



Proposed ordinance: Authorize Portland Parks & Recreation to receive fee in lieu of mitigation funds to implement restoration in natural areas

Presenter:

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Current system:

- Third party proposes a project in Forest Park or other natural area;
- Under zoning code and necessary permits, mitigation is required for negative resource impacts;
- Applicants design and implement mitigation plans; and
- Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and Bureau of Development Services (BDS) provide extensive technical assistance throughout the process.



This burdens the City and applicants because:

- Considerable communication and coordination between the parties is required;
- It offers many opportunities for miscommunication and/or non-compliance;
- Applicants can only perform certain types of mitigation; and
- Applicants lack the technical expertise to carry out nuanced mitigation work.



The proposed ordinance would:

- Authorize PP&R to accept mitigation fees from applicants, in lieu of applicants conducting mitigation;
- Fees would be calculated based on existing fees for tree planting and removal under Title 11, the City's tree code;
- PP&R would use the fees to design and implement the mitigation in natural areas, instead of the applicant.



Proposed ordinance would help:

A more efficient approach: PP&R would use applicant funds to design and implement mitigation.

- Reduces communication and coordination between all parties.
- Reduces friction and results in more efficient use of City resources.

Better ecological outcomes on the ground: PP&R has technical expertise to implement appropriate mitigation.

- Speeds restoration projects.
- Enhances efforts to meet overarching stewardship objectives.



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Questions and discussion

