



CITY OF NEWPORT
135 SE 84th street.
Newport, OR 97366
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October 8, 2021

Subject: Newport Municipal Airport Obstruction Removal Project

Dear Property owner,

The City of Newport would like to apologize for the technical difficulties surrounding the public meeting the City held on September 28, 2021, regarding the proposed obstruction removal project for the Newport Municipal Airport. Because of these difficulties we are sending a follow-up letter to provide you a summary of the information presented at the meeting and where you can review additional information about the project at: [City of Newport, OR: Airport - Projects \(newportoregon.gov\)](http://newportoregon.gov/City-of-Newport-OR-Airport-Projects)

Airports are required by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to maintain airspace, on and off airport property, free of obstructions for approaching and departing aircraft. There are several tall trees that have reached a height that they are now intruding into the airspace and creating a hazard for planes either landing or taking off. The airspace that needs to be maintained is established based on several variables such as type of aircraft using the runway and if the runway uses instrument or visual approach.

We are currently starting the phase of the project that evaluates the potential environmental impacts from the tree removal as required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Over the next several months, we will be evaluating potential impacts to the following categories:

- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Climate
- Coastal resources
- Historic and cultural resources
- Land use
- Noise
- Socioeconomics
- Visual effects, and
- Water resources

The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) will be released for public comment and review in April 2022. The Draft EA is available for a 30-day comment period prior to finalization of the report. During that comment period, the public is welcome to review the document and provide comments on it. We will also be holding another public meeting sometime during those 30 days to receive comments on the document.

From our previous outreach on the project, we have heard concerns regarding:

- Noise,
- Visual impacts,
- Erosion, and
- Colonization of invasive plant species like Scotch broom

These topics will be evaluated and measures to address them included in assessment. Additionally, we will be working with the regulatory agencies to address their issues and concerns and ensure that we are in compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

Since our last public meeting in 2019, the City has been evaluating the Federal Aviation Regulations to determine the airspace requirements in order to meet our National and Regional airport designation. The City and FAA have mutually agreed that obstructions should be removed in order to maintain:

- The precision instrument approach for Runway end 16,
- The non-precision instrument approach for Runway end 34, and
- The visual approach for Runway end 20.

Focusing on these approach surfaces has greatly reduce the number of trees that would need to be removed.

- For Runway end 16, only one tree is proposed to be removed that is on private property, the rest is on City owned property.
- For Runway end 34, the majority of the tree removal would occur on City property. However, trees identified as obstructions that need to be removed are also located on five private properties.
- For Runway 20 end, trees would be removed from City property and from one private property.

Included with this letter are exhibits showing the environmental assessment study areas that will be reviewed as part of this project.

The City will be reaching out to these individual property owners to discuss tree removal on their property as part of the environmental assessment. If you would like to provide a comment or discuss the project further, please free to either submit a written comment or call:

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Respectfully,

Lance Vanderbeck
City of Newport
Airport Director

CC: City Manager, Spencer R. Nebel