

SECTION 3: PRE-APPLICATION FORM

A. Organization, project and contact information (one page maximum)

Please complete the organization, project and contact information below using no more than one page.

Date of application	4/22/2014
Organization name	Forest Park Conservancy
Organization address	210 NW 17 th Ave, Suite 201 Portland, Oregon 97209
Organization website	www.forestparkconservancy.org
Project contact Name	██████████
Title	██████████
Phone	██████████
Email	████████████████████
Project Partners Provide all partner organizations.	Portland Parks & Recreation, Balch Creek Partners, Audubon Society, Bureau of Environmental Services
Project title	Restore Forest Park
Project summary Provide a 20-45-word summary that describes your project.	Restore Forest Park is a long-term invasive plant species control plan to address and control invasive plants in Forest Park. The Balch Creek Launch will restore 155 acres in the Balch subwatershed; prioritized for its ecological value and high visibility.
Category Under which program category does your project best fit? (Select one only).	<input type="checkbox"/> Community stewardship in developed areas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration in natural areas

Estimated funding	Estimated amount requested: \$100,000
	Estimated match funds: \$172,000
	Estimated in-kind match: \$20,000
	Estimated total project budget: \$292,000

B. Organizational preparedness (one page maximum)

Organizational preparedness

- The Forest Park Conservancy and Portland Parks & Recreation have a long-standing history of partnership that dates back over 20 years when the Forest Park Conservancy was known as the Friends of Forest Park. In the past 7 years, the two organizations have worked diligently to solidify that partnership through staff changes with the development of a Memorandum of Understanding. The partnership now stands strong with clear and regular communication which takes place from the staff to the executive/senior management level. It is based upon this strong partnership that the project will be implemented with each organization focusing on components that best reflect their staff's strengths and experience.
- Forest Park Conservancy (FPC) will be responsible for pre- and post-project vegetation monitoring utilizing protocol they have developed and implemented over the past year for restoration project assessment. FPC has a strong stewardship and outreach program with over 9,000 volunteer hours per year. Stewardship and outreach will be directed to efforts in the Balch Project Launch area to raise awareness about invasive species control and the long-term efforts of Restore Forest Park. Matt Wagoner, FPC's Restoration Program Manager, is experienced at managing the on-the-ground vegetation monitoring, managing contracts and budgets while coordinating part-time and seasonal technical staff to implement stewardship and outreach. .
- Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), land manager of Forest Park, has developed the restoration strategy, scope and budget for this work and will be directing contract crews in accordance with their Integrated Pest Management Program. Kendra Petersen-Morgan, Forest Park Ecologist has over 10 years experience in restoration design and implementation and will be overseeing all restoration work associated with this project. Kendra has recently been involved in overseeing and directing large-scale restoration at River View Natural Area, a 146-acre parcel of upland forest managed by PP&R and has accomplished work of this nature on over 300 acres in Forest Park.
- The Forest Park Conservancy Board and Portland Parks & Recreation Director, Mike Abbaté and Commissioner Amanda Fritz are strong proponents of this grant submittal as it accomplishes the goals of the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative and the Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan.

C. Project description (two pages maximum)

General Description and Strategy

Restore Forest Park is a long-term invasive plant species control plan that outlines project priorities, actions, timelines and budgets. Forest Park is approximately 5,200 acres in size. Half of that acreage (2,600 acres) is maintained through PP&R's Protect the Best Program to address invasive vegetation. The remaining half needs (due to size and topography) to be treated by contract crews to control invasive species and restore habitat. While PP&R has dedicated funds to implement the Protect the Best Program, funding for initiating new restoration projects has been cut in previous budget cycles. Large-scale restoration in the park is currently only possible when mitigation funds become available or through fundraising by project partners.

In the Restore Forest Park plan, the primary target species for invasive control are ivy, clematis, blackberry, and English holly and laurel. Early Detection Rapid Response species will continue to be tracked and treated through that ongoing program and protocol.

In Forest Park, habitat is being restored for specific focal species that have been selected because of their habitat requirements, projected sensitivity to changes in vegetation and relative ease to monitor and track. The four focal species are: red-legged frog, Pacific giant salamander, pileated woodpecker and Swainson's thrush.

Project Description

The Balch Creek Launch is a 155 acre project within upland conifer/deciduous forest. This first launch project of the Restore Forest Park plan focuses on invasive species removal and connecting existing restoration areas in the Pittock Acres and Balch Creek Canyon area. This work will include the removal of weedy trees such as English holly and laurel, treatment of canopy vines such as clematis and ivy and address ground cover issues like blackberry and ivy; addressing all levels of the forest strata. Reducing invasive species throughout this area is anticipated to provide an uplift to ecological health, increasing the quality of interior forest habitat for the benefit of wildlife species.

All of spray treatments will be accomplished utilizing licensed pesticide applicators in accordance with PP&R's Integrated Pest Management Policy. The City of Portland has established a treatment protocol that has perfected the herbicide combination and treatment timing so that initial treatments of ground cover are extremely effective.

Goals

This work will enhance the diversity and structure of vegetation within Forest Park by *removing invasive species and enhancing native vegetation*. This restoration will enhance habitat quality and on a landscape-scale and *improve regional habitat connectivity* by connecting two restored areas together. Restoration work has occurred on 40 acres to the south and 70 acres to the north of the Balch Launch project. When completed, the total restored area will be 265 acres.

This work will benefit multiple wildlife species. Wildlife monitoring through the Portland Area Watershed Mapping and Assessment Protocol (PAWMAP) has highlighted the unique role that Forest Park provides for wildlife. Sensitive bird species as identified through the City of Portland's Terrestrial Ecological Enhancement Strategy (TEES) were present more frequently in sites sampled in Forest Park than in any other location within the City. It is believed from this data that Forest Park serves as a refuge for sensitive and declining birds.

This restoration work will enhance mixed deciduous-coniferous interior forest habitat and riparian forest habitat. These habitat types have been identified as priority habitats through The City of Portland's TEES work and The Intertwine Alliance Regional Conservation Strategy.

The citizens of Portland will be engaged in meaningful stewardship and education opportunities within the project area to connect them with this important and integral work. Guided tours and stewardship events will highlight information discovered from monitoring efforts and discuss the important role that restoration provides in habitat enhancement.

Mission

The mission of the Forest Park Conservancy is to protect and foster the ecological health of Forest Park, maintain and enhance the park's extensive trails network, and inspire community appreciation and future stewardship of this iconic urban wilderness as a gift for generations. FPC's organizational strategic plan is to directly support efforts and projects that help meet the ecological goals of Forest Park, in close coordination with Portland Parks & Recreation. In addition, FPC will provide communication and outreach to the community to help promote awareness and educate the public on both the ecological and human benefits of this project.

Partnerships

Restore Forest Park will engage and strengthen the partnerships of the Forest Park Alliance (PP&R, BES, Audubon, West Multnomah SWCD, Friends of Trees, Intertwine Alliance, Portland Parks Foundation, Metro, local Neighborhood Associations and Columbia Land Trust). We hope to approach new partners and engage landowners on private property to improve habitat on private land within the targeted perimeter. FPC will increase public awareness by engaging the neighborhood associations that surround Forest Park in this and encouraging neighbors to support this "call to action" for Forest Park.

Long-term Maintenance Strategy

The project scope and budget has been developed for a time frame that extends beyond the period of the grant. Funds have been secured by PP&R to ensure that active maintenance and monitoring will occur on this project for a total period of 5 years (2 years beyond the grant period). Following that time frame, the site will be informally monitored every 3 years to ensure that the initial investment made in restoring this area is protected and that new maintenance issues have not arisen.

Figure 1: Restore Forest Park Plan with projects years 2015-2025 highlighted*

*Private property projects are highlighted through partner initiatives



