



CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: October 6, 2025		Subject: Resolution No. 3213 Adopting the Natural Areas Management Plan. Staff Member: Kerry Rappold, Natural Resources Manager; Tommy Reeder, Parks Lead Specialist Department: Community Development/ Parks and Recreation	
Action Required		Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Date: October 6, 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 1 st Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 2 nd Reading Date: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Information or Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Comments: N/A	
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 3213.			
Recommended Language for Motion: I move to adopt Resolution No. 3213.			
Project / Issue Relates To:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s): 2018 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan: Objective 3.10 – Maintain and improve Wilsonville’s Natural Resources		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

A City of Wilsonville resolution adopting the Natural Areas Management Plan (NAMP), Capital Improvement Project (CIP) No. 9181.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Natural Areas Management Plan (NAMP) provides a framework for natural area management, which promotes long-term maintenance, enhancement, and community appreciation of city owned natural areas.

In November 2023, City staff and the consultant, Ash Creek Forest Management, kicked off the planning process for the NAMP. The Plan will help the City achieve its vision of a more ecologically resilient future and the over-arching goal of improving the health and resilience of ecosystems in its natural areas. On December 2, 2024, the project team provided the City Council with an introduction to the planning process for the Plan, and on September 4, 2025, the project team presented the draft Plan. The City Council did not identify any revisions to the Plan.

Since the project kickoff, the project team have completed the following steps to develop the NAMP:

1. **Catalog Natural Areas:**
Identified and catalogued city-owned natural areas based on size (greater than 0.5 acres), quality and condition of habitat, community access, and the potential for restoration.
2. **Prioritize Natural Areas:**
Developed prioritization criteria for the list of city-owned natural areas, which focused on natural resource function/value and baseline habitat conditions.
3. **Habitat Surveys and Delineation:**
Completed delineations and surveys of the catalogued city-owned natural areas to understand the historic and current habitat conditions and to clarify the treatment strategies that will be most effective in various habitat types.
4. **Compile Data and Categorize Natural Areas:**
Compiled and categorized city-owned natural areas to determine the ratings for natural resource function/value (i.e., High and Medium) and the baseline habitat conditions (i.e., good, fair, and poor).
5. **Management Objectives and Strategies:**
Developed general management and habitat-specific strategies that City staff can utilize to achieve the management objectives outlined in the Plan.

The NAMP includes the following content (see **Resolution No. 3213, Exhibit A**):

1. **Executive Summary**
A broad overview of the Plan's purpose, findings, and recommendations.
2. **Introduction**
Descriptions of the guiding objectives, natural area criteria, and the relationship to other existing plans for natural areas adopted by entities in the area surrounding Wilsonville (e.g., Metro and Graham Oaks Nature Park).

3. **Background**

Descriptions of the benefits and importance of natural areas, planning issues and concerns, past and ongoing natural area management in Wilsonville, and related management plans and reports.

4. **Community Engagement**

The community engagement targeted the public's personal connections to natural areas, priority ranking of issues facing natural areas, and the vision for the future.

5. **Natural Areas and Habitat Types**

Descriptions of the methods to catalog the city-owned natural areas, delineations of habitat types, and the system used to rank the natural areas.

6. **Management Objectives and Strategies**

Outlined the management objectives and long-term strategies for the city-owned natural areas, including general management and habitat-specific strategies.

7. **Conclusion:**

A brief recap of the purpose and objectives of the Plan.

In addition to the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board provided input on the development of the Plan during its meetings on April 11, 2025, and May 8, 2025.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

The adopted Natural Areas Management Plan will provide a systematic and consistent approach for managing city-owned natural areas.

TIMELINE:

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on October 6, 2025.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:

The amended fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 Wilsonville budget includes \$78,844 in general funds as part of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) #9181 – Natural Areas Management Plan. A supplemental budget adjustment added unspent general funds from FY 2024-25 to the current budget year to fund the project through adoption of the final plan.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

Community involvement and public outreach were a key component of the project. The project has a "Let's Talk, Wilsonville!" website, which included a community survey and frequently asked questions. On April 23, 2025, the project team held a public open house. In addition, the project team provided information about the project at the 2024 and 2025 Earth Day celebrations.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:

Natural areas are critically important for preserving and enhancing ecosystem resilience in urban landscapes and have important benefits to human health and well-being. Developing a Natural Areas Management Plan has provided the opportunity to identify long-term management objectives and strategies to maintain the viability, resilience, and biodiversity of city-owned natural areas.

ALTERNATIVES:

In lieu of adopting the Natural Areas Management Plan, the City could rely on existing policies, programs, and initiatives to address natural area management. However, without a Natural Area Management Plan, City staff will not be able to effectively plan and provide for long term maintenance and enhancement of the city owned natural areas, leading to potential degradation over time.

CITY MANAGER COMMENT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution No. 3213
 - A. Natural Areas Management Plan