

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING THE)
WEEK OF MAY 30 THROUGH JUNE 10, 2007)
AS GREAT BLUE HERON WEEK)

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3813
Introduced by Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, since 1986 the City of Portland has recognized the Great Blue Heron as the official symbol of the region's efforts to maintain the highest possible standard of livability for its wildlife as well as its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) as the largest heron in North America, standing four feet tall with a wingspan of six feet, gray in color and tinged with very distinctive blue markings, is a familiar and welcome sight in many natural areas throughout the Metro region; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 1991, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 91-1453A ("For the Purpose of Endorsing the Week of June 2 - 9, 1991 as Great Blue Heron Week"), initiating Metro's participation in the annual Great Blue Heron Week celebration; and

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2007, the Portland City Council will proclaim May 30 through June 10, 2007 as the 21st Annual Great Blue Heron Week extending the celebration to 12 days; and

WHEREAS, the Audubon Society of Portland and Urban Greenspaces Institute's flyer of the 2007 Annual Great Blue Heron Week declares the theme of Great Blue Heron Week 2006 is "Celebrating Natural Areas, Parks, and Streams" and adds that the bird is symbolic of our region's commitment to protecting and restoring the ecological health of our urban watersheds; and

WHEREAS, Great Blue Heron Week invites residents and visitors to celebrate by enjoying our region's natural areas at many sites already in public ownership such as Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, the Columbia Slough, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Creekside Marsh, Heron Lakes Golf Course, Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve; and

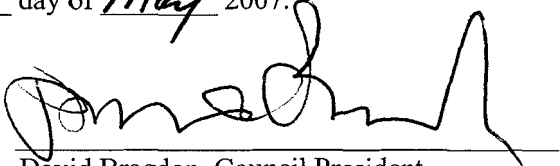
WHEREAS, the Audubon Society of Portland's May 2006 *Warbler* describes this year's Great Blue Heron Week as a celebration of "the region's successful 2006 regional Parks, Natural Areas, and Streams bond measure, which will add another 5,000 acres and miles of trails to the region's parks trails, and natural areas system"; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the region's voters overwhelming passage of Measure 26-80, Parks, Natural Areas and Streams bond measure, which will provide the Portland region with \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection; to protect habitat, river and stream frontages and natural areas through land acquisition, restoration and enhancement; including \$44 million to be distributed to cities, counties and local park providers and \$15 million Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program Fund to be provided to local organizations and public entities; and

WHEREAS, participants of the Great Blue Heron Week celebration will learn about new natural areas that are important to the region's biological diversity and rich natural area heritage; now therefore,

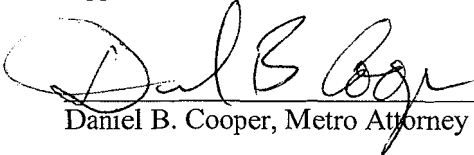
BE IT RESOLVED, that in honor of the Great Blue Heron, a fitting symbol of livability for the entire region's residents, both people and wildlife, the Metro Council proclaims the week of May 30 through June 10, 2007 as the 20th Annual Great Blue Heron Week and encourages all citizens to participate in the walks, bike rides and paddles occurring that week in honor of the Great Blue Heron.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 31st day of May 2007.

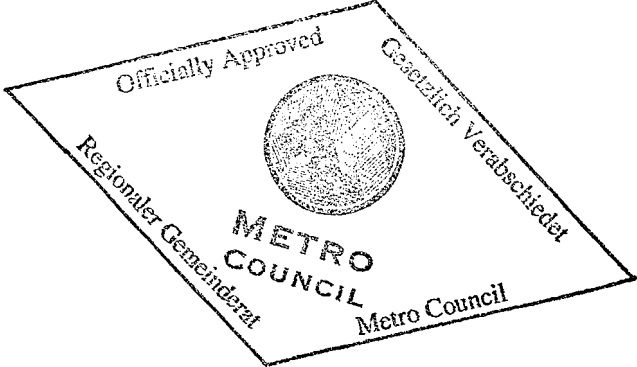


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3813, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 30 THROUGH JUNE 10, 2007 AS GREAT BLUE HERON WEEK

Date: May 10, 2007

Prepared by: Lake McTighe

BACKGROUND

Great Blue Heron Week has been held the last week of May and first week of June each year in the Portland region since 1986, when the City of Portland recognized the Great Blue Heron as the official symbol of the region's efforts to maintain the highest possible standard of livability for its wildlife as well as its citizens. The Metro Council initiated its participation in the Great Blue Heron Week celebration when it adopted Resolution No. 91-1453A "For the Purpose of Endorsing the Week of June 29, 1991 as Great Blue Heron Week", and has continued to partner with the City of Portland, Portland Audubon Society, the Urban Greenspaces Institute, the Bureau of Environmental Services, River Renaissance and other organizations and agencies each year on the celebration.

Great Blue Heron Week celebrates the strides that have been made towards providing for access to nature in the heart of the city, integrating the built and natural environments, and creating a more ecologically sustainable metropolitan region. Prominent among these successes are two regional bond measures, one in 1995 and more recently in November 2006, the Parks, Trails and Streams \$227.4 million bond, has protected over 8,200 acres in public ownership and will add more than 5,000 additional acres to the public land base in the next decade. Additionally, over one-hundred miles of stream and river banks are now in public ownership.

Participants of the Great Blue Heron Week celebration will learn about new natural areas that are important to the region's biological diversity and rich natural area heritage.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition:** None.
2. **Legal Antecedents**
3. **Anticipated Effects** Continued partnership with local governments, non-governmental entities, and communities to celebrate past success and define future challenges to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitats and open space in the Portland region.
4. **Budget Impacts:** None.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

David Bragdon, Metro Council President, recommends adoption of Resolution 07-3813.