

City of Portland

Natural Resource Service Delivery Project Roadmap

January 2024

Introduction

This document (“Roadmap”) describes the collaborative process the Natural Resource Service Delivery teams and participants (listed at end of this document) are using to develop a Natural Resource Delivery Workplan. The Workplan will describe the actions the City needs to take to implement the direction of Resolutions 37609 and 37635.

Background

In the spring of 2023, the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS), Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R), Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), and Portland Water Bureau (PWB) convened to develop a potential vision and opportunities related to natural resource service delivery as per [City Resolution 37609](#) (see the environment and climate sections). Concurrently, the City contracted with ECONorthwest to analyze a snapshot of existing natural resource memoranda of understanding, interagency agreements, plans, regulations, maps, and budget items.

ECONorthwest presented their findings and opportunities for improved service delivery of natural resources to the Parks and Recreation Board, the Portland Utility Board, and the Urban Forestry Commission, and staff leadership from BES, BPS, PBOT, PP&R, and PWB. Catalysis LLC facilitated these workshops and meetings and hosted surveys, which resulted in an inventory of findings, a potential opportunities report, and a report of the survey outcomes in September 2023.

How we got to where we are now

On November 1, 2023 City Council held a hearing on Resolution 37635 to establish the City’s future organizational structure. The resolution added Citywide Operational Natural Area and Tree Management to the service area with Parks & Recreation and the Portland Children’s Levy and City Arts. The resolution also included continuing the work that was started in the spring of 2023 to assess a broader range of opportunities to improve natural resource service delivery.

The Directors of BES and PP&R acknowledge this was a shift in the anticipated process and want to use this moment that elevated the importance of Portland’s natural resources to continue past collaborative processes. The goal is to continue to build a shared vision for natural resources that benefits the City and all of its inhabitants.

Proposed path forward

To pursue a collaborative process, the following steps are proposed:

- Circulate this Roadmap towards a final Workplan that allows for greater level of engagement and includes:
 - Work sessions and opportunity for input from Bureau Directors, Subject Matter Experts (SME), and advisory bodies (meetings and surveys)
 - Commissioner review and Council Work Session before final approval of Workplan
- Identify common visionary elements that can be addressed by the Workplan
- Involve a third-party facilitator to support meaningful input, discussion, and recommendation(s)

Proposed assumptions for final Workplan contents

1. Tie Workplan to a larger City vision as a driving force (see Blue Sky Scenarios below)
2. Outline the role of each Bureau in supporting natural resource service delivery
3. Outline opportunities to convene further internal and external stakeholder engagement
4. Include plans to align Operational Natural Areas and Tree Management into the Vibrant Communities service area
5. Identify staffing and funding implications for FY 24/25 and beyond
6. Consider the role of Chief Sustainability Officer in relationship to the Workplan
7. Align with City's Climate Action Plan and 2022-2025 Climate Emergency Workplan and applicable Bureau strategic plans.

Blue Sky Scenarios for a new approach to Natural Resource Delivery

- Boldly and comprehensively strengthen and grow our systems of green and blue infrastructure, improving the quality of all life in Portland.
- Deliver a healthy, clean, ecologically diverse system providing wildlife habitat, access to nature, flood storage, and other ecosystem services.
- Create a system that provides world class community service and resources to protect our natural areas, invests in our communities and ultimately meets our City and community goals.
- Provide Portland with functional, healthy natural resource delivery and contribute to Portland's environmental resilience, and its social and economic recovery.

Natural Resource Delivery Teams and Participants

Several teams are involved in the development and review of the Workplan:

Core Team: BES and PP&R Directors, Project Managers, and Facilitator

Advisory Bodies: Portland Utility Commission, Urban Forestry Commission, and Portland Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Council Work Session Prep Team: BES and PP&R finance, natural area management, and tree management staff members

Interbureau Team: Directors and subject matter experts from BES, PP&R, BPS, PBOT, and PWB

Facilitator: Catalysis LLC

Proposed Roadmap Timeline	Participants	Date
Joint advisory body meeting – Roadmap presentation and process updates	Advisory Bodies Core Team	January 9, 2024
Facilitated interbureau meeting to review and discuss draft Workplan	Interbureau Team Core Team	January 10, 2024
Draft Workplan working meetings	Interbureau Team Council Work Session Prep Team Core Team	January 11 – 25, 2024
Council Work Session with draft Workplan	Interbureau Team Council Work Session Prep Team Core Team	February 1, 2024
Advisory body meetings - updates and Workplan review	Advisory Bodies Core Team	March 12 and 21, 2024
Final Workplan meeting with Interbureau Team	Interbureau Team Core Team	April 2024
Workplan delivered to CAO	Core Team	May 2024