

**City of Wilsonville Natural Area Management Plan  
Project Outline**

**I. Objectives and Guiding Principles**

Below are a series of objectives and guiding principles that will lead the City's planning consultant team, Ash Creek Forest Management, team as we create the Natural Area Management Plan (NAMP) for the City of Wilsonville. Some of these principles have been adapted from the Urban Forestry Management Plan (City of Wilsonville 2021) as we hope to follow a similar and consistent structure.

- i. Create a general and over-arching management plan for the City's natural areas
- ii. Create and recommend management objectives for the City's natural areas
- iii. Recommend management activities based on proven best management practices and integrated pest management (IPM) practices and recommend opportunities for community engagement in management of the City's natural areas
- iv. Promote long-term maintenance and enhancement of the City's natural areas
- v. Recognize that natural spaces are a valuable resource for community resilience, public engagement/education, stewarding healthy habitats
- vi. Engage with the public to create an inclusive and transparent process
- vii. Promote community appreciation for natural areas

**II. Definitions**

- i. What is a natural area? For the purposes of this the NAMP, a natural area is an area of land that has one or more of the following characteristics:
  - a. Retains "relatively intact historical vegetation communities and habitats" (The Intertwine Alliance 2012)
  - b. Contains significant amounts of contiguous natural habitat (greater than 0.5 acres) (AECOM 2022)
  - c. Contains valuable habitat for (or has the potential to support) a large diversity of native plants and animals (Oregon Administrative Rules Database (OARD) 2019)
  - d. Contains valuable areas for recreation and promotes community appreciation of natural features (OARD 2019)
  - e. Contains degraded habitat but has the potential for restoration to a healthy state. For example:
    1. A highly urbanized, hard-scaped park has little to no potential for restoration to a natural habitat because of the amount of time and high cost needed to restore it to its historical healthy state.
    2. An old field has a high potential for restoration because there are no hard-scaped structures to remove and the soil would still be relatively intact, meaning that the time and cost needed to restore the area would be lower.

**III. Planning Approach and Strategies**

There are two components to our approach for developing a natural area management plan. The first component is the management planning portion, where we will develop objectives, conduct habitat assessments, and develop a draft and final management plan. The second is community outreach, where we will be engaging with local residents and community partners to ensure a transparent planning process.

- i. Management Planning
  - a. Review existing management plans, laws, and regulations
  - b. Identify and compile existing data related to the natural resource value/function of the natural areas in Wilsonville
  - c. Develop a natural area catalog and prioritization framework to determine the highest priority areas for management and restoration
  - d. Conduct vegetation and habitat surveys to determine baseline habitat conditions (see parameters list below), habitat types and delineations, restoration/management needs
  - e. Develop a management plan and key objectives for the different habitat types that occur in the City's natural areas
  - f. Identify key flora populations or individuals that are at risk from pests and/or disease and recommend preventative/reactive strategies to protect those populations or individuals
- ii. Community Outreach
  - a. See Community Outreach Plan

**IV. Issues and Threats to the City's Natural Areas**

There are a number of issues and threats to Wilsonville's natural areas that are important to consider when creating a management plan. These include climate change, invasive species/diseases, and human impacts. We will use these issues and the current threats to the City's natural areas to inform our management recommendations and strategies in the NAMP.

- i. Invasive species and disease
  - a. Noxious and exotic plant species
  - b. Emerald ash borer
  - c. Mediterranean oak borer
  - d. Sudden oak death
- ii. Climate change
  - a. Wildfire
  - b. Extreme weather (e.g. flooding, ice storms)
- iii. Human impacts
  - a. Off-trail and unmanaged recreation
  - b. Pollution

**V. Proposed Site Catalog**

One of the primary objectives of this planning process is to create a catalog of all natural areas in Wilsonville. Initial selection of natural areas was determined by four criteria: size, ownership, land use and management type.

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- i. Size: larger than 0.5 acres
- ii. Ownership: City-owned tax lots
- iii. Land use/management type: hybrid park, urban park, commercial/industrial, residential
- iv. \*\*\*Note about non-City-owned property: While the catalog of natural areas will only contain City-owned properties, it is important to acknowledge the importance of natural areas that are privately or publicly owned. There are a number of entities that own public land within the City, including Metro and Tualatin Valley Water District. The catalog of natural areas will not include public lands within/adjacent to the City, because many of those areas have existing management plans. We do not want to overstep or contradict any existing management plans but instead plan to align our management recommendations and objectives with existing plans, where possible. Additionally, the catalog will not contain privately owned properties that have significant natural space or habitat, because we do not want to create potential conflict between the City and landowners. Instead, we plan to develop recommendations for how the City can pursue potential collaborations with landowners or other entities to manage important natural spaces, which will increase connectivity between City-managed natural areas.

### **VI. Proposed Prioritization Framework**

Due to the high variability of natural spaces in Wilsonville, it is important to develop a system for prioritizing to determine where restoration and management efforts should be focused.

Generally, restoration practitioners prioritize restoring areas that are somewhat intact and healthy because those areas are typically easier, quicker, and more cost effective to restore than highly degraded habitats or highly urbanized parks. This does not mean the City shouldn't put effort into restoring highly degraded ecosystems or urbanized parks, but these areas tend to fall into a lower priority, because they are generally more expensive to restore to a natural state and the benefit to ecological function is lower. There are two main factors we are taking into consideration for prioritizing the City's natural areas:

- i. Natural resource function/value – We are determining the function and value of the natural areas in Wilsonville using a point-based system that we adapted from the Portland Parks & Recreation Natural Area Management Plan (Portland Parks & Recreation 2015). Using existing data from various sources, each site is scored based on the characteristics listed below. This information will help us determine which sites to prioritize for on-the-ground surveys for baseline habitat conditions. The primary data sources that we are using to compile these data are the City of Wilsonville and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Proposed Natural Resource Function/Value Scoring System:**

**3 points**

- Presence of fish bearing stream
- Presence of state or federally listed species
- Overlap with Significant Resource Overlay Zones (SROZ) (City of Wilsonville, 2001)
- Overlap with ODFW Strategy Habitats
- Terrestrial Crucial Habitat Ranking 1 or 2 (ODFW, 2016)
- Aquatic Crucial Habitat Ranking of 1 or 2 (ODFW, 2016)
- Existing capital projects or restoration activities

**2 points**

- Presence of non-fish bearing stream
- Terrestrial Crucial Habitat Ranking of 3 or 4 (ODFW, 2016)
- Aquatic Crucial Habitat Ranking of 3 or 4 (ODFW, 2016)
- Plans for restoration or future capital projects
- Overlap with Conservation Opportunity Area (ODFW, 2016)
- Overlap with Priority Wildlife Conservation Areas (PWCA) (ODFW, 2016)

**1 point**

- Terrestrial Crucial Habitat Ranking of 5 or 6 (ODFW, 2016)
- Aquatic Crucial Habitat Ranking of 5 or 6 (ODFW, 2016)
- Active volunteer or stewardship activities

**Example: Memorial Park (not complete)**

- Fish bearing stream (yes = 3 pts)
- Overlap with SROZ (yes = 3 pts)
- Overlap with ODFW Strategy habitat (yes = 3 pts)
- TCH Rating of 4 (2 pts)
- ACH Rating of 2 (3 pts)
- Existing capital projects or restoration activities (yes = 3 pts)
- Overlap with PCWA (yes = 2 pts)
- Active volunteer or stewardship activities (yes = 3 pts)
- **Total: 22**

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- ii. Baseline habitat conditions – After determining the natural resource function/value of the natural areas, using the system above, we will conduct on-the-ground, baseline habitat condition surveys in a subset of the sites with the highest natural resource/value scores. Determining baseline habitat conditions will help us to further assess ecological function and inform what the highest management priorities should be for different habitat types throughout the City. Below are the proposed vegetation community parameters that we will survey:
  - a. Proposed parameters
    - Noxious and/or exotic species cover
    - Native species cover
    - Total species richness
    - Canopy cover

### **VII. Project Deliverables**

- i. Prioritization framework
- ii. Catalog of all City natural areas
- iii. Maps and habitat delineations of up to 20 high priority natural areas
- iv. Robust list of key community partners, summaries of outreach activities, and data on public input
- v. 2-3 press releases announcing the project, meetings, and project updates
- vi. LTW Featured Project Page
- vii. Management recommendations and strategies based on the data that is collected and compiled
- viii. List of priority areas for reduction of wildlife hazards

### **References:**

- AECOM. 2022. "Natural Area Habitat Management Plan." City of Lake Oswego. URL: [https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/LO\\_NatAreas\\_HMP\\_12.09.2022.pdf](https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/LO_NatAreas_HMP_12.09.2022.pdf)
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- OARD. 2019. 736-045-0006. URL: <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=3432>
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**City of Wilsonville Natural Area Management Plan  
Public Outreach & Engagement**

The City of Wilsonville (City) will ensure a transparent process that empowers community members, local businesses, organizations (including local, state, and federal organizations, non-profits, homeowners' associations, and community organizations), and any other potential interested groups to stay informed about the Natural Areas Management Plan (NAMP) development process. Because many City properties are connected to and utilized by numerous community members and organizations, it is vital to keep these communities well-informed throughout the planning process.

This Outreach Plan provides a structure through which the City and its planning consultant, Ash Creek Forest Management (ACFM), will proceed with the NAMP and engage in a transparent planning process.

**I. Outreach Objectives**

- i. Identify community groups, individual members of the community, governmental bodies and agencies that are indirectly or directly connected to the natural areas planning process.
- ii. Provide opportunities for all interested community members to express concerns, provide feedback, and ask questions about the project through an online survey/submission portal and in-person events.
- iii. Ensure a transparent planning process via the following opportunities:
  - a. Publish two or more press releases during the project on platforms such as the *Boones Ferry Messenger*.
  - b. Hold townhall meetings (two are currently proposed) to include members of the public and all interested community members.
  - c. Use the City's 2024 Earth Day Celebration and Arbor Day Celebration to give community members an opportunity to learn about the City's natural areas planning process and to invite community engagement.
  - d. Explore other options for in person activities: such as a short (up to 1 hour) walking tour at a natural area identified during the NAMP planning process; include discussion of how the assessment was done and highlight the possible stewardship treatments that will be recommended.
- iv. Outline recommendations for future outreach the City can do to engage community members/organizations as volunteers in future restoration efforts.
- v. Summarize the outreach work done during the natural areas planning process, including community members engaged and data from community surveys.

**II. Outreach Approach and Strategies**

ACFM will assist the City in finalizing and implementing this outreach plan. ACFM will utilize online media platforms to communicate with interested community members and provide updates throughout the Natural Area planning process. City media platforms that are available for the process include:

- i. Let's Talk Wilsonville (LTW): LTW is a local website that features local projects and project contact information. For this project, ACFM will work with City staff to publish a

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page that contains information related to the Natural Areas Management Plan, including a project timeline and the contact information for both ACFM Project Manager Ian Christie and the City Parks Supervisor Dustin Schull. The LTW page is a platform for regular updates on the planning process, noteworthy features and issues, and dates and times of public meetings. The page also has a place where people can submit questions and feedback. The survey/comment submission portal will close to responses in Spring 2025 before the NAMP is finalized during Summer 2025.

- ii. *Boones Ferry Messenger*: The local newsletter, the *Boones Ferry Messenger* will be used along with the LTW webpage to post press releases and will include a brief snapshot of the planning process and dates, times, and locations of upcoming town hall meetings and other events. The press releases will also include a link to ACFM's website so that people can learn about the organization's mission and work.
- iii. Social Media
  - a. Instagram: The City hosts an Instagram page, @cityof\_wilsonville. Providing the City's communication staff with posts that they can share on their social media platform will ensure that as many community members are engaged as possible. Like the *Boones Ferry Messenger*, the City's Instagram posts will be used to help direct people to the LTW page and will showcase the work done during the natural areas planning process.
  - b. Facebook: The City has a Facebook page, Wilsonville-Local Government. Like its Instagram posts, ACFM will create Facebook posts that can be shared on the City's Facebook page, announcing upcoming meetings, and pointing interested parties to the LTW page. Posts also will showcase the work done during the natural areas planning process.

### III. Outreach Deliverables

Information developed during the Natural Area planning process will be integrated into the final NAMP, including:

- i. A list of all organizations, groups and individuals who were contacted during implementation of the outreach plan
- ii. A summary of all outreach activities and efforts
- iii. A list of recommendations for future outreach that the city might do after completion and to support implementation of the NAMP

**City of Wilsonville Natural Area Management Plan  
General Project Timeline**

**Winter 2024**

- Planning Phase 1 - Research and develop the structure of the management plan and strategies
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**Spring 2024**

- Develop and finalize habitat and vegetation survey protocol and schedule
  - Publish the first *Boones Ferry Messenger* press release to include:
    - General announcement about the project.
    - Date for City Council Meeting
    - Date, time, and agenda for the Town Hall Meeting
    - Links to the LTW page and ACFM's website.
  - Publish two posts on the City's social media pages
    - The first posts will announce the project and highlight the places where community members can find more information.
    - The second posts will share "highlights" and milestones from the natural areas planning process.
  - Participate in the City's Arbor Day and Earth Day Event by hosting an informational booth.
    - Arbor Day and Earth Day Events: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024
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**Summer 2024**

- Planning Phase 2 – habitat surveys, begin habitat delineations, identify management needs
  - Finalize the official LTW page for the City's Natural Areas Management Plan Project
  - Parks Board Meeting – July 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Update the LTW page with information on the upcoming Town Hall meeting.
  - Publish two social media posts to:
    - Announce the project and highlight the places for community members to find out more information.
    -
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**Fall 2024**

- Planning Phase 3 - Compile information from surveys, determine priority areas, and management needs
- Update the LTW page to highlight the upcoming Townhall meeting
- City Council Meeting (date to be determined)
- First Townhall Meeting (date to be determined)
- Publish the second *Boones Ferry Messenger* press release to provide:
  - Date and time for the second Town Hall meeting and information about the agenda
  - Links to the LTW page and ACFM Website.
- Publish two social media posts that include:



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- Thank community members for coming to the Town Hall meeting and remind people to check out the LTW page for further updates regarding the project and future meeting times.
  - Location and time for the second Townhall Meeting.
  - **Optional Activity:** Hold an optional in person event to showcase the planning process, such as a walking tour of a local park or natural area to discuss ACFM's natural areas assessment, prioritization, and stewardship planning efforts
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## Winter 2024/2025

- Hold the second Townhall Meeting
  - Update the LTW page with highlights from the second Townhall Meeting.
    - Publish new social media posts with topics: Thank everyone for coming to the Townhall Meeting
    - Encourage people to check out the LTW page to find more information, updates for future events, and to submit questions or comments.
  - Publish a new social media post highlighting ACFM staff members at work on the NAMP
  - Planning Phase 4 – Write NAMP
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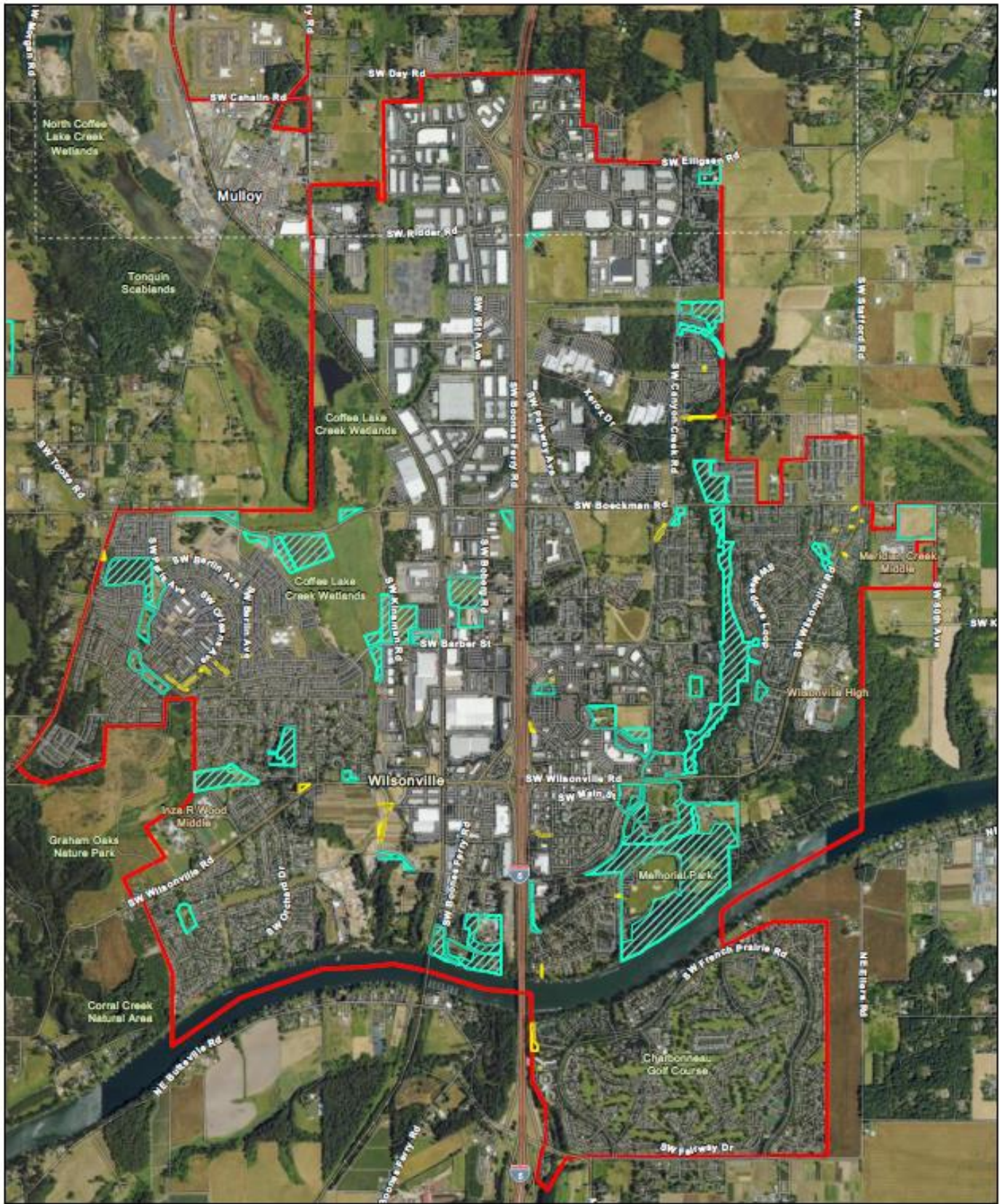
## Spring 2025

- Close the LTW survey/comment submission portal
  - Continue writing and start to finalize NAMP
  - **Optional Activity:** Hold an optional in person event to showcase the work of the natural areas planning process, such as a walking tour of a local park or natural area and review of what was observed and recommended during the natural areas planning process.
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## Summer 2025

- Finalize and present final NAMP in June 2025
- Update the LTW page and announce the completion of the NAMP
- Publish a press release on *Boones Ferry Messenger* to announce the completion of the project and upcoming meeting to showcase the NAMP.
- Publish two social media posts with project updates
  - First posts to announce the completion of the NAMP and provide information for the upcoming meeting
  - Second posts to thank everyone for coming to the meeting and provide information on where to access the plan.

# City of Wilsonville Natural Areas

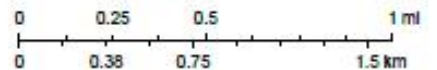


3/5/2024

## Field Notes (Areas)

- City Boundary
- City-Owned (> 0.5 acres)
- City-Owned (< 0.5 acres)
- Contiguous Natural Area

1:30,000



Source: Esri, USDA FSA, Oregon Metro, Oregon State Parks, State of Oregon GEO, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS