

DRAFT NADAKA 2020

MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND PROGRAMMING - 5-YEAR PLAN

DRAFT - JANUARY 2014



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INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE AND GOALS

Nadaka Neighborhood Park is made up of 10-acre wooded natural area, which is zoned as open space, and a 2-acre open park area that is zoned as parkland and designed to accommodate an array of neighborhood park activities.

Building Nadaka Neighborhood Park has been a culmination of a 6-year unique citizen and community led effort in partnership with the City of Gresham to enhance the use and enjoyment of the park's 10-acre woodland and to create a neighborhood park that truly serves as a center of community for the Rockwood, North Gresham and Wilkes East neighborhoods.

As part of the agreement of this partnership, the Friends of Nadaka have committed to providing a 5-year maintenance and operation plan that will guide the stewardship and care of the park after it is built. This plan represents direction for operation and maintenance of the park, and also the broad integrated goals of ecological stewardship, crime-prevention, job creation, and multicultural education; all of which are aimed at addressing the challenges of building community, creating a safe place for diverse communities, and creating a high standard and new model for parks and natural area system development in Gresham and East County

BACKGROUND

A Vegetation Management Plan was originally developed for Nadaka Nature Park in 2010 in conjunction with the master plan development for the new 2-acre addition.

Seven management goals were established at that time:

1. Prioritize management and monitoring of site according to available financial resources.
2. Improvement of habitat and ecological values
3. Retention of healthy Douglas Firs on the 2-acre property
4. Removal of Douglas Firs infested with Laminated Root Rot and replanting with alternate native tree species
5. Closure of informal trail to reduce fragmentation of habitat
6. Fire prevention
7. Development of volunteer and staff work plan priorities

This plan builds on the 2010 vegetation management plan by providing maintenance, operational and programming guidelines for both the natural area and new park development for the next 5 years. The following guidelines are organized by the distinct elements of the park: the natural area, the children's nature play area, the community garden, landscaped areas and park facilities. Recommendations for community partnerships and programming are also included in this plan as an essential ingredient in creating ownership and participation in the park which in turn, will serve to build community and help to discourage and prevent vandalism and associated maintenance and repair costs to the city and community.

NATURAL AREA MANAGEMENT

Vegetation Management Long Term Goals for the Forest

The vegetation management goal for the forested natural area is to restore a healthy native habitat that includes mixed aged trees, mixed deciduous and conifer trees and multiple canopy layers of upper story trees, mid-under story trees, shrubs, ferns, perennials and groundcovers that together serve to increase

structural diversity for native wildlife, especially birds. To achieve this, active invasive vegetation removal is a foremost priority. Selective thinning may be required of some existing Doug firs to provide ample space for better long-term health of remaining fir trees. An introduction of more native deciduous trees such as alder, Madrone, cascara and vine maple, different conifer trees species resistant to LRR, arborescent shrubs such as Indian plum, serviceberry, and elderberry, and restoration of the understory with herbaceous shrubs, perennials and ground covers will together enhance and diversify wildlife habitat and food sources.

Invasive Weed Removal

Removing invasive vegetation in the forest is the first step to restoring the natural area to a diverse multi-layered canopy native forest. Dominant invasive species within the natural area include: Himalayan Blackberry, English Ivy, Holly, Laurel, Deadly nightshade, and more. Volunteer work parties have taken place over the past 5 years primarily orchestrated by the Friends of Nadaka. School youth, families, and community members of all ages have participated in removing invasive vegetation, now averaging over 1,000 hours per year of volunteer service. These efforts have had a huge positive impact on the natural area. However, to get ahead of the spread of invasive species, and began to restore areas with native vegetation, larger organized efforts will be needed. This can be accomplished by orchestrating several large volunteer events in a year, contracting with invasive removal crews, or a combination of both. Hands on Portland and SOLV are two organization partners that help expand outreach and handle registration for larger volunteer events.

An effective way to increase participation in smaller scale ongoing volunteer work parties, would be to establish a volunteer crew leader team, modeled after Mount Tabor Park's Weed Warrior Program. Establishing regular cleanup dates on a calendar year, such as the last Saturday of the month is an effective way to get the word out via an online calendar, establishing consistency so more volunteer groups that are seeking service opportunities can plan their activities around a known calendar.

Tree Management

Inventories have been conducted that identify Douglas fir trees infected with Laminated Root Rot. Forest trees were inventoried in 2013 by a professional forester and eleven trees were identified for removal. The trees were felled in the winter of 2014. Some were harvested to be used in the nature play area, some were left on the forest floor for habitat value and other trunks were left standing to serve as snag or perch trees. The forest should continue to be monitored and professionally assessed every 2 years to identify any additional trees infected with LRR to be removed, to determine additional trees that need to be trimmed or felled for public safety purposes and to identify any trees to be selectively thinned for the overall healthy growth of remaining trees.

Vegetation Restoration

Areas or zones will be designated each year for vegetation restoration projects. These will be determined by areas that are in need, e.g. where Doug firs have been removed due to LRR and replacement canopies are needed; or areas where invasive vegetation has been cleared and the area is ready to replace with native understory vegetation. All plantings should be scheduled in the fall so new plantings will have a winter establishment period. Stakes or other markers will be included with new plantings to ensure their care through a 1-2 year establishment period.

Restoration planting will be organized in partnership with youth groups and volunteers as learn and serve projects. Additional restoration grant funds will be sought on a project by project basis to support restoration efforts. Each planting project will include follow up stewardship by the volunteer groups to ensure sufficient watering or weeding as needed through the establishment period for new plants.

5-year Vegetation Management Plan Objectives

Year 1	Conduct at least 3 major invasive removal events, continue small volunteer work parties. Focus on one vegetation restoration area.
Year 2	Ongoing invasive removal work parties, removal of informal trails and trail resurfacing of designated trails. LRR monitoring. Focus on one vegetation restoration area.
Year 3	Ongoing invasive removal upkeep; Selective tree thinning and removal, Continue Understory Tree and Shrub Planting and mulching by area (in fall) Maintain restoration plantings
Year 4	Continue understory tree and shrub planting and mulching by zone area in fall. Ongoing invasive removal upkeep and maintenance of restoration plantings.
Year 5	Continue understory tree and shrub planting and mulching by zone area in fall. Ongoing invasive removal upkeep and maintenance of restoration plantings.

Long-term Desired Future Condition

The development of a long term future desired condition implementation plan for management of the natural area should be developed that further defines tasks and timelines for how to accomplish the above goals and objectives. This plan is an excellent “real world” project that could/should be developed as a college level service/academic project by MHCC or PSU forestry/natural resource students in a practicum course.

Trail Management

Trail Removal: At present, there are numerous unofficial trails in the natural area that negatively impact wildlife habitat by trampling vegetation, spreading trash and creating safety issues. It is recommended that these trails be mapped and that a formal system of trail be defined. Informal trails designated for removal can then be blocked with down branches, brush and forest duff. This is a project that has educational value and lends itself to partnering with the community college; a high school or an Eagle Scout.

Trail maintenance: Aside from the primary gravel access trail loop, all other established pedestrian trails should be replenished annually with wood chips to keep back weeds and prevent erosion. This activity easily lends itself to being accomplished by volunteer work parties. Parks Maintenance Staff routinely generate bark chips from ongoing tree work throughout the city. A designated stock pile area for bark chips at the south edge of the forest will provide a steady supply for trail work parties to be carried out by volunteer groups that are seeking service opportunities.

Natural Area Foot Patrol

Establish a group of volunteers that are committed to walking the natural area to have eyes on the park daily. Their primary mission is to observe, report and record, and be an ambassador for the park. Volunteers are not expected to confront troublemakers. Secondarily, walkers will pick up light litter. The goal of this program will be to have 2 people walking the park each day or a minimum of 14 foot patrol volunteers for the natural area who each walk the natural area trails a minimum of once a week. Walkers will walk in pairs and are supplied with a brightly colored vest that identifies them to park users. They will also be supplied with trash bags, gloves and tools for litter pickup.

Illegal Activity and Debris removal

The natural area, because of its forested setting that hides illicit activities combined with limited capacity to provide oversight by the city, has resulted in a problematic pattern of use that has periodically resulted in camps, campfires, and debris. More regular use by trail walkers in recent years has resulted in a reduction of these activities somewhat. The City’s Citizen Volunteer in Policing (CVIP) periodically walk through the natural area to create a visible presence. However, complimenting this program with the establishment of a regular daily volunteer Foot Patrol dedicated to Nadaka park to monitor and report such activity along with expanded desired public use of the park will go far in curbing and preventing these activities overall.

It is expected that some degree of debris cleanup will be required with the forest on occasion. Strategies to address this include early detection and reporting by the foot patrol to the parks maintenance staff when debris evidence is found, and to the police when activities are underway. Being able to address these incidents quickly will further deter continued activities.

Natural Area Existing and Potential Partners

Nadaka natural area has several successful partnerships with organizations that volunteer their service for invasive removal, clean ups, planting and trail maintenance. Sustaining these partnerships and building new partnerships will be key to sustaining a healthy natural area. Existing volunteer partnerships include:

Schools:

HB Lee Middle School Sun School students volunteer at the park each Tuesday after school through the SUN program. Their activities have included invasive removal, planting, and mulching. Springwater Trail H.S., Gresham H.S. and The Advanced Learning Center. Each have participated in work parties in the natural area or the garden.

Scout Troops: Boy Scout Troops 606 and 740 and Girl Scouts– Seek Community Service Projects both as a troop and as customized Eagle Scout Projects.

Faith Communities: East Rose Unitarian, Easthill Four Square Church, Tivnu, and Gresham Morman church have all participated in community service at Nadaka

Businesses: Intel,

Volunteer Organizations:

SOLV has been an annual partner at Nadaka for 5 years and will continue to be a partner in coordinating large cleanup/Invasive removal projects in the natural area. Hands on Greater Portland provides outreach and coordination for convenient and accessible volunteer opportunities across the Portland Metro area. A monthly calendar provides opportunities for done-in-a day activities. Also more in-depth project opportunities are publicized here.

Correction/Community Service Groups:

Four Cities Peer Court Youth – Youth violators that are fulfilling community service requirements
Multnomah County Crews- Adults with minor offenses that are fulfilling community service requirements

Contract Partners

Larger scale efforts of tree thinning, invasive removal and restoration may be best carried out through contracted services. Verde, Inc., a non-profit organization that employs minorities and builds ‘green work’ skills, is experienced in contract restoration work. Multnomah County Correction Crews is another labor source that can be hired to assist in larger scaled invasive removal efforts.

Funding Partners

Potential grant funding sources exist for larger scale restoration efforts and/or volunteer program development over and above general maintenance. These potential funding sources include EMSWCD PIC Grants, Metro Levy Stewardship Grants, Gresham Neighborhood Grants, Meyer Memorial Trust.

Education Programming

Actively programming educational activities in the natural area is integral to the stewardship and maintenance goals by ensuring more positive use of the natural area, and fostering citizen’s appreciation of the resource. The natural area can serve as an outdoor classroom from grade school to college level. Many education programs are seeking real world projects and combination “learn and serve” activities. Mt Hood Community College’s SEED Program and Rosemary Anderson High School have both participated in projects at Nadaka and exemplify partnerships that we would like to continue and increase.

Environmental Education providers will include Metro, Audubon and Columbia Slough Watershed Council and potentially others who can lead nature walks in the forest to both school groups and the community. Our goal is to establish a year round calendar of environmental education activities along with volunteer opportunities that community members can participate in. These activities can also be published by Nadaka Park’s partners such as in Metro’s Greenscene, Audubon and Columbia Slough newsletters and the Intertwine in addition to the Friends of Nadaka website and Facebook.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The community garden is an area that is actively cultivated by its members that have individual plots. In addition, there will be common areas in the garden for gathering, for composting and shared growing areas for berries and/or food donation, whose maintenance will be coordinated as group work parties or delegated responsibilities.

Annual Maintenance of the garden is very seasonal. It is recommended that at a minimum three training/work parties be organized and provided to community gardeners; one in Spring to amend and prepare soil, a Summer weeding and composting work party, and a Fall ‘putting the garden to bed’ training/work party. Garden wood chip paths will benefit from an annual wood chip replenishment after the first full season, which can be spread in late fall or early spring; again as a volunteer work party.

Garden Composting

Having a compost system in the garden is a very practical way to decompose all of the garden vegetation that is generated and create rich compost to amend the next season’s soil. Given that the garden will be all organic, composting is integral to replenishing nutrients to the soil and is also a good education opportunity. However, it is critical that composting is actively managed to compost efficiently and to keep it free of weed seeds and other pests. Having a shared compost station will be most successful with a coordinator and/or a volunteer compost team who are interested in managing this aspect of the garden. Until a centralized compost station and volunteer team is established, initial composting can be accomplished by simply designating an area where a “cold” compost heap is established. Another alternative is to address in the garden protocols how each gardener is to compost within their individual plots.

Perennial Edible Plants

Cane berries, blueberries and huckleberries are planted in common areas around the garden’s perimeter. A drip system is installed to ensure their healthy establishment. Maintenance for all of these is comparatively light; making sure they have sufficient water through the summer, keeping the ground weed free and covered in mulch, and pruning back berry canes in the fall. Each of the common areas of the garden are to be maintained by coordinating collective work parties with accompanying training.

Garden Management and Administration

The community garden will require an established management/administrative position that manages plot registration, adherence to garden protocols and policies, coordinates delegated volunteer management roles and work party activities in the garden. The City has an established contract with Outgrowing Hunger for the management of the city’s other community gardens, so the delegation of this role to Outgrowing Hunger at Nadaka Park seems a proven and logical approach. It is recommended and expected that the Garden Manager/Administrator will establish a volunteer garden management team that includes representatives of non-English speaking community gardeners and that sub-teams will be established within the team that will be responsible for various aspects of the garden, such as tool shed organization, compost station, berry crops, a donation garden, work party crew leader support, etc.

Education Programs & Potential Partners

The community garden in addition to being a place for 50 families to grow food, is a wonderful venue for food and garden education programming that can grow over time. Our goal will be to build partnerships with partners that can offer a range of classes from beginning gardening on up to extended season

gardening, harvesting, seed saving, preserving and cooking. St. Aidan’s Church next door has a community kitchen that will be an asset in future programming potential. There are many organizations that provide garden education and we intend to build partnerships with them as providers to expand gardening and food learning opportunities. Potential program partnerships will include Outgrowing Hunger, Snow Cap, Human Solutions, Zenger, OSU Master Gardeners, Oregon Tilth, Grow Portland, Kitchen Gardens and Independence Gardens.

Gardener’s protocols/agreements

The City of Portland’s community garden program, Grow Portland, Outgrowing Hunger and other Community Gardening organizations have all established gardener agreements and protocols to clarify expectations and facilitate smooth running garden operations. Example forms are provided in the appendix, however, it is best when the protocols are tailored to the garden and its members and that gardeners themselves have a part in establishing the protocols.

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NATURE PLAY AREA

The Nature Play Area will require a different approach to maintenance than typically required for standard playgrounds. The nature play area is an ephemeral setting where it is expected that kids will be playing with water and sand, and loose nature materials such as cones, flowers, sticks and leaves. Experience by maintenance staff with THPRD, an early adopter of nature play areas, has found that maintenance is actually less than that required for standard playgrounds. Some of the main principles put forth in THPRD's Nature Play Guidelines published in January 2012 include:

- Plants in the nature play area should be allowed to grow in a natural state. Some plants will be installed with the express purpose that children can pick flowers, leaves or stalks.
- Certain Grassy areas may be mowed routinely and others will be designated to be allowed to grow as part of the play area.
- Fill surfacing, sand or Fibar, will require occasional raking and replacement to maintain depth necessary for fall safety.
- Rocks, leaves, branches, cones and other natural materials should be left in the play area.

Maintenance of the nature play area will be a tiered daily, quarterly and annual approach.

Volunteer Monitoring

At the most frequent level (2-4 times per week) general monitoring should be carried out by designated volunteers. Their main purpose will be to check for and pick up any litter, make sure surface materials are free of sharp objects, rake woodchip surfacing if needed to keep sufficient depths, and check play area components for damage and/or graffiti. See sample inspection form.

Periodic Operational Inspections

This frequent routine by volunteers will be supported by a periodic operational inspection carried out by Parks Maintenance staff. They will conduct a more detailed inspection of component pieces of the play area at a minimum of every 3-4 months. These reports will be filed on record similarly to standard playground inspections. A customized inspection form has been created for the play area in Appendix.

Inspection & Maintenance of Play Components & Materials

Wood Inspection:

1. Visually inspect logs; remove broken, sharp or splintering areas; sand and retreat exposed surfaces. If signs of rot are visible, use a screw driver to test the amount of rot in log.
2. Remove unwanted elements; such as fungi, insect infestations, graffiti.

1. Boulder Scramble –

- a. Check and remove any debris, sharp objects amongst boulders
- b. Check for tagging and remove with graffiti removal

2. Stream bed –

- a. Check that all embedded rocks are secure in concrete
- b. Check to see that pea gravel and decomposed granite remains in streambed

3. Long House –

- a. Check all fasteners and hardware
- b. Check log surfaces and finishes for deterioration, splintering, cracking
- c. Check stability of footings

4. Tall Poles

5. Short Pole Nesting structure
6. Canoe
7. Docks and footbridges
8. Fire pit
9. Wood Steppers
10. Meadow Mounds
11. Sand & Fibar Surfacing
12. Water Pump
13. Plantings

Annual Inspection

An annual inspection is also recommended that includes the operational inspection plus a review of the use patterns of the play area. The first annual review would be most effectively done with the Landscape Architect play area designer to review whether the play area has been used as intended and whether adjustments are needed that should be incorporated into a maintenance Work Plan.

This should be a thorough inspection of equipment and surfacing by a trained playground maintenance staff person. The inspector should review and summarize the routine and operational inspections from the year, noting any repeated or outstanding items. The addition of the following items should accompany the operational inspection items to determine issues or hazards to be addressed in a work plan.

1	Check that components are being used in the way they were intended and that use zones are providing adequate space for climbing, descending, maneuvering.
2	Review component to see that no modifications have been made that create protrusions, or entanglement hazards.
3	Review rot on wood elements. Evaluate how current procedure of wood inspection/maintenance is working and adjust as needed. If interior root rot is suspected, consider using a Resistograph to confirm.
4	Review forts on site and fort building activity over the year. Modify approach if unsatisfactory elements are found too frequently.
5.	Review tree health/hazards in vicinity of play area and review any tree climbing issues and/or play with playground vegetation; and determine if a response or adjustment is needed.
6.	Review whether any pests or infestations occurred over the year; how they were treated and determine adjustments to be made.
7.	Review the extent of the site. Is play being extended beyond a reasonable boundary? Are there impacts to native habitat areas that need to be addressed?

LANDSCAPE AREAS

Eco-Lawns

An eco-lawn mixture is replacing the non-native grass field that was routinely mowed by park maintenance staff. Eco-lawns are a lower maintenance sustainable lawn mix that alleviates the need to fertilize and water regularly and thus require less frequent mowing than conventional lawns. The eco-lawn seed mix, supplied by Sunmark Seeds includes native red fescue, blue grama, buffalograss, prairie junegrass and strawberry clover. It is installed via a hydro-seed mix that includes a microbial fertilizer to boost establishment. The lawn should not require fertilizer after the initial installation, especially with clover included in the mix, which continually fixes nitrogen in the soil. Eco-lawns perform best at a pH level of at least 6, to make macronutrients optimally available to plants. A pH test done in early spring will determine if an annual application of lime is warranted to improve health of the lawn, particularly to promote rapid establishment. In trials completed by Sunmark, it was generally noted that first year plots were somewhat thin and plots achieved a mature lawn appearance by the second year.

Watering: There will be no automated irrigation system for the eco-lawn. The lawn will be planted in the fall after the first rains and should not require supplemental watering until the following summer. Quick couplers will be provided adjacent to lawn areas to provide supplemental water through the first summer of establishment and for unusual drought situations thereafter. Watering should be required no more than 2-3 times during the first year. When watering, do so thoroughly so that soil is moist to a depth of at least 1.5" to ensure and promote deep root growth. Once established, if the eco-lawn is not watered at all during the summer, it will likely go dormant by late July. This is a management option, however, 1-2 waterings through the August and September months will keep the lawn green and attractive.

Mowing: Mowing is best done on 3-week intervals to allow optimum flowering of the broadleaf flowering plants during the active growing season. In late spring when there is still a lot of moisture combined with warm temperatures, mowing may be required after 2 weeks. The lawn should be mowed to a 2-2.5 inch height and should be done with a composting mower, which allows clippings to return nutrients to the soil.

The large fir trees and large boulders within the eco-lawn areas should be mulched with bark chips to at least a 5-6 foot radius from the trees trunk or boulder in order to keep mowing tractors away from tree roots and for greater ease in mowing. Mulch should be kept at least 6" from the tree's trunk to prevent the possibility of fungal disease.

Meadows

Meadows provide good bird nesting and feeding habitat and are an important insectary for native pollinators. Meadow plants are deep rooted and drought tolerant. Once established, they should not require irrigation. The intended management of meadow areas are to limit mowing to 2-3 times per year, allowing meadow grasses and flowering plants to reach a height of 1 foot, enabling flowering and seeding to occur for enhanced habitat value.

The southern sunny edge of the natural area is currently an existing meadow of mowed mostly non-native grasses and forb plants some of which are invasive. The goal for the existing meadow area at the southern edge of the woodland is to establish a designated edge of the forest and prevent continuing encroachment into the meadow of trees and shrubs. While this area functions as a mowed grassy area for active group activities, the management intent is to selectively remove invasive grasses and replace

in early fall with native bunch grass seed mixes, such as Idaho and Red Fescue, California oat grass and Blue Wild Rye.

A new meadow demonstration area has been created in the neighborhood park near the garden to draw pollinators. The seed mixture is Sunmark Seeds 'meadow mix' which contains: California Brome, Sheep Fescue, Tufted Hairgrass, Prairie Junegrass, Wild blue iris, Indian Blanket and very small amount of Blue sage, California Poppy and spurred snapdragon. The meadow mix was installed by hydro seeding with perma-matrix, a fertilizer supplement that introduces microbial activity in the soil to promote rapid growth and establishment.

Watering: With seeding implemented in early fall after initial rains, no further water should be required. The meadow's growth should be monitored the first year and in the event of an unusually long dry period, the areas may require a supplemental overhead watering 1-2 times during late summer to make sure that plants are establishing deep roots.

Mowing: Mowing of the meadow is not required for the health of the meadow; the primary reasons to mow meadows is to reduce fire danger or if it is desired to keep lower in some areas for active use. The existing meadow glade within the natural area may continue to be mowed to accommodate active use. However, the eco-lawn areas are the areas intended to accommodate more heavy use.

Shrub Planting Areas

Shrub planting areas will be established at the park entrance, within the nature play area and adjacent to the picnic shelter. All of these planting beds are irrigated with an automated low spray irrigation system.

Maintenance of shrub areas primarily require annual mulching, removing any litter from planting beds and monitoring the irrigation system to make sure it is functioning properly. Plants should not require pruning unless overgrowing into circulation paths.

Potential Landscape Maintenance Contract Partners

Routine landscape maintenance is an activity that easily lends itself to being carried out through contracted services. The City of Gresham has contracted with PHC Northwest for park landscape services on the Sports Park and this is an option to explore for Nadaka Park. Verde, Inc. is another non-profit that offers landscape maintenance services. They are experienced both as landscape construction and maintenance contractors and can help advance the Nadaka project goals related to local green workforce development and employment. The continuity of both installing and maintaining the park would be a plus in terms of knowledge and ownership.

PARK FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

A flush restroom building and covered picnic shelter are among the new facilities built in the neighborhood park. At other Gresham parks these structures have historically attracted homeless occupation and in many cases accompanying illicit activities. We recognize that positive use of Nadaka Park and the ability to address any illicit activity promptly will be key to limiting costs of vandalism repair, graffiti removal and numerous clean ups. These unforeseen costs can easily overshadow routine maintenance costs. Therefore, it is important to have a multipronged approach at the onset that facilitates positive use of the park and put in place measures that limit costly vandalism.

Restroom Maintenance

The restroom design is a proven model for public parks that is highly vandal resistant. It will have automatically timed locks, set to lock in the evenings. However, this design in other Gresham parks has not stopped overnight use of the restroom, because it is easy to keep the door from locking by keeping it propped open. At least during the first year of the park, it would be a good preventative practice to establish an arrangement through staff or volunteers to monitor and ensure night time locking of the restroom.

It is also recommended the during the first year, while desired park use grows and becomes more established, that the restroom be opened only during the active use season (for example, from May – October when the community garden is in steady use) and continue to use the portable toilet through the winter months. . It will take some time to build a strong positive park constituency- that will have continuous eyes on the park and discourage “habitation” of the restroom and picnic shelter.

Picnic Shelter Maintenance

The covered shelter is a highly desired park amenity for the Rockwood community that will provide for family and group occasions in the park. The shelter model and picnic tables are a vandal resistant design and the shelter is located in a highly visible area from the street. It is also built with motion detection lighting to deter night use.

However, like the restroom, it is important to anticipate the covered structure may become an attractive cover for the homeless population and in some cases, a base of operations for illegal drug activities. To ensure that the shelter is used to its full potential as a group picnic area, it is recommend that it be rented through a reservation system so it is optimally used for its intended purpose and not become an established “hang” spot for illicit activities. Families will appreciate having a venue they can reserve and count on for extended family gathering occasions, birthday parties, etc. The city has an existing reservation system for its other shelters. The reservation policy may benefit from a review and revisions to better ensure responsible use by renters, to update rentals costs, and be responsive to non-profit groups. Shelters will likely require cleaning pre and post group picnic event. Revenue from shelter rentals should offset the clean up costs required to keep it in clean condition for rented use.

Trash pickup

Currently, trash bins are provided at the north and south edge of the natural area and trash is picked up by park staff during routine monitoring of the park approximately 3 times per week. With the new facilities additional trash receptacles will be located at the picnic shelter and inside the restroom. Trash pick will be included with shelter and restroom cleanup duties.

Contract Partner Potentials

Clean up of the restroom, picnic shelter and trash removal could remain as duties handled by park maintenance staff, if the department has the budget and capacity. Alternatively, the City can elect to contract restroom janitorial services to Portland Habilitation Center; (PHC Northwest) or other organizations that provide these services. Currently, the City contracts with PHC Northwest for janitorial services for the downtown Art Center public restroom.

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CITY’S MAINTENANCE & OPERATION ROLE

With the opening of the neighborhood park, the City’s role will shift from what its role has been for the Natural Area in the past to new roles in the newly developed park, that are best suited to the city in terms of its resources, efficiency considerations, risk management, etc. Tasks such as daily monitoring will no longer be required to be done by city staff and will shift to established volunteer patrols. Routine landscape maintenance can also be carried out cost effectively through contracts with non-profit green work organizations such as Verde, Inc. As land owner key responsibilities will remain with the City.

Maintenance Repairs and Incident response

As the owner of the land, the City is crucial in handling key maintenance & operational activities. These include conducting formal playground inspections, routine water line seasonal maintenance and handling necessary maintenance and unanticipated repairs to built structures, furnishings, irrigation systems; and responding to unanticipated incidents that may occur in the park resulting in damages. Minor graffiti removal can be done by volunteers that are equipped with removal products provided by the City.

Volunteer Work Party Support

Prior to the parks development, the majority of invasive vegetation removal, mulching and planting work that has been accomplished in the natural area has been carried out by volunteers. Volunteer stewardship will continue to play an important role in maintenance and monitoring at Nadaka Park and Parks staff plays an important role in supporting these efforts. It is anticipated that city staff will continue to support future volunteer efforts in the following ways on an as needed basis:

- Providing a truck or dumpster to haul away invasive weeds & brush
- Annual deliveries of mulch materials, tree chippings, fall leaves or compost
- Occasional provision of tools for large-scale volunteer projects
- Occasional provision of a portable toilet for large-scale work parties and conservation projects.

ANNUAL NADAKA COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

The Nadaka Community Festival has a four-year tradition and continues to be wonderful way of inviting newcomers to the park and bringing everyone together who has a part in creating and caring for Nadaka Park. As an event, it brings together all of its partners around one effort and it is has been a very effective way to build and celebrate community. The coordination of this event has largely relied on volunteer efforts in the past and contributions of food, tents, etc. from community partners.

This genuinely combined Volunteer and donation effort will continue, however, securing a seed budget to leverage funds and provide for festival coordination by the newly created coordinator position gives sustainable support to the festival that ensures its continued success.

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITION DESCRIPTION

Half-time park and garden education, stewardship and event coordination responsibilities.

Programming Responsibilities

- Schedule, coordinate, support, and in some cases host and manage education and stewardship events/classes/programs in collaboration with Nadaka 2020 collaborating organizations (Audubon Society of Portland, Friends of Nadaka, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Outgrowing Hunger, and St. Aidan’s Church).
- Assist with event/class/program promotion, registration, liability release, insurance and provide participant support such as transportation, childcare, translation, food, drink, etc.
- Manage Friends of Nadaka website content and social media outreach.
- Provide administrative support for Nadaka 2020 Coordinating Committee
- Attend Human Solutions Residential Coordinators Meetings to provide regular updates on Nadaka programs and activities.
- Plan and coordinate Nadaka Stewardship Work Days
- Coordinate with St. Aidan’s Church on use of their meeting hall, kitchen, and parking lot for Nadaka events, classes, and programs.
- Help plan and implement annual Nadaka Community Festival.
- Outreach to schools, healthcare organizations, neighborhood groups, businesses and business groups, universities, and other project partners.

Operation and Maintenance Responsibilities

- Assist CSWC in managing O&M contracts.
- Work with West Police Precinct Station on effective incident response.
- Develop and implement the Nadaka Ambassador/Foot Patrol Program
- Develop Weed Removal Program

NADAKA 2020 PLAN - 5- YEAR BUDGET

Maintenance and Operations	Amount	Notes
Community Garden Management	\$27,500	Contract with Outgrowing Hunger (5,500/year)
Routine Landscape Maintenance	\$30,000	Contract with Verde, Inc. (6,000/year)
Facilities routine cleaning- restroom and picnic shelter	\$40,000	Contract with PHC (\$6,000/year)
Facility Repairs, long term maintenance, Incident response, Inspections	\$50,000	City of Gresham (10,000/year)
Subtotal	\$147,500	(29,500/year)
Programming		
Stewardship, Education Program & Volunteer Coordinator Position	\$100,000	Half time staff position (20,000/year)
Stewardship and Program Support	\$12,500	Outreach, food, transportation, translation services, cultural competency training, equipment (2,500/year)
Office space/meeting/classroom space	\$7,500	(1,500/year)
Education Programs – Watershed, wildlife, habitat, gardening and nutrition	\$12,500	(2,500/year)
Stewardship Restoration Projects	\$7,500	(1,500/year)
Nadaka Community Festival	\$10,000	(2,000/year)
Subtotal	\$150,000	(30,000/year)
TOTAL	\$297,500	(\$59,500/Year)