

Response to the **Thompson Elk Fountain** blog from the Public Information Officer at the Portland Water Bureau:

**The fountain falls under the purview of the Portland Water Bureau, and the bureau failed in its responsible care of its basin and granite work.**

The Portland Water Bureau strongly disagrees with this statement. The bureau, as part of a Citywide response to the damaged statue, met in September, 2021, with the City liaison to the City's Historic Landmarks Commission, who suggested against demolishing the property and in favor of the public land use process for alteration or relocation. Multiple City bureaus met with the Landmarks Commission to seek input on how best to restore the Elk. The Water Bureau continues to safely store the salvaged granite fountain components until a plan for restoration is determined.

As you'll see in the attached photo [below], City employees went to great lengths to ensure the stones were preserved in the best possible condition and appropriately catalogued.



**[A drawing prepared by the Portland Water Bureau \(July 2020\)](#) for the “Elk Fountain Salvage” included “X’s” denoting pieces to be demolished as part of its dismantling. A total of seven granite pieces—including the fountain’s four horse troughs—were destroyed using a sledgehammer. It’s not clear what parts of the four horse troughs, if any, were saved. The purpose of the document is to record the components and condition of fountain granite components that were salvaged. The “X”s denote the pieces that were significantly damaged by fires that were unsalvageable; **not a demolition plan.****

**The destruction of the four water troughs as integral parts of the fountain was and remains a direct violation of the city’s requirement for Historic Resource Review prior to any alterations of a Historic Landmark.**

The four water troughs were destroyed by fires.