

INVASIVE PLANT POLICY

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ ADAM BARBER (MULTNOMAH COUNTY)	1900 SE 190TH PORTLAND OR 97233	ADAM.T.BARBER@MULTNOMAH.OR.US
✓ Kathleen Brennan-Hunter <del>Jim Desmond (Metro)</del>	600 NE Grand Portland, OR 97202	
✓ Greg Schiffsky	4131 SW West 97221	
✓ Jane Hartline	14745 NW Gillihan Rd Portland, OR	janeanet@yahoo.com
✓ RIAN HOOFF	811 SW 6th Ave, PDX OR 97204	hooft-riana@leg.state.or.us
✓ Kallieen Mueken	6437 SE Division 97206	PRKameci.portland.or.us

# 155

TESTIMONY  
given 2-3-10

Metro | *People places. Open spaces.*

February 3, 2010

Mayor Sam Adams and the Portland City Council  
City of Portland  
1221 SW Fourth Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Hearing on Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project

Dear Mayor Adams and Councilors Fish, Fritz, Leonard and Saltzman:

I am writing to offer Metro's strong support for the proposed City of Portland Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project code revisions related to invasive plants.

As you may already know, invasive species are widely recognized as an important threat to worldwide biodiversity, decline, second only to outright habitat conversion. They are also a profound economic threat, costing the United States economy billions of dollars per year in lost agricultural productivity and impacts to water quality and human health.

The story is the same here in Portland. The health of our natural areas, rivers and streams is threatened by invasive species such as English ivy, old man's beard and garlic mustard. Even if viewed through a strictly economic lens, however, it is in the City's interest to address this issue with foresight and vigor. Every ivy covered tree that falls and blocks a road costs thousands of dollars; and a landslide that occurs because the trees holding the slope in place have died could easily cost millions in property damage and road repair. Weeds have impacts on recreation as well. Do you realize that a single aquatic weed (milfoil) can turn a beautiful recreational lake into an unusable quagmire in only a few years?

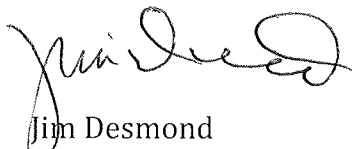
The solution to this thorny problem is an integrated approach that involves prevention of, and early detection and rapid response to, new weeds, and a coordinated approach between jurisdictions in dealing with established species. The other key elements are the establishment of policies and regulations that prevent the use of known invasive species in landscaping and establishing shared responsibility for the control of select problematic species. At least one third of invasive species have an ornamental origin, and while beautiful landscaping is wonderful, there are always non-invasive choices that can be used.

The City of Portland has been a leader in addressing this issue, first through active participation in the 4-county cooperative weed group, but even more so through the 2008 Invasive Species Summit and Invasive Species Management Plan and the 2009 Invasive Species Resolution.

The proposed changes to the Portland Plant List are based on the best thinking of the most knowledgeable regional scientists through the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, vetted extensively through partners like the Oregon Association of Nurseries, and has the full support of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The very reasonable changes to the rules regarding control of select problem species recognize that everyone must share responsibility and has a role to play in protecting our green infrastructure. Finally, coordinating with the Portland Plan will ensure that all branches of the city government are "pulling together."

Adopting these changes will make it easier and cheaper to protect part of what makes Portland the greatest city on earth. I commend the City's staff for producing such excellent work and urge you to vote yes.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Desmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Jim Desmond  
Director  
Sustainability Center

February 3, 2010  
Testimony from Bonny McKnight;  
Coordinator; Citywide Land Use Group

Mayor Adams and Members of the Council

I want to express my strong support for the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project.

The project clarifies code intent and directs that development activities must improve situations in certain environmental areas where invasives are found. The project also provides information and assistance to private property owners who would like to remove invasives if they find they are growing on their property. Finally, it will use the project to educate residents about selected species that are likely to become a serious problem. That approach seeks to control those plants early before they become part of a much larger problem in the community.

The final value of this proposal comes from the approach used by those who have led it. Roberta Jortner has (as always) managed the project in a way that should result in a strong partnership with the Neighborhood Association system. Tricia Sears has special knowledge that she will continue to share with Neighborhood Associations as the project goes forward. The resulting partnership will not only spread accurate information about invasive species generally but also will assist in developing informed neighborhood volunteers who can work with knowledgeable City staff to help educate private property owners about how best to impact invasive plant problem on their property.

The most significant benefit of this approach is that it does not rely on threatened fines or enforcement but seeks to manage the problem by early action and positive partnership development.

This project is connected to work started by the Environmental Code Improvement Project of several years ago. It will culminate in the Tree Code Improvement Project proposals which aim to protect our most visible and unique asset and continue a fundamental core value for Portland residents.

All of these projects encourage residents of the City to understand their natural environment, know the regulations that seek to protect their green infrastructure, and finally to be active and knowledgeable advocates in protecting the many values our natural setting brings to every one of us living in our City.

I hope you will support this excellent proposal.

Bonny McKnight  
East Portland and Russell Neighborhood Association Resident

183534

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Maryhelen Kincaid [jamasu88@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2010 4:00 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** Testimony for Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Process  
**Attachments:** Invasive Species.doc

Attached is testimony I would like submitted for the hearing on the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Process being heard before City Council on February 3rd.

Do I need to submit this to individual council members as well?

Thank you,

Maryhelen Kincaid

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February 2, 2010

Mayor Adams and City Council members,

I am writing this letter to express strong support for the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Process.

Great ideas like this are sometimes overlooked because of no real life examples of benefit. In addition to offering strong overall support for this policy and process (which I think is important) I want to offer you a specific example of where this policy and process will provide much benefit.

My neighborhood, East Columbia, has mitigated wetlands which have recently been identified as having one of the identified top 15 invasive plants – ludwigia hexapetala (water primrose, an aquarium plant from Uruguay) which is classified as “A” on the city’s current invasive plant list. It has overgrown approximately 20 feet of the banks of the wetland ponds. By all estimates it will double that in a year’s time if not treated and eradicated. The ponds are home to many waterfowl and wildlife, and this habitat would be lost.

The approach of this new policy to identify invasive plants before they are well established and to work in a collaborative effort with partner agencies to eradicate the plant is a fresh approach and appreciated. It was quite an effort for our neighborhood to not only get the water primrose plant identified but to deal with the large number of agencies at all levels who have some sort of interest in dealing with an invasive plant, in the Columbia Slough Watershed, and near many other bodies of water. It is an ongoing, current project for us.

For over 8 years some very dedicated neighbors have been working to maintain the wetlands. We recently were awarded a small grant from ONI’s Neighborhood Small Grant program to support a work day cleanup and educational event centered on the care of mitigated wetlands and invasive plant species. We have organized a number of stakeholders to meet in a few weeks to begin planning this event. BES, MCDD and PSU will be participating in the original event planning.

Your support of this policy will enhance our ability to deal with this invasive plant species as well as provide much needed endorsement of our efforts to protect our wetland habitat. It couldn’t come at a better time for East Columbia. The City will benefit from the process and policy review of this initiative.

I encourage you to support this excellent proposal.

Maryhelen Kincaid  
Land Use chair, East Columbia Neighborhood  
2030 NE Blue Heron Dr  
Portland, Oregon 97211

## Testimony before Portland City Council

Feb. 2, 2010

Jane Hartline  
14745 NW Gillihan Road  
Portland Oregon 97231

I am speaking on behalf of the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District of which I am a board member.

I am a weed warrior.

-I wake up in the mornings fretting about garlic mustard taking over Portland's forests

-I gasp when I drive down the road and see new patches of Japanese knotweed.

-I spent my Sunday last week sawing through fist-wide ivy vines on trees on the north end of Sauvie Island.

You can imagine, then, how thrilled I and the Conservation District are to see this council considering a new and improved invasive plant policy.

I'm not the only weed warrior in this city. There are hundreds of us...thousands if you count people battling invasives in their own backyards.

People are volunteering thousands and thousands of hours of time in this endeavor. Crews are out in multiple locations every weekend.

And sometimes we feel like we are losing the battle. Weeds spread.....quickly. If you don't eradicate one plant, there may be 50 the next season and 2500 the season after that.

If only we had known a few decades ago what we know now.....and HAD THIS UPDATE TO THE ZONING CODE!

The city staff has done a beautiful job on proposed updates to the Portland Plant List, which is an indispensable reference for those of us working on habitat restoration.

And their proposed updates to the zoning code and Property Maintenance Regulations will not only help combat the most threatening invasive plants, but will put us in a good position to catch new invaders before they become a problem.

This is very important to our forests, our ecosystems and our native wildlife. Please act on it.

**OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

Coordination, Prevention, Education, and Collaboration

February 3, 2010

City of Portland  
Council Clerk  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 140  
Portland, OR 97204

AUDITOR 02/01/10 PM 4:34

Mayor and Council members:

I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, a consortium of federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and industry representatives, in support of the Invasive Plant Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project. The mission of our Council is to keep invasive species out of Oregon, inform the public, and to control or eradicate those that attempt to become established.

As you know, our Council has been supportive of the City of Portland's efforts during the past several years to address the threat that invasive species pose to Oregon's economy, environment, and the quality of life of its citizens. Because of the magnitude of this threat and the need to maintain and restore healthy watersheds, the Oregon Invasive Species Council supported the implementation of your Invasive Plant Management Strategy last year. This strategy will ultimately reduce invasive plants on almost half of the public land within the City. In addition, the Strategy effectively articulates a number of critical elements, including code and policy changes, outreach and education efforts, stakeholder coordination, control and restoration priorities, wildfire risk reduction, protection of the best parks habitat, early detection and rapid response, and working with landowners.

The Regulatory Improvement Program is a key step in successfully implementing the Invasive Plant Management Strategy because it updates the Portland Plant List and improves invasive plant control in development and non-development situations by updating the Zoning Code and Property Maintenance Regulations. Both of these activities serve to provide additional guidance on invasive species, create one priority Nuisance Plants List by consolidating several lists, clarify existing zoning regulations, add an important standard that requires removal of nuisance plants, and established rules requiring priority species on the Nuisance Plants List to be eradicated from a property. This combination of education and outreach with regulatory mechanisms is both creative and proactive, and once again, will serve as a model for municipalities throughout the United States.



I also want to commend you on the work you are doing to consider adoption of an invasive animal strategy for the City. The recent completion of an assessment of terrestrial and aquatic invasive animal species in the City will lay the groundwork for further development of a draft policy with stakeholders. Both the Invasive Plant Management Strategy and the potential invasive animal strategy will help to ensure full implementation of the Portland Watershed Management Plan.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council fully supports your policy review and Regulatory Improvement Project and is pleased to be a partner in this larger coordinated effort. Our Council is available at any time to assist you in furthering what we consider to be a very high priority program for the City.

Thank you for your contribution to Oregon's invasive species prevention efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rian Hooff". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the left of the signature, there is a faint, partially legible stamp that includes the text "SEED" and "NOV 2014".

Rian Hooff, Vice-Chair

Date: 1 February 2010  
To: Portland City Council (1900 SW 4th Ave, Portland, OR 97201-5380)  
From: Bruce Newhouse, Salix Associates  
Re: Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Program

Kudos to the City of Portland for considering, and hopefully, adopting, the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project. I believe that it is critical for the definition of "sustainability" to include sustenance of natural habitats, and that adoption of this Policy and Program will benefit habitat and the plants, animals and people who depend on them.

The negative effects of invasive species have been documented widely by many, including John Christy, Angie Kimpo and others in the new "Urbanizing Flora of Portland, Oregon: 1806-2008." The City's own web site, as well as that of many other jurisdictions and organizations discuss and document the regional significance of the threat posed by invasive species. But sometimes we citizens need reminders of this threat as well as support from governmental agencies to make better choices.

I grew up in the Portland area and returned for work professionally for Goal 5 inventory projects in Portland, Gresham, Hillsboro and Lake Oswego in the 1990s, I was a contributor to the original Portland Plant list, working with Tom McGuire, and occasionally have been involved with that list over the years. This past summer, I was honored to review and comment on the list and policies being worked on by Tricia Sears and others in the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (and to contribute to the Portland urbanizing flora book mentioned above). Over these decades, I note the continuing degradation of many natural areas as the vegetation changes from primarily native, to large areas where invasive exotics are rampant.

Occasionally, there are new populations of invasive species to be reported: false brome in Boeckman Creek in Wilsonville and pendulous sedge in Tryon Creek and another small creek in Wilsonville, as recent examples. These new invasions, and there are many others in the area, signify that the problem is not static: it is increasing, and requires vigilance by both staff and elected officials. There have been many successes, and to continue those, strategies must evolve as well.

As a past Statewide President of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, and a continuing volunteer with invasive plant issues with that group and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (and others), and as a professional ecologist often involved with the invasive species issues, I strongly urge adoption of the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Program – and any additional planning and implementation that stems invasion by exotic species. It is the only way our native Portland landscapes will be preserved for the future.

Cordially,



Bruce Newhouse  
Salix Associates  
2525 Potter St.  
Eugene, OR 97405

183534

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Jan Secunda [tede@stephouse.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 5:10 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** Invasive weed removal

In regards to the invasive weed problem:

Our environmental group has been very active in explaining about the need for ivy removal here in our neighborhood of Linnton which is directly adjacent to Forest Park.

Prior to that, our erstwhile neighborhood environmental committee chair gave thorough presentations about ivy removal to this community. And before her, Sandra Dietrich came to a Neighborhood mtg and made the situation clear.

Further, for years now our group has been teaming up with others in ivy removal efforts in Forest Park.

Still, there are very few members of our community who will remove the English ivy from their property. Rather, there are some who persist in encouraging it to grow. Therefore, I am sorry to report that I think it will require a law and strict enforcement of the law in order to get these people off their stance.

Normally, I would be against more laws but we are losing Forest Park trees along with other plants that made up our historic biodiversity just when we need them the most due to global warming climate change. Further, the loss of natural plant diversity and ground cover has created areas where some of our less desirable native plants, such as poison oak, are running rampant. So I have come to believe that there is no alternative to creating at least an ivy removal law and enforcing it.

Jan Secunda  
Linnton Environmental Group Co-Chair

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Logalbo, Mary - Portland, OR [mary.logalbo@or.nacdnet.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2010 10:28 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** 'Hartline, Jane'; Springer, Dick - Portland, OR; Sears, Tricia (PLN)  
**Subject:** WMSWCD Support: Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project

**Attachments:** WMSWCD Support\_Invasive Policy\_CityCouncil.pdf



WMSWCD  
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Hello Karla,

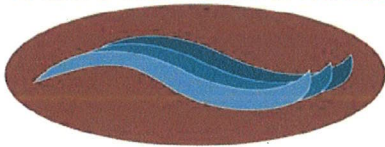
Please see our written testimony in support of the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project, which will be reviewed at a upcoming City Council meeting on February 3rd.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Best Wishes,

Mary Logalbo  
Conservation Planner/Technician  
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District  
2701 NW Vaughn St, Suite 450  
Portland, OR 97210  
Phone: 503 238 4775 x 103  
Fax: 503 326 3942  
[www.wmswcd.org](http://www.wmswcd.org)

WMSWCD's mission is to conserve and protect soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment.



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

January 27, 2010

Portland City Council  
City Hall  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Support for the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project

Dear Portland City Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District in support of the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project.

The West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD)'s mission is *to conserve and protect soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment*. A key component of our district's work is protecting our natural resources through effective invasive species management. The WMSWCD and the City of Portland currently partner on many invasive plant initiatives.

Here are our comments on the project:

- ♦ The project components -- upgrading the Portland Plant List, evaluating opportunities to improve invasive plant control by updating City Codes and rules, coordinating with the Portland Plan and researching the feasibility of establishing a local noxious weed law -- will all be crucial to effective invasive weed control in the City of Portland.
- ♦ The Portland Plant List is in dire need of updating. Some very damaging invasives are missing.
- ♦ The WMSWCD is hopeful that the required removal of invasive trees in selected sensitive areas is approved.
- ♦ The proposed improvement and review of city codes and possible implementation of a noxious weed law will greatly assist with the most difficult part of invasive plant management -- coordinating with private landowners to treat their weeds.
- ♦ The WMSWCD is eager to partner further with the City on invasive plant projects and is fully supportive of revised and new provisions enhancing the existing EDRR program efforts.
- ♦ Furthermore, we encourage the City of Portland to dive even further into this effort by following leaders such as the City of Chicago, which regulates the sale of invasive species within their City.

We applaud your efforts to address these issues and look forward to future work together on this important environmental issue.

Sincerely,

*Jane Hartline*

Jane Hartline  
WMSWCD Board of Directors



*Inspiring people to love & protect nature since 1902*

January 27th, 2010

Re: Invasive Plant Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project

Portland City Council  
1900 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Portland, OR 97201-5380

Portland City Council,

The Audubon Society of Portland fully supports the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project. It is well understood that invasive plant species threaten the health of our natural areas and the wildlife that depend on them. These code and policy changes are important for making progress on the spread and introduction of invasive plants in Portland.

The proposed policy review and project compliments our current work in our own wildlife Sanctuary and our ongoing invasive species education program for private property owners. Audubon Society of Portland manages 165 acres of forested wildlife sanctuary. Our goal is to remove major invasive species from the sanctuary and prevent the establishment of new infestations of invasive plant species. We are also working with small lot private property owners to remove invasive species from their yards through our Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

The Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project will provide additional resources to us through the updating of the Portland Plant List. The Portland Plant List is an excellent resource and the proposed updates, including the addition of rankings that describe the current distribution and level of invasiveness, will increase its usability and value as a resource.

We support the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project and believe these code and policy changes are valuable improvements to Invasive Plant Species management within the City of Portland. We would like to encourage the Council to partner with agencies and organizations throughout the region to develop a strategic long term plan to stop the spread of invasives. We are happy to be a partner on this project, and we will continue to educate, remove and monitor invasive plants in our region.

Sincerely,

Karen Munday  
Urban Wildlife Specialist

Ariana Longanecker  
Urban Conservation

5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland, OR 97219 • Tel 503.292.6855, Fax 503.292.1021 • [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org)