

Oregon City Natural Resources Committee 2023-2025 Work Plan

NRC Responsibility #1:

Promote Community Involvement in Natural Resources Conservation

1. Support a public tree inventory with volunteer participation for city properties, parks, street trees, school properties and other public lands.
2. Communicate regularly with Neighborhood Associations, Citizen Involvement Committee and the business community to promote programs such as the heritage tree program and arbor day.
3. Improve awareness through the city website, brochures, QR code signage, and social media for awareness and interpretation of local natural and geological features, trails, stormwater facilities, watersheds and sites. Coordinate with city efforts to enhance tourism. This would emphasize local knowledge and provide interpretative signs for people to learn about things like birding, swift migrations, heritage trees, etc. We can use laminated signs that lead to the Oregon City website. Give people an easy way to learn.
4. Continue to strengthen and encourage participation in the Heritage Tree Program through brochures, Informational signs for trees, \$\$\$ for incentives, site visits, further outreach and social media.
5. Work with property owners to voluntarily seek heritage tree designation within the Thimble Creek Concept Plan area.
6. Support city partnerships with Home Owner Associations (HOAs), Metro and Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, Oregon City Parks Foundation and other groups for habitat improvement projects within the Urban Growth Boundary.
7. Support partnerships with Oregon Heritage Tree Council and Oregon Community Trees.

NRC Responsibility #2:

Initiate recommendations and review updates to the City's comprehensive plan, codes and policy as they relate to statewide Planning Goals that are integral to our mission.

1. Provide input to the City Commission on amendments to the City's tree protection and removal codes.
2. Support a coordinated strategy for invasive species management, such as encouraging City participation in the Clackamas County Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Look at the City of Eugene Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program model as an example of a way to integrate IPM into city operations.
3. Improve public outreach and information about invasive plants.
4. Amend city resolution nuisance and native plant lists to reference regionally accepted and regularly updated plant lists from Clackamas Soil and Water District, Metro, Portland, and Willamette Native Plant List.
5. With the Public Works department, explore feasibility of offering reduced stormwater rates in return for planting trees in the right-of-way to intercept rainfall, reduce run-off and improve stormwater quality.
6. Support the City's application to and participation in the Bee City USA program through the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

7. Promote public awareness of ways to promote and preserve invertebrate habitat through educational events such as booths at a Spring Resource Fair, the city website, Trail News, the city Facebook page and other social media.
8. Promote public awareness of the dangers of pesticide use, and cost savings associated with reduced pesticide application and reduced landscape maintenance.

NRC Responsibility #3:

Receive Notice and Comment on Land Use Applications and Projects within City Limits and the Urban Growth Boundary

1. Review and comment on Type III applications to vary from the adopted standards of the Natural Resources Overlay District, Flood Management Overlay District, and the Willamette River Greenway Overlay District.

NRC Responsibility #4: Conduct Orderly Meetings that result in Good Communications

1. Maintain and Update a list of Natural Resources Committee priorities and activities to share with Planning Commission and City Commission.

NRC Responsibility #5:

Coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) and Planning and City Commissions on at least an annual basis that results in good communication and mutually beneficial results.

1. Strengthen coordination with PRAC and parks staff through regular interaction and attendance at PRAC meetings.
2. Support funding initiatives and grant applications for parks and open space.
3. Invite Parks staff to attend NRC meetings.