

R E V I S E D

A
MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR
FOREST PARK

Prepared under direction
of
Forest Park Committee of Fifty
Portland, Oregon

Third Revision
July 2, 1976

As further revised by Council action November 10, 1976

Preface

In 1947 the Portland City Council approved a report of the Portland Planning Commission establishing Forest Park with designated boundaries enclosing an area of approximately 6,114 acres. At that time less than 3,000 acres were in public ownership within the established boundaries so that the in-holdings of private ownership comprised somewhat over 3,000 acres.

Since that time some 1,200 acres of private land have been acquired through tax foreclosure, gift and purchase, leaving about 1,900 acres still in private ownership. In the last 15 years only about 225 acres of private land have been acquired, mostly by purchase.

The slowing down of this acquisition program has been a serious deterrent to proper development of the park because many of the remaining private ownerships consist of large blocks of land around which it is difficult to plan.

In 1950 the U. S. Forest Service, at the request of the Park Bureau, prepared a plan of management for Forest Park. Some progress was made in carrying out the recommendations of this report. However, the frequent turnover in the incumbency of the park forester, the volume of routine administration and the obstacles provided by the remaining blocks of private ownership have outdated the original management plan, now nearly 25 years old.

Forest Park is a great potential asset for the people of Portland. With sound progressive management it can become one of the outstanding recreational and educational attractions of the entire nation.

Integral to this happening is the adoption and pursuit of a comprehensive management plan including therein an aggressive program of acquisition of private lands within designated boundaries.

Such a plan has been prepared and is herewith presented. It is the result of a three-year study in which the public has participated generously. Professional foresters, educators, specialists, and users alike have contributed their time, energy and experience.

It is hoped that the offering of this new plan for management of Forest Park will stimulate a rebirth of interest and enthusiasm that will inspire those responsible to take the leadership necessary to make Forest Park become one of the really great resources of our city.

Management Plan
for
Forest Park

The major purpose of Forest Park is to provide an undisturbed, natural forest and park environment for the quiet recreational enjoyment of the people of the City of Portland. The major policy to guide the management of Forest Park by the City Council is that Forest Park represents an unparalleled resource where citizens can enjoy the peace, solitude, ruggedness, variety, beauty, unpredictability and unspoiled naturalness of an urban wilderness environment. With that in mind, City Council resolves to minimize the overt, man-made management and development of the area and to adopt an approach stressing conservation and preservation of the naturalness of the resource.

This purpose can only be attained by recognizing the inseparable inter-relationships between all of the elements of the forest community (plants, animals, water, air and man) and taking account of these in planning and execution.

The management plan here presented consists of a series of objectives consistent with both on a long range and a current basis.

The nature of the planning recommended is outlined herein. These proposals need to be tied to the ground within this framework by staff experts in the City administration.

A. Recreation Management

Objective: To develop the park so that it will afford a broad range and variety of extensive outdoor recreation in keeping with the wild character of a Forest Park.

Implementation:

1. A comprehensive system of trails should be planned and constructed covering the entire area of the Park. Planning should be undertaken regardless of the ownership pattern. In this way the plan would help to identify specifically the needs for land acquisition and in setting priorities for an acquisition program.
 - a. The trail system should embrace one or more trails running the entire length of the park as well as feeder trails coming in from various points of access.

- b. Most trails should be limited to use by people. Separate trails should be planned for horse use so that people and horses do not have to compete for use of the same trail.
 - c. The appropriateness of special bicycle trails in Forest Park should be coordinated with the Oregon State Highway Division and the City-wide Bicycle Task Force.
 - d. Efforts should be made to capitalize on special features such as vistas and natural phenomena to produce a variety of attractions and to disperse users.
 - e. A schedule of trail construction should be prepared showing priorities to be followed as funds become available for construction.
 - f. Standards of trail construction embodying slope, alignment, tread width, etc., consistent with soil conditions need to be adopted and followed.
 - g. Standards of trail maintenance embodying brushing of trails, placing of signs, etc., need to be adopted and followed.
- 2. Sanitation facilities need to be planned, constructed and maintained at convenient locations throughout the park.
 - 3. Regulations need to be adopted and enforced prohibiting motorized travel on trails and dogs running loose in the park as well as restricting certain trails to travel by people rather than horses, etc.
 - 4. Volunteers from interested groups should be solicited to assist in trail construction and maintenance where this is feasible and

to promote use of Forest Park. To be effective this must be initiated by public administrators with constructive and meaningful programs in cooperation with leaders from public groups and organizations.

5. Some means should be found to measure the use of Forest Park as a basis for intelligent planning and management.

B. Wildlife Management

Objective: To provide forage, cover and a sanctuary for wildlife and the opportunity for wildlife management demonstration and education.

Implementation:

1. A comprehensive plan should be prepared by staff experts which would identify habitat needs to encourage and attract appropriate wildlife forms to Forest Park.
 - a. Appropriate diversity of vegetative types and age classes are important for wildlife. Open spaces and well vegetated lanes between forest walls need to be provided in such a way as to produce no adverse impacts.
 - b. Introduction of plants suited to the soil, climate and associated vegetation may be needed to provide primary sources of food and cover for various species of wildlife. Vegetative diversity will encourage and attract a greater variety of wildlife.

2. Protective measures should be taken to provide a proper sanctuary for wildlife.
 - a. Motorcycle use and roaming dogs should be prohibited.
 - b. Seculsion should be provided to protect the existing beaver colony in the north end of Forest Park and their ponds which now attract a variety of bird life.
 - c. Improvements should be made to the Miller Creek channel in the north end of Forest Park to promote its use as a rearing area for native migratory fish so that it might serve as a small demonstration stream. (It should be closed to fishing.)
3. An interpretive and tour program should be organized to acquaint the public with the great opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat.

C. Forest Management

Objective: To manage the forested areas in a manner that will best achieve and harmonize with the other objectives of this plan.

Implementation:

1. The forest resource should be managed in such a way as to achieve a variety of plant associations, including a broad range of representative species native to Forest Park.
 - a. Silvicultural practices appropriate for particular areas should be determined and required to enhance the quality of Forest Park for its principal uses--forest recreation and environmental education.
 - b. Although it will take generations to do so, Forest Park should be converted to the kind of forest that displays seasonal

variety of aesthetic quality, that has opportunities for scenic vistas, that has well-spaced stands of tall trees, thick moss and verdant fern beds, grizzled forest giants, thrifty stands of young trees, trails throughout to disperse use and maintain the feeling of remoteness and sanctuary, portals to the park that invite appreciative enjoyment, unmolested wildlife of wide variety, freedom from mechanical intrusions, vigorous and healthy trees that aren't crowded to stagnation, and--most of all--happy people enjoying their forest.

2. Management of the forest should make use of opportunities to enhance recreational and educational values. Emphasis should be on providing a continuation of a succession of disease- and insect-free trees. Specific examples where management treatment might be followed are:
 - a. Removal of small stands of trees to open vistas at selected sites.
 - b. Salvage of trees damaged by wind, fire, insects, or disease.
 - c. Clearing of rights of way.
 - d. Park portal and trail construction.
 - e. Encouraging desirable plant communities necessary to sustaining a planned wildlife population.
 - f. Maintaining a tree population that will provide optimum beauty and tree health.
3. Forest products may be removed to achieve the objectives of the management plan. While the revenue derived from the sale of forest products is not of primary importance, nevertheless it can be used

to help defray the costs of full-time management or acquire private lands within Forest Park boundaries.

D. Protection Management

Objective: To protect the entire Forest Park from fire, vandalism, and other forces destructive to land and forest values.

Implementation:

1. The Fire Map for Forest Park should be updated to provide the latest information on water lines, water tanks, fire hydrants, locked gates and other physical improvements. This map should be reviewed and revised annually.
2. A comprehensive fire protection plan should be prepared that develops objectives for fire prevention, training, required improvement, including access, and fire and fuel breaks.
Preparation of such a plan should involve Park and Fire Bureau personnel with possible assistance from consultants and/or cooperation with other government units.
 - a. The comprehensive plan should include information on fire danger, values at stake, and fuel types.
 - b. Property ownership maps should be continually updated to show ownerships other than City, inside the Forest Park boundaries. Protection boundaries of the various fire protection districts should also be shown.
3. Programs for protection against vandalism and other such abuses should be developed in close cooperation with citizen groups, police officials and park personnel.
4. A plan of prevention and action to minimize loss from insects and disease in Forest Park should be developed and maintained.

Assistance in preparation of such a plan should be sought from the Insect and Disease Control Branch of the U. S. Forest Service and from the Oregon State Forestry Department.

E. Educational Management

Objective: To inform the public of the various uses of Forest Park and to provide opportunities for conservation education.

Implementation:

1. Educational values of Forest Park should be listed, defined and extended.
 - a. Present trails, nature walks, viewpoints, access points, study sites, etc., should be cataloged and made readily available.
 - b. Encouragement to interested individuals and groups should be offered to extend the educational and scientific potential of Forest Park, particularly in respect to tree, wildlife and ecological study.
 - c. To provide the public with an opportunity to gain knowledge of the forest from past, present, and future management practices.
2. A program to improve public awareness of the values and opportunities available in Forest Park should be developed and distributed through educational institutions, news media and special interest groups.
 - a. Leaflets on major features, newsworthy photographs, slide-lecture tapes, etc., can be used effectively. Photographic exhibits with special judging, nature trail guide books featuring the newer involvement technique of "doing" rather than "seeing" could be a part of the program.

- b. Coordination with the Western Forestry Center to further a fuller educational program could be arranged.
- 3. Public interest should be generated to help in shaping sound long-term management objectives for Forest Park.
 - a. Interested individuals and groups should be encouraged to learn about the successful city forests of Europe and Japan and use their knowledge to improve the management and use of Forest Park to its full potential.
 - b. Efforts should be made to stimulate a public interest in the background of Forest Park through study of the biological history and the record of use by man, and using this knowledge to educate the citizens of Portland on the opportunities the park affords.

F. Land Management

Objective: To secure ownership or access to lands within the Forest Park acquisition line to facilitate management of the lands and minimize problems of unwise use.

Implementation:

- 1. The designated perimeter (acquisition line) should be reviewed and changed where warranted.
 - a. Consideration should be given to include all tracts which do not have existing residences thereon at this time and which lie between Skyline Boulevard on the west and the existing park lands on the east and between the west line of Section 25 T1N R1W and Newberry Road and which lie between Newberry Road on the north and the existing park lands on the south and between Skyline Boulevard and St. Helens Road.

- b. Consideration should be given to excluding tracts of land located within the acquisition line which may have little, if any, significant value to the ultimate development and management of the park.
2. The Land Acquisition Policy for Forest Park should be simplified and updated to include two groups.
 - a. First priority tracts should be identified and given continuing and equal attention for acquisition as land availability and money permit.
 - b. Other tracts within the designated acquisition line should be acquired on initiation of the owner or through tax foreclosure or gift.
 - c. Special concern should be applied in the selection of properties within the acquisition line which would have the least effect upon adjacent residential, commercial and industrial properties, and especially the community of Linnton.
3. The City Council should be requested to adopt the Land Acquisition Policy for Forest Park identified in #2, and to aggressively seek ways to implement it.
4. Applications to the Park Bureau and to the City Council for use of lands within the designated acquisition line in a way that conflicts with or is not compatible with the objectives of Forest Park should be denied.

G. Financial Management

Objective: To insure that the financial resources derived from or otherwise available for Forest Park are best used to attain the management objectives.

Implementation:

1. The City Council should be requested to adopt a policy statement that any revenue obtained from resources of Forest Park shall be used for the benefit of Forest Park.
2. Consideration should be given to a proposal to the Portland City Council that a park levy be proposed for adoption by vote of the people.
3. The City Council should be requested to make financial provision for implementing an aggressive program of land acquisition of private lands within the designated acquisition line of Forest Park through budgetary or other sources of revenue.
4. Full use should be made of available financial aid from federal, state, and other public sources.
5. A continuing program to attract private funds through gifts and bequests should be instituted.

H. General Management

Objective: To manage Forest Park in such a way that its full potential value to the people of Portland may be realized.

Implementation:

1. Voluntary participation of professional, technical, scientific, educational and user groups should be solicited to provide assistance where needed.

2. Continuous review of the environmental impact of conflicting uses should be given so that decisions may be made on a basis designed to produce the greatest long-time benefit to the people of Portland.
3. Leif Erickson Drive should be maintained as a gravel road and remain open as far as Salzman Road, except when officially closed because of the fire hazard or similar temporary emergency.
4. Herbicides should be used as a last resort within the Forest Park boundaries.
5. An annual program of work should be prepared and used as a guide to management.
6. This management plan should be reviewed and updated at least every five years.
7. Resources permitting, it is the intent of the City Council to provide staff for comprehensive management of Forest Park and related forested areas of the west side hills park system.

RESOLUTION NO. 31779

WHEREAS, the Forest Park Committee of 50 has developed over a two-year period a recommended management plan for Forest Park; and

WHEREAS, such management plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A, provides desirable guidelines for the management of the park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Portland hereby does adopt the plan for management of Forest Park, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council commends the Forest Park Committee of 50 for its efforts and continued interest in Forest Park.

Adopted by the Council NOV 10 1976


Auditor of the City of Portland

Commissioner Schwab
October 22, 1976
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