



**TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**6101 Johnson Creek Blvd. Milwaukie, OR 97206**  
**3.29.2025**

**Hybrid / In- Person and Zoom Video Conference Meeting**

**Board Members Present:**

Ley Garnett  
Camden Mckone  
Olivia Padilla  
Jon Brown

**Board Members Absent:**

Kathleen Hunter-Brenner  
Alexis Barton

**Guest:**

Mark Hughes, local resident

**Staff Members Present:**

Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester  
Katie Gavares, Climate and Natural Resources Manager  
Brett Kelder, Milwaukie Senior Planner

**MEETING NOTES**

Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester, started the meeting with reference to a recent story in Willamette Week critical of Portland's Tree Code. The article featured comments from Portland citizens who said Portland's law is too rigid and had created financial difficulties for them. There were no references to success stories. Courtney said the story created a buzz among the urban forestry community and that most felt the article was not objective.

The critical ODF grant is still not finished. It's been slowed by uncertainty about federal funding from the Trump Administration but Katie Gavares, Climate and Natural Resources Manager, told the Board that it hopefully will be ready to sign at by the end of April. But It's still politically sensitive.

Courtney said many suggestions are coming regarding the City's Tree Lists. There are currently six existing tree lists that are each used for different purposes. Staff's goal is to create a consolidated plant list that house each of the previously separated lists. The main discussion of the evening focused on Milwaukie's use of two different invasive species lists, the Oregon Noxious Weed List, used in the Tree Code, and the Portland Plant List, used in the Natural Resources Code.

Brett Kolver, Senior Planner, led a discussion of Natural Resources Code that govern the City's creeks and wetlands (WQRs) and the Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) that set standards to preserve and enhance riparian habitats. Natural Resources code applies throughout the city, where the Tree Code only applies in residential areas. The codes both apply in WQRs and HCAs located in residential zones, which is approximately 175 properties throughout Milwaukie. In these areas, the both applicable codes have different definitions of invasive species and therefore different allowances. The board discussed the benefit of deferring to the Natural Resources Code invasive species list in HCAs and WQRs in residential zones, but otherwise maintaining a limited invasive tree list in remaining residential zones.

The Board meeting concluded with remarks from Mark Hughes who urged that an adaptive management plan be created for Elk Rock Island and Spring Park.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.