



NEWS RELEASE

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COOKS BUTTE NATURAL AREA DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEWED

LAKE OSWEGO – Healthier trees, more usable trails, more native vegetation and less ivy are what Cooks Butte users have to look forward to if Council adopts the Cooks Butte Management Plan on July 1, 2008.

City Council received a report on the Draft Management Plan at its morning meeting on May 6. The Plan calls for a series of improvements to Cooks Butte Natural Area over a 3-4 year period totaling \$124,000. Invasive plant removal leads the list of activities, along with trail improvements, signage, vegetation monitoring, and public outreach.

Cooks Butte is one of the City's largest natural areas (42 acres), where vegetation dominates and human activity is secondary. The goals of the Plan are to maintain a balance of habitat protection and human use and to improve safety and access to enhance the experience for park users. With over 400 of the City's 600 acres of park land in natural areas, the draft Plan represents a proactive step in managing these lands with an ecological approach.

Mayor Judie Hammerstad, said, "The City of Lake Oswego is the largest natural area property owner in the City. This Plan represents commitment to maintaining the community's investment in its open space purchases."

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