



CITY OF BEND

Water Advisory Group

October 1, 2025 • 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting • MS Teams or Bend Utilities Department Deschutes Conference Room

Lori Faha, P.E., Environmental Resources Manager

Dan Denning, Water Conservation Program Manager

Elisabeth O'Keefe, Stormwater Program Manager

Brian Wilkinson, AKS

Aubrie Koenig, Facilitator

Purpose & Agenda

Provide a Butte Overturf project update and discuss long-term management of urban open space sites. Collect input on new residential lot stormwater template.

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Meeting Reflections
3. WaterWise/FireWise Discussion
4. Stormwater Program Updates
5. Discussion & Feedback
6. Summary & Closing



Meeting Look Ahead



November 5, 2025: Stormwater Program Updates & Water Rate Planning
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting

December 3, 2025: Year in Review & Optional Tour
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hybrid Meeting (new Public Works Building or MS Teams)

Spring 2026 topic ideas:

- Conservation-based rates
- Right-of-way codes and standards updates
- Water conservation program metrics and planning
- Drainage and density policy and implementation considerations



September Meeting Reflections

- Reviewed Stormwater Master Plan outcomes:
 - Types of priority capital projects (water quality/quantity)
 - Programmatic solutions (UIC standards, etc.)
 - Policy recommendations (climate, etc.)
- Discussed centralized onsite stormwater facilities as a strategy for drainage and density:
 - Minimum lot size requiring centralized onsite stormwater (keep exception flexibility)
 - Ways to encourage subdivision-level facilities (code awareness, early developer guidance, private maintenance agreements)
 - Approach considerations: pre-app consultation (e.g., integrate with open space requirements), fee in-lieu option for infill, percent coverage versus lot size to calculate, funding considerations (brokerage model, SDCs)



WaterWise/FireWise Discussion



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Overturf Butte Update

June 4 Site Tour Feedback:


- “Multiple interests/uses for the site identified”
- “Administer an adaptive approach to fire mitigation”
- Addressing noxious weeds i.e. cheat grass, removing juniper from ignition zones
- City property maintenance vs. private property – fire movement
- “Duff layers increasing nutrient cycling/ indicator species penstemon found onsite”
- Recreation use impacts to stabilization/drainage
- Protection of water infrastructure, maintain clearance around reservoirs



Project Overview

- Fire Inspector evaluation
- WAG tour input
- Collected several bids and contracted with Mtn. Sky Landscaping
- Timing a concern due to temperatures and limitations for mechanical work
- Door-to-door neighbor and community outreach, informational signs posted at entrances
- Work followed general prescribed scope 20 ft. shadowing of perimeter around property line, trees over 6 in. limbed up 6 ft., small trees and shrubs removed at 10 ft. spacing


Defensible Space Project



Work will occur primarily on weekends from July 12—Aug. 3 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Please pardon our noise and dust.


Thank you for your patience during this important safety work.



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Overturf Butte Fire Fuel Removal Work in Your Neighborhood

The City has heard concerns about potential fire threat to properties adjacent to the City's Overturf Butte property where the Water Services Department maintains water reservoirs. The Bend Fire Inspector has assessed fire risk and prescribed a plan to address it.




bendoregon.gov

MAYOR
Melanie Kebler

MAYOR PRO TEM
Megan Perkins

CITY COUNCILORS
Ariel Mendez
Gina Franzosa
Megan Norris
Mike Riley
Steve Platt

CITY MANAGER
Eric King



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Butte Neighbor,

I recently heard concerns about potential fire threat to sent to the City's Overturf Butte property where the Water ment maintains water reservoirs. A Fire Inspector with Bend as assessed the area's fire risk and developed a plan to reduce

July, following the recommendations of Bend Fire & Rescue State Fire Marshal's Defensible Space and Best Practices tor will remove fire fuels on City land abutting your property.

place within a 20-foot area along the perimeter of the City's 35-acre property. Trees smaller than 6 inches in diameter will be removed and thinned to maintain 10 feet of spacing, and large trees will be limbed up 6 feet from ground level. Low-growing bunch grasses will remain to maintain soil stability.

You may hear noise and/or experience dust and/or trail closures from the work, which will occur primarily on Saturdays and Sundays between July 12 and August 3, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Bend Water Services Department, Bend Fire & Rescue, Oregon State University Extension Program and the Bend Park and Recreation District plan to develop a long-term management plan for the entire interior of the butte.

Thank you for your patience during this important safety work!

Sincerely,

Rod Mingus
Water Operations Manager, Water Services Department
rmingus@bendoregon.gov, 541-693-2180
After hours: 541-317-3000 ext. 2

Results



BEFORE



AFTER

Results



Large Urban Open Spaces

Examples: utility sites, parks, schools, HOA's bordering residential areas.



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Possible Values:

1) Safety

- Fire
- Climate- heat
- Public health- herbicide use

2) Ecosystem services

- Regulation - climate, flood etc.
- Cultural - aesthetics, recreation, health
- Support-soil formation, nutrient cycling
- Watershed protection (water quality and quantity)
- Habitat - corridors

3) Economics

- Home value/stability
- Local economy – business
- Community vision - Council goals, Tree City etc.



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Next Steps

- Create a coordinated long-term management plan for this and other large sites
- Define plan objectives and activities
 - I. Identify stakeholders/partners
 - II. Identify values and objectives
 - III. Identify needed evaluations/research
 - IV. Identify resources



WAG Discussion Questions



- What are the values to include in this plan, to balance importance of ecological health, social impact, and functional use in this and other large urban spaces?
- Are there partnership opportunities or other considerations for long-term management of this type of site?
- How do we define success for resiliency at this type of site?

Open Space to Urban Space



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Related Work in Bend

- Densification - limited green space
- Impacts - resource use, climate impact, and chemical inputs
- Examples of principles coming together/WAG expectations – we'll gather input and offer to project
- Other City Efforts (Bloomberg effort)
- Council Goals – Trees and Hardening Code
- Urban Tree Canopy Plan



Transfer or Transform

ZONE 0 ALERT

California plans to pass a State law enforcing Zone 0 in Dec 2025, applied to new structures. Existing structures will have 3 years to comply

• NO PLANTS 5' AROUND ENTIRE HOME	Only dirt, gravel, or hardscape. Trimmed trees that meet criteria, may be exempted
• FINANCIAL BURDEN ON HOMEOWNERS	Estimated compliance cost for one home \$K-100K. Utility bills rising as a result of shade loss and growing heat
• DRACONIAN REQUIREMENTS	Fines, liens on house for non-compliance. No appeal process. Forced removals. Insurance can still drop you
• ONE SIZE FITS ALL	No Exceptions
• FALSE SAFETY	Studies show Home Hardening can save your home. NOT plant removal. Hydrated plants can protect your home
• NO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY	Millions of trees and shrubs removed. No Analysis of Environmental impacts
• RUSHED AND HUSHED	No Public outreach. Communities unaware. Insurance Lobby pushing agenda

STOP THESE WRONG HEADED RULES

Send your comments to: publiccomments@BOFCA.gov
Copy Mayor, Senator, City Council

Demand Common sense regulations agreed by the whole community. Allow healthy hydrated, well maintained vegetation in Zone 0 and 1. Ask Utility Companies to share the burden and fix our aging infrastructure. Demand cities to invest in firefighters, working hydrants and reservoirs. **PLANTS ARE NOT THE ENEMY!**

WOULD YOU LIVE IN THESE HOMES?



ASLA SoCal

Should we impose the same or different values from open spaces/ interfaces in urban areas?

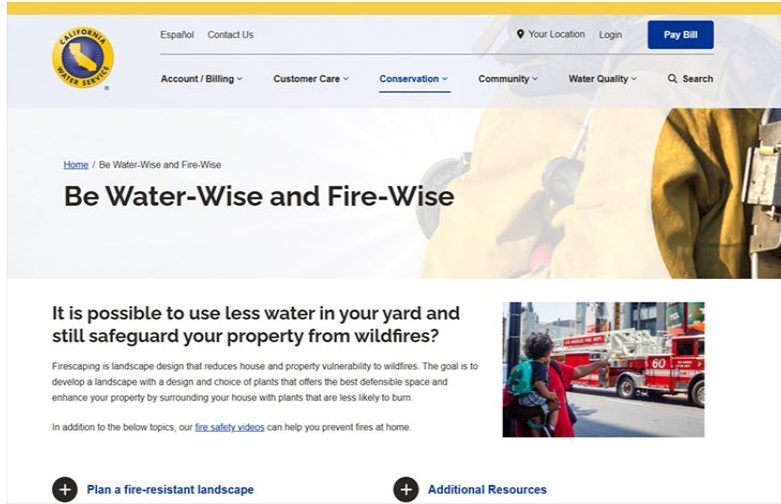
Challenges to address:

- Reduced space for landscape, stormwater capture and recreation
- How can we balance hardening, with water use, and the economic, social and ecological benefits of landscape?
- What does success look like? What are possible implications?



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Opportunities



Water-wise Adaptive

Small Rectangular Lot (3,020 square feet)

The Water-wise Adaptive utilizes plant selection in 100 percent low water use planting bed areas to create an adapted landscape that will highlight the characteristics of naturalized plant options. This approach excludes any turf grass areas and relies on the container plants that can thrive on annual precipitation after being established with supplement water. Reduced maintenance demand is a benefit of this design.

Note: Plans need to be printed on a 24x36-inch sheet to be readable and at the accurate scale. Other documents, such as Design Guide and Water and Cost Estimates, are to be printed on 8.5x 11 inch.

- [Sustainable Landscape Template Design Guide](#)
- [Landscape Plan and Details](#)
- [Irrigation Plan and Details](#)
- [Sustainable Landscape Template Pollinator Detail](#)
- [Water Use Estimate](#)
- [Estimate of Probably Material Cost](#)
- [Maintenance Manual](#)



CA Water Services and Northern Water, CO



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Water providers and cities can lead efforts with:

- Outreach
- Design resources
- Landscape design templates

WAG Discussion Questions



- What opportunities are there to combine WaterWise and FireWise guidance materials?
- What are effective outreach methods for these materials?
- Other ideas?

Stormwater Program Updates



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Post-construction Update

- Structural stormwater controls required for new development that creates or replace 5,000 square feet of impervious surface
- Long-term O&M
- Revised Municipal Code
- 11/1/2025 implementation



Post-construction Drainage Template

- Drainage templates with simplified stormwater sizing tools



WAG Discussion Questions



- How easy do you think this would be to carry out?
- Do you think the template content is clear for builders?
Any ideas to make it better?

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Thank you!



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Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities



To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Lori Faha at lfaha@bendoregon.gov or (541) 317-3025; Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.