Annotated Development Process

Sketch out anything in the Wiki and prepare for making it something people can look at.

Put it on the proposals page: http://docs.codehaus.org/display/MAVEN/All+Proposals

Put the proposal up for a vote to see if people agree. All these can be vetoed as it's a technical decisions.

You're good to go,so you can start the process of implementing your changes.

Create a feature/change branch and start working on your code. Putting a link to your work in progress in the Wiki. The goal is to never destabilize the main line be that the trunk of version branch. Ok, so the new features start on trunk but the new feature is a branch of trunk. The point being feature additions don't destabilize the trunk. The series of branches associated with issues also provides a clear path of what happened, branches named with something like MNG-123-AndMaybeSomeQuickDescription make it easy to know what it is and to look up the issue. For dead simple fixes things can go into the trunk but anything requiring more then a few hours of work should go into a feature branch of trunk. When it's merged back into trunk, if it's possible it is then merged back into any version branches (like 2.0.x).

You now document the new features or changes that you have implemented and detail and compatibility issues. You must have at least one other core committer review your changes to be deemed as complete.

You move your proposal to the approved proposals section of the Wiki and it becomes a record of the evolution of Maven.