AGENDA FOR RESCHEDULED BUSINESS MEETING
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
January 17, 2024
Council Chambers – 6 p.m.
1175 E Main St

To attend the meeting or to provide public input, see public participation instructions on page 2

5:30 p.m. Executive Session
Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) an executive session will be held to deliberate with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions. Pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(a) an executive session will be held to deliberate with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate personnel matters.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. APRC Business Session – November 8, 2023
b. APRC Business Session – December 6, 2023

III. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of RDAC minutes October 19, 2023

VI. DIRECTORS REPORT

VII. BUSINESS

a) Rogue World Music Rebranding and Expansion (information)
b) Technical Support Document for Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map (action)
c) The Freshwater Trust Herbicide Waiver (action)
d) Chair/Vice Chair Elections (action)

VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISIONERS/STAFF

IX. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

a. Ashland Senior Advisory Committee – Monday, January 8, Electronic Meeting 3:30 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number (800) 735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to

make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I). Parks Commission meetings are broadcast live on Channel 9, or on CHARTER CABLE CHANNEL 180. Visit the City of Ashland's website at www.ashland.or.us.

Public Participation Instructions

This meeting will be held in-person in Council Chambers 1175 E. Main St. Those who wish to provide oral testimony must attend the meeting and fill out a speaker request card. The public can view on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (for Charter Communications customers) or live stream via **rvtv.sou.edu** - select RVTV Prime.

Written testimony will be accepted via email sent to nancy.mero@ashland.or.us. Please include "**Public Testimony**" in the subject line. Written testimony submitted the Tuesday before the meeting by 11:00 am will be made available to the Parks Commissioners before the meeting. All testimony will be included in the meetings minutes.

MINUTES FOR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
November 8, 2023
Council Chambers – 6 p.m.
1175 E Main St

Present: Commissioners Landt (Chair), Bachman (Vice Chair) Adams, Lewis, Seffinger; Interim Director Eldridge, Senior Service Superintendent Glatt, Analyst Kiewel

Absent: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Landt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. APRC Study Session – October 4, 2023

Motion: Adams moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Bachman.
Vote: The vote was all yes.

b. APRC Business Meeting – October 11, 2023

Motion: Adams moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Lewis.
Vote: The vote was all yes.

III. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

None

V. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of Subcommittee Minutes
b) RDAC New Committee Member Approval
c) Approval of Alice in Wonderland Mountain Bike Trail Reroute

Motion: Lewis moved to approve and acknowledge the Consent Agenda.
Seconded by Seffinger
Vote: The vote was all yes.

VI. Director's Report

- Job offers have been made to candidates for Parks Superintendent and Executive Assistant. Both are currently in background check. Each was the first choice for their position. Hoping to have the Parks Superintendent start by early December, and the Executive Assistant by January 2024.
- Staff participated in DEI focus groups being conducted by a contractor hired by the City. Should have an assessment by January.
- Eldridge presented the Commission-approved ordinance regarding Parks Hours to the City Council for first reading. There are questions about how it will interact with the proposed camping ordinance. Therefore, further work with the City and Legal department is forthcoming before a second reading can occur.
- Ice rink is up and open as of November 18, 2023.
- Senior Services attendance has returned to pre-pandemic levels and is the highest it's been since 2018 at 1200+ people a month. Have held 2 Covid & Flu vaccine clinics, providing 459 shots to over 300 people in the target demographic. Thank you to funders Age Plus, Mountain Meadows Community Foundation, Ashland Community Hospital Foundation, 28 volunteers who helped host the clinics, and Superintendent Glatt and staff, Natalie and Shannon.
- Conversation Clusters are in place. Superintendent Glatt is taking an online survey to see what the community thinks of the pilot project,
- Parks has completed beautification and re-landscaping Independence Way.

- Daniel Meyer Pool Liner Replacement Project is underway, after a delay on the part of the contractor, and should be completed by Nov 24, 2023 under supervision by Wes Casale.
- Jason Minica, Forestry and Open Space Manager, and Abraham Consulting removed 25 dead trees (i.e., active fuels removal) from the recently-purchased Liberty Street property, which are cut, limbed and stacked, and will be burnt in March.
- Alice in Wonderland Mountain Bike Trail Re-Route (agreed to on Consent Agenda) will be conducted by Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association and volunteers in November.
- Staff attended Oregon Recreation and Parks Associations (ORPA) conference this week. Many great ideas exchanged about creative partnerships, sustainable funding, liability, accessibility, and more.

Seffinger asked about language in the City's proposed ordinance regarding camping in Parks. Eldridge, Landt and Seffinger agreed that consultation with City Council, formally or informally, is the best way forward.

VII. BUSINESS

a) CIP Discussion (Action)

Eldridge presented the updated BN 23-25 CIP Budget.

- Discussed previously at the November 1, 2023 Study Session.
- Provided two possible scenarios for Commissioners to consider how best to allocate CIP funds to projects. After Commissioner feedback staff is including an additional scenario for consideration.
- Reallocation will compensate for the disparity of $1.6 million between the actual CIP ending fund balance of $4 million and the original CIP budget that had been expected to be $5.6 million (See October 11, 2023 Regular Business Meeting & November 1, 2023 Study Session).
- Bachman asked for clarification: Of the 19 projects listed on the project plan, most of the funds in 14 of them are restricted from adjustment, and only 5 project lines can be adjusted? Eldridge confirmed that only 5 projects can be considered for reallocation of funds.
- Recapping other key points from the November 1, 2023 Study Session:
  - Scenarios are presented for discussion, and are not staff recommendations per se.
  - System Development Charges (SDC) have been removed from the CIP budget entirely, so they can be tracked separately.
  - The East Main Park project is now funded entirely through CIP.
  - The purchase of the Palen property and the additional expenses for the Japanese Garden were paid out in FY23, and no longer need to be funded in the current BN CIP budget.

- Eldridge presented 3 CIP Budget tables representing 3 possible scenarios.
  - Scenario 1 reduces the overall budget by 1 million, most of which would come from seed money for the Daniel Meyer Pool (DMP) rebuild.
  - Scenario 2 keeps $1 million seed money in DMP, and reduces amounts for All Parks Master Plan, Oak Knoll Golf Course, and trails by varying amounts.
  - Scenario 3 (suggested by Bachman) gives $500,000 to DMP and increases the budget for Capital Outlay by $177,000.

Public Comments

Mark Heller thanked Commissioners for the enormous amount of volunteer time put in on behalf of parks. Citizens have been hoping for a new city pool ever since SOU shut down their pool a very long time ago. A new pool wouldn't be just for the master swimmers, it's for the high school swimmers, the high school water polo players, summer, and for the safety of kids learning to swim. He hopes too much money won't be taken out of the pool budget.

Rebecca Kay President of Southern Oregon Aquatic Community (SOAA) represented Dr. Paul Rostykus and Todd Lantry who were not able to attend the meeting but sent emails in support. Lantry is the head swim coach for Ashland High School swim team as well as the president for Rogue Valley Masters. Kay read his email in support of DMP.

Motion: Bachman moved to direct staff to make equal percentage cuts in the line items that they have deemed as not critical—and/or not shovel-ready—to align the CIP plan with reconciled available funds.

Seconded by Landt

Discussion:

- Landt noted that the motion was different than the motion in the packet, but similar to Scenario 2.
- Bachman reiterated that only 5 projects can be changed, and the 3 different scenarios presented are an attempt to spread the $1.1 million across projects to align with the corrected CIP. In consultation with Landt, Bachman realized that a fair alternative could be a straight percentage allocation of about 37% reduction across 5 projects. This proposal is similar to Scenario 2, but spreads the reductions evenly, instead of only reducing funding to the pool. The 37% would amount to approximately:
  - DMP-$715,950 (still leaving $1.2 million seed money)
  - All Parks Master Plan-$92,500
  - Oak Knoll Golf Course-$203,500
  - ACP Sports Court-$37,000
  - Trails-$55,500
- Bachman noted that the CIP is a working document and is dynamic and flexible. It communicates to the Commission the budget for capital projects during the BN. However, Commissioners can modify allocations during the BN, if project priorities change.
- Landt stated that perhaps the different scenarios have made it more challenging than it needs to be, since changes can be made later if needed. Doing the cuts by percentage, everyone shares the cut. Landt also noted that despite the discrepancy, there is more money in this biennium for CIP than usual, due to having received 98% of the Food and Beverage revenues in one year, rather than the typical 25%. This is not a bare bones budget. As a result, extra money was allocated to Oak Knoll, DMP, etc. Parks is not in an emergency, there is enough money to address huge maintenance issues and more. Landt encouraged Commissioners to approve the modified Scenario 2, even if there may have to be adjustments later for shovel-ready projects, etc.
- Adams felt uncomfortable that a scenario different from the 3 included in the packet was being presented at the last minute without opportunity for consideration. He questioned the impact of the changes on projects, e.g., does $63,000 to the ACP Sports Court mean no sports court, because it will actually cost $100,000 for that project, or does it mean a smaller sports court? Understanding that things can be changed later, the decision now seems deliberative. Adams will be voting against the motion.
- Seffinger agreed with Adams and was concerned about future impacts on projects. She had been comfortable with Scenario 2 and was going to support it. Additionally, Seffinger is committed to rebuilding the pool, and thinks seed money for the pool is very important. A public pool is important for many reasons. Seffinger will not approve the proposed motion.
- Landt noted that the actual costs of projects are unknown because Staff has not yet had the time to research true costs. The budgets of the 5-line items are guesses, because they're down-the-line projects, and can be reduced now, but changed later once Staff has had time to complete their work. This motion is close to Scenario 2, and it is fair to equally reduce projects by the same amount.
- Lewis stressed the importance of the flexibility that's in the budget. We can't foresee the future, but this lays out some of the priorities. The pool is the biggest number, and the Commission has said Ashland must have a municipal pool, over and over. It's a top goal and has been for years. It involves a ballot measure presented to the public and is dependent on the liner to extend the use of the existing pool. Lewis acknowledged the hard work done, and also the complications, but the current motion is a good place to start and move forward.
- Adams thanked the members of the aquatic community for showing up and making their voices heard, and offered wholehearted support for everything Coach Lantry was asking for.

Vote: Seffinger No, Adams No, Bachman Yes, Lewis Yes, Landt Yes

Motion passed

b) East Main Park Plan (Action)

Eldridge introduced Piper von Chamier from Terrain Landscape Architecture and presented the proposal for the final approval of the East Main Park design.

- Eldridge recapped the years-long process to build East Main Street neighborhood park, including the dog park, bike-skills, and pump track (BN Goal #3)
- Since the plan was last presented to the Commission in January 2023, about 14-15 small changes have been made to the design, which von Chamier went over in detail (see packet).
- Seffinger asked If the water fountains are the type that don't freeze. Von Chamier answered that everything that's not winterized or shut off during the wintertime would be frost proof.

- Von Chamier went over a tentative timeline for completion of project. Some adjustments are reliant on Jackson County and can take anywhere from 3-5 months. Revisions have been made based on Commissioner and community input. Once the property line adjustment has been approved by the County, the plan can move forward to 100% completion with the site plan review.
- Once the permit for the site plan review is obtained, the annexation and the zone change, the near-completion construction document set will be reviewed by APRC staff and peer reviewed from a technical standpoint, after which final tweaks will be made to the construction document set. Cost estimators will price the entire project, and then submit it to APRC.
- Landt thanked the design team for the bathroom placement. Additionally, Landt noted that it would save money and preserve existing natural areas (e.g., the dog park and community garden), and wanted to be careful not to compact and degrade the land during construction. Von Chamier agreed, and assured Landt that civil engineers would do a staging plan, and wherever possible, preservation of existing natural areas and reutilizing topsoil would be a priority.
- Seffinger noted her approval of a second dog park in Ashland, which has been a long-time goal of the Commission for 10-12 years.

Motion: Adams moved to approve the East Main Park final design as presented. Seconded by Seffinger

Discussion:

- Adams thanked Terrain and staff, and expressed great enthusiasm for the Park, and all the ways it will serve the community.
- Landt asked if the Commission will see any further construction drawings. Kiewel stated that the Commission would see final construction documents when the request for proposals is presented to the Commission.
- Lewis complimented the changes as very reasonable and noted that EMP would be lightyears ahead of the YMCA park that had been sold and is excited by all the ways EMP will positively affect the community.

Vote: All yes

c) Advisory Committees (Action)

Eldridge recapped presentation from November 1, 2023 Study Session (see packet for minutes)

- City Council recently approved a reorganization of its advisory bodies into either Advisory Committees or Management Advisory Committees, often termed MACs. Staff recommends that APRC model its advisory groups similarly.
- For APRC, an Advisory Committee would be subject to public meeting laws, always have staff support, and must have a quorum. An Advisory Committee would make recommendations directly to the Commissioners on policy issues.
- A Management Advisory Committee (many APRC groups could be MACs) would be formed at the request of the Parks Director, and make management recommendations to the Director, who would present them to the Commissioners, if applicable.
- MACs do not require strict adherence to public meeting laws, although as much transparency and predictability as possible is certainly recommended. If APRC chooses to adopt this model, Commissioners could advise that any MAC meetings be publicly noticed on the website and include a meeting recap. Not as formal as minutes, but perhaps post the 5 top outcomes that came out of that meeting.
- When looking at the costs and benefits of adopting this model, the 4 main issues Staff see are:
    - **Transparency.** A MAC doesn't require the same rigorous level of posting, reporting, and transparency as an Advisory Committee, though that can be ameliorated.
    - **Commissioners or Director?** Considering if an advisory body needs to address high level and/or long-standing issues where it's important for Commissioners to be involved with the community directly. Or is it a management issue that can be resolved in a shorter time more directly?
    - **Staff Support.** Making more committees MACs will reduce the burden on staff, which is a struggle for the City and Parks (i.e., having so many committees and not enough staff).
    - **Flexibility.** MACs will still have staff support yet will allow for more flexibility. Flexibility of members to meet in smaller groups without a quorum, to produce work products that go straight to the Director through email or shared Docs, rather than having to have additional staff present at every meeting.

Staff is proposing three standing advisory committees that have accountability to the community and need a high level of transparency, as well as direct and consistent involvement with Commissioners.

- **Advisory Committees**
    - Ashland Senior Advisory Committee (ASA)
    - Recreation Division Advisory Committee (RDAC)
    - Ashland Trails Advisory Committee (ATAC)

Staff is proposing four advisory bodies be converted to Management Advisory Committees.

- **MACs**
  - Bee City USA
  - Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance
  - Ashland Japanese Garden
  - Oak Knoll Golf Course

Staff is proposing dissolving four advisory bodies that have completed their work.

- **Dissolve**
  - East Main Park
  - Lithia Park Master Plan
  - Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map Update
  - Long Range Planning

Full policy documents providing consistent, coherent direction to all standing Advisory Committees and MACs are in the packet.

Landt noted a few suggested changes and corrections to the policy document.

- Correct Roman numerals in the document: there are two Section II's, should be Section II and III
- In section II C, remove language on "alternative members" and "alternate members".
- In section II L, remove "by recommendation of Commission Liaison." add "in consultation with the Park's Director" to end of paragraph.

Motion: Bachman moved to approve the Parks Commission policy on Advisory Committees and Management Advisory Committees as presented with the changes outlined by Chair Landt

Seconded by Adams

Discussion:

- Bachman said the proposal was a great move towards making the management of Parks more efficient and pointed out that it was good to see in these memos the goal it addresses, tying the work to prioritized goals that the commission set for the Biennium. This is goal #1, which is to employ best management practices.
- Adams offered support for the motion and added that when it comes to work done in government, *how* things are done often has a great influence on *what* gets done. Proposal is in alignment with City Council to make an appropriate change to how things are done with Parks committees.
- Seffinger pointed out that prior to the reorganization, the City had 19 or 20 groups, all of which required a full-time staff member to attend every meeting. Proposal is an excellent way of giving Park staff more time to work on Park business.
- Lewis encouraged community members to volunteer for all these commissions, positions, and committees because you can make a difference in the City's future by volunteering.

Vote: All yes

d) Ashland Fire Department Wildfire Division Fuels Management on Parklands (Information)

Public Comment

Casey Botts: Representing two groups, Ashland Devo, a nonprofit youth mountain biking program and Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association (RVMBA), the local advocacy and trail building maintenance organization that takes care of watershed trails in conjunction with the City and U.S. Forest Service. Both organizations annually provide hundreds of hours of community service to help keep the City's trail system running and provide recreational, instructional, and competitive opportunities for the mountain bike community and others. Thank you to Chris Chambers for presenting several opportunities for public comment and public information meetings on this project you're about to hear about, assuring our organizations that he is listening to our concerns.

Ashland Devo and RVMBA both rely heavily on using the watershed trails. Our concerns are with the potential project timing, and subsequent closures occurring during busy usage periods in the late spring when the sun and warm weather come back, and people want to get outside. It's when we run our youth programs, and the end of the trail work season, because when trails dry out, we can't work on them. We need the winter

rains to do so. So potential trail damage that could occur during this project would go unfixed through the summer, affecting tourism and recreational use by locals. Both RVMBA and Ashland Devo submitted public comment letters listing several ways to minimize these impacts to our programs and constituents. And I want to make sure that the tone of the comment came across as intended. Oftentimes, when we list items out, it can sound like a list of demands or ultimatums, and that's certainly not our intention. We presented these more as compromises, ideas, and solutions to work together to create something that works for everyone in partnership with the City and APRC. Both RVMBA and Devo consider ourselves partners with all watershed stakeholders, and we'll certainly benefit from long-term health and safety of the forest. We want to make sure that all options are considered and highlighted to minimize impacts on the outdoor rec community that relies on use of the City trails.

Chris Chambers, Ashland Fire Department Forestry Officer discussed Forestland Climate Change Adaptation in Siskiyou Mountain Park. (SMP) Chambers recounted extensive history regarding wildfire and forestry, especially in this area and climate.

- Since the last time Chambers presented, he hosted several outreach opportunities and comment opportunities for the public, including two public tours and a public meeting.
- The project plan is based on very recent and sound science, and research on the topic of climate change and forests and wildfire.
- Siskiyou Mountain Park (and other parts of the lower watershed) has large patches of dead trees that are spreading. [Chambers displayed a map] all the red and yellow dots are trees that are dead and dying, and 6 areas that are circled have severe mortality. This encompasses one half of Siskiyou Mountain Park.
- Siskiyou Mountain Park has some areas that are not as highly impacted where it's hoped to retain Douglas-fir as a species for a longer timeframe, but there are a lot of areas that are significantly impacted and will need to transition to a better climate adapted vegetation and forest type.
- Forest Service has tracked data on tree death and Douglas-fir mortality going back to the 1970s. There was an enormous spike in the last year due to drought and heat waves, etc. with 50% severe die off.
- July 2023 drone survey of SMP found 30 % of Douglas-fir were dead and dying, and likely more were infested with beetles—the Douglas-fir Flat-Headed Borer—and could die within 6 months.
- There are multiple factors escalating wildfire hazards and risk of losing the forest entirely. There are a lot of smart people thinking about this, tracking what's happening in various forest types across the West.
- Prior experience with helicopter tree removal, but situation now is more dire. More urgency to act now, including future cost increases.
- Public outreach, field tours, public meetings, draft review, and comments occurred between October 25-November 7, 2023. Concerns from the public included:
    - Snags and downed logs for wildlife habitat—want to strike a balance between wildlife habitat and healthy soil, and fire danger (provided extensive detail on best practices for particular areas and species).
    - Impacts to trails via closures and damage to trails.
- Hoping to have approval for Lomakatsi Restoration Project to partner on project from the City at the November 7, 2023 Council meeting.
- Further timetable will include final editing and review by Forest Lands Committee, review by Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, and tree marking in December. Bidding for work in early January 2024, Contractor selection and work schedule for winter/spring in late January 2024, begin revegetating those areas that have been most impacted by the die-off in April-May 2024, and helicopter thinning phase complete by June 1, 2024.
- Landt asked for clarification about alternative location for helicopter landing that came up at the November 1, 2023 Study Session. Chambers will meet with residents who will be most affected by noise and traffic if the helicopters land at the bottom of SMP. During the contract phase, will see what the price would be to avoid that landing and just fly everything to the main city granite pit landing. However, it's a long flight and would cause more trail closures vs using the SMP proposed landing site, and it might be cost prohibitive for them to fly that far.
- Lewis asked what the policy is for the mills for accepting beetle kill trees. Chambers answered it will be a challenge to mark trees that have sound wood in them, and not mark the trees that have been dead for too long. May have to do a lot of handwork on the ground through pile cutting and pile burning.
- Seffinger and Adams voiced support for the project and dedicated work. Adams noted the rapidly changing conditions and changes to the watershed and encouraged citizens to visit the forests to see for themselves.

e) Salmon Safe Certification (Action)

Eldridge recapped information presented at the November 1, 2023 Study Session and October 11, 2023 Regular Meeting

- Spring/summer 2023, APRC, SOU Institute for Applied Sustainability, and Terrain Landscape Architecture partnered to explore third-party environmental certification to advance Parks goals for ecological stewardship in East Main Park with the hire of a paid intern, Lulu Brazeau.
- Brazeau presented her research on Salmon Safe Certification, and the potential to certify the entire parks system, not just EMP, at the October 11, 2023 Regular Meeting. Dan Kent, Executive Director of Salmon Safe, presented information on their organization at the November 1, 2023 Study Session.
- Salmon Safe Certification can help APRC with parks management decisions to protect and restore in-stream riparian and wetland habitat, track and reduce water use, make smart irrigation management decisions, and achieve surface water runoff management goals and decisions. They can help with reduction in erosion and sediment control, review pesticide reduction and water quality protection, and contribute to the enhancement of ecological function.
- Extensive benefits (see packet). Salmon Safe certification can provide leverage for acquiring grant funding for restoration or other projects, and the added benefit of having a solid collaboration and partnership with Southern Oregon University and their students and faculty in the Institute for Applied Sustainability.
- The cost of the five-year certification process is $20,000. The Institute for Applied Sustainability is offering $10,000 cost match, plus additional paid interns, capstone project possibilities, and faculty engagements.
- APRC's portion—$10,000—would come out of the professional services fund.
- There are written letters of support from the Institute for Applied Sustainability, the SOU Environmental Science Policy and Sustainability Program, the Rogue River Watershed Council, Terrain Landscape Architecture, and the Freshwater Trust.
- Seffinger noted that having scientists help determine best practices regarding environmental health is welcome.
- Lewis complimented the fit with similar efforts and the partnership with SOU.

Motion: Bachman moved to approve APRC to pursue a system-wide Salmon Safe Certification
Seconded by Seffinger
Discussion: Bachman applauded the partnership with SOU. Also appreciated the tie to goal number 5, to develop an environmental sustainability implementation plan**.**
Vote: All Yes

VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

Seffinger complimented the Senior Center staff and volunteers on the immunization clinics. Thank you.

IX. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

a) Ashland Senior Services Advisory Committee – Monday, November 13, 2023 via Zoom 3:30 p.m.
b) Recreation Division Advisory Committee – Wednesday December 14, 2023 Lithia Park Cabin 4:00 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Plapinger
APRC Temporary Office Assistant

MINUTES FOR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
December 6, 2023
Council Chambers – 6 p.m.
1175 E Main St

Present: Commissioners Landt (Chair), Bachman (Vice Chair), Adams, Lewis, Seffinger; Interim Director Eldridge, Deputy Director Dials, Senior Service Superintendent Glatt, Analyst Kiewel, Executive Assistant Mero

Absent: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Landt called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRC Study Session – November 1, 2023
Motion: Adams moved to correct the date on the agenda from October 4, 2023, to November 1, 2023. Seconded by Lewis.
Vote: The vote was all yes.

Landt informed the meeting that the Approval of Official Parks and Open Space Map was being changed from Action to Information. The Commissioners did not have the chance to discuss it in a Study Session.

III. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

None

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Advisory Committee Minutes for Acknowledgement
Motion: Bachman moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Adams.
Vote: The vote was all yes.

Alcohol Use in Parks Policy Updated Language
Motion: Bachman moved to pull Alcohol Use in Parks Policy Updated Language from Consent Agenda and move to Business as it needs additional discussion. Adams seconded.

Eldrige related changes the Council asked to be made to the Alcohol Use in Parks Policy Updated Language.

1. Potential for adding preferred sites where alcohol could be served.
2. If security is required how would that decision be made.

Motion: Bachman moved to approve the updated language to the Alcohol Use in Parks Policy. Seconded by Adams.
Vote: The vote was all yes.

VI. AWARDS PRESENTATION

Eldridge announced four recipients of Statewide annual awards.

1. Kathy McNeal received the Oregon Recreation of Parks Association (ORPA) award for her volunteer efforts. She logged over 700 volunteer hours for the Ashland Senior Center.
2. Isleen Glatt received ORPA's Section for Older Adult Resources (SOAR) award for outstanding management staff. This award is given to just one individual annually.
3. Anne Bellegia received the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service. A prestigious volunteer award given annually to one individual per state. Anne donated her $2,000.00 award to the Ashland Parks Foundation Senior Services fund.

4. Rogue World Music Festival received ORPA's Private Sector Partner Award. A video narrated by Anna Beyer, the Executive Director of Rogue World Music, was shown highlighting the achievements of the nonprofit organization.

VII. DIRECTORS REPORT

Interim Director Eldrige reported on the following items.

Administration

- Three legislative initiatives moving through the legislative process.
    1. Alcohol in Parks Ordinance
    2. Park Hours Ordinance
    3. Parks and Open Space Map
- New employees: Kevin Caldwell, Parks Superintendent and Nancy Mero, Executive Assistant.
- Tara Kiewel was announced as APRC's Employee of the Year at the all-staff holiday luncheon.

Recreation

- Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink is open with a First Frost Community event scheduled for December 16 at 4 PM
- Golf Course closed for maintenance for December and Tuesdays in January. Working on Management Contract
- Nature Center open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 1:00 PM. Added a day.
- New recreation registration software Smart Rec is coming January 3, 2024. It is more user friendly than Activenet and has more capabilities.
- Playguide coming out in early January.

Senior Services

- Holiday Party on Friday December 22, from 2:00 – 3:30 PM.
- Ashland Fire Firefighters local 1269 provided (and served!) pie and seasonal beverages at the Senior Center on November 20.
- Superintendent Isleen Glatt is retiring January 5, 2024. Natalie Mettler is assuming the Interim Superintendent role.

Other News

- Daniel Meyer pool liner replacement project is complete! The pool is closed to the public in the winter. However, it is leased by Rogue Valley Masters, Phoenix High School, and Ashland High School.
- Francheska Snyder of NIWA Method spent last week doing highly skilled pruning in the Japanese Garden during which APRC staff received valuable training.
- The mountain bike trail reroute is complete! The reroute directed the trail through legal easements rather than through private property, The trail has been named Mimsy.
- A Memorial bench honoring Taliesin Myrddin Namakai-Meche has been installed between two redwood trees just south of the Japanese garden in Lithia Park.

VIII. BUSINESS

a) First Quarter 2024 Financial Update (Information)

The first quarter report of fiscal year 24 runs from July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023. Significant budget changes this biennium:

- The APRC operations budget is now included in the City General Fund. (GF)
- The Recreation Admin budget has been removed and added to the administrative budget.
- Parks Ops includes all facilities and maintenance expenses for all divisions.
- Temporary employees are now included in the professional services expenses of M&S for each division.
- Recreation Programs, Nature Center, Senior Services, and Golf recreation only include recreation programming costs.
- Revenue categories have been streamlined.
- The Parks Equipment Fund was dissolved into the City's GF.
- System Development Charges (SDC) for Parks were separated out into an individual fund.
- Central Service fees removed from the budget (internal COA fees for Legal, HR, GIS, etc.)

Key Points

- APRC spending is on-track for the first quarter at 25.3 %
- Areas where spending was below target are primarily due to staffing vacancies.
- Budget challenges are primarily in Operations Material and Services. (Facilities and General Maintenance)
- APRC is underfunded in these specific areas:
    - Vandalism/theft repairs/replacements to facilities
    - Seed and fertilizer costs
    - Professional Services
    - Open Space – Forestry and Weed Abatement
    - Training – traditionally low throughout the City
- APRC GF Revenue projections are based on the average of historic actuals, including COVID and times of low staffing.
  APRC specific revenues for general fund (gf) include grants, maintenance agreements, and charges for services. Budgeted for $1,000,000.00. Likely to do much better than that.
- APRC CIP BN23/25 Update: At the Nov. 23 meeting Commissioners asked that five particular line items be reduced in equal percentages. The five items are Trails, Ashland Creek Park Basketball/Sports Park, Oak Knoll Golf Course Improvements, All Parks Master Plan, and Daniel Meyer Pool Rebuild. These five line items were each reduced by 46%.

b) Approval of Official Parks and Open Space Map (Information)

A draft of the Official Parks and Open Space Map (Map) is available tonight for commissioner feedback. If approved by the APRC commissioners, it will likely go before the Planning Commission in January or February.

- Information from Eldridge: The Map is part of the City's Comprehensive plan. It is a guide for APRC land acquisition. The first draft was in 1991. It was updated in 2002 and given a "light update" in 2012. In May 2022 APRC formed the parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan Update Subcommittee. Ashland's per capita park land is one of the highest in Oregon. Strategies for the future include protection of significant natural areas, lands on the wildland urban interface critical for fuels management, and trail connectivity.
- The Map is designed to be used in conjunction with the Trails Master Plan (TMP) The TMP identifies critical bike and pedestrian corridors in Ashland. Any property within the boundaries of the Map and TMP is fair game for acquisition. This includes the Central Bike Path which runs through property owned/maintained by the City, Roads, Railways, and Parks.
- Landt commented it would be unimaginable to acquire all the land on the Map designated as the TMP corridors. Rather an area would be designated, and a trail built within that space, using easements and/or purchasing the land.
- Leslie mentioned that 'Trails' had been eliminated from the name of the Map because it does not include any actual trails. Landt made the counter point that in 2002 'Trails' was added to the name of the Map in a public process, not at the staff level, and would like to leave the name as it was. Bachman, Seffinger, Lewis, and Adams agreed.
- Preserving the text box on the Map was also discussed. The current rendition removed the text box with the recommendation of turning it into a technical document to be used in conjunction with the Map. Bachman supports this idea. Landt's preference is to leave the text on the Map itself. Seffinger asked why Planning suggested removing the text. Eldrige responded that 1) it is not a traditional practice on maps and 2) there is a lot of text which would be very tiny and difficult to read on the Map. Commissioners Seffinger and Adams also support having the text preserved as a technical document.
- Public comment: Mike Gardiner mentioned that the purple corridors on the map were important as connectivity guidelines for the City. There is still property potentially available down the Ashland Creek and Bear Creek corridors.

c) 2024 APRC Meeting Schedule (Action)

Landt noted that corrections were needed on the meeting schedule. The dates for the September and October Study Sessions and Business Meetings were incorrect.

Motion: Seffinger moved to approve the 2024 meeting schedule (with corrections). Adams seconded the motion.
Vote: The vote was all yes.

d) Ashland Parks Foundation Annual Report (Information)

Mike Gardiner President of Ashland Parks Foundation Board began his report by talking about money brought in outside of the Parks budget, like grants and donations, that helps to support all that APRC does.
Highlights of 2023:

- Ashland Japanese Garden had a "soft" opening last October. Not yet complete. Already a revenue generator through donation box in the park and donations made to the Foundation earmarked for the Japanese Garden.
- Foundation has been sponsoring Micha Blacklight and the Say Their Names project. The Foundation granted $60,000.00 to the project to help Micha reach his seed money goal of $160,000.00. The Foundation will continue to help fund the project.
- Created a small, restricted fund to support the Pickleball Community and enhance the sport in Ashland.
- Kicked off the Butler – Perozzi Restoration Project on July 4, 2023. Formed a steering committee. To date they have received 206 individual donations totaling over $560,000 towards the campaign goal of $800.000. An important part of the $800,000.00 goal is $200,000 earmarked for maintenance post completion of the restoration.
- Other projects supported by the Foundation include, the kid's climbing cable structure in the Litha Park playground $10,000.00, the awning for the ice rink, new flooring at the Senior Center $333,000.00, benches at North Mountain Park $9,000.00, new fencing at Pickleball courts in Litha Park, and a $5,000.00 donation to the World Music event.
- The Foundation hired their first employee, an administrative support person.
- The Foundation purchases ads in APRC's yearly Playguide.
- In 2023 the Foundation supported APRC and the city of Ashland with millions of dollars of donations.

Seffinger asked if donations to the Foundation were tax deductible. Gardiner confirmed that APF is a 501C3 nonprofit organization.

e) Lookahead Review (Direction to Staff)

Eldrige asked for feedback on the Lookahead.

- Bachman is glad to see the Daniel Meyer Pool and the golf course management contract on the Lookahead for January.
- Landt asked for clarification on Goal number 1. It is "best management practices".

IX. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

Adams gave a shout out to the volunteers who showed up for the Mimsy trail reroute. Around 50 people turned out including the owner of the property the trail ran through.

X. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

a) Recreation Division Advisory Committee – Thursday December 14, 2023
   - Lithia Park Cabin 4:00 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:
Rick Landt
Jim Bachman
Justin Adams
Jim Lewis
Stefani Seffinger

Leslie Eldridge
Interim Director
541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

DATE: January 17, 2024

SUBJECT: CONSENT: Subcommittee Minutes

One item needs acknowledgement for consent for January 17, 2024:

1. RDAC Minutes-October 19, 2023

Possible Motion
I move to acknowledge the consent agenda.

Attachments

MINUTES
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Recreation Division Advisory Committee (RDAC)
October 19, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
In-person meeting at Lithia Cabin 340 S. Pioneer St. Ashland, OR 97520

Present: Committee Members: Commissioner Lewis, Members Grimm and Buck
APRC Staff: Deputy Director Dials, Interim Director Eldridge
Members of Public: Sophia Blanton (potential committee Member), Michael Dotson

Absent: Commissioner Bachman, Recreation Manager Flora

CALL TO ORDER
Grimm called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Buck moved for approval of the August 17, 2023, RDAC minutes. Lewis seconded. All in favor.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

BUSINESS
General Recreation Updates
Dials briefly updated the committee on Ice Rink season, Winter/Spring Program Guide schedule, Smart Rec registration program implementation, Japanese Garden Event, Pool Liner, Management Advisory Committees (MAC) update, Volunteer in Parks program and the Nature Center.

Committee Member Input on Recreation Division Services
Dials lead the RDAC committee and members of the public in an exercise to gather input on the Recreation Services Division.

1. If APRC was to advertise a Request for Proposal (RFP) for services at the Nature Center, what ideas would you want to make sure to include in the RFP?
    a. What are some ideal partnerships? b. What role would APRC play? c. Is City doing anything that could be combined? CEAP goals? Sustainability? Water Conservation. Sustainability Coordinator. Sustainability Center. (etc)
2. In your opinion, what are the most important services that the Recreation Division provides? a. Are there service gaps that should be addressed? If yes, what?
3. What could the Rec. Division stop doing?
4. What are additional partnerships that could save $$ and time in that could be ideal to fit within the Recreation Division?
5. What do you think is the future of the Recreation Division? What are the high-level goals?

The committee discussed and answered each question and notes were taken on each of the items.
At the end of the exercise, some of the comments from the committee for next steps included:

1. Be more action oriented.
2. **Create working groups** and accelerate our movement with RDAC.

Appointment of Sophia Blanton to RDAC Committee
Lewis moved to appoint Sophia Blanton to the RDAC Committee. All yes. The next step was acknowledgement by the Parks Commission at the November meeting.

Other Items from Committee Members
A request from RDAC to include a quick presentation on the APRC Organizational Chart at the meeting in December.
Discuss potential for working groups to assist staff with goals.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 5:27p.m. Next meeting will be December 14 at 4pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Dials
APRC

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PARKS COMMISSIONER STAFF REPORT

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

DATE: January 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Rogue World Music (RWM) Festival rebranding and expansion (Information)

Recreation Manager Lonny Flora and RWM representative Ana Byers will give a brief presentation on plans for the 2024 festival expansion and rebranding.

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

DATE: Jan 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Technical Support Document to the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map

Situation

The Official Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map was presented to Parks Commissioners for feedback at the Dec 6, 2023 Business Meeting. Parks Commissioners asked for some minor changes to the map and for the inclusion of a Technical Support Document with the map to provide a narrative of the APRC strategy and changes over time. Tonight, staff presents the map and narrative for final approval by the Parks Commissioners. A public hearing with the Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2024, and then on to City Council.

Background

The Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map is a guide for APRC land acquisition and designates properties for different usage including neighborhood parks, potential sports fields, open spaces, trail connectivity, and riparian areas.

The last official update of the map was done in 2002 with a "Light Update" done by APRC in 2012 without formal adoption.

On October 11, 2023, APRC approved the updated Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map.

On Nov 28, 2023, the Planning Commission reviewed the comparison and official maps at their Study Session. Some minor corrections were made to the comparison and the official maps based on feedback from the Planning Commission.

At the Dec 6, 2023, APRC Business Meeting, Parks Commissioners asked for some minor changes to the map and for the inclusion of a Technical Support Document with the Map to provide a narrative of the APRC strategy and changes over time.

A public hearing to consider the proposed Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map amendment is tentatively scheduled before the Planning Commission for January 23, 2024. A public hearing and first reading of the proposed ordinance before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for February 20, 2024, with second reading scheduled for March 5, 2024.

Attachments

Official Parks, Trails and Open Space Map
Comparison Parks, Trails and Open Space Map
Technical Support Document (Findings)

October 11, 2023 APRC Business Meeting Minutes:
https://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/FinalMinutes_10_11_23_RegularMeeting.pdf

Nov 28, 2023 Planning Commission Special Meeting Minutes
https://www.ashland.or.us/Agendas.asp?AMID=8394&Display=Minutes

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Interim Director Eldridge

DATE: Jan 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Technical Support Document to Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map

---

A goal of the Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC) Board of Commissioners' (the *"Commissioners"*) is to update the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map (the *"map"*) every ten years. Although a "Light Update" was done by APRC in 2012, it was not reviewed and approved by City Council. The last official update of the map was done in 2002.

In preparation for the 2002 update, APRC held a series of community meetings to gather input from citizens on updating the 1991 map. Following the meetings, Commissioners developed an updated map that included changing the name of the program to the "Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map". For the 2023 update, a Parks, Trails, and Open Space Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee") was formed by the Commissioners to review the map and make recommendations. The Subcommittee has prepared the 2023 update, and that body has recommended the 2023 map for approval by the Commissioners and City Council. There have been five subcommittee meetings and three APRC meetings where public input was solicited. This Map was approved by Commissioners on XXXXX, 2024 and by City Council XXXX.

The current situation with Ashland's park land is very different than in 1991 when the Comprehensive Plan was first developed and approved by City Council. In 1991, Ashland had less park land per capita than Roseburg, Medford and Klamath Falls. Now, after 30-plus years of effort, Ashland's per capita park land ranks it among the State's leaders. It has been determined that procurement of land for developed parks is no longer a high priority. Additionally, since the City Charter states that "the City Council shall not use the power of condemnation to acquire fee simple ownership of land for Open Space purposes or for trails," (Article 19a, section 2) originally more property than needed was on the map to ensure sufficient land could be acquired from willing sellers. For the reasons stated and after

careful review by the Subcommittee and approval by APRC Commissioners, roughly 277 acres of property projected for purchase from the 2002 map has been removed from this updated 2023 map.

One of the goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan is to have a neighborhood park located within a 1/4 mile of every resident living inside the current city limits. With the exceptions of the Mistletoe (Croman) neighborhood, fully developed sections of the City where no open lands exist, and areas in the urban-forest interface characterized by large lots where Commissioners have deemed that the benefits are not great enough to justify the costs, sufficient property has been obtained to meet this goal. If the City's boundaries are expanded, additional property may need to be identified, for example, a part of the Billings Ranch, and acquired to meet the neighborhood goal.

The majority of properties left on the map for future purchase provide protection of significant natural areas like streams and riparian areas and/or are land and easements that provide trail connectivity. The connectivity goal is to secure land, through outright purchase, donation, grants, or easements, on which to develop a trail system that would provide connecting links to neighborhoods and additional trails throughout the City and surrounding area for non-motorized, recreational use. Efforts to accomplish this goal will be advanced through collaboration with other organizations, such as the Ashland Woodland and Trails Association, Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association, and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy.

The APRC Trails Master Plan, which identifies critical bike and pedestrian corridors in Ashland, was approved by City Council in 2020 as a technical report supporting the Parks, Open Space, and Aesthetic Chapter (Chapter VII) of the City of Ashland Comprehensive Plan. The Parks, Trails, and Open Space Map includes a layer that represents the Trails Master Plan corridors. The map is intended to be used in conjunction with the Trails Master Plan.

PARKS TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE

CITY OF ASHLAND
Better Together

- Park Property to Acquire
- Portion of Area to Acquire for Riparian/Connectivity
- *Trails Master Plan Corridors

*This map is intended to be used in conjunction with the APRC Trails Master Plan, which identifies critical connectivity corridors for acquisition or easements.

NOT TO SCALE

- Urban Growth Boundary
- Ashland City Limits

Public Land Ownership

- City-Owned Forest Lands
- City-Owned Non Forest Lands
- U.S. Forest Service
- Ashland Parks Land

- (#1) Billings Property. North part of property for possible sports fields and riparian zone protection
- (#2) Wright's Creek Parcel. Trail corridor and protection for riparian zone.
- (#3) Grizzly Peak. Conservation easements on the south slopes of Grizzly visible from Ashland would not only protect iconic view visible from most of Ashland but would also reduce development pressure on rare and sensitive flora and on large mammals.
- (#4 & #5) Ashland Creek Corridor – Year-round stream, significant wildlife habitat and potential pedestrian/bicycle connection
- (#6) Nevada St to North Mountain Ave. (Bear Creek Corridor) Riparian area.
- (#7) Property across from Riverwalk. Riparian area.
- (#8) Willows area potential trail connection and riparian zone
- (#9) Bear Creek riparian/floodplain corridor from east of North Mountain Park. Significant wildlife habitat, natural area that is potentially a part of the Greenway extension.
- (#10) Walker Ave. East Main Street. Possible sports fields
- (#11) Talent Irrigation Ditch Segment
- (#12 & #13) West side watershed (Hitt Road) Trail connectivity.
- (#14) 440 Granite Street. Surrounded on three sides by Lithia Park. Only private property on east side of Granite above Nutley not part Lithia Park. Lithia Park Master Plan recommends purchase of property.
- (#15) Lincoln School. Critical to goal of neighborhood park within ½ mile of all residents. Many low-income residents in the area.
- (#16 & #17) Upper Liberty St/Ivy Ln Forest/Urban Interface. Connects southern residential neighborhoods with trail network.
- (#18) Tolman Creek/Mistletoe Road Area potential neighborhood park site

This is to Certify that this is the approved final version of the official Parks and Open Space Map.

Signed:

Mayor _____ Date _____

City Recorder _____ Date _____

INSET MAP:
Northwest UGB

Mapping is schematic only and bears no warranty of accuracy. All features, structures, facilities, easement or roadway locations should be independently field verified for existence and/or location.

Parks, Trails and Open Space

CITY OF ASHLAND
Better Together

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Legend

- *Park Property to Acquire*
- *Portion of Area to Acquire for Riparian/Connectivity*
- *To Acquire, New since 2002 Open Space Plan*
- *Orig Plan, no longer seeking*
- **Trails Master Plan Corridors*

*This map is intended to be used in conjunction with the APRC Trails Master Plan, which identifies critical connectivity corridors for acquisition or easements.

- *Ashland City Limits*
- *Urban Growth Boundary*

Public Land Ownership

- *APRC Parks Properties*
- *U.S. Forest Service Land*
- *City Owned Forest Land*
- *City Owned Non-Forest Land*

Properties Removed from the Map

- **(A) Billings Property southern portion** – only northern portion of property has potential for sports fields
- **(B & C) Helman Street Property** – within quarter mile of Ashland Creek Park
- **(D)Helman to Oak partial corridor** – No longer available as corridor
- **(E) Cottle Phillips tiny portion to the West** – park within ¼ mile
- **(F) Upper Elkader/Roca Canyon** – developed
- **(G) Willow Wind school site** – Ashland School District owned
- **(H) Property on lower Clay Street** – developed
- **(I) Property on lower Clay Street** – park within ¼ mile
- **(J) Snowberry Brook** – developed
- **(K) Middle Clay**– Park within a quarter mile
- **(L) Chitwood Property on Upper Clay Street** – developed
- **(M) Crowson Road Extension** – no longer needed no plans to expand OKGC
- **(N) Normal Street extension** – park within ¼ mile
- **(O) Upper Paradise Creek** – developed
- **(P) Ashland Loop Road** – acquired trail easements, no longer needed

Properties Designated Purchase or Easements and Projected Use

- **(#1) Billings Property.** North part of property for possible sports fields and riparian zone protection
- **(#2) Wright's Creek Parcel.** Trail corridor and protection for riparian zone.
- **(#3) Grizzly Peak.** Conservation easements on the south slopes of Grizzly visible from Ashland would not only protect iconic view visible from most of Ashland but would also reduce development pressure on rare and sensitive flora and on large mammals.
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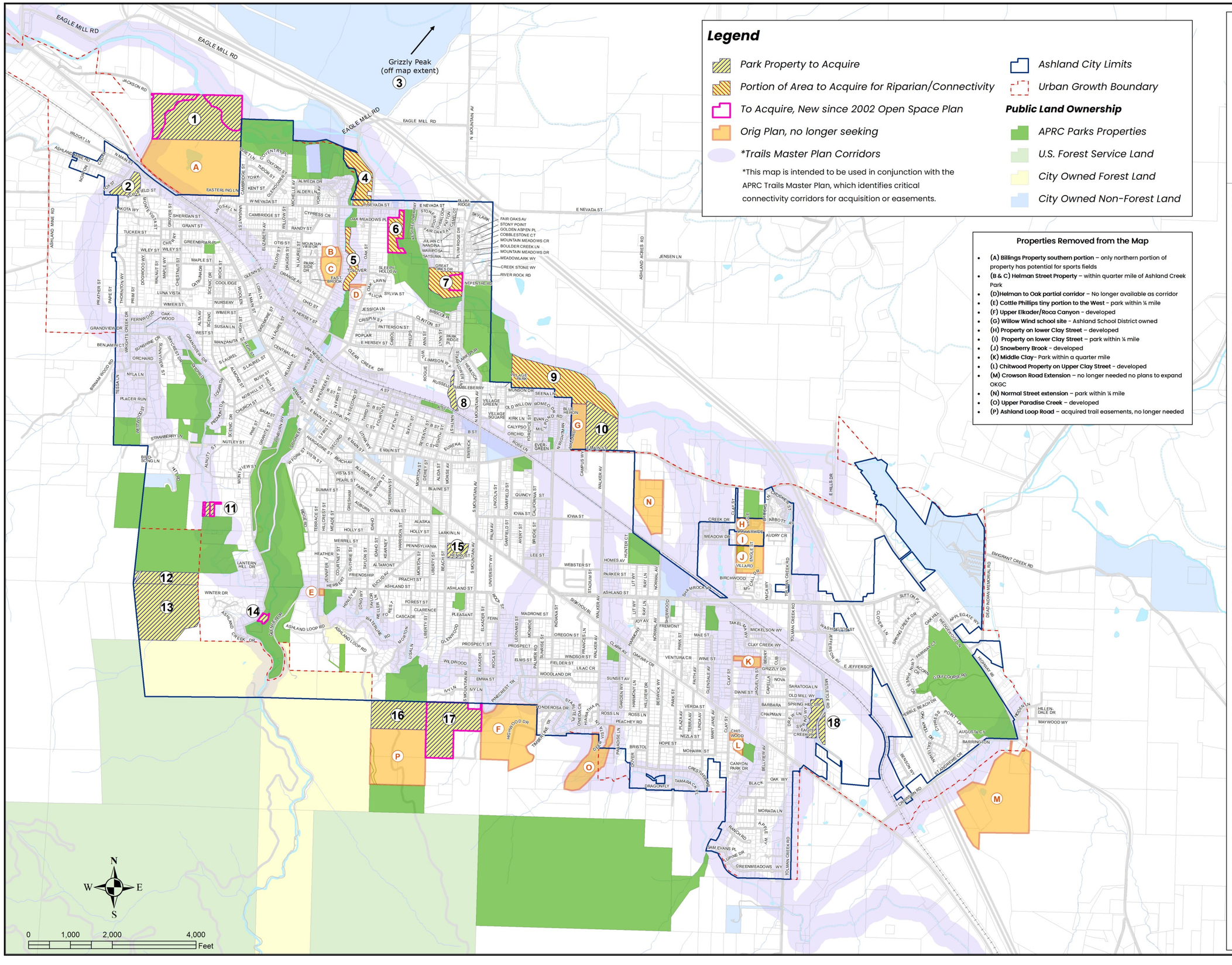

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PARKS COMMISSIONER STAFF REPORT

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

DATE: January 17, 2024

SUBJECT: The Fresh Water Trust

SITUATION:
The Freshwater Trust (TFT) requests an extension to the current waiver allowing for targeted application of herbicide to Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) listed noxious weed species within active riparian restoration projects located on Ashland Parks properties. The waiver extension would be valid for 3 years ending December 31, 2026.

BACKGROUND:
In 2019 the City of Ashland Public Works Department began a riparian restoration project to be in compliance with the Clean Water Act. Public Works partners with TFT to manage the restoration project on City land and on APRC managed property adjacent to Bear Creek. TFT and Public Works have proposed a protocol for using glyphosate herbicides sparingly to control invasive weeds in these areas.

At the August 26, 2019 APRC Business Meeting the Commission approved the request from Public Works to grant an exemption to the APRC Integrated Pest Management Policy with the following conditions:

- Limit the herbicide application of herbicide to no closer than six feet to the waters' edge of Bear Creek and only within TFT's leased riparian project areas.
- Limit the period of application to three years from the date of the commencement of the work
- The exception is limited to the following properties: Ashland Pond, Mace Property, Riverwalk Park.
- Follow all APRC IPM policy including signage
- Exceptions beyond the above parameters would require approval by APRC
- Public works will submit an annual report to APRC on the work being done

ASSESSMENT:
APRC staff has reviewed the proposal put forward by Public Works and TFT and feels this project and the related IPM exception are in the best interests of APRC and our local watershed.

<u>Ecological Impacts of Restoration</u>

- If approved, this project will help APRC reach its goal of riparian restoration along Bear Creek, increasing

terrestrial and aquatic diversity and helping to make our watershed more resilient to climate change.

- Riparian restoration will reduce the existing monoculture of invasive species and replace it with canopy cover and a shrub-layer of native riparian plants.
- The new vegetative community, once established, will reduce erosion, decrease water temperature, and increase dissolved oxygen in Bear Creek.
- These changes will consequently improve the habitat for many in-stream species, including salmon. A more diverse vegetative community will also increase the availability of resources for nesting birds and improve the habitat corridor for wildlife moving through the urban interface.

Weed Control Methodology

- Mechanical weed control methods alone are not practical, feasible, or sustainable under the long term (20 year) performance standards required for credits under this program.
- If approved, the application area will be limited to the leased project areas where the restoration work will take place, as this is the area under The Freshwater Trusts management over the next couple decades.
- The proposed herbicide application methods are judicious and conservative. TFT employs current research and best-practices ensuring the safest and most effective and strategies for each target invasive species.
    - First steps always include mechanical weed-control methods, timed to reduce impact to nesting birds.
    - Mechanical blackberry removal reduces the quantity of chemicals required. Re-sprouts are then treated with a spot-spray method, reducing the exposure in non-target species.
    - To control Japanese Knotweed, a stem-injection method ensures that the glyphosate is only absorbed by the target species.
    - Herbicide application is done in the early spring and later fall when there are fewer flowers and pollinators are less active. All available cultural practices will be utilized to reduce potential exposure to pollinators and other wildlife including application timing, manual or mechanical removal of flowering/fruiting portions of the plants before treatment and removal of treated weeds where needed to avoid contact with wildlife or the public.
    - Only glyphosate products will be used; no neonicotinoids will be applied.
    - All herbicides will be handled and applied by licensed applicators.

APRC Oversight

- APRC's IPM team includes licensed public pesticide applicators that will provide oversight of all chemical applications.
- APRC staff will ensure that the guidelines for public notification are adhered to. As per the current APRC IPM policy, signage will be posted on site, 48 hours in advance and 48 hours after each application.
- Project reports will be submitted to the Parks Commission every year, and all reports will be retained as part of the public record.

Ongoing Maintenance

- The long-term restoration strategy is designed to be sustainable with very limited application of chemicals beyond the establishment period.
- A collaboration with Public Works and TFT will produce a savings in maintenance costs for APRC. Furthermore, the ecosystem-services provided by a healthy stream channel will be of immeasurable value to our community.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commissioners grant an extension to the current waiver of the APRC IPM policy

allowing for targeted application of herbicide to ODA listed noxious weed species within active riparian restoration projects located on Ashland Parks properties.

POSSIBLE MOTION

I move to approve the request to extend the IPM policy waiver to The Fresh Water Trust until December 31, 2026.

Attachment

August 26, 2019 APRC Business Meeting Minutes:

Limited Application of Herbicide to Manage Invasive Species for the City Of Ashland's Water Quality Trading Program

February 22, 2019

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) was selected by the City of Ashland (the City) this year as its partner to develop and implement a water quality trading (WQT) program for temperature compliance with the Clean Water Act. TFT has drafted the following memorandum to explain how it plans to implement the City's WQT program consistent with the City's Pesticide Policy (Policy) in Chapter 9.28 of the Ashland Municipal Code. In this document and supporting attachments, TFT describes WQT and the performance standards associated with this compliance program—and why the limited use of herbicide is an essential practicality associated with this program. TFT then outlines the comprehensive guidelines it has developed to minimize the amount of chemical used as well as risks to humans, pollinators, birds, water, salmonids, and other cohabitants of the natural systems we work to restore. TFT then demonstrates that this approach has resulted in herbicide application rates in other programs that are often lower than industry average.

I. INTRODUCTION TO CITY OF ASHLAND WATER QUALITY TRADING PROGRAM, THE FRESHWATER TRUST, AND THE BENEFITS OF WQT PROGRAMS

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in Portland, with an office in Ashland, whose mission is to restore impaired rivers and protect threatened and endangered species. With more than 30 years of on-the-ground restoration experience in Oregon, TFT is one of the most seasoned restoration-focused organizations in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to TFT's long history of restoration work, the organization was responsible for listing the first salmonid species in the Northwest under the Endangered Species Act, and started the nation's first water trust.[1] One of TFT's main areas of work is helping cities and municipalities use watershed restoration projects to comply with Clean Water Act,[2] Endangered Species Act and other environmental regulatory requirements. Constructed compliance solutions like cooling towers and chillers lack the more holistic benefits of a restoration approach and are often considerably more expensive. TFT works on behalf of entities like the City to provide compliance solutions that produce the same robust regulatory result, and also improve the ecosystem health of the surrounding watershed. TFT measures the benefits restoration actions provide to freshwater ecosystems in units that are familiar to regulators and required in permits. In addition to providing the translation between watershed projects and regulatory drivers, TFT also monitors and maintains these restoration projects over the long term, with frequent third-party verification to confirm that that the sites are progressing appropriately, to ensure that they persist as compliance grade projects. Unlike many traditional restoration efforts, this rigorous, long-term

[1] A water trust leases or purchases water rights from irrigators and other water uses, and then protects that water instream for the benefit of the environment and aquatic species.

[2] The Freshwater Trust, Featured Case Study: Medford Water Quality Trading Program, https://www.thefreshwatertrust.org/case-study/medford-water-quality-trading-program/.

monitoring, maintenance and tracking of sites over time ensures that the promised benefits not only materialize but also continue to thrive for decades.

In this particular instance, the City's WQT program will entail the restoration of riparian vegetation in the Bear Creek watershed. This vegetation will produce shade, which will block sunlight and minimize the warming of the stream, for the benefit of salmonids and other temperature-sensitive aquatic species. In addition to producing thermal benefits that the City can use to achieve compliance with its Clean Water Act permit, this restoration-based approach generates multiple ancillary benefits, including improvements to habitat for sensitive native plants and animals, increased resiliency to climate change, carbon sequestration, and a buffer against erosion and runoff of other pollutants into the waterway.[3] In addition, these natural solutions to compliance also help the City avoid the electricity costs and carbon impacts of having to operate chilling equipment, which align with the City's stated climate mitigation and adaptation goals.[4] Finally, the City's WQT program will also help stimulate the local economy.[5] It is because of these multiple benefits, and the long-lasting impacts of WQT that TFT has thrown its conservation legacy behind WQT.

II. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE GRADE WQT RESTORATION SITES

Oregon's water quality trading rules require a Trading Plan to be developed, and that plan must include quality standards with specifications for design, implementation, maintenance, and performance tracking to "ensure the estimated water quality benefits of a trading project are achieved."[6] In addition, WQT projects have to be verified as "conforming to applicable quality standards."[7] The City has developed a Trading Plan for shade credits that addresses these issues, which has been endorsed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as consistent with its WQT rules.

Like the trading programs approved by DEQ for The City of Medford, the Port of St. Helens, and the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission of Eugene-Springfield (MWMC),[8] the City's Trading

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[3] *See* M.D. Tomer & M.A. Locke, *The Challenge of Documenting Water Quality Benefits of Conservation Practices: A Review of USDA-ARS's Conservation Effects Assessment Project Watershed Studies*, 64 WATER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 300, 303 (2011) (noting nutrient and erosion benefits of buffers); Scott W. Miller et al., *Quantifying Macroinvertebrate Responses to In-Stream Habitat Restoration: Applications of Meta-Analysis to River Restoration*, 18 RESTORATION ECOLOGY 8, 8 (2010) (noting benefits of heterogeneous riparian habitat).

[4] CITY OF ASHLAND, CLIMATE & ENERGY ACTION PLAN (Jan. 2017). In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, restoration advances the City's goals of becoming carbon neutral and increasing the local ecosystem's resiliency to climate change.

[5] Riparian plantings require a local workforce (excavators, operators, equipment suppliers, contractors, and restoration professionals), plant stock and supplies are purchased from local nurseries, and project site leases provide an important income stream to local landowners. Typically 80 cents of every dollar spent on restoration stays in the local economy, and every $1 million spent on restoration creates up to 16–23 jobs. Max Nielsen-Pincus & Cassandra Moseley, The Economic and Employment Impacts of Forest and Watershed Restoration, 21(2) RESTORATION ECOLOGY 207, 207-214 (2013). Restoration work also has a multiplier effect: every dollar spent on Oregon restoration creates an additional 1.7 – 2.6x economic output. *Id.*

[6] OAR 340-039-0025(5)(d). BMP Quality Standards are "Specifications for the design, implementation, maintenance and performance tracking of a particular BMP that ensure the estimated water quality benefits of a trading project are achieved, and that allow for verification that the BMP is performing as described in an approved trading plan." OAR 340-039-0005(2).

[7] OAR 340-039-0025(5)(h).

[8] All of TFT's compliance-grade restoration sites can be reviewed on its publicly available credit ledger: https://mer.markit.com/br-

Plan incorporates robust riparian project quality standards developed by the Oregon nonprofit organization Willamette Partnership, an independent third party that oversees the integrity of and results from natural infrastructure compliance solutions.[9] These standards were developed through a collaborative process among twenty-five local, federal, and state agencies, including the US EPA, the USDA Forest Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other stakeholders.[10] Standards meet four criteria: standards are science-based and credible, transparent and replicable, efficient and practical to apply, and applicable to a range of environmental criteria. Among other requirements, riparian revegetation projects must meet a set of performance standards (Table 1) throughout their 20-year life. Performance standards were selected to indicate whether a project remains on track to establish a native riparian forest that is likely to produce modeled shade benefits. Most relevant to this proposal, these quality standards include a cap on the combined cover of a limited list of plants that are considered invasive[11], with the intent that these plants are kept below thresholds expected to prevent successful regrowth of native riparian forests. For the shade generated from this solution to count for compliance, invasive plant species cover must remain below regulatory thresholds over a 20-year timeline. This standard is what drives TFT to incorporate limited herbicide application into its site implementation and management approach. Each credit must also be third-party reviewed (including site visits) and certified for accuracy and environmental benefit. Projects that fail to meet these criteria are at risk for de-certification and loss of compliance credits.[12]

reg/public/index.jsp?entity=project&sort=project_name&dir=DESC&start=0&acronym=&limit=15&name=the+freshwater+trust&standardId.

[9] Willamette Partnership, Performance Standards for Riparian Revegetation (2016), http://willamettepartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Performance-Stds-for-Rip-Reveg_2016-02-16.pdf.

[10] Willamette Partnership, Joint Statement of Agreement for an Ecosystem Credit Accounting System (2009), http://willamettepartnership.org/joint-agreement-statement-ecosystem-credit-accounting-system/.

[11] Invasive species are those on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's current noxious weeds list, plus known problem species including pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*).

[12] Willamette Partnership, Ecosystem Credit Accounting System, General Crediting Protocol, version 2 (2013, updated 2017), http://willamettepartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/General-Crediting-Protocol-v2.0_2013_updated-2017-1.pdf.

Table 1. Quantitative performance standards for Water Quality Trading riparian revegetation projects.[13]

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">METRIC</th><th colspan="4">PERFORMANCE CRITERIA</th></tr>
<tr><th>YEAR 5</th><th>YEAR 10</th><th>YEAR 15</th><th>YEAR 20</th></tr>
<tr><td>EITHER:
1) Live, native woody stems/acre
OR
2) Combined live, native shrub and woody vine cover</td><td>≥ 1,600 stems/ acre</td><td>80% of the stem density required at Year 5</td><td>70% of the stem density required at Year 5</td><td>70% of the stem density required at Year 5</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">≥ 25% cover</td></tr>
<tr><td>% canopy closure or cover</td><td>N/A</td><td>N/A</td><td colspan="2">≥ 25%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Live, native trees/acre</td><td colspan="2">None</td><td colspan="2">(Dry ecoregions)[a] ≥ 50 trees/acre
(Wet ecoregions) ≥ 100 trees/acre</td></tr>
<tr><td>Number of native woody species present</td><td colspan="4">≥ 5 species</td></tr>
<tr><td>% cover of invasive[b] woody species</td><td colspan="4">≤ 10% cover</td></tr>
<tr><td>% cover of invasive herbaceous species</td><td colspan="4">≤ 20% cover</td></tr>
<tr><td>% cover of non-native plants</td><td colspan="4">Take and document actions reasonably necessary to evaluate the risk posed to project site by non-native species where they are problematic (e.g., reed canarygrass [Phalaris arundinacea], English holly [Ilex aquifolium]), taking the steps necessary to control those non-native species such that their presence does not prevent the successful establishment and propagation of native ecosystem characteristics and functions. This includes monitoring and reporting % cover of such species.</td></tr>
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[a] For the purposes of this performance standard, EPA Level III ecoregions in Oregon that are considered to be "dry": Klamath Mountains, Blue Mountains, East Cascades, Columbia Basin, Northern Basin and Range.

[b] Invasive species are those indicated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed list, plus known problem species including pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) was included in invasive herbaceous cover 2015 and earlier but is no longer considered invasive; cover of this species is still monitored.

[13] Willamette Partnership, Performance Standards for Riparian Revegetation (2016), http://willamettepartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Performance-Stds-for-Rip-Reveg_2016-02-16.pdf.

III. CITY OF ASHLAND RIPARIAN WQT PROGRAM AND THE CITY'S PESTICIDE APPLICATION POLICY

Early on in its Riparian WQT program analysis, TFT reviewed Ashland's Pesticide Policy at Chapter 9.28 of the Ashland Municipal Code and began considering how to integrate this policy into its planned WQT restoration work, and conformance with WQT performance standards. The City's policy seeks "to reduce or eliminate the use of, and exposure to, pesticides" on publicly owned property managed by the City,[14] and calls for the use of mechanical and cultural methods "whenever practical" to "control noxious vegetation and pests."[15] "When mechanical and cultural methods are not practical, only the safest, lowest toxicity products available shall be used. No 'restricted use' pesticides shall be used."[16]

TFT strongly supports the City's goal of reducing the potential human and ecological risks—including impacts on pollinators and other sensitive species—from exposure to herbicides. However, it has been TFT's experience that complete elimination of herbicide use in a compliance restoration program—where long-term survival, persistence, and resilience of plantings is an essential component—is not practical. The spread of certain invasive species such as Japanese knotweed can even be exacerbated through removal efforts that are exclusively manual or mechanical. TFT's limited and judicious use of carefully selected, non-restricted use herbicides has evolved out of the necessity to complete successful riparian restoration projects for compliance purposes. More broadly, effective vegetation management is necessary for Ashland to achieve compliance in a way that ultimately improves the health of its watershed. Due to both the acreage and site longevity required in these programs,[17] it is simply not practical to use chemical-free approaches and have these projects succeed over the long term. The Rogue Valley has a large number of sites that are examples of herbicide-free restoration. The few that have succeeded in suppressing weeds and growing healthy native vegetation over an extended period of time (more than five years) are singular, small in size (less than one acre), and have special significance for a dedicated group of volunteers.[18] This is an approach that TFT applauds but does not expect to successfully apply to a much larger multi-site compliance program.

TFT has developed and implemented detailed herbicide use and restriction guidelines (see attachment, which includes TFT's Ashland-specific Herbicide Use and Restriction Guidelines contract exhibit, Best Management Practices for Bird Conservation, and an Invasive Species Spread Prevention Policy). TFT's guidelines have been developed based on expertise in the field, subject matter knowledge, and product evaluations conducted by the

[14] Ashland Municipal Code § 9.28.020 (purpose); § 9.28.010 (describing scope).
[15] Ashland Municipal Code § 9.28.030(A). "Practicality shall be determined by an Oregon Certified Pesticide Applicator and the respective department head or the department head's designee. Worker safety and terrain shall be among the factors considered in this judgment."
[16] Ashland Municipal Code § 9.28.030(B). "As provided in ORS 634.316, restricted use pesticides shall be: (1) Any pesticide active ingredient, formulation, product or usage classified restricted use by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, through administration of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, and identified in current Title 40, Chapter 1, Sub-Chapter E, Part 152 of the Code of Federal Regulations [40 C.F.R. § 152.175]; or (2) Any pesticide product having labeling which specifies the product as being restricted use and has been accepted by the department for the purpose of registration as provided in ORS 634.016." OAR 603-057-0205. "Restricted use pesticides" are generally understood to be "a category of products that pose a higher risk to people, animals, or the environment. [RUPs] can only be purchased by a person with a pesticide license; use requires supervision by a licensed applicator." ODA, Oregon Pesticide Licensing Guide (2017).
[17] TFT anticipates 20 to 30 acres of riparian plantings on about 15 to 25 sites will be needed to achieve compliance for City of Ashland when they receive their new NPDES permit. Sites must meet interim performance standards over a 20 year period, and achieve final performance standards at the end of the 20-year credit life period.
[18] For example, sites including Wagner Creek Park, Talent on Wagner Creek, Blue Heron Park in Phoenix, and Ashland Pond are smaller restoration sites in the Rogue Basin where ongoing citizen efforts to manage weeds have resulted in some degree of success with plant establishment. However, even these sites have invasive species cover that would not meet WQT performance standards.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Attached is the exhibit that TFT includes in all of its subcontracts, and which requires contractors to take the City's Pesticide Policy into account in conducting their pre-treatment, site preparation, and maintenance activities; these requirements go above and beyond the industry standards for licensed applicators and exceed the minimum requirements set forth in City Code. TFT also has a licensed applicator on staff who oversees contractor herbicide application and strategy. In addition, TFT follows a set of best management practices (described further below), to ensure effective and environmentally sensitive approaches to addressing problematic and invasive vegetation through the use of herbicides. For example, mechanical and biological weed control methods are applied to the extent feasible to minimize the use of herbicides. By following its policies, records show that TFT and its contractors apply at per-acre rates that are considerably lower than is standard in the natural resource industry (see Section V).

IV. TFT'S INVASIVE SPECIES BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

TFT's focus is on restoring native plant communities at scale using the tactics that are most effective and that pose the least human and ecological risk. In TFT's experience, successful restoration projects over the long term require good control of invasive weeds, particularly in the first few years of project implementation while native vegetation communities are establishing. To ensure this result, TFT's best management practices include:

1. Application of an "Integrated Pest Management" (IPM) approach to every site (for an example, see Box 1). Mechanical and biological methods of weed control are always applied to the extent feasible to minimize chemical methods of weed control. Project planning includes pre-implementation surveys to identify weeds present on site and their abundance. Project managers use this information to research weed biology, and use knowledge of the plants' life history to determine the most effective types, timing, and strategies for treatment approaches. Treatment is designed to avoid impacts to non-target species; for example, see TFT's Best Management Practices for Bird Conservation (included in attachment).[19] During implementation and maintenance, TFT's Invasive Species Spread Prevention

> Box 1. Integrated Pest Management of Himalayan blackberry.
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> *An example of TFT's integrated pest management is its approach to treating Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus bifrons*). TFT first uses mechanical treatment to reduce the amount of plant material to be treated. However, mechanical removal is timed so that it does not impact nesting birds (following TFT's Best Management Practices for Bird Conservation, TFT clears in late winter/early spring). TFT then allows the blackberry to regrow, flower and fruit through summer, thereby avoiding herbicide applications when pollinators may be present (although Aquatic POEA-free Glyphospate is not known to pose any risk to pollinators). Himalayan blackberry is then spot-treated with herbicide approved for use near water in late fall. This timing is most effective because the plants are pulling energy down to the roots, and so the chemical is translocated throughout the plant and need for future treatment is reduced. At this time of year, native plants have mostly lost their leaves which also reduces the chance that herbicide, which works on photosynthetic surfaces, will injure them. An understanding of the weed's life history, herbicide products actions and pathways, and coexisting natural resources and their sensitivity periods results in far less product being applied and with much greater efficacy and low risk to non-target resources.*

[19] TFT's Best Management Practices for Bird Conservation have been developed to ensure that appropriate and reasonable measures are taken to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and avoid impacts to birds and other animals that may use invasive plant species as habitat.

Policy (included in attachment) helps prevent weed introduction and proliferation during restoration activities to reduce the need for ongoing control. Mulch between plants and pollinator-friendly seed mixes also help suppress weeds and reduce maintenance needs.

2. TFT limits weed control to a selected list of highly aggressive plant species identified by the State of Oregon as having the most deleterious ecological impacts, as well as a small number of additional species identified by restoration experts to be particularly harmful to healthy riparian forest establishment. TFT recognizes that many non-native plants contribute important functions, including providing pollinator and other wildlife habitat. Therefore, TFT does not target the majority of plants on site with any control treatment.

3. TFT works in locations that have significant habitat value for endangered and threatened salmonid species. Because of this, it is imperative that strict precautionary measures are taken to ensure that only chemicals that have no or low toxicity for sensitive fish species[20] are applied at restoration sites. Where herbicides are required to control selected invasive species and meet project objectives, TFT follows practices in its Herbicide Use and Restriction Guidelines to select and apply least-harm herbicides. This document provides a short list of herbicide products and adjuvants that TFT may use on its sites. Consistent with Ashland's Pesticide Policy, TFT does not use any "restricted use pesticides" as identified in ODA and federal EPA regulations. For TFT, allowable herbicides are restricted to products that have been evaluated and reported as posing no jeopardy to endangered fish species by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). [21] TFT reviews this document annually to integrate the best available science, management practices and emerging solutions, as well as approaches for handling new weed species. TFT considers effects on human health as well.[22] TFT also participates in local practitioner groups to stay aware of new weeds and the latest approaches to dealing with them in our region.

4. Once we have identified the safest, most targeted herbicide approach for a site, TFT follows all of the attached guidelines when it or its contractor applies herbicides, including implementing requirements for safe transport; herbicide preparation (e.g., dilution of a concentrated product, addition of adjuvants to the diluted product—different pesticides will not be mixed); avoiding application when environmental conditions could cause drift, volatization, or runoff; correct buffer distances; and other measures. TFT uses minimum application rates and maximum dilutions. Because TFT is most often

[20] No or low toxicity for sensitive fish species is defined by: (1) having "no jeopardy" to endangered and threatened salmonid species, as designated in a National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion , or (2) having a hazard quotient of less than 0.1 as described in a United States Forest Service issued Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment Report.

[21] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2009. Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Restoration Actions Funded or Carried Out by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Oregon and Southwest Washington Using the Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Coastal, and Recovery Programs. October 21, 2009. NMFS Document No.: 2008/03791. Seattle, WA.

[3] Based on maximum application rates for projects on Federal Conservation Reserve Program land.

[22] For example, TFT has carefully reviewed the conflicting determinations concerning potential carcinogenicity of glyphosate that have been published in the last several years. To date, TFT concurs with statements published by Oregon State University Extension (https://extension.oregonstate.edu/pests-diseases/pesticides/glyphosate-questions-answers) and the California Invasive Plant Council (https://www.cal-ipc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Cal-IPC-glyphosate-policy.pdf) that careful use of glyphosate within an IPM program, according to the label, is low risk for wildlife, applicators, and the public.

managing against weeds within a complex matrix of a newly establishing native plant community and other desirable species, we apply all of these weed control methods and guidelines in a highly accurate and targeted manner. Management of invasive species on TFT restorations sites generally occurs as spot treatment, targeting only the problematic vegetation, and minimizing the risk of negative outcomes such as pesticide drift and non-target species damage.[23] Selective weed control has been found to be effective at maintaining butterfly habitat.[24] As necessary, TFT will provide signage and notification to neighbors for pesticide application within fifty feet of the property line of a residence and abide by other requirements as described in Ashland City Code 9.28.040.

5. TFT collects real-time data from applicators via maintenance and reporting apps to ensure that requirements are being followed, and uses regular project inspections to assess the success of the treatments. This adaptive management approach ensures that we are learning from each application to continue to improve our management of specific target weeds.

6. In TFT's experience, early years of site establishment are often most critical to long-term project success. Herbicide is most utilized as a restoration tool at the project outset, to reduce the impact of widespread invasive species cover that is most often suppressing native forest regrowth. Projects are then designed and managed to maximize the ability of native trees and shrubs to compete weeds as much as possible. Weed management after planting is informed by rigorous qualitative and quantitative monitoring. As needed, herbicides are applied discretely (spot-sprayed) on re-sprouting weeds that cannot efficiently or effectively be controlled by mechanical means alone. Once native plantings are established, and for the remainder of the project, herbicides are only applied to new or persisting outbreaks of particularly aggressive weeds that threaten overall performance and project health.

Combined, TFT's best management practices outlined above have ultimately allowed TFT to apply less herbicide than industry average (see section V). TFT is proud of its clean track record with regards to compliance with all federal, state and local laws related to all aspects of herbicide application and record keeping. TFT understands the public's concerns related to chemical use near streams and takes seriously its responsibility to use those products safely and judiciously in a way that aligns with our non-profit mission to restore the health of our rivers and streams.

V. TFT HERBICIDE USAGE RATES V. INDUSTRY PRACTICE

TFT and its contractors use herbicide at a rate that is typically lower than average application rates recommended for vegetation management. For example, the Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook

[23] See Roger E. Sheley et al., Managing Riparian Weeds, 17 Rangelands 5 (1995), available at https://journals.uair.arizona.edu/index.php/rangelands/article/viewFile/11260/10533.
[24] The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Pollinators in Natural Areas, A Primer on Habitat Management. http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/PollinatorsNaturalAreas_June2014_web.pdf.

recommends application of glyphosate at a rate of 24-120 fl oz/acre.[25,26] For the years 2017-2018, TFT used an average glyphosate application rate of 17.6 fl oz/acre in 2017 and 28.7 fl oz/acre in 2018 at the 10 compliance-grade WQT riparian restoration sites that have been implemented in the Rogue River Basin to date. However, management is tailored to the specific risks identified at each site, which sometimes include highly aggressive invasive species for which chemical control is the most effective option. Specifically, Japanese knotweed is a vigorous invasive species that is rapidly expanding in the Rogue basin, and is often detected at TFT's sites during pre-implementation surveys. Allelopathic (toxic) compounds produced by this weed often prevent establishment of native riparian vegetation. While the Oregon State University Extension Service recommends a glyphosate application rate of 120 fl oz/acre for treatment of knotweed species,[27] TFT's highest application rate, which occurs on a site where Japanese knotweed is pervasive, is about half of that recommended amount (highest average application rate was 62.5 fl oz/acre in 2017, the site's first growing season after planting). When we remove this site from the analysis, average glyphosate application rates drop to 11.2 fl oz/acre in 2017, and 24.4 fl oz/ac in 2018.

VI. CONCLUSION:

As the City begins implementing WQT projects on City-owned sites, TFT will judiciously apply herbicide so as to conform to Ashland's Pesticide Policy within the Ashland Municipal Code 9.28. TFT has implemented other WQT projects on publicly owned land with success, and so appreciates the importance of maintaining public confidence that the methods used will work to achieve the desired results while protecting sensitive resources. As a conservation organization with deep roots in Oregon, TFT will seek to earn the confidence of Ashland residents so they can trust that they City's program will result in healthy, flourishing riparian areas for threatened and endangered species, native pollinators, and people alike.

Please direct questions and comments to:

Tim Wigington
Attorney, Finance Director
503-222-9091 x41
tim@thefreshwatertrust.org

Eugene Wier
Restoration Project Manager
541-227-9858
eugene@thefreshwatertrust.org

[25] This is equivalent to 0.75 to 3.75 lb ae/A, where Ae/A is acid equivalent (the acid portion of the active ingredient) per unit Area. Peachey, E., editor. 2018. Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook [online]. Section X. Noncropland and Right-of-Way. Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. https://pnwhandbooks.org/sites/pnwhandbooks/files/weed/chapterpdf/weed18-xnoncropland.pdf (accessed 30 Nov. 2018).

[26] The lb ae/A values were converted to fluid ounces per acre using a ratio of lb ae/A to fluid ounces as defined in Emanuel, Hulting, and Koepke-Hill (2011) for Rodeo, a formulation of glyphosate registered for use near water. See https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9031.pdf

[27] Amount of product per acre recommended for Rodeo, a formulation of glyphosate registered for use near water. Emanuel, R., A. Hulting, and R. Koepke-Hill. 2011. Biology and Management of Knotweeds in Oregon: A Guide for Gardeners and Small-Acreage Landowners. EM 3031. Oregon State University Extension. Corvallis, OR. https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9031.pdf

Herbicide Use and Restrictions Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) and its partners work together to implement restoration projects that lead to the establishment of ecologically functioning riparian forest communities. The goal of this document is to describe effective and environmentally sensitive approaches to addressing problematic and invasive vegetation through the use of herbicides, while also allowing flexibility to consider best available science, economic restraints, emerging solutions and the introduction of new weed species. Special attention is paid to the impact of vegetation control on endangered and threatened salmonid species and their critical habitats. This document will be revised annually by April 15th to ensure product lists and protocols are current with emerging Best Management Practices. Revisions will be documented as described in "Procedures for amending The Freshwater Trust Herbicide Use and Restriction Guidelines."

GENERAL CRITERIA

a. Herbicides use should be completed by experienced herbicide applicators that are familiar with appropriate application rates, timing, local environmental conditions and target species. When possible, practical and effective, chemical methods of weed control should be used in conjunction with other methods of weed control.
b. Applicators will adhere to all State and Federal laws, including all label requirements concerning the safe and effective use of herbicides.
c. A non-toxic colorant spray additive is required to be added to all pesticides to indicate locations where pesticides have been applied.
d. Application will occur in full compliance with all other regulations, orders and permits as required.
e. Applicators will comply with Recordkeeping Requirements for Pesticide Operators or Commercial Pesticide Operators. Records must be kept and maintained for at least three years from the date of application. TFT reserves the right to request records of work performed during this time period.
f. Application will occur according to the best management practices outlined below.

HERBICIDE TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY PLAN

[THE CONTRACTOR] will reduce the likelihood of spills or misapplication, take remedial actions in the event of spills, and fully report any spill or misapplication event to TFT and the appropriate regulatory agency. **[THE CONTRACTOR]** will:

a. Limit the quantity of herbicides to be transported to treatment sites to the amount used on a daily basis;
b. Place impervious material beneath mixing areas in such a manner as to contain small spills associated with mixing/refilling;
c. Make a spill cleanup kit readily available in each vehicle during herbicide transport, storage and application;
d. Be familiar with reporting procedures, including reporting spills to the appropriate regulatory agency as defined by State and Federal laws;

e. Ensure that applicators are trained in safe handling and transportation procedures and spill cleanup;
f. Maintain equipment used in herbicide storage, transportation and handling in a leak proof condition;
g. Plan transportation routes so that hazardous conditions are avoided to the extent possible;
h. Mix and load herbicides at least 150 feet away from water bodies so that accidental spills do not contaminate surface waters;
i. Spray tanks should not be washed at restoration project sites. Off-site washing of spray tanks should occur at least 150 feet away from water bodies;
j. Dispose of herbicide containers safely.

HERBICIDE PRODUCT LIST

TFT works in locations that have significant habitat value for endangered and threatened salmonid species. Because of this, it is imperative that strict precautionary measures are taken to ensure that only chemicals that have no or low toxicity[1] for sensitive fish species are applied at restoration sites.

Except in special circumstances that result from prior consultation and written approval by TFT staff, herbicide use will be restricted to products that have been evaluated and reported as posing no jeopardy to endangered fish species by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)[2]. Products listed in Table 1 are acceptable for use as long as specified application methods and prescribed buffer zones are followed. Herbicide labels, applicator expertise, and site conditions will be used to determine species -specific application methods and appropriate application rates. Applications must not exceed maximum application rates.

[1] No or low toxicity for sensitive fish species is defined by: (1) having "no jeopardy" to endangered and threatened salmonid species, as designated in a National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion , or (2) having a hazard quotient of less than 0.1 as described in a United States Forest Service issued Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment Report.
[2] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2009. Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Restoration Actions Funded or Carried Out by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Oregon and Southwest Washington Using the Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Coastal, and Recovery Programs. October 21, 2009. NMFS Document No.: 2008/03791. Seattle, WA.
[3] Based on maximum application rates for projects on Federal Conservation Reserve Program land.

Table 1. Accepted herbicides, application buffer distances, and typical and maximum application rates for use on TFT riparian restoration projects. Adapted from National Marine Fisheries Service Bi-Op No: 2007/09078 (NMFS, 2009).

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Herbicide</th><th rowspan="2">Common trade names</th><th rowspan="2">Target species type</th><th colspan="3">Buffer distance from water (ft)* based on application method</th><th colspan="2">Maximum application volume (gallons) per acre per year***</th></tr>
<tr><th>Broad-cast Spray</th><th>Spot Spray</th><th>Hand Selective</th><th>Sites where livestock trespass is possible</th><th>Sites where livestock trespass is NOT possible</th></tr>
<tr><td>Aquatic glyphosate</td><td>AquaMaster, AquaPro, Rodeo</td><td rowspan="2">Nonselective</td><td rowspan="2">100</td><td colspan="2">5 ft from waterline</td><td colspan="2">AquaMaster, AquaPro, Rodeo: 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aquatic imazapyr</td><td>Habitat</td><td rowspan="3">15</td><td rowspan="2">5 ft from waterline</td><td colspan="2">Habitat: 0.75</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aquatic triclopyr-TEA</td><td>Garlon3A, Renovate 3, Tahoe3A</td><td>Broadleaf species and cut stump</td><td>Not allowed</td><td>Garlon 3A, Renovate3, Tahoe3A: 0.67</td><td>Renovate2: 2 Garlon 3A and Tahoe3A: 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Imazapic</td><td>Plateau</td><td>Annual grasses (some broadleaf and perennial grasses)</td><td rowspan="2">100</td><td>bankfull elev.</td><td colspan="2">Plateau: 12 ounces per acre per year[3]</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aminopyralid</td><td>Milestone</td><td>Broadleaf</td><td colspan="2">15</td><td colspan="2">Milestone: 7 ounces per acre per year</td></tr>
</table>

****Herbicide Buffer Distances from Water.*** "No-application" buffer widths are in feet, measured as map distance perpendicular to the bankfull elevation. Herbicide applications will use the most conservative buffer for any herbicide being applied included.

Herbicide Application Methods. Liquid or granular forms of herbicides will be applied as follows:

a. Broadcast spraying – Herbicide is uniformly sprayed onto large patches of target vegetation using hand held nozzles attached to back pack tanks or vehicles, or vehicle mounted boom sprayers;
b. Spot spraying – Herbicide is sprayed directly onto small patches or individual plants using hand held nozzles attached to back pack tanks or vehicles, hand-pumped sprayers, or squirt bottles;
c. Hand selective – Herbicide is sprayed directly onto small patches or individual plants using one of the following methods: wick-and-wipes, basal bark, fill ("hack and squirt"), stem injection, or cut-stump.

******Maximum Application Rates.*** Maximum application rates for sites where livestock trespass are based on those listed by manufacturer for range and pasture sites. For sites where there is no risk of livestock presence, maximum application rates are those listed by manufacturer for forestry sites. Applicators are responsible for referencing manufacturer's label to ensure that proper rates are administered for targeted species and site conditions.

HERBICIDE ADJUVANT PRODUCT LIST

Per NMFS recommendations cited above, only adjuvants listed in Table 2 are acceptable for use. Polyethoxylated tallow amine (POEA) surfactant and herbicides that contain POEA (*e.g.*, Roundup) will not be used.

Table 2. Accepted adjuvants, surfactants and drift retardants for use on TFT riparian restoration projects. Adapted from National Marine Fisheries Service Bi-Op No: 2007/09078 (NMFS, 2009).

Adjuvant Type	Trade Name	Mixing Rate (per gallon)	Application Areas
Surfactants	*Activator 90*	0.16-0.64 fl oz	Upland[3]
	Agri-Dex	0.16-0.48 fl oz	Riparian[4]
	Competitor/Hasten		
Drift Retardants	*41-A*	0.03-0.06 fl oz	
	Vale	0.16 fl oz	Upland

HERBICIDE CARRIERS

Herbicide carriers (solvents) are limited to water or vegetable oil.

HERBICIDE MIXING

Herbicides will be mixed (produce concentration diluted or adjuvants added to the diluted product)[5] more than 150 feet from any natural waterbody to minimize the risk of an accidental discharge.

MINIMIZATION OF HERBICIDE DRIFT, VOLATILIZATION, RUNOFF, AND LEACHING

Herbicide drift, volatilization, runoff, and leaching will be minimized as follows:

a. Spraying will not occur when wind speeds exceed 10 miles per hour;
b. Applicator will be aware of wind directions and potential for herbicides to affect aquatic habitat area downwind;
c. Boom or spray will be kept as low to the ground as possible to reduce wind effects;
d. Spray droplet size will be increased whenever possible by decreasing spray pressure, using high flow rate nozzles, using water diluents instead of oil, and adding thickening agents;
e. Herbicides will not be applied during temperature inversions;

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[3] "Upland area" means land that is not wetland or riparian.

[4] For the purpose of this document, "riparian area" means land: (1) within a distance equal to the height of one "site potential tree " (SPTH) of any natural waterbody occupied by ESA-listed salmon or steelhead during any part of the year, or designated as critical habitat; or (2) within 100 feet of any "natural waterbody" that is within ¼ mile upstream of areas occupied by ESA-listed salmon or steelhead, or designated as critical habitat, and that is physically connected by an aboveground channel system such that water, sediment, or woody material delivered to such waters will eventually be delivered to water occupied by ESA-listed salmon or steelhead or designated as critical habitat; or (3) within 50 feet of any "natural water" more than a ¼ mile upstream of areas occupied by ESA-listed salmon or steelhead, or designated as critical habitat, and that is physically connected by an above-ground channel system such that water, sediment, or woody material delivered to such waters will eventually be delivered to water occupied by listed salmon or designated as critical habitat. "SPTH" means the average height, at age 100, of the tallest, mature, native conifer species that is capable of growing in the soils found at that site for which height measurements are noted in the soil survey reports published by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

[5] Different pesticide products will not be mixed unless allowed by labels.

f. Herbicides will not be applied when ground temperatures are expected to exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit or higher;
g. Herbicides will not be sprayed when rain, fog, or other precipitation is falling or is imminent within 24 hours. Wind and other weather data will be monitored and reported for all broadcast applications.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION TIMING

Proper timing is critical for effective herbicide treatment and minimal aquatic resource disturbance. Herbicides should be applied at the most appropriate time based on impact to co-existing vegetation and targeted plant life cycles.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION RECORDS

State law requires written records to be kept for certain types of herbicide applications[6]. Licensed applicators must record the details of these applications and keep these on record for no less than three years. These records must be available for review by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. TFT requests that applicators document applications using "Herbicide Application Record" (Appendix), or similar, and make such documentation available to TFT no more than ten (10) days after application occurs.

VECTOR CONTROL

Vectors are any physical means, actions or agents by which a species is moved from one location to another. Equipment, soil, people, clothes and vehicles are all common vectors by which invasive species can be spread. All contractors, employees or others who work in weed or invasive species-infested areas will clean themselves and their equipment before moving to a new site to avoid becoming a vector. The following suggestions should be followed:

a. Inspect tools, equipment, and vehicles before entering and leaving the worksite.
b. Clean soils and plant materials from tools, equipment, and vehicles before entering and leaving the worksite.
c. Wear clothing, boots and gear that do not retain soil and plant material.
d. Inspect and clean boots, pant legs and clothes from soil, mud, or plant materials before entering and leaving worksite.
e. When invasive plant materials are removed from a site, always bag and dispose of debris in the landfill (not green waste).

[6] http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/PesticidesPARC/PesticideApplicationRecordKeepingRequirements.pdf.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Cal-IPC. 2012. Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants: Best Management Practices for Land Managers (3rd ed.). Cal-IPC Publication 2012-03. California Invasive Plant Council, Berkeley, CA. Accessed April 7, 2014: https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/landmanagers/

Clean Water Services. 2018. Integrated Pest Management Plan. Updated June 2018. Hillsboro, OR. Accessed December 3, 2018: https://www.cleanwaterservices.org/media/1289/integrated-pest-management-plan.pdf

Crop Data Management Systems Inc Label and Manufacturer's Safety Data Sheets. Accessed April 7, 2014: http://www.cdms.net/Label-Database

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2014. Pesticide Consultations Summary and Schedule. Accessed April 7, 2014: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/pesticide-consultations-summary-and-schedule

NMFS. 2009. Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Restoration Actions Funded or Carried Out by the NOAA Restoration Center in the Pacific Northwest Using the Damage Assessment, Remediation and Restoration Program (DARRP) and the Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) (NMFS No. 2007/09078), Silver Spring, Maryland.

Oregon State University Extension. 2014. Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook. Accessed April 7, 2014: http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/control-problem-weeds

Appendix: Herbicide Application Record

Pursuant to OAR 503-057-130, applicators are required to maintain records detailing each pesticide application. These records must be kept and maintained for at least three years from the date of application. The Freshwater Trust recommends that applicators use the form below, or similar, to maintain such records. Documentation of applications should be available for TFT review no more than ten (10) days after application occurs.

Applicator Name:	Applicator Phone #:	Date (mm/dd/yy):	Temperature (F):

Pesticide Applicator License Number:	Time In:	Time Out:

Pesticide Applicator Company Name:	Weather Conditions:

Location/Site name:	Wind Speed (mph):	Wind Direction:

Total Area Treated (# acres, # sq. ft, spot)	Equipment Used (Backpack, ATV, Hand Spray Bottle etc.):

Target Weed Species:

List all ingredients used, including herbicides, adjuvants, surfactants, dyes and water. For herbicides, include EPA registration #.

Product Name and type:	EPA Registration #:	Amount (oz or gallons):

Total Amount of Dilute Applied (oz or gallons):

Comments:

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:
Rick Landt
Steffani Seffinger
Justin Adams
Jim Bachman
Jim Lewis

Leslie Eldridge

541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

PARKS COMMISSIONER STAFF REPORT

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

DATE: January 17, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Chair and Vice Chair Election

Commissioners elect the Chair and Vice Chair on an annual basis at the beginning of the calendar year. The roles and duties associated with each position are as follows:

Roles and Duties of the Commission Chair

- Conducts and facilitates Commission meetings
- Works with the APRC Director to set meeting agendas
- Acts as spokesperson for the Commissioners on matters that have been approved or adopted by the Commissioners (represents the Commissioners at City Budget Committee meetings and groundbreaking or dedication ceremonies; speaks to the media about Commissioner decisions)
- Appoints Commission committees as needed

Roles and Duties of the Commission Vice Chair

- All duties of the Commission Chair in the absence of the Commission Chair

Current positions are filled by:
Chair: Rick Landt
Vice Chair: Jim Bachman

Staff recommends that the Commissioners elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the 2024 calendar year.

Suggested Motions:

- *I move to approve ____ as 2024 Chair of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners*

I move to approve ____ as 2024 Vice Chair of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners