

374761

Adopt the Invasive Species Strategy 2020-30, Portland at the Crossroads Policy

If you wish to speak to Council, please print your name, address and email

Name (PRINT)	Address and Zip Code (Optional)	Email (Optional)
✓ Diana Gutman		
✓ Lisa DeBryckere	Salem OR	lisad@createstrat.com
✓ Michelle Delepine	Portland 97210	Michelle@wmsivcd.org
✓ Terri Preeg Piggsty	PDX 97219	tpiggsty@yahoo.com
✓ Bob Sallinger Bob Sallinger	Aurubon	bsallinger@aurubonportland.org
✓ Clint Bufitt	USDA APHIS PPQ	



January 21, 2020

Letter of Support for the City of Portland's Invasive Species Strategy 2020-2030 Project

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: Dominic Maze, Invasive Species Coordinator, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services: dominic.maze@portlandoregon.gov

Dear Portland City Council,

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) is a coordinating group of state and public agencies, tribes, scientists, land managers, industry leaders, educators, and members of the public who lead the effort to protect Oregon from invasive species. Our mission is to protect Oregon's natural resources and economy by planning and leading a coordinated and comprehensive effort. Our mission requires collaborative, cross-agency participation.

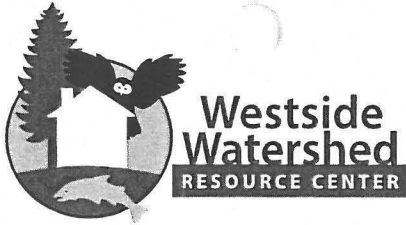
On behalf of the OISC, I am writing to express strong support for the City of Portland's Invasive Species Strategy 2020-2030.

Invasive species pose a serious threat to the economy, infrastructure, food & water systems, and can impact outdoor recreation opportunities and tourism. The 2020-2030 Strategy is a great opportunity to further the progress that was made by the City of Portland following the implementation of the 2008 Invasive Plant Strategy Report. It is important for the City of Portland to continue to be proactive with this issue and we urge you to take the steps necessary to support invasive species preventions and management.

Thank you for your consideration,

Catherine E de Rivera

*Catherine de Rivera, 2020 Interim Chair
Oregon Invasive Species Council*



374761

Multnomah Arts Center, Room 5
7688 SW Capitol Hwy.
Portland, OR 97219

<http://wrc.swni.org>
watershed@swni.org
503-823-2862

January 21, 2020

Portland City Council
1220 SW 5th Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council,

I write this letter in support of City of Portland's 2020-2030 Invasive Species Strategy. The work that has been done within Portland since 2008 to control the spread of invasive plant species has been critical in preserving our City's parks, forests, streams, and natural areas. Spaces like these provide valuable resources to our community including clean air, clean water, reduction of climate change impacts, and recreation opportunities, all of which contribute greatly to public health and quality of life. It is vital that work to effectively manage invasive species in our City be allowed to continue and expand so that our natural and community resources can thrive for generations to come.

The 2020-2030 Invasive Species Strategy gives Portland an opportunity to be a leader in effective and collaborative invasive species management. An upfront investment in robust invasive species control efforts will save the City of Portland hundreds of thousands of dollars in the long run. As such, I would strongly encourage the City to adopt the "Ahead of the Curve" strategy that will increase funding for invasive species management efforts. This approach sets the City up for the greatest chance at sustained and increased success for controlling both invasive plants and animals. It also provides the greatest opportunity for community education and engagement, including expanded employment and recreation opportunities for traditionally underserved communities.

Watershed Resource Center is one of many organizations that works within the Portland area to play a small part in invasive species management and ecosystem restoration. This important work is also championed and led by many individuals and community organized groups that care deeply about preserving the natural beauty and ecological value of the many greenspaces within our City. By adopting a strong invasive species management strategy, the City is not only supporting the sustained health and vitality of its natural spaces, it is also sharing the values and meeting the needs of the community.

Sincerely,

Erik Horngren

Manager, Westside Watershed Resource Center



WESTERN INVASIVES
NETWORK

Western Invasives Network
Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development
847 NW Monroe Ave. Corvallis, OR 97330

Cascade Pacific 
Resource Conservation + Development

To Mayor Ted Wheeler & the Portland City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Cascade Pacific RC&D and the entire Western Invasives Network to voice our enthusiastic support for the city's Invasive Species Strategy for 2020-2030. The Western Invasives Network encompasses 11 Cooperative Weed Management Areas across 21 counties in western Oregon and the city of Portland has been an invaluable partner in the fight against invasive weeds.

The recent audit acknowledged difficult truths and identified key challenges for moving forward and the new plan incorporates attainable goals, well-defined strategies and an adaptive framework to meet those challenges head on. The city of Portland has long served as a national model for invasive species management and the new plan will allow the city to remain a leader to its local partners, regional cooperators and the citizens of Portland for years to come. To that end, the Western Invasives Network offers our full support in the implementation of *Invasive Species 2.0*.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Abercrombie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Troy Abercrombie

Coordinator
Western Invasives Network
Cascade Pacific RC&D
P: (541) 910-8769
E: weeds@cascadepacific.org

City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Portland City Council;

The City of Gresham is pleased to write in support of the City of Portland's Invasive Species 2.0 Strategy Initiative.

The City of Gresham appreciates the continued and potential impacts of invasive species on green and grey assets in our region and is thankful for your work advancing strategies to address invasive plant issues in recent decades. Some of these strategies have been utilized by the City of Gresham.

Invasive species represent both a major challenge and a major opportunity. While invasive species can severely limit recreational uses, reduce fish and wildlife habitat, and impair water quality; they also represent one of the key opportunities we have to address and mitigate stressors to our green assets. Your Invasive Species Strategy 2.0 lays out many strategic methods for responding to these opportunities.

The City of Gresham supports your continued investments in invasive species prioritization, survey, planning, and management.

Thank you,
Jeff Lesh
Environmental Data Analyst
Natural Resources Program
Bureau of Environmental Services
City of Gresham

**WEST MULTNOMAH**

Soil & Water Conservation District

The Honorable Ted Wheeler
Mayor, City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 340
Portland, Oregon 97204

January 17, 2020

Re: Public Testimony for Invasives 2.0 Strategy

Dear Mayor Wheeler, and Portland City Council Members:

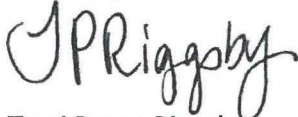
We are writing to support adoption of the *City of Portland – Invasives Species Strategy 2020-2030*. Its predecessor, the *City of Portland Invasive Plants Strategy Report 2008*, is widely credited with developing and building a strong foundation for natural resource management and stewardship in the greater Portland area. The adoption of this updated strategy will reaffirm the commitment of the City to stay on track with its stewardship goals as it looks ahead to the next ten years.

Invasive weeds and insects threaten our high-valued natural resources more than anything other than direct habitat loss. By definition, invasive species are those introduced plants, pathogens, insects and aquatic organisms that spread rapidly due to a lack of biological controls and such spread leads to ecological, economic and social harm to people and the environment. The City's environmental and recreational resources are a primary draw to new residents, tourists and businesses, yet are under constant threat of new invasive species introductions and proliferations. In fact, as the City experiences growth, it is more likely than ever to also be threatened with new accidental species introductions, such as the Japanese beetle, that could devastate our parks, neighborhoods, natural areas and watersheds.

We, the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, are a local public service district dedicated to the conservation of soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment. Our service territory includes Multnomah County west of the Willamette River, Sauvie Island including the Columbia County portion of the Island, and a portion of the Bonny Slope region in Washington County. One of our priority conservation goals is the prevention, Early Detection-Rapid Response (EDRR) and management and control of invasive species. To carry out our mission effectively we work hand in hand with the City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and Portland Parks & Recreation to help ensure local natural resource needs are met across jurisdictions and public/private property ownerships. The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District greatly values its close, working partnership with the City of Portland-BES, and Portland Parks & Recreation, staff in carrying out our collaborative natural resource goals.

Numerous community groups, watershed councils, organizations and municipalities rely on this invasive species framework developed by the City to develop strategic stewardship practices of their own. While this is a City strategic document, its impact can be felt much more broadly across the Pacific Northwest region. There is tremendous value in adopting the *City of Portland – Invasives Species Strategy 2020-2030* strategy, as the fiscal cost is very slim and the economic, environmental and social benefits are far-reaching for years to come.

Sincerely,



Terri Preeg Riggsby,
Chair and Zone 5 Director
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Cc: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors, City of Portland-BES, Portland Parks and Recreation.



January 17, 2020

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council,

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program wishes to express its support for the Invasives 2.0 project managed by the city's Environmental Services department. Backyard Habitat works with those living in urban and suburban areas to take action towards restoring properties to their native habitat by removing noxious weeds, planting native vegetation, managing stormwater on site, and eliminating the use of pesticides. Projects like Invasives 2.0 that track and share noxious weed information, create best management practices for weed removal, and implement rapid response plans, are crucial to on-the-ground programs like ours.

By providing full funding to Invasives 2.0 the city will be leveraging the knowledge, skills, and resources of its staff with those provided by Backyard Habitats and its partners. The two primary partners are two local conservation non-profits, Portland Audubon and Columbia Land Trust, who together co-manage the program. Other partners include East and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation Districts, as well as the 4,900 program participants who act as restoration volunteers. These restoration volunteers are spending their own time, money, and resources to support the city's natural resource goals. Invasives 2.0 is a crucial part of providing information that programs like ours use to work with willing land stewards doing the hard work of restoring sites that have been overtaken with weeds.

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program, Portland Audubon, and Columbia Land Trust urge Mayor Wheeler and members of the Council to support Invasives 2.0 so this crucial work can receive the support it needs which, in turn, supports the water, people, and wildlife of the City of Portland and our region.

Sincerely,

Susie Peterson
Backyard Habitat Certification Program co-manager, Columbia Land Trust

Megan Van de Mark
Backyard Habitat Certification Program co-manager, Portland Audubon



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
www.conservationdistrict.org

Good dirt. Clean water.

January 16, 2020

Attention:

Mayor Ted Wheeler
 Office of the Mayor, Room 340
 1221 SW 4th Ave.
 Portland, OR 97204

Cc:

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
 Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty
 Commissioner Amanda Fritz
 Auditor Mary Hull Caballero

Distinguished Mayor Wheeler,

The *Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District's WeedWise Program* welcomes the opportunity to provide written testimony for the *City of Portland Invasive Species Strategy*.

Over the past eleven years we have worked in close partnership with the Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks & Recreation, and Portland Water Bureau on invasive species issues affecting the city, our region, and the state. The City of Portland has been a key partner within the *4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area* serving Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, and Clark counties and has served as a region-wide leader in invasive species related issues.

The recently developed City of Portland's *Invasive Species Strategy* outlines a valuable framework for ensuring the health and livability of our community. The approach outlined in the strategy, streamlines and enhances current management efforts.

Invasive species are a significant threat to our region. Many of the invasive species targeted by the *City of Portland Invasive Species Program* staff pose a significant threat to human health and property. Giant hogweed is one such plant that causes severe burns when people come in contact with it. The *City of Portland Invasive Species Program* has taken a leadership role in combating this species and is working with partners throughout the area to prevent its spread.

The work undertaken by the *City of Portland Invasive Species Program* also benefits our local economy. A report by the Oregon Invasive Species Council found a \$34 economic benefit for every dollar spent controlling priority invasive species like those being treated by *City of Portland Invasive Species Program*.

Natural areas are also adversely impacted by invasive species. Invasive species displace our native plants and animals and degrade the quality of our natural areas. Portland's natural areas are a vital component to the health and livability of our community. They enhance the city and help to define its character. The *City of Portland Invasive Species Strategy* will help to preserve the integrity of Portland's natural areas.

The *Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, WeedWise Program* has found the *City of Portland* to be a valuable partner in combating the spread of invasive species in our area. We encourage you to consider adopting the *Invasive Species Strategy* and supporting a funding option that will "Address the Challenge" and put the city "Ahead of the Curve" to ensure that the health, vitality, and livability of our community and region.

We sincerely thank you for your consideration on this issue and we look forward to your continued partnership.

Respectfully,

Samuel Leininger

WeedWise Program Manager

Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District

Sincerely,



Samuel Leininger

WeedWise Program Manager

503-210-6006

sleininger@conservationdistrict.org



Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol St NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532



January 16, 2020

Mayor Ted Wheeler and
Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Ave #340
Portland, OR 97204

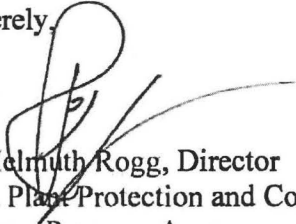
RE: City of Portland Invasive Species Funding


The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has had a long and productive cooperative working relationship with the City of Portland on invasive species issues.

ODA supports proposed funding for the invasive species program in Portland. We believe that having viable invasive species programs in place both protect and improve watershed health, natural resources and our economy throughout Oregon.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of your invasive species program and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Dr. Helmuth Rogg, Director
ODA Plant Protection and Conservation
Program Program Area
503 986-4662
hrogg@oda.state.or.us


Tim Butler, Manager
ODA Noxious Weed Control
503 986-4625
tbutler@oda.state.or.us



1/16/20

Dominic Maze | Biologist/Invasive Species Coordinator
City of Portland Environmental Services
1120 SW 5th Avenue, Room 1000
Portland, Oregon 97204
Dear Ms. Berg,

I am writing to express support by the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District for investment in the City of Portland's Invasive Species Program (Invasives 2.0) program. Invasive species do not know boundaries, so it is critical that we all work together to manage them.

The Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is a special service district roughly overlying the City of Beaverton and surrounding unincorporated areas of Washington County. The mission of the District is to provide high-quality park and recreation facilities, programs, services and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves. THPRD manages about 1,500 acres of natural areas, which provide a variety of benefits including ecosystem services, recreation, trails, and learning opportunities. As your neighbor to the west, the efforts of the city to manage and remove invasive species are keenly felt and appreciated. When the city manages plant communities, downstream entities benefit. In turn, as water moves through the Tualatin River Watershed and back into the Willamette River Watershed, the benefits of our combined work return to you in clean water and a low invasive species count.

With climate change, development, and new invasive insects on the rise, we're excited to see the city taking a proactive approach to promoting native ecosystems and their services. The park district has its own invasive species management program, but we rely on our partners, including the city and its agencies, as well as collaborative groups like the Three County Weed Management Area of which the city is a part, to tackle regional issues. We look forward to working with the city in the future.

If there's anything we can do to support the program, partner, or otherwise get the word out about the city's efforts, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Barbarasch".

Bruce Barbarasch
Nature & Trails Manager



600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov

January 16, 2020

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioners
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Portland at the Crossroads: Invasive Species Strategy 2020-2030 and express our strong support for this important work.

Portland leads the region in policy on invasive species, and the benefits extend throughout the city and beyond its boundaries. Many jurisdictions and partners, including Metro, look to Portland's invasive species strategy for guidance and ideas for their own work.

Metro science staff participated in this work. Staff found that it was well grounded in the most current, best available science. The approach is pragmatic and appropriate. We are pleased and grateful to be partners with Portland on this effort.

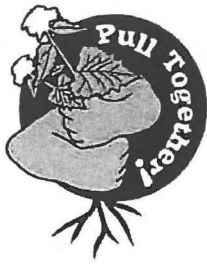
Portland has accomplished an impressive amount of work on invasive species in the last 10 years and this strategy will position the city well for the next 10 years when fully adopted. Innovations and important additions such as the asset management approach (Option 3) and inclusion of invasive animals (Option 2) take the program to the next level and provide vision for the rest of the region. Invasive animals such as emerald ash borer pose some of the greatest threats to our economy and natural areas in the next 10 years. Assets such as natural areas and grey infrastructure will be strained as climate change continues, and invasive species will threaten their ability to function. The focus on pathways of introduction will direct monitoring and response where they are needed and can be most efficient and effective.

I hope that you are able to approve the plan, including additions that will put Portland "Ahead of the Curve". Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Soll", written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Soll
Parks and Nature, Science Manager



4-COUNTY Cooperative Weed Management Area

January 16th, 2020

Mayor Wheeler and the Portland City Council:

We are writing today to endorse and express our support of the City of Portland's new Invasive Species Strategy 2020-2030. The 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), which includes Clark, Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties, relies on collaboration with the city and other partners to further invasive species awareness.

The City's review and re-presentation of its invasive species vision offers some exciting new thoughts and initiatives that will give the entire region a boost. We support the City in this expansion not just of the conversation about invasive species, but also of the efforts to manage them.

The City of Portland has been an excellent partner over the years and the 4-County CWMA pledges to support the implementation of the Invasive Species Strategy 2020-2030 as it unfolds over the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Courtney Gattuso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Courtney Gattuso

Coordinator

4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area



January 14, 2020

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Portland City Councilors

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Councilors,

It is with much enthusiasm that the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) writes this letter in support of the City of Portland's invasive species control efforts and the recently completed City of Portland Invasive Species Strategy 2020-2030.

The City of Portland's Invasive Species Control Program has been a valued and integral partner since the inception of the weed control program at EMSWCD in 2007. We have coordinated closely with the City of Portland's Invasive Species Control Program over the last thirteen years to ensure there are no gaps in invasive species control efforts between our work focused in rural and eastern Multnomah County and control needs within City of Portland. Our work would not be successful without this partnership.

EMSWCD finds the contents, direction, and objectives found in the City of Portland Invasive Species Strategy 2020-2030 in line with our objectives and our broader mission.

We look forward to growing our partnership with the City of Portland's Invasive Species Control Program and encourage the Council to support the City of Portland Invasive Species Strategy 2020-2030.

Sincerely,

Andrew Brown
Interim Executive Director