

working for clean rivers

Controlling Invasive Plants in Mt. Tabor Park

APRIL 2014

Stormwater runoff can impact water quality in rivers and streams. Natural resources, like urban streams, forests, and wetlands manage stormwater naturally to protect water quality, public health, and the environment. Green infrastructure reduces flooding and erosion, provides cool, clean water to our rivers and streams, and adds wildlife habitat and urban green space for healthier watersheds.

The City of Portland and the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park work together to protect the park's natural areas by removing invasive plants and restoring native forest vegetation.

The city began the Mt. Tabor Invasive Plant Control and Revegetation Project in September 2010. Native plants in natural areas manage stormwater better than invasive plants. Non-native invasive plants targeted for removal include common species such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry, as well as new invaders like wall hawkweed and lesser celandine. Native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses are planted in areas cleared of invasive plants.

The city controls invasive vegetation mechanically, manually and with herbicide applications. The extent of invasive plant infestation, the size of the project area, and steep terrain make herbicide use the most effective treatment option for this project.

Using Herbicides Safely

The City of Portland applies herbicides using integrated pest management (IPM) principles. Protecting human health, wildlife and the environment is central to the IPM strategy.

Application Safeguards

- Only trained professionals with State of Oregon herbicide applicator licenses apply herbicides. A city employee with a state herbicide applicator license plans and supervises all applications.
- Signs posted in project areas notify park users of herbicide applications.
- Applicators use low-pressure backpack sprayers that allow selective application to target plants with minimal drift.
- Applicators spray only when wind speeds are below five miles per hour.
- The herbicides selected for this project are glyphosate and triclopyr, which have low toxicity, degrade naturally and are non-persistent, and are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for use in wetlands and aquatic areas.
- Pesticide use restrictions are in place near Mt. Tabor's open reservoirs to protect city drinking water.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about the Mt. Tabor Invasive Plant Control and Revegetation Project, visit www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/mttabor or contact Ryan Durocher, 503-823-2316 or ryan.durocher@portlandoregon.gov

GET INVOLVED!

Visit www.taborfriends.org to find out how to get involved with the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors.

Learn more about invasive plants at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/invasives.



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