



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Coffee, City Manager

FROM: Ryan Stee, Parks Project & Natural Resources Manager

CC: David Donaldson, Asst. City Manager
Kim Gilmer, Parks & Recreation Director
Ivan Anderholm, Asst. Parks & Recreation Director
Jeff Munro, Park Superintendent

SUBJECT: Status of Invasive Species Removal

DATE: February 5, 2013

Parks & Recreation Director Kim Gilmer asked that I provide you with an update on the status of the department's invasive species removal efforts, and thought this may be a good overview for the City Council.

The park system totals over 600 acres, with approximately 450 of those acres being natural areas, all of which have some level of invasive species problem. This is a typical condition for agencies throughout the northwest. In 2011 the City Council approved a recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Department regarding a new approach to removing invasive plants in the City's park natural areas. The Council appropriated \$50,000 in additional funds in the FY11-12 budget to initiate the program, bringing the total amount spent annually to \$70,000. This amount was re-appropriated in the FY12-13 budget. (We have also included this amount in the FY13-14 proposed budget).

The program is based upon a national model developed by the Nature Conservancy and is being used successfully in our region by many agencies to deal with invasive species problems. The eventual goal is to stabilize all city park properties by removing invasive plants from these sites. The general approach is to use a combination of chemical applications to address the problem initially, followed by manual removal once the problem is less acute; and then replanting with native plants in targeted areas to outcompete and reduce the reoccurrence of invasive plants. This process is a long term one which we anticipate taking anywhere from 3-5 years before a parcel is stabilized, which is then followed by annual monitoring and periodic removal of invasive plants as needed.

Prioritization of the sites to address first is based upon a site survey conducted in 2010 as part of Parks Plan 2025 to determine the condition of park natural areas; as well as considering three additional factors:

1. "Protect The Best"
2. Watershed approach
3. Available funding

Protect The Best means to address healthier sites first (e.g. less invasives) to prevent them from degrading further. The watershed approach was a priority for the City Council and used to address parks adjacent to rivers and wetlands first before addressing other park sites. Funding dictates the total number of acres that can be dealt with each year, and site selection may be adjusted accordingly. Finally areas of highly invasive plants such as Thistle or Garlic Mustard are given priority as they arise. Attached is a matrix illustrating property priorities which was developed to guide how the program would be implemented. The properties highlighted in yellow are the ones we are targeting first. In addition, a ranking of all properties is also included. We have been following this guide fairly closely since 2011 with some surprising results. Initially we thought that approximately 69 acres of natural area would be able to be addressed each year. As it turns out, we were able to treat 135 acres in 2012, and this year we added 17.1 acres bring the total to 152.1 acres.

2013 Status

With the invasive removal contract in its second year, we have been very pleased with the results. The first cycle of this year's treatment is completed. With this contract five additional properties were added to increase the area managed to a total of 152.1 acres of our natural areas.

The following nine sites are in their second year of the contract: George Rogers Park, Cooks Butte, Bryant Wood (excluding the wetlands), Canal Acres, Pennington Park and Lamont Springs. Hazelia, Stevens Meadows and Luscher are included with the treatment of Canada Thistle as the primary target. This year we were able to add to the list Campbell Native Garden, Hallinan Open Space, South Shore and the newly extended Rosemont Trail. The invasive species we are targeting on the contract are English Ivy, Himalayan Blackberry, Clematis, Garlic Mustard, Japanese Knot Weed, Field Bindweed, Hawthorn, Laurel, Holly, Shiny Geranium, Canada Thistle, Chicory and Prickly Lettuce.

This year we have seen great success with the first year treatment. Already in this second year there are five parks that potentially can be planted with natives beginning winter of 2014. Lamont Springs and Pennington will be scheduled to plant as well as some areas within Bryant Woods, George Rogers Park and Cooks Butte. We will be assessing each park in March for plant needs and necessary follow up treatment plans. In July the plant order will be placed and the bare root plant material will be ready to plant in February 2014. As with any new program, we will need to monitor closely to see what plant material (desired or not) may appear where the invasive species are removed.

Kim Gilmer or I would be happy to answer any questions you or the Council may have about this program.

OPTION 4

Invasive plants removed from 100% of "high priority" areas; landscape replanted where needed within 5 years (priorities shown in yellow)
 On-going annual costs following 100% restoration on "high priority" acres = \$4,326/yr (in 2010 \$)

Ecological Health	Watershed	Restoration Priority (Ivy Removal)					
		High	NA acres	Mid	NA acres	Low	NA acres
"Good"	Tualatin River	Bryant Woods Park	16.7				
		Canal Acres	31.1				
		Cooks Butte	41.9				
	Oswego Lake/Willamette River	Pennington Park	1.0	Lamont Springs	1.9	Foothills Park	2.7
				South Shore Overlook	7.3		
				Iron Mt. Creek	2.6		
	Tryon Creek						
"Fair"	Oswego Lake/Willamette River	Campbell Native Garden	0.6	Iron Mt. Park	43.0		
		Roehr Park	6.0	Hallinan Natural Area	3.8		
	Tualatin River	West Waluga Park	21.4				
"Poor"	Willamette River	George Rogers Park	13.6	Tryon Cove Park	6.5	Glenmorrie Greenway	4.3
						Aspen Park	0.6
						Cornell Natural Area	3.3
	Oswego Lake/Willamette River					Freepons Park	3.2
	Tryon Creek						
	Tualatin River						
TOTAL ACRES PER PRIORITY LEVEL		High priority	139.3	Mid Priority	258.4	Low Priority	61.6
			acres		acres		acres
TOTAL OVERALL NA ACRES WITH IVY			459.3				

Natural Resource	Evaluation Criteria	Score (points)		
		3	2	1
Size of Acreage	over 10 A	10-5 A	under 5A	
Condition (ecosystem health)	Good	Fair	Poor	
Connectivity	Corridor	Network	Isolated	
Water body, lake, stream, or wetland (Adjacent, or contains)	Major	Minor	None	
Rarity of ecosystem or community	Regionally rare	Locally rare	Common	
Rarity of property to the public	High	Minor	None	
Non-profit/volunteer org. supporting restoration effort	Funding	In-kind	None	

to be added later
to be added later

Ecosystem Health:

Good = 1/3 or less of the understory is covered by invasive species

Fair = 1/3 to 2/3 of the understory is covered by invasive species

Poor = More than 2/3 of the understory is covered by invasive species

Site	Acreage Size	Condition	Connectivity	Water	Rarity	Total	Rank
Aspen	1	1	2	1	1	6	6 Low
Bryant	3	3	3	2	3	14	14 High
Campbell	1	2	3	2	2	10	10 Mid
Canal	3	2	3	2	3	13	13 High
Cooks	3	2	2	1	3	11	11 High
Cornell	1	1	2	1	3	8	8 Low
East Walluga	3	1	1	2	3	10	10 Mid
Foothills	2	2	3	3	3	13	13 High
Freepons	2	1	2	1	2	8	8 Low
George Rogers	3	1	3	3	3	13	13 High
Glenmorrie Greenway	1	1	2	2	2	8	8 Low
Glenmorrie Park	1	1	1	1	3	7	7 Low
Hallinan	1	2	2	2	3	10	10 Mid
Iron Mt	3	2	2	1	1	9	9 Mid
Lamont Springs	3	3	1	2	3	10	10 Mid
Luscher complex	1	1	1	2	1	9	9 Mid
Molly/Iron Creek	3	3	2	2	2	10	10 Mid
No Designation 8-11 (Boones creek)	1	1	2	2	1	7	7 Low
Pennington	1	3	3	2	3	12	12 High
Rassek	2	1	2	2	1	8	8 Low
River Run	3	1	3	3	3	13	13 High
Roehr	3	2	3	3	3	14	14 High
South Shore	2	2	3	3	3	13	13 High

Site	Acres	Condition	Connectivity	Water	Rarity	Total	Rank
Southwood	1	1	2	2	2	8	Low
Springbrook	3	1	2	2	2	10	Mid
Stevens Meadow	3	1	2	1	1	8	Low
Sunnyslope	3	1	2	1	1	8	Low
Tryon Cove	2	1	3	3	1	10	Mid
West Waluga	3	2	1	2	3	11	High
Woodmont	2	1	2	2	1	8	Low

Low = 6
 High = 14
 Top 1/3 11-14
 Middle 1/3 9-10
 Bottom 1/3 6-8

Site	total acres	ivy acres	total
Top 1/3 for ivy removal			
Bryant	28	9	37
Roehr	15	7	22
Canal	27	8	35
Foothills	5.5	2	7.5
George Rogers	26	20	46
River Run	12	8	20
South Shore	9	4	13
Pennington	2.5	1	3.5
Cooks	43	14	57
West Waluga	24	12	36
Acres of high priority	192	85	277