119 trees in the park will be cut down and replaced with saplings of native trees.

If you vote Yes and support the alternative plan:

- There will be ~50% more green space along the riverfront, which will help absorb and buffer storm water runoff, and help keep the park cool in the summer.
- First Street will not become congested with through-traffic, which will make the riverfront quieter, cleaner and more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Vehicular access will still be provided to the park and to First Street shops and businesses.
- Healthy and mature trees on the riverfront will be saved and native plants will be added.

Additionally, after extensive review of the record, the CEC thinks the alternative plan better incorporates broad-based public input into the design of First Street than does the current plan (please see our "Comments for the City Council Meeting 11/19/99" at: <http://www.peak.org/~ecenter>).

After considering this information, we hope you agree with the CEC that a Yes vote does the best job of both enhancing downtown development and protecting the environment.

(This information furnished by Corvallis Environmental Center)

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CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Let's complete our Riverfront – the right way!

City plan supporters have written one line applauded by all – “Let's complete our Riverfront”. That's exactly what the Friends mean to do! And we expect but a brief delay of a few months to cover redesign, redrawing plans, and the permitting process.

After all, our plan already conforms well to state Greenway standards. Park element costing is largely finished. Much already-completed design work is reusable. The major change would be redrawing the street – more than paid for by our savings about \$1,000,000 on pilings! Just how long can it take to produce revised plans?

The real question is not *whether* we will complete the riverfront – for we certainly will – but *how* we will complete it. What will it look like when it's done?

Voting YES on this measure gives us a real park focused on spacious lawns and plantings – about 50% more than the city's plan allows. These refreshing refuges color the entire park, north to south. In contrast, most of the city plan's meager lawns hug the busy, noisy Van Buren bridge, and on another side, an almost equally busy, noisy First Street bypass.

Voting YES transforms dull gray roadway into a bright splash of color, accenting the green of the park. The 'street' is a colorful, decorative surface -- safe, ecologically sensitive, and sturdy enough to bear the heaviest traffic. This is the quality of design truly worthy of our unique heritage park.

Voting YES retains volunteers' good ideas – a fountain, sculptures, plazas and overlooks – and **adds more**, such as a play area especially for children.

Voting YES chooses a design taken directly from citizen preferences expressed in the Riverfront Enhancement Task Force report – a document summarizing years of surveys and interviews with hundreds of citizens.

Vote YES for the Riverfront – our majestic Willamette deserves a real **PARK**, not just more dreary pavement, on its treasured and beautiful shore.

(This information furnished by Sheila Lidwill)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We support the Riverfront Park plan proposed by the Friends of the Riverfront. We have lived in Corvallis for over 20 years and enjoy walking, riding bikes, and patronizing business along 1st Street and the riverfront.

We believe the riparian zone of the Willamette River is our City's most valuable natural asset. It provides bank protection, habitat for birds and other wildlife, and scenic values. Properly used it can provide many ecological benefits and wonderful opportunities for our use as a community. The Friends' Plan provides the best balance of these values and uses.

As a community we must decide what our legacy to future generations of Corvallis residents will be; a highly developed, business oriented riverfront that looks much like most other urban riverfronts, or a more unique design that emphasizes the natural values of the riparian zone while accommodating our use.

We believe the City's Plan places too much emphasis on development and pavement. This community recognizes the value of open space, natural areas, and balanced development.

We urge you to focus on the fundamental choice presented by the two plans and not be sidetracked by some of the issues that are being raised about changing a voter approved plan and delaying the project.

We, the voters, did not have a choice of plans when the City bond was placed on the ballot. This is the first time we have had a choice in how the riverfront will look in the future. We urge everyone to take a close look at both plans and vote for the one that is most consistent with your personal values on how the river's riparian zone should be managed.

Please join us in voting **YES on MEASURE 02-91** to create a real riverfront park, to preserve as many of the natural values of the riverfront as possible, and to accommodate businesses and our use of the riverfront.

(This information furnished by Bob Speaker and Karen Luchessa)

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CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR****Riverfront Measure is Good For Business**

To foster a strong business community in downtown Corvallis it is neither desirable nor necessary to cut down the park trees and repave First Street.

Treated correctly, our riverfront can be an incredible asset for downtown commerce. Using the riverfront as a convenient fix for downtown parking problems is **not** an acceptable alternative.

Downtown core businesses are a frequent destination for automobile traffic. However, the success of a jewelry store or art gallery depends more directly on exposure from strolling pedestrians than cars. Bookstores, gourmet restaurants and other specialty marketers can fare well in the pedestrian oriented environment of the Friends of the Riverfront initiative.

If you savor our individuality and creativity, then let's retain the **small town character** of Corvallis. If we pave First Street from end to end, then Corvallis takes one step closer to being boring Anytown, U.S.A.

Let's create a riverfront that will enhance the natural beauty of the river. Let's create a riverfront with character that will draw people downtown, not a two-way street and parking lot disguised as a park.

VOTE YES!

(This information furnished by River Jewelry; Corvallis CAD Services; Soft Star Shoes; Lillehei Investments; PRW Consulting)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**Save The Riverfront, Again!!**

Before you decide how to vote on the Riverfront Ballot Measure, take a walk along the South part of the Riverfront from Western to Madison Avenues. Picture it as a Park with trees, grass, paths, and minimal road, the way Mayor Alan Berg visualized the riverfront in the late 70s and early 80s: A riverfront for people not cars.

As property owners on the river front for more than 55 years, we have not only shared in this vision but have put our money into helping to create places in the park which are enjoyed by Corvallis Citizens of all ages. We have landscaped the riverfront side of our office building, donated money to the City for improvements along the riverfront for public use, and assisted in many activities promoting the riverfront for people not traffic.

Walk through the people-oriented area that has been created between Western and Washington with its memorials, benches, landscaping, and mature trees. The City's Plan will rip all of this out and replace it with concrete.

A YES vote for the Friends Plan will save the trees and the memorials, minimize the amount of road in the park, while providing access to the local businesses, increase the amount of green space along the river, and provide the Citizens of Corvallis a Riverfront to enjoy and be proud of.

A NO vote will result in the removal of all but 2 of the 119 existing park trees, a decrease in green space, and an increase to more than 50% pavement for the majority of the riverfront.

As business and property owners along the riverfront; as third generation residents and citizens of Corvallis, the Mater Family strongly urges you to Vote YES on the Friends Plan for the Riverfront.

(This information furnished by Jean Mater on behalf of the Mater Family)

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CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Vote YES for Liveability!

By historical consensus, a park – for example, Central Park in New York or Riverfront Park in Portland – is an environment whose genesis is the creation of a welcoming island that provides for people, families, and wildlife. It is a kind of sanctuary among trees, grass, and other flora and fauna. We seek such spaces as a peaceful refuge from the daily dominance of vehicles, speed, noise, and pollution.

Cities have always struggled to maintain a healthy balance between the emotional and commercial needs of their citizens. Corvallis has always made livability a primary goal in any decision-making process, and its reputation and sense of pride are the results of always making the “right” decision.

In the world of parks and related leisure space, this city has always been a role model for Oregon. None of its’ city and county parks are dominated by excessive roads and concrete. Parking is kept in its proper place. No park is ever designed first as a street or parking lot with people space as an afterthought. Such a space, by definition would not be a “park”.

A “park” doesn’t mean NO streets or parking. However, these should be included only as they support – not dominate – the park. In the Friends’ plan, parking and access, which is close to every business on the riverfront, are always adequate.

Downtown businesses also reap the benefits of a true park. A park inspires people to leave their cars and walk. People on foot are then free to explore restaurants, bookstores, and the myriad of mostly small businesses that constitute the core of downtown Corvallis.

Vote YES for a park which is true to the definition of a park. At the same time, you’ll be voting to keep Corvallis both people-friendly and livable.

(This information furnished by Malcom’s Auto Electric; Interzone Coffeehouse; Ken Vandehay, Pane Relief Window Cleaning; Conservation Biology Institute; Cy Stadsvold, Architect; Stoker’s Vitaworld)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

The one-way loops in Measure 02-91 form a perfect metaphor for its likely effect on our Riverfront and civic life: We’d be going ‘round in circles for years and perhaps indefinitely.

Here’s your ticket off the Riverfront merry-go-round. Experience a beautiful new park and an intelligently designed street in your lifetime. **Please join us in voting NO on Measure 02-91.**

Voting NO preserves the voter-approved plan, which provides for:

current and future needs of the Farmers’ Market and other festivals via space-efficient temporary street closings

a large landscaped lawn at First and Van Buren – a potential paradise to be paved in the alternative plan – for picnics, concerts and other legal fun

street and sidewalk access to a future museum on First Street

access for people of all physical conditions to walk, bike and drive to restaurants, shops and the Post Office

properly lit, wide sidewalks for downtown employees to reach remote parking in safety

a safe, slow two-way street that favors pedestrians -- with 25 (count ‘em) stop signs and colorful, raised crosswalks

We’ve been involved the whole eight years of public process that produced the voter-approved plan, and we see little validity in published criticisms. Our process was open, and the “alternative” process was closed.

Still undecided?

The alternate plan is:

hardly a plan. It’s a year or two shy of buildable construction drawings.

rich in irony. It may reduce paving overall, but it paves prime greenspace in the widest part of the park. Much of the pavement “savings” come at the expense of museum access.

contradictory. The Monroe-Jackson block has parking but no legal way to get there.

confusing. If you think in straight lines, you’re a pawn in this giant chess game for drivers.

nearly unfixable. It takes 7 of 9 votes to change anything. That’s undemocratic.

Please vote NO!

(This information furnished by Rebecca and Larry Landis)

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CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

During this election season, Ward 4 citizens should understand my position regarding Initiative 02-91. I urge you to support the current Council-adopted Riverfront Plan and **VOTE NO**.

Our Plan meets my values of public process review. We spent seven years crafting the plan, with citizens involved throughout the review. In 1998, voters passed a bond measure to implement the Riverfront Park. We have a detailed park design that represents our collective consensus and vision.

Our Plan meets my values of an economically healthy downtown. The plan enables First Street development and vehicular circulation. The Benton County Historical Society and our Post Office need the access contained in our plan. I value a vibrant downtown and the plan supports this goal.

Our Plan meets my values of multi-modal transportation. Our park plan includes pedestrian amenities, safety features and a multi-modal path. Whether you walk, bike, bus or drive to the Park, access is easy and safe.

Our Plan meets my values of protecting the environment. City Council asked that our plan undergo a peer review by Oregon State University scientists, including a Riparian Ecologist, Hydrologist, Stream Ecologist, Fluvial Geomorphologist, Civil Engineer and Geotechnical Engineer. We continue to work with OSU scientists to replace non-native plants and to adjust riprap placement to improve riparian function and bank stability.

Our Plan meets my values of risk avoidance. We are stabilizing the riverbank in vulnerable locations. The OSU team and the CH2M-Hill are developing a Long-Range Park Management Plan to achieve ecological restoration over the long-term. Our park plan avoids routing additional surface water drainage onto the top of the riverbank to reduce bank saturation and increase bank stability.

I believe the Plan, a park for everyone, supports our community values and should be implemented as soon as possible. I urge you to join me in supporting the Council-adopted plan, and **VOTE NO** on this initiative.

*(This information furnished by Charles Tomlinson,
Corvallis City Councilor, Ward 4)*

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

We urge you to VOTE NO on 02-91. This measure will delay construction of the park at extra cost to the city, open the city to legal challenges, reduce park protection against slides, and prolong the heated debate over how best to balance the needs of the entire community.

Delays caused by 02-91 could cost more due to inflation, additional design work and necessary public input. If it is determined that the revised plan deviates too far from what was approved in the 1998 bond election, the city could face legal challenges. If we lose the bond money we lose the park.

Measure 02-91 seeks to prevent the city from using stabilization techniques to protect the park from a slide similar to the 1996 slide. This is a serious safety issue. It would be irresponsible to leave the park unprotected.

02-91 violates the city charter provisions for a simple majority vote on council business. This may lead to delays and legal challenges.

The City's plan provides a flexible use of First Street with close in parking for shoppers and park users that can be converted to an open festival area for special events. 02-91 doesn't have that kind of flexibility and creates incredible traffic confusion with its one-way streets every other block.

Even though we don't all agree with all elements of the city plan, this plan has been through many, many hours of work by citizens, city staff and professional consultants, and an extensive public process. The citizens already voted once on the plan. The park plan is ready; construction could be completed next year. We can have a riverfront that we can all access for many uses and one that will make us proud. We don't have to start over. Vote NO on measure 02-91.

Helen Berg
Tom Wogaman
Betty Griffiths
Charlie Tomlinson
George Grosch

Ed Barlow-Pieterick
Walt Schmidt
Tony Howell
Patrick Peters
Mike Beilstein

(This information furnished by Tom Wogaman)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Benton County, nor does the County warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in this argument.

CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

The Madison Avenue Task Force recommends that citizens VOTE NO on measure 02-91, the alternate plan for the Riverfront.

In 1998 voters approved a bond measure based upon the Riverfront master plan, later approved in detail by the City Council. The Voter-Approved Plan is the result of an eight year public process that took into consideration the needs and desires of many: the Farmers' Market, park users of all ages, festival users, current and future First Street businesses, bike riders, walkers, and car travelers. The Plan addresses public safety, river bank stability and more. Compromises were made, but we believe that the resulting Voter-Approved Plan is excellent. It is aesthetically pleasing, practical, and flexible -- a source of pride for our community. The Madison Avenue Task Force sees the Voter-Approved Plan as a wonderful extension to our completed and planned improvements to Madison Avenue.

VOTE NO on the alternative plan, 02-91.

The 02-91 plan was devised by a group of private citizens. Their primary goals appear to be eliminating the two-way First Street and leaving the river bank as it is now. But 02-91's First Street plan of alternating one-way streets with no streets is confusing and impractical. Leaving the river bank as it is gives its future to the whims of nature.

The Voter-Approved Plan for First Street is safe and simple -- car, bike and pedestrian friendly -- a narrow two-way road lined with trees, diagonal parking and many raised crosswalks. The Voter-Approved Plan for the river bank will combine saving trees, adding more, and planting native vegetation with more aggressive but hidden structural reinforcement where slides may occur.

Many wonderful features characterize the Voter-Approved Plan: lawns, trees, plazas, play fountain, sculptures, paths and overlooks. No alternate plan is needed. Let's make the Voter-Approved Plan a reality. VOTE NO on 02-91.

(This information furnished by Madison Avenue Task Force)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Vote No on Measure 02-91

The Voter-Approved Plan is the product of 6 years of public involvement.

The "friends" alternate Measure 02-91 plan was recently put together by a small group with little or no public input.

The "friends" alternate plan specifically eliminates most features of the Voter-Approved Plan. The Riverfront Enhancement Task Force appointed by Mayor Charlie Vars, together with the Riverfront Commission, which he also initially appointed, held over 300 publicly scheduled monthly meetings together with advertised public workshops and presentations in putting together the plan approved by the voters in 1998.

The mission was to provide a public facility to best serve all the people of the Corvallis vicinity. We feel strongly that the Voter-Approved Plan does just that. We feel just as strongly that the "friends" alternate plan does not. Instead of providing welcoming features and easy access, the "friends" alternate plan makes access for many much more difficult.

One example is that the "friends" alternate plan eliminates the continuous well lighted sidewalk from Van Buren Avenue to B Street provided in the Voter-Approved Plan. Thus, in the "friends" alternate plan the only pedestrian access in some blocks is the bike path. In public meetings many people expressed safety concerns when walking the bike path. They express concerns about injury in sharing the path with bikers, skaters, and skate boarders. Also deep concern was expressed about potential harm from transients that frequent areas not visible to street traffic. These concerns were expressed not only about times of darkness, as the path near the river needs low level lighting, but mothers with children said they were not comfortable using some sections of the path in mid day.

There are many more deficiencies in the "friends" alternate plan. We urge you to

VOTE NO on Measure 02-91

(This information furnished by members of the Riverfront Commission)

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CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91**ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION****VOTE NO ON 02-91!**

People to Complete our Riverfront urge you to vote **NO** on Measure 02-91

Co-Chairs, People to Complete Our Riverfront: JoAnne Trow, Tony Van Vliet, John Dennis, George Brown, Jim Moorefield, Julie Manning, Ed Woodcock, Susan Poole, Jim Howland, Les Boudreaux.

What's this vote about?

Measure 02-91 completely changes the voter-approved plan for Corvallis Riverfront Park. Rather than providing a gathering place for the entire community, 02-91 sacrifices lawn for parking. It creates a confusing patchwork of one-way loops, including some blocks with no streets or sidewalks.

The plan voters approved in November 1998 makes our riverfront a place for everyone. Grassy lawns, native trees and plants, public plazas, safe streets, decorative lighting, continuous sidewalks, a lively fountain and community artwork create a community meeting place for all.

Whose park is it?

Measure 02-91 proposes options that have not undergone the test of public review. It creates serious access and operational problems for pedestrians, people with disabilities, emergency vehicles, the Farmers' Market, Post Office, Benton County Historical Society, and local festivals. No public information explains how this measure would address these problems.

The voter-approved plan is the result of six years of public input, in which access and many other issues were raised and resolved. The voter-approved plan puts people first. It includes wide sidewalks, pedestrian-friendly intersections, mid-block crosswalks, narrow traffic lanes, and gates to close off traffic for festivals and markets. It creates a town square that welcomes everyone in our diverse community.

How soon can it happen?

If approved, Measure 02-91 creates lengthy delays. It requires a new Riverfront Commission and a new process, adding years to the project.

If 02-91 fails, construction on the voter-approved plan can begin in October. Riverfront Park could be ready by the fall of 2001.

Let's Not Start Over! VOTE NO ON 02-91

(This information furnished by People to Complete Our Riverfront)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION**VOTER-APPROVED PLAN THE BEST FOR ALL CITIZENS OF CORVALLIS**

In 1998, Corvallis voters approved a Riverfront master plan which was developed through 6 years of intensive outreach to the community. Input was received from residents, business owners and employees in one of the most inclusive public processes in Corvallis history. With this input, the City Council was able to forward to the voters a plan that meets the needs of the widest variety of citizens.

THE RESULT IS A VOTER-APPROVED RIVERFRONT DESIGN THAT:

1. **PROVIDES SAFE**, easy access whether you walk, cycle or drive.
2. **MAINTAINS A VITAL DOWNTOWN** for the community.
3. **IS READY** for construction and enjoyment by next year.
4. **IS SAFE**. Cars move slowly. The Riverfront is accessible for all citizens and the traffic flow accommodates everyone.
5. **IS THE BEST DESIGN** for shoppers, diners, Riverfront visitors and employees. The voter-approved plan provides necessary and convenient parking for everyone.
6. **WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PROCESS**. Public participation created the voter-approved plan.

THE ALTERNATE (MEASURE 02-91) PLAN:

1. **HAS NOT** been through the public participation process. Measure 02-91 would have us begin all over and could postpone Riverfront improvements indefinitely.
2. **DOES NOT** address parking concern. Reduces the number of parking spaces.
3. **LIMITS ACCESS** to businesses and the Riverfront.
4. **DOES NOT** allow for smooth traffic flow through Downtown and the Riverfront area.
5. **IS CONFUSING** with no two contiguous blocks open to vehicles. Visitors will be confused trying to come to the Riverfront.

THE VOTER-APPROVED PLAN IS THE BEST PLAN, EASY TO UNDERSTAND, EASY TO USE, SAFE AND PRACTICAL. IT MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS AND CAN BE COMPLETED NOW! THE DOWNTOWN CORVALLIS ASSOCIATION URGES A "NO" VOTE ON MEASURE 02-91.

(This information furnished by Downtown Corvallis Association)

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CITY OF CORVALLIS

Measure No. 02-91

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Many years ago, the citizens of Corvallis made a commitment to a healthy vibrant downtown that would continue to exist as a shopping center for our community. The Riverfront Commission was established to develop a plan for a community area in our downtown that would advance that goal while it enhanced citizen use of the riverfront.

Experiences nationwide, such as Fresno, California, as well as those closer to home (Eugene, Coos Bay) tell us that a healthy downtown relies on the ease with which a broad spectrum of our citizens can access the public buildings, businesses and public spaces. With this in mind the Riverfront Commission examined many, many options over many years, seeking a balance between pedestrian and park needs on the one hand and traffic and parking needs on the other hand. After years of testimony and review, the Commission submitted a plan that moved the bulk of the parking to the north and south ends of First Street with the central area becoming a town square that can accommodate a wide variety of community events.

The compromise was exactly that. It resulted in far fewer parking spaces than would be optimal for downtown businesses, but it maximized the area available for public activities in our riverfront. This tradeoff seemed appropriate to the majority of the citizens who approved the plan last November.

We continue to support the Riverfront Plan that voters approved last November. The proposal brought forward now will discourage widespread use of the riverfront space through its convoluted traffic patterns. It will frustrate users of the area and render some uses, such as the Farmers Market, far more difficult. A downtown riverfront that attracts lots of people will offer a safe, vibrant place for people to gather for a wide variety of activities. The Corvallis Area Chamber of Commerce urges you to vote no on measure 02-91.

(Submitted by Citizens for a Healthy Corvallis)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

We are members of the board of directors of the Benton County Historical Society, acting as concerned individuals. As you prepare to vote on the alternative plan for the Riverfront, we ask that you take a moment to consider the needs of a future museum on First Street.

The Benton County Historical Society recently raised roughly \$1 million -- largely from individual contributors -- to purchase a piece of property that includes all of the frontage on the west side of First Street between Washington and Adams.

We share a vision that someday buses full of Oregon schoolchildren will arrive at this museum to learn from the riches of the extraordinary Horner Collection, much as earlier generations flocked to the former Horner Museum in the basement of Oregon State's Gill Coliseum.

The Riverfront plan approved by Corvallis voters in 1998 would complement our vision by providing both street and sidewalk access to the First Street property. The alternative plan -- which is what you are voting on today -- would actually **eliminate** both the street and the **sidewalk** in this block of First Street. We feel it is important to provide safe and convenient access for children, the elderly and handicapped persons...in fact, all people.

We ask you to vote NO on Measure 02-91.

W. Whitney Ball
Rod Frakes
Ruth Howland
Rebecca Landis
Tom McClintock
Joe Malcom

Ron Marek
Larry Merriam
Gene Newcomb
Miriam Orzech
Tom Wogaman
Roy Young

(This information furnished by W. Whitney Ball, Rod Frakes, Ruth Howland, Rebecca Landis, Tom McClintock, Joe Malcom, Ron Marek, Larry Merriam, Gene Newcomb, Miriam Orzech, Tom Wogaman, Roy Young)

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VOTING IN OREGON

WHO MAY REGISTER TO VOTE?

Anyone who is:

- ◆ A resident of Oregon;
- ◆ A United States citizen; and
- ◆ 18 years age or older.

You may register to vote before your 18th birthday or before you are sworn in as a US citizen. In order to register, under these conditions, you must turn 18 or be sworn in as a US citizen during the 20-day period immediately before the election. Please call your county elections officer for details if you believe you qualify for this registration process.

DO I HAVE TO REGISTER BY PARTY?

No. If you do not want to be affiliated with a political party, you may check the box that states *Not a member of a party*. You may not designate or change a party affiliation after the 21st day before the Primary Election.

I WILL BE OUT OF TOWN WHEN BALLOTS ARE MAILED. HOW DO I GET A BALLOT?

Absentee ballots are available 45 days before the election. You may request an early absentee ballot from your county election official either in person, by mail or by FAX. You will need to include your name, signature, residence address and, if different, your mailing address.

WHAT IF MY BALLOT DOESN'T COME?

If you have not received your ballot within a week after they are mailed, call your county election office. They will check to see if your voter registration is current. If it is, they will mail you a replacement ballot.

WHAT IF I HAVE MOVED AND HAVE NOT UPDATED MY REGISTRATION?

If you are registered to vote by the 21st day before the election, but now have a different address and:

- ◆ You have moved within the same county, contact the county election office. They will instruct you on the process to follow to qualify for a replacement ballot.

OR

- ◆ You have moved to a different county, go to the election office in your new county.

WHAT IS A PRIMARY ELECTION?

- ◆ Major political parties (Democratic & Republican) nominate their candidates at a primary election, which is held on the third Tuesday in May of each even-numbered year. Only a voter who is registered as a member of either political party may vote for that party's candidates at the Primary Election unless the party opens its primary to voters as *Not a member of a party*. If this is the case, voters who are *Not a member of a party* must request major party ballots from their county election office.
- ◆ All nonpartisan offices (i.e. judges and district attorneys) are also on the primary election ballot. Any registered voter may vote for those candidates, regardless of the voter's political party affiliation.

BENTON COUNTY ELECTIONS COUNTY ELECTIONS BALLOT DROP SITES

**24 hour ballot drop box
has been installed across from the
Benton County Courthouse at:
180 NW 5th Ave, Corvallis, OR**

CORVALLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

757-6926

Mon. thru Fri. 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Sat. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sun. 12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM

O.S.U. MEMORIAL STUDENT UNION

737-2416

WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION

Mon. thru Thu. 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM

Fri. 7:00 AM to 12:00 MIDNIGHT

Sat. 7:30 AM to 12:00 MIDNIGHT

Sun. 10:30 AM to 11:00 PM

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

766-6959

Mon. thru Fri. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

BENTON COUNTY ELECTIONS DIVISION

120 NW 4th St, Corvallis, OR 97330

Basement, County Courthouse

Mon. thru Fri. 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM*

**ELECTION QUESTIONS? (541) 766-6756
(TTY/TDD 766-6080)**

*** PLEASE NOTE
ON ELECTION DAY ALL DROP SITES
WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 8:00 pm**

www.co.benton.or.us/elections

Benton County
VOTERS' PAMPHLET
Special District Election
September 19, 2000

Elections Office Open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Election Day

PUBLISHED BY THE
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Election Questions?
Call
Benton County Elections Office
766-6756 (TTY/TDD 766-6080)