



Forest Stewardship Plan – Timeline Overview

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Main Steps

1 Information Gathering, Committee Feedback, Site Review

2 Drafting & Committee Informed Design

3 Draft Stewardship Plan

4 Review and Final Stewardship Plan

What is a Forest Stewardship Plan



Today's Meeting

Share and Confirm Language Around:

- **Goals and Purpose**
- **Policy Categories**

Introduce & Discuss Management Activities

Next Steps will include:

- **Additional Conversation on Management Activities – if needed?**
- **Springboard to Share Draft Stewardship Plan – Mid December.**



Photo: Jetty Creek Watershed

How to Provide Feedback on Draft Plan

Draft Plan: Available for review Mid-Dec – Mid-Jan

Primary Feedback: Shared via email to Daniel Wear or via Survey (to come).

In-Person Feedback – Shared at Late Jan/Early Feb Meeting.

Goal: To have initial round of feedback two days prior to winter meeting, to give Springboard time to review and make recommendations.

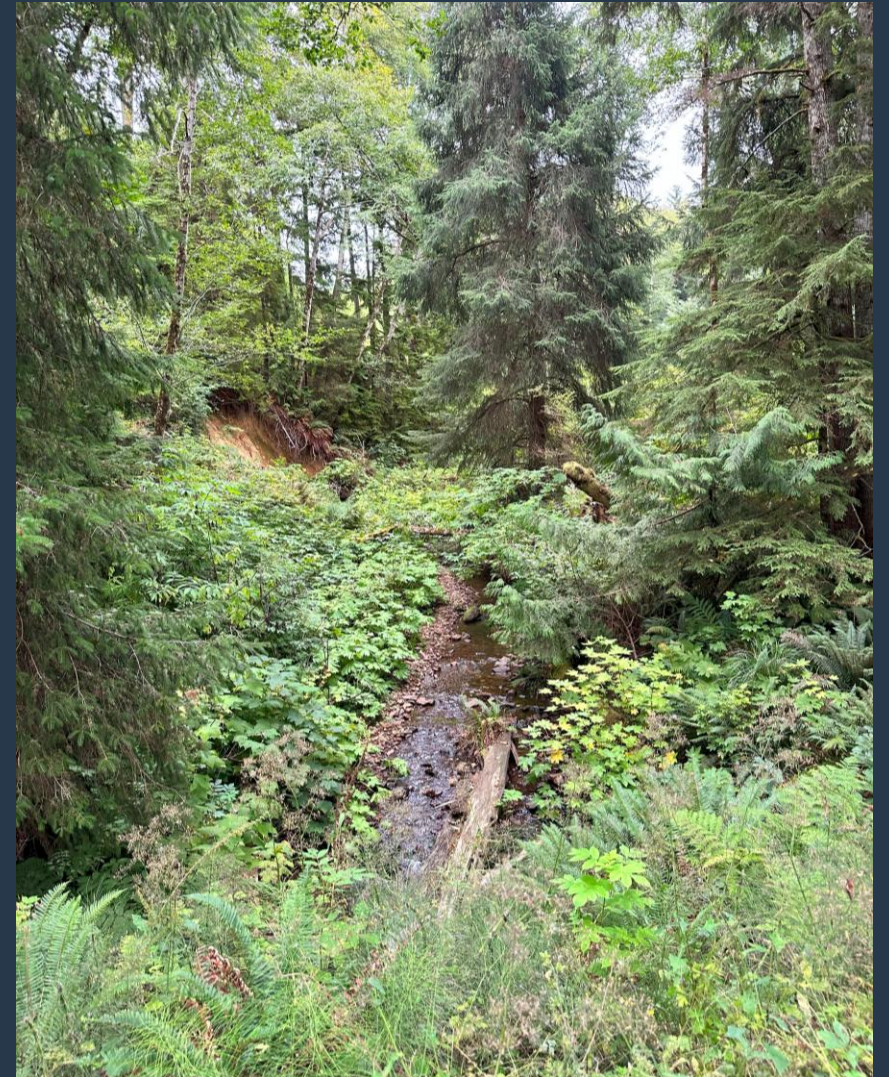


Photo: Jetty Creek, Sustainable Northwest

An aerial photograph of a dense, green forest. The canopy is thick and textured. In the center of the image, a person wearing a yellow shirt and dark pants is visible, standing on a path or clearing. The overall tone is natural and serene.

Jetty Creek Watershed

11/13/2025

Forest Advisory Committee

AGENDA

- Review Final Purpose and Goals
- Review Forest Management Policies
- Review Forest Stewardship Recommendations
- Next Steps



Finalized Purpose and Goals



**PROVIDE RELIABLE
QUANTITIES OF HIGH-
QUALITY DRINKING WATER.**



**BUILD LONG-TERM FOREST
RESILIENCE THROUGH
STEWARDSHIP THAT
PROMOTES SPECIES
DIVERSITY AND
STRUCTURAL COMPLEXITY
WHILE MITIGATING RISKS
FROM FIRE AND OTHER
DISTURBANCES.**



**FOSTER COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT AND
STEWARDSHIP THROUGH
RECREATION AND
EDUCATION.**



**SUPPORT AND ENHANCE
HABITAT FOR NATIVE
WILDLIFE, CONSISTENT
WITH DRINKING WATER
OBJECTIVES.**



**ENSURE LONG-TERM
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
BY MANAGING THE FOREST
TO MINIMIZE WATER
TREATMENT COSTS AND
OPTIMIZE OPERATIONAL
EFFICIENCY WITHIN THE
CITY'S BUDGET.**

1. Provide reliable quantities of high-quality drinking water

The City of Rockaway Beach fee simple ownership in and around the Jetty Creek watershed includes roughly half of the drinking water source area. A combination of steep slopes, erodible soils, roads, and past management practices has resulted in high turbidity throughout the watershed, driving up water treatment costs. All management practices will prioritize protecting and improving both the quality and quantity of source water, now and in the future. This includes mitigating impacts from sediment, nutrients, temperature fluctuations, large-scale disturbances such as pest outbreaks, and human activities. Additionally, forest structure and stand composition significantly affect low-flow and peak-flow conditions—factors that are becoming increasingly critical as weather patterns grow more unpredictable.

2. Build long-term forest resilience through stewardship that promotes species diversity and structural complexity while mitigating risks from fire and other disturbances.

Diverse and complex forests have a higher capacity to store and filter water, as well as greater ecological resilience in the face of disturbance. Forest stewardship will align with natural ecological processes to accelerate the forest's ability to provide essential ecosystem services. Policies relating to **harvest**, **stream buffers**, and invasive species management all aim to support natural forest processes while preparing for anticipated **variability and severity of disturbances**.

3. Foster community engagement and stewardship through recreation and education.

The city-owned property provides valuable aesthetic, recreational, and cultural benefits to the Rockaway Beach community, supporting activities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, and education. While protecting water quality and quantity remains the primary management priority, management actions promote public access and community connection to the forest where possible and with little to no potential impact on source water.

4. Support and enhance habitat for native wildlife, consistent with drinking water objectives.

The Jetty Creek watershed provides important habitat for a wide range of wildlife species. The mosaic of forest stand characteristics on the city-owned property currently supports adequate habitat with significant potential for future improvement. Steep slopes and large riparian buffers have created natural barriers to harvest, resulting in de facto reserve areas across the property. Over time, managing for historical forest succession patterns will restore habitat conditions that have become increasingly rare on the Northern Oregon Coast.

5. Ensure long-term financial sustainability by managing the forest to minimize water treatment costs and optimize operational efficiency within the City's budget.

Active management of the city-owned property plays a dual role in maintaining forest health and funding ongoing stewardship costs, with direct impacts on water affordability for the community. By integrating active management with source water protection and climate resilience, the property serves as a public model for sustainable forestry that delivers both ecological and economic benefits.

Policy Categories



**FOREST
STEWARDSHIP**



STREAM BUFFERS



**ROAD
MAINTENANCE**



**INVASIVE
SPECIES AND
CHEMICAL USE**

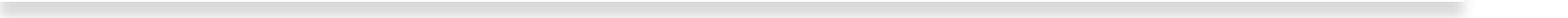


**RECREATION AND
PUBLIC ACCESS**

Forest Stewardship Policy



The City of Rockaway Beach's ownership within the Jetty Creek Watershed will be managed to increase species diversity, develop forest structural complexity, and maintain canopy cover (extent). This will be done with a long-term planning horizon and in a manner that prioritized water quality.



Stream Buffer Policy

The City of Rockaway Beach will manage the City ownership in the Jetty Creek Watershed to comply with the Oregon Forest Practices Act and Forest Stewardship Council Pacific Standards requirements for stream buffers. All streams will require a 150' equipment limitation zone, measured as horizontal distance. Non-commercial stewardship activities may take place to accomplish restoration and resilience goals within this 150' buffer, but should not utilize mechanical equipment.

Road Maintenance Policy

The City of Rockaway Beach or their contractors will monitor and evaluate the condition of roads in the Jetty Creek Watershed on an annual basis and following extreme weather events to prioritize maintenance and repair activities. Mainline and essential spur roads will be maintained on an annual basis with repairs as needed. Small spur roads may be decommissioned or temporarily abandoned. All current mainline roads should be kept open in order to provide fire and emergency access. This includes the removal of downed trees and regular brush mowing to keep roads open during fire season.

Strategies for road maintenance include out-sloping roads where possible, frequent and oversize cross drains, and disconnecting ditches and culverts from active stream channels. Routing road runoff into forest understory vegetation provides the best fine sediment filter available for forest roads.

Invasive Species and Chemical Use Policy

The City of Rockaway Beach will work with partners and the other watershed landowners to utilize the best available science and treatments for the management of invasive species. Invasive species are an inevitable component of forested ecosystems, but management will always strive to develop healthy native forests and ecologically functional plant communities.

The City of Rockaway Beach will not use any pesticides or fertilizers on their own ownership within the watershed and will work with other watershed landowners to encourage alternatives to pesticide and fertilizer.

Recreation and Public Access Policy

Determining a long-term balanced and managed approach to recreation will be critical in the Jetty Creek Watershed. The property is currently open to public access, with some restrictions relating to permits and seasonal / operational closures. Public access will continue to be allowed, with efforts made to develop new recreational access trails outside of the DWSA. Recreational access will be managed to minimize impacts to the property and to the staffing of the City of Rockaway Beach public works department, while also exposing residents and tourists to the wonders of the Jetty Creek property. The City intends to complete a Recreation Development Plan for areas outside of the DWSA within three years from the date of acquisition.

Forest Stewardship Recommendations



Non-commercial forest
health thinning



Road maintenance and
monitoring



Invasive Species
Management



Recreational
Development Planning
and Implementation

DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

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