

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

DESIGNATING COUNCIL PROJECTS AND) Resolution no. 07-3806
CONFIRMING LEAD COUNCILORS AND)
COUNCIL LIAISONS FOR NATURE IN) Introduced by Council President David
NEIGHBORHOODS CAPITAL GRANTS) Bragdon
PROGRAM AND PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH)
FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION /)
REGIONAL PARKS NETWORK)

WHEREAS, the development and/or implementation of certain Metro projects have policy implications that require the attention of the Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, some projects with policy implications are of a scope and complexity that, for purposes of efficiency, benefit from the focused attention of a subset of the Council; and

WHEREAS, members of the Council have identified such projects; and

WHEREAS, those projects identified have been defined and put forth in the form of project proposals, included in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Council President, working with members of the council, has designated specific councilors to play lead and/or liaison roles on projects as specified in Exhibit A:

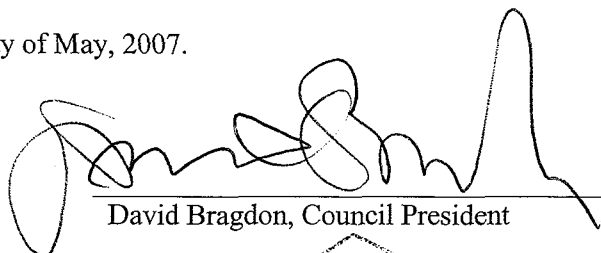
now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Council confirms the project proposals, including the designation of projects, project definitions, lead councilor assignments, and councilor liaison assignments as specified in Exhibit A for Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program and Public Opinion Research for Conservation Education / Regional Network.

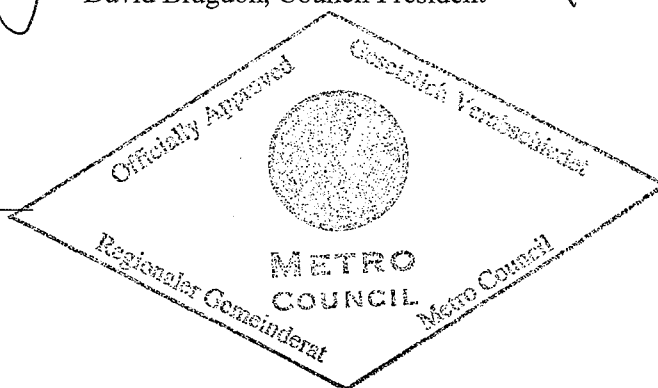
2. The Council directs that the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program will sunset as a Council Project on December 31st, 2007 and the Public Opinion Research for Conservation Education / Regional Network will sunset as a Council Project on July 31, 2007.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 3rd day of May, 2007.


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:


Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



Metro Council Project Proposal / Work Plan

Part One: Council Project Proposal

- 1) **Project Title** Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant Program
- 2) **Lead Councilor** Robert Liberty
- 3) **Council Liaisons**
- 4) **Project Begin Date** May 2007

5) **Estimated Date of Completion**

The part of the project that answers remaining policy questions and creates the administrative framework for the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants program should be completed this calendar year. The award of the grants is anticipated to last approximately 10 years. An evaluation of the program shall be completed by staff and presented annually to Council that illustrates accomplishments and identifies program efficiencies and structure changes, where applicable.

6) **Project Description**

In November 2006 the voters of the region approved an increase in property taxes to finance bonds for the purpose of preserving natural areas clean water and the protection of fish and wildlife. The \$227.4 bond measure includes \$15 million for a new "Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program." This matching grant program is described in brief in Resolution 06-3672B.

The purpose of this project is to design and execute the Nature in Neighborhood Capital Grants program.

7) Policy Questions (What major policy question must be answered?)

The major policy questions have already been addressed in the Council Resolution referring the bond measure to the voters – the amount and purpose of this part of the bond measure, the geography for the grants (inside the UGB and Metro political boundary), the matching requirements, the general composition of the grants review committee and the criteria to be applied in reviewing grant applications. (The criteria for the award of grants are spelled out in detail in Exhibit C to that resolution. A copy of Exhibit C is attached.)

In addition to the policy direction in the Council resolution, legal constraints on the use of the bond proceeds for capital will need to be observed.

A set of subsidiary (minor) policy questions remain to be addressed.

(a) What are the respective roles of the Council and the Grant Review Committee in making decisions on the grants?

The Council has traditionally relied on a panel of experts to screen grants or proposals and make recommendations or preliminary decisions. This is the approach for example in the existing Nature in Neighborhood grants, in the community grants made through the solid waste facility enhancement funds and in the Transit Oriented Development program. The final award for funding is done by Metro Council.

For the Capital Grants program, what level of involvement does Council want in the review process? For example: (1) Final Council review and approval in all cases; (2) Council review of particular grants triggered by an expression of interest by a minimum number of Councilors; (3) Council review upon referral by the Council liaisons or by the Grant Committee.

The program will have an annual review by staff and presented to Council that will provide Council an opportunity to refine policy and procedures, make administrative changes to assure program success and review awarded projects.

(b) In what ways does the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants program differ from, complement or duplicate the local and regional elements of the bond measure? What special tools, if any, are needed for this program? Do the criteria need additional refinement?

The origins of this element of the bond measure and the prior discussions about its function suggest that the intent of the Council was to differentiate this part of the bond measure from the regional and local share. Yet the language of the resolution is broad enough to allow for – but not require - substantial overlap in purpose.

For both the regional and local share, a process was used to more precisely define the lands to be acquired – a scientific advisory committee in the case of the regional areas and formal local government action in the case of the local share.

In the Resolution, the term “re-nature” is used. How should this term be defined for applicants? Does Council want to utilize additional criteria or a specific source of data that would better illustrate the intent this term?

(c) How can we make sure that all potential partners – neighborhoods, schools, nonprofit organizations, jurisdictions, etc. have the capacity to compete effectively for the funds?

Part of the intent behind the Nature in Neighborhoods program was to build a civic movement. Bringing together different groups to organize around a neighborhood improvement can certainly build civic capital. But some organizations and some neighborhoods are better equipped and more experienced in projects of this kind. This difference in capacity is particularly important for low-income areas, whose projects qualify for “bonus points” under the Council approved criteria.

Should there be some targeting of some of the existing Nature in Neighborhood grants for capacity building that helps achieve the purpose of the capital grants program?

In addition to the capacity of the applicants and potential applicants, we must consider the capacity of the Metro staff itself to assist applicants.

(d) What are the appropriate performance measures to be applied to this program?

It is recognized that this program will evolve over time and needs to adapt to the needs of the communities and organizations that are and could be participating. What measures should be used to measure success, both in the short term and in the long term?

8. Outcomes (What must be in place for policy development to be considered complete?)

Policy development will be considered complete when the answers to these questions are answered

The project itself will be completed once the necessary administrative arrangements are in place. These include:

- Completion of internal policies and procedures and a handbook to assist potential applicants. Various outside partners and allies in this effort will be asked to participate in this effort.
- Outreach activities to potential partners and applicants,
- The nomination and approval of the Grants Review Committee,
- Solicitation of and evaluation/ranking of grant applications and the,
- Award of the first round of grants.

How and when this work will be carried out is set out in the Work Plan, to be presented at a later date.

9) Connection to Council Goals and Objectives

The Capital Grants program is linked to the following Council Goals and Objectives:

a) Great Places

The Capital Grants program will ensure that residents of the region enjoy vibrant, accessible and physically distinct places to live, work and play through projects funded by the grant program.

b) Environmental Health

The Capital Grants program will inspire the community to create a better future for wildlife and the environment through projects developed to preserve, enhance or create those environments. The program will also fund opportunities to improve water quality and ensure that natural areas are large enough or interconnected to existing natural areas.

10) Resources Required / Budget Implications

This program has 0.5 FTE allocated to the program with associated support staff (approximately .25 FTE). The resources are included in the Council President's FY07-08 budget and are funded through the Natural Areas Bond.

Metro Council Project Proposal / Work Plan

Part One: Council Project Proposal

- 5) **Project Title:** Public Opinion Research for Conservation Education / Regional System

- 6) **Lead Councilor:** Burkholder

- 7) **Council Liaisons:** Bragdon

- 8) **Project Begin Date:** March 2007

- 9) **Estimated Date of Completion:** June 2007

- 10) **Project Description (What issue/problem will be addressed?):**
Funding for a region-wide system of parks, natural areas, parks and trails and the environmental education programs to support the long-term stewardship of our region's natural resources is currently not meeting demand. This opinion research will help establish the level of public support for a regional funding source for activities and programs associated with these public facilities and community resources.

- 11) **Policy Questions (What major policy questions must be answered?)** Shall the Metro Council support or initiate a regional funding strategy for the region-wide system of parks and natural areas and/or shall the Metro Council support or initiate a regional funding strategy for the support of regional environmental education programs including a region-wide, equitable Outdoor School serving all school children.

- 12) **Outcomes (What must be in place for policy development to be considered complete?)** Completion of public opinion research.

13) Connection to Council Goals and Objectives: This meets several of the Council's goals including:

1. Healthy Places: Residents of the region enjoy vibrant, accessible and physically distinct places to live, work and play.

2. Environmental Health: The region's wildlife and people thrive in a healthy urban ecosystem. Particularly 2.2 Our community is inspired to create a better future for wildlife and the environment. and

4. Smart Government: Metro leads a fiscally sound, efficient and congruent system of governance where public services are funded appropriately and provided by the most suitable units of government. In particular 4.1 Regional needs are supported by appropriate regional funding mechanisms and 4.2 Public services are available and equitable.

14) Resources Required / Budget Implications: \$20,000 dollars has been allocated by the Metro Council for this research. No additional funding is required at this time.

End Here for Council Project Proposal – This Portion is Adopted by Resolution

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3806, DESIGNATING COUNCIL PROJECTS AND CONFIRMING LEAD COUNCILORS AND COUNCIL LIAISONS FOR NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM AND PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION / REGIONAL PARKS NETWORK

Date: April 18, 2007

Prepared by: Michael Wetter

BACKGROUND

This resolution adopts two new council projects: Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program and Public Opinion Research for Conservation Education / Regional System. Exhibit A to the resolution includes council project proposals that define the general scope of the projects. Project managers are responsible to bring a more detailed work plan to the council for approval at a later date.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition** None known.
2. **Legal Antecedents** None.
3. **Anticipated Effects** Policymaking work will continue on the projects defined in the exhibit.
4. **Budget Impacts** The projects are supported within the approved Metro budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the resolution adopting the two projects.