

COUNCIL RESOLUTION No. 28-2023

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON,
ADOPTING A 2024 WORK PLAN FOR ELK ROCK ISLAND.**

WHEREAS, in April 2017 the City of Milwaukie agreed to accept transfer of ownership of Elk Rock Island from the City of Portland; and

WHEREAS, central to the transfer was the expectation that Elk Rock Island would be maintained consistent with the 2016 Management Plan for Elk Rock Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukie agreed to provide Portland Parks and Recreation an annual report (Work Plan) detailing actions taken to implement the 2016 Management Plan.

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that the City Council of the City of Milwaukie, Oregon, that the 2024 Elk Rock Island Work Plan, which demonstrates Milwaukie's commitment to operate and maintain Elk Rock Island as a regional natural area in perpetuity, is acknowledged and accepted.

Introduced and adopted by the City Council on **June 6, 2023**.

This resolution is effective immediately.



Lisa M. Batey, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Scott S. Stauffer, City Recorder



Justin D. Gericke, City Attorney

This report was created for the sole purpose of the City of Milwaukie reporting to Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) in regards to the City of Milwaukie and PP&R intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for the transfer of Elk Rock Island from PP&R to the City of Milwaukie. City of Milwaukie staff drafted this report template in 2018 and provided it to North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) to enter a brief summary of tasks accomplished the prior fiscal year (FY) and proposed work plan for the next FY.

Due to staff changes in NCPRD, city staff have completed the below report to the best of their abilities with information shared from NCPRD staff.

FY 2023 Completed Actions:

The actions related to Elk Rock Island during FY 2023 can be broken down into three groups:

- 1. Collaboration for public safety.**
 - a. City of Milwaukie Police:** In coordination with NCPRD, Fire District #1 and response to citizen complaints, the City of Milwaukie police visited the site numerous times to resolve issues.
- 2. Strategic Actions from PP&R 2016 Management Plan:**
 - a. Goal 1. Protect water quality**
 - i. NCPRD cleaned and replaced vandalized signage.
 - ii. Dog bags and signs that inform visitors to pick up their dog's waste are managed at several locations.
 - iii. City police, city staff and NCPRD worked together to manage off trail impacts like vegetation trampling, soil erosion, trash, alcohol, campfires, etc. at the site.
 - iv. City and NCPRD staff helped pick up trash weekly at the site during summer months and every other week the rest of the year (except when high water prevents walking access).
 - v. Follow up work from the wildfire recovery including
 1. Monitoring soil stability (NCPRD)
 - a. Monitoring native plant establishment
 - b. Controlling weeds within the planted and seeded areas
 2. Tree monitoring and assessment for post-fire safety
 - vi. Elements of the Management plan that involve Elk Rock Cliff are PP&R responsibility, not the City of Milwaukie/NCPRD.
 - b. Goal 2. Establish resilient regenerative and diverse native vegetation communities.**
 - i. NCPRD collaborated to monitor and manage Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) and invasive plant populations including garlic

- mustard, false brome, and others. City staff perform basic invasive monitoring within current capacity on the site.
- ii. City and NCPRD staff attended trainings on invasive pest identification including forest insect and disease.
 - iii. Follow up work from the wildfire recovery included
 - 1. Monitoring the reestablishment of vegetation on site
 - 2. Monitoring the impacts to trees on site for public safety concerns and tree health declines
- c. Goal 3. Create and maintain vertical and structural habitat complexity**
- i. When non-native trees are controlled, they are left as snags if they do not pose a risk.
 - ii. Trees and limbs that are damaged by storm events or die naturally will be left as snags if they do not pose a risk to visitors. Branches will be left on the site and may be piled to enhance wildlife habitat.
- d. Goal 4. Identify, establish and protect healthy wildlife habitat**
- i. Staff conduct basic monitoring and control of invasive weed and wildlife populations
 - ii. Staff participate in the Intertwine Regional Habitat Connectivity Workgroup.
 - iii. Trees and limbs that are damaged by storm events or die naturally will be left as snags if they do not pose a risk to visitors. Branches are left on the site and may be piled to form wildlife habitat if they do not increase fire risk.
- e. Goal 5. Increase community engagement, education, stewardship and awareness**
- i. In 2022/2023, NCPRD and the city worked with the NPSO and has worked with Friends of ERI and Spring Park (FERISPark) to maintain or increase education and stewardship activities at the site.
 - 1. NPSO has supported the update of the island wide plant species list, monitoring rare plants, weed control, and wildfire recovery.
 - 2. FERISPark conducted tabling events to educate visitors before and on the 4th of July to decrease visitor impacts and increase ownership and value.
 - 3. NCPRD partnered with the North Clackamas Watersheds Council to sponsor an annual restoration focused service event in the winter of 2023
 - 4. NCPRD and the city coordinated with FERISPark on restoration and trash removal events on the site
 - ii. Additional outreach and education have been performed by community and environmental partners such as

1. Upcoming restoration and habitat improvements at or surrounding the site, including:
 - a. Kellogg dam removal project
 - b. NCWC Woody debris installation at Spring Creek
2. Educational tours from Portland State University courses on soil science

FY 2024 Proposed Work Plan

The work plan presented below is a starting point for capturing the management of Elk Rock Island. Due to the change in maintenance responsibilities and limitations in staff capacity at the city, the 2024 workplan is expected to be minimal to match existing resources. City staff plan to utilize seasonal staff and coordinate with community partners to accomplish the work if possible.

The work plan incorporates key intervention actions from the Portland Parks and Recreation September 2016 Management Plan for Elk Rock Island. The work plan below addresses the proposed efforts for the remaining part of the fiscal year and the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.

1. Strategic Actions from PP&R 2016 Management Plan:

a. Goal 1. Protect water quality

- i. Manage signage at the site to educate and encourage visitors to follow rules and protect habitat.
- ii. Collaboration with local enforcement authorities to manage off trail impacts, trash and other types of dumping, fires, alcohol, etc. at the site.
- iii. At minimum, Biweekly monitoring for trash and debris during summer months and when access to island is available during winter.
- iv. Continued wildfire safety and vegetation reestablishment monitoring efforts.
- v. Monitor and ensure that the trail re-routes have stabilize tread and are not contributing to soil erosion.
- vi. Monitor and make recommendations about the social trails and off trail impacts to sensitive habitat
- vii. Elements of the Management plan that involve Elk Rock Cliff are PP&R responsibility, not City of Milwaukie/NCPRD.

2. Goal 2. Establish resilient regenerative and diverse native vegetation communities.

- i. Continue to monitor and manage EDRR and invasive plant populations if resources available.
- ii. Establish relationships with the Native Plant Society of Oregon Portland Chapter (NPSO) and other partners for continued invasive monitoring protocol enhancements
- iii. Explore expanding city participation in Intertwine work groups including the Oak Prairie Working Group and Cascadia Prairie Oak Partnership within staff capacity.

- iv. Continue to train staff on invasive pest identification including forest insect and disease.
- v. Follow up work from the wildfire recovery to ensure public safety
- 3. **Goal 3. Create and maintain vertical and structural habitat complexity**
 - i. When non-native trees are controlled, they are left as snags if they do not pose a risk.
 - ii. Monitor for potential hazard trees within the wildfire burn units
- 4. **Goal 4. Identify, establish and protect healthy wildlife habitat**
 - i. Trees and limbs that are damaged by storm events or die naturally will be left as snags if they do not pose a risk to visitors. Branches will be left on the site and may be piled to form wildlife habitat if they do not increase fire risk.
 - ii. Continue to build partnerships with volunteers to assist with wildlife monitoring.
- 5. **Goal 5. Increase community engagement, education, stewardship and awareness**
 - i. Continue to work with volunteers and volunteer groups to promote stewardship and conservation education, and value at the site.
 - ii. Collaborate to control weeds at the site both in the wildfire burn units and outside of the burn units.
 - iii. Collaborate to remove trash from the site
 - iv. Partner to provide education to visitors to increase knowledge, ownership and value of site.
- 3. **Proposed Volunteer events 23-24**
 - i. Spring work with volunteers to control weeds and monitor native plants.
 - ii. Fall 2023 – No Ivy Day: Coordinate with interested community groups and NCPRD to host volunteers on Elk Rock Island and the adjacent Spring Park.
 - iii. Spring 2024 – Earth Day volunteer service event to remove trash and control weeds.