



METRO

Agenda

MEETING: METRO COUNCIL
DATE: September 13, 2007
DAY: Thursday
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Metro Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.1 Consideration of Minutes for the September 6, 2007 Metro Council Regular Meeting.

4. RESOLUTIONS

4.1 **Resolution No. 07-3844**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Killin Wetlands Target Area. Park

4.2 **Resolution No. 07-3845**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Gresham Fairview Trail Target Area. Park

4.3 **Resolution No. 07-3846**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway Target Area. Park

4.4 **Resolution No. 07-3847**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Abernethy and Newell Creeks Target Area. Park

4.5 **Resolution No. 07-3848**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Lower Tualatin River Headwaters Target Area. Park

4.6 **Resolution No. 07-3849**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Tualatin River Greenway Target Area. Park

4.7 **Resolution No. 07-3851**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Johnson Creek and Watershed Target Area. Park

4.8 **Resolution No. 07-3852**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the East Buttes Target Area. Park

4.9 **Resolution No. 07-3853**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the East Buttes Target Area. Park

Refinement Plan for the Deep Creek and Tributaries Target Area.

- 4.10 **Resolution No. 07-3854**, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Cazadero Trail Target Area. Park

5. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

ADJOURN

Television schedule for September 13, 2007 Metro Council meeting

Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, and Vancouver, Wash. Channel 11 -- Community Access Network www.tvctv.org -- (503) 629-8534 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13 (live)	Portland Channel 30 (CityNet 30) -- Portland Community Media www.pcmv.org -- (503) 288-1515 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17
Gresham Channel 30 -- MCTV www.mctv.org -- (503) 491-7636 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17	Washington County Channel 30 -- TVC-TV www.tvctv.org -- (503) 629-8534 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15 11 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16 6 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19
Oregon City, Gladstone Channel 28 -- Willamette Falls Television www.wftvaccess.com -- (503) 650-0275 Call or visit website for program times.	West Linn Channel 30 -- Willamette Falls Television www.wftvaccess.com -- (503) 650-0275 Call or visit website for program times.

PLEASE NOTE: Show times are tentative and in some cases the entire meeting may not be shown due to length. Call or check your community access station web site to confirm program times.

Agenda items may not be considered in the exact order. For questions about the agenda, call Clerk of the Council, Chris Billington, (503) 797-1542. Public hearings are held on all ordinances second read and on resolutions upon request of the public. Documents for the record must be submitted to the Clerk of the Council to be considered included in the decision record. Documents can be submitted by e-mail, fax or mail or in person to the Clerk of the Council. For additional information about testifying before the Metro Council please go to the Metro website www.metro-region.org and click on public comment opportunities. For assistance per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), dial TDD 797-1804 or 797-1540 (Council Office).

Agenda Item Number 3.1

Consideration of Minutes for the September 6, 2007 Metro Council
Regular Meeting

Consent Agenda

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Metro Council Chamber

Agenda Item Number 4.1

Resolution No. 07-3844, Approving the Natural Areas
Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Killin Wetlands Target Area.

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Metro Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE KILLIN WETLANDS
TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3844

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the Killin Wetlands Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition, building on the success of land acquisitions pursuant to Metro’s 1995 Open Spaces Bond Measure Program; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Killin Wetlands Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Killin Wetlands Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
KILLIN WETLANDS TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The 1995 refinement goals focused on acquiring the Wetlands to protect unique soil and vegetation characteristics and to provide flood control and water quality benefits and acquiring and protecting areas adjacent to the streams with upland forest habitats. To date, 373 contiguous acres have been protected by Metro at Killin Wetlands including 217 acres of regionally-rare peat soil wetlands and nearly two miles of frontage along Cedar Canyon Creek and nearly a mile of frontage along Park Farms Creek.

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

One of the largest peat soil wetlands remaining in the Willamette Valley, this wetlands supports a rare assemblage of plants and animals. Although much of the wetlands is currently in public ownership, acquisition of the remaining portions of the wetlands and main tributaries is essential to the long-term protection of this highly valuable fish and wildlife habitat.

Established scientific findings note that Killin Wetlands is all that remains of an estimated 10,000 acres of willow swamp and marsh that occurred historically in the Willamette Valley prior to pioneers settling in the area in the 1850s. Loss of this vegetation type appears to be about 98% in the region. In addition, the last stands of Geyer willow in the Willamette Valley are found here and the site supports a robust and growing breeding population of the state-sensitive red-legged frog.

On September 7, 2006, the Metro Council passed Resolution 06-3727 “For the Purpose of Establishing Metro Council Policy Regarding the Acquisition of Rural Agricultural Land Pursuant to the 2006 Natural Areas Acquisition and Water Quality Protection Bond Measure.” This resolution provides direction to staff for land acquisition in target areas with rural agricultural land. The Killin Wetlands target area is one such area. During the refinement process representatives from various agricultural interests were consulted. Within this target area, land acquisition will be pursued in accordance with both the letter and the spirit of this resolution. Water quality and habitat protection are the primary focus for land acquisition. When contact is made with landowners, Metro staff will offer to purchase a conservation easement to protect the natural resources identified in this Refinement Plan. If the landowner prefers a fee title sale, Metro will purchase the land and will identify areas which are essential to achieve water quality and habitat protection goals and which are viable for agricultural use without conflict. Metro will offer this agricultural land for sale subject to a conservation easement. At the time habitat restoration commences, potential impacts to adjacent agricultural properties will be addressed.

Target Area Description

The Killin Wetlands near the city of Banks represents the last two percent of Willamette Valley scrub-shrub marsh on organic peat soils that was present before pioneers settled the area in the 1850s. It supports rare plants and animals, including one of the largest contiguous stands of an uncommon willow species, Geyer willow, as well as a robust and growing breeding population of the state-sensitive red-legged frog. Cutthroat trout have been documented to occur in the west fork of Dairy Creek and likely use the Killin Wetlands and the adjacent floodplain and ditches as migration and rearing habitat. Known to local birders for years as Cedar Canyon Marsh, it is the place to see (or at least hear) three elusive marsh birds: the American bittern, sora and Virginia rail. These ecologically significant wetlands provide excellent wildlife habitat, floodwater storage and water quality improvement by filtering agricultural runoff. Farm uses and growers have helped maintain the rural character of the area and provided stewardship of this area for decades

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Killin Wetlands target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various governmental agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

Public open houses to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan were held on June 14, 2007 at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center and on June 26, 2007 at the Forest Grove Community Auditorium, two of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a “virtual” open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available “online” via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. Eleven people responded to the Killin Wetlands survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

- The Killin Wetlands has several unique natural resource features that were well characterized by the Nature Conservancy/Oregon Natural Heritage Program in 1991. That report described the wetlands as “all that remains of an estimated 10,000 acres of willow swamp and marsh that occurred on poorly drained Labish, Semiahmoo and Wapato soils in Oregon’s Willamette Valley. Loss of this vegetation type appears to be about 98 percent”.
- The last stands of Geyer willow (*Salix geyeriana*) in the Willamette Valley occur at the Killin Wetlands site.
- The Killin Wetlands natural area is the Geyer willow-Hooker willow shrub swamp Ecosystem Cell (an EC is a site representing the best available location for a particular native plant assemblage) for the Willamette Valley.
- The site supports a robust and growing breeding population of the state-sensitive red-legged frog (*Rana aurora aurora*).
- An active bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest occurs just off of Metro property to the east of Dairy Creek.
- Cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*) have been documented to occur in the west fork of Dairy Creek and likely use the Killin Wetlands and adjacent floodplain and ditches as migration and rearing habitat.
- The site is large enough to remain viable if buffered with other lands to provide resource protection and reduce potential conflicts with farm uses.
- There are opportunities for acquisition and/or easements on adjacent properties that have become wetter over the past 10 years or have only marginal farming value.
- In addition to preserving the wetland area, stakeholders have an interest in protecting upland areas along tributaries, to minimize erosion and development impacts to the wetlands.
- There is increasing demand from the public to view and enjoy the wildlife within the wetlands, necessitating a need for a safe public parking area or pull out. Acquisition of lands to improve access to the site would provide a significant public benefit.
- The wetlands offer tourism and educational opportunities for the public, with potential access and tie-ins to Highway 6 and the Banks-to-Vernonia bicycle/pedestrian trail.

- Working cooperatively with several partners such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited and the Tualatin Riverkeepers, Metro has restored native wetlands vegetation to about 60 acres of the current holdings.
- A need exists for continuing cooperative partnerships with the Washington Farm Bureau and other area agricultural interests.
- A total of 11 people completed the survey for Killin Wetlands. Additional commentary was provided orally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area A* – Protect additional lands adjacent to the Killin Wetlands natural area to augment the protection of the unique peat soil types and associated native plant communities, buffer the protected wetlands and expand flood control and water quality benefits.
 2. *Map area B* – Protect natural corridors along creek tributaries that feed into Killin Wetlands to protect wildlife habitat and water quality.

Goal

Although much of the Killin Wetlands is currently in public ownership, acquisition of the critical remaining portions of the Wetlands and main tributaries will build on the public's investment to date and ensure long-term protection and public enjoyment of the highly valuable fish and wildlife habitat in one of the largest remaining peat soil wetlands in the Willamette Valley.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objective

- Protect additional lands adjacent to the Killin Wetlands Natural Area for habitat protection and to provide wildlife viewing opportunities.

Tier II Objective

- Protect natural corridors along creek tributaries that feed into Killin Wetlands to protect wildlife habitat and water quality.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3844, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE KILLIN WETLANDS TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

On September 7, 2006, the Metro Council passed Resolution 06-3727 “For the Purpose of Establishing Metro Council Policy Regarding the Acquisition of Rural Agricultural Land Pursuant to the 2006 Natural Areas Acquisition and Water Quality Protection Bond Measure.” This resolution provides direction to staff for land acquisition in target areas with rural agricultural land. The Killin Wetlands target area is one such area. During the refinement process representatives from various agricultural interests were consulted. Within this target area, land acquisition will be pursued in accordance with both the letter and the spirit of this resolution. Water quality and habitat protection are the primary focus for land acquisition. When contact is made with landowners, Metro staff will offer to purchase a conservation easement to protect the natural resources identified in this Refinement Plan. If the landowner prefers a fee title sale, Metro will purchase the land and will identify areas which are essential to achieve water quality and habitat protection goals and which are viable for agricultural use without conflict. Metro will offer this agricultural land for sale subject to a conservation easement. At the time habitat restoration commences, potential impacts to adjacent agricultural properties will be addressed.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the Killin Wetlands Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the Killin Wetlands target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3844.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Killin Wetlands Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Brian Wegener, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Sue Marshall, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Sue Beilke, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Ramsay Weit, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Segeni Meingae, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Sue McCloud, Tualatin Riverkeepers
John Driscoll, Tualatin Riverkeepers
April Allison Tualatin Riverkeepers
Jim Sitzman, area resident
Kendra Smith, Clean Water Services
Bob VanderZanden, Washington County Farm Bureau

Key Themes Discussed

Value of Wetlands

- The wetlands are a very significant resource, especially as a habitat for birds.
- Fish habitat connections could be improved by including tributaries at the west.
- Peat soil wetlands are worth saving and expanding.
- There are eagle nests in the area, and significant amphibian activities (with salamander eggs) in the wetland.

Public Access

- The area could be connected to the Banks-Vernonia Trail.
- Many people currently try to visit the wetlands and there are no safe places to park. This also causes impacts to neighbors.
- Need to accommodate 6 – 10 cars and a school bus.
- Need wildlife viewing sites, history and restoration interpretation.
- There are opportunities for education: demonstration project, interpretive site for public (with before and after photos).
- Tie into coastal tourism.

Threats

- Park Farms Creek drainage basin is degraded – there has been a decline in frog and fish population
- Concern about destabilization of soil near waterways. Some areas are being cleared and they're seeing erosion
- Livestock are contributing to water quality degradation of streams
- Area is prone to flooding
- Concerns about quality of the earthen dam at the nearby man-made lake
- Concern about protecting tree stands along Killin Road

Opportunities

- Corridors of three small creeks on the north side will help protect water quality and fish habitat from rural development
- Protecting uplands would be an opportunity to improve water quality
- Favor riparian corridor protection over wetland, flood plain and upland parcels (even though these are also important)
- Dairy Creek is cold-water fish habitat
- Could increase water flows from holding ponds

Flooding and conflicts with agriculture

- The Washington Farm Bureau views Killin as an example of Metro ownership not working well with agricultural uses. Fair or not, the perception is that flooding on the bottomland properties to the west has increased. That being said, they see that the relationship is improving.

Miscellaneous Comments

- The old federal fish ladder near Cedar Canyon Road should be removed – it affects habitat

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: KILLIN WETLAND

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition. The 2006 program will provide additional funding for protection goals in this target area.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

One of the largest peat soil wetlands remaining in the Willamette Valley, this wetland supports a rare assemblage of plants and animals. Although much of the wetland is currently in public ownership, acquisition of the remaining portions of the wetland and main tributaries is essential to the long-term protection of this highly valuable fish and wildlife habitat.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The following priorities were identified in the Killin Wetland target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most important and 3 being the least important.**

 - _____ Protecting additional lands adjacent to the Killin Wetland natural area to augment the protection of the unique peat soil types and associated native plant communities, buffer the protected wetlands and expand flood control and water quality benefits. **(Map area A)**
 - _____ Protecting natural corridors along creek tributaries that feed into Killin Wetland to protect wildlife habitat and water quality. **(Map area B)**
 - _____ Metro should acquire no additional lands in this target area and focus on land management activities.
- 2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Killin Wetland target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.**

 - _____ Preserving floodplain wetlands to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.
 - _____ Preserving natural corridors along creeks and tributaries to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.
 - _____ Providing a buffer between urban development and farmland.
 - _____ Providing people with wildlife watching opportunities by providing an improved off-road access point and reducing impact to local area traffic.

3. **Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Killin Wetland target area? Please be specific.**

4. **In what ways can Metro's Natural Areas Program be compatible with agricultural uses in the Killin Wetland target area?**

5. **Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?**

6. **Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a conservation easement on your property?**

Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

7. **Do you have any other comments about this target area?**

Please add my name to the Killin Wetland target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741

Killin Wetlands Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the Killin Wetland target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important		least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting additional lands adjacent to the Killin Wetland natural area to augment the protection of the unique peat soil types and associated native plant communities, buffer the protected wetlands and expand flood control and water quality benefits. (Map area A)	40.0% (4)	60.0% (6)	0.0% (0)	1.60	10
Protecting natural corridors along creek tributaries that feed into Killin Wetland to protect wildlife habitat and water quality. (Map area B)	40.0% (4)	40.0% (4)	20.0% (2)	1.80	10
Metro should acquire no additional lands in this target area and focus on land management activities.	28.6% (2)	0.0% (0)	71.4% (5)	2.43	7
	<i>answered question</i>				10
	<i>skipped question</i>				1

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Killin Wetland target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Preserving floodplain wetlands to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.	70.0% (7)	20.0% (2)	10.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	1.40	10
Preserving natural corridors along creeks and tributaries to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.	30.0% (3)	70.0% (7)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.70	10
Providing a buffer between urban development and farmland.	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	50.0% (5)	50.0% (5)	3.50	10
Providing people with wildlife watching opportunities by providing an improved off-road access point and reducing impact to local area traffic.	0.0% (0)	10.0% (1)	40.0% (4)	50.0% (5)	3.40	10
	<i>answered question</i>				10	
	<i>skipped question</i>				1	

3. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

Continue joint venture partnerships w/ Ducks Unlimited, OWEB, US Fish and Wildlife etc. to leverage Metro's investments. North American Wetlands Conservation Act and Wetlands Reserve Program may be options (see comments re Wapato Lake). Also potential to tap market for ecosystem services (contact Willamette Partnership).

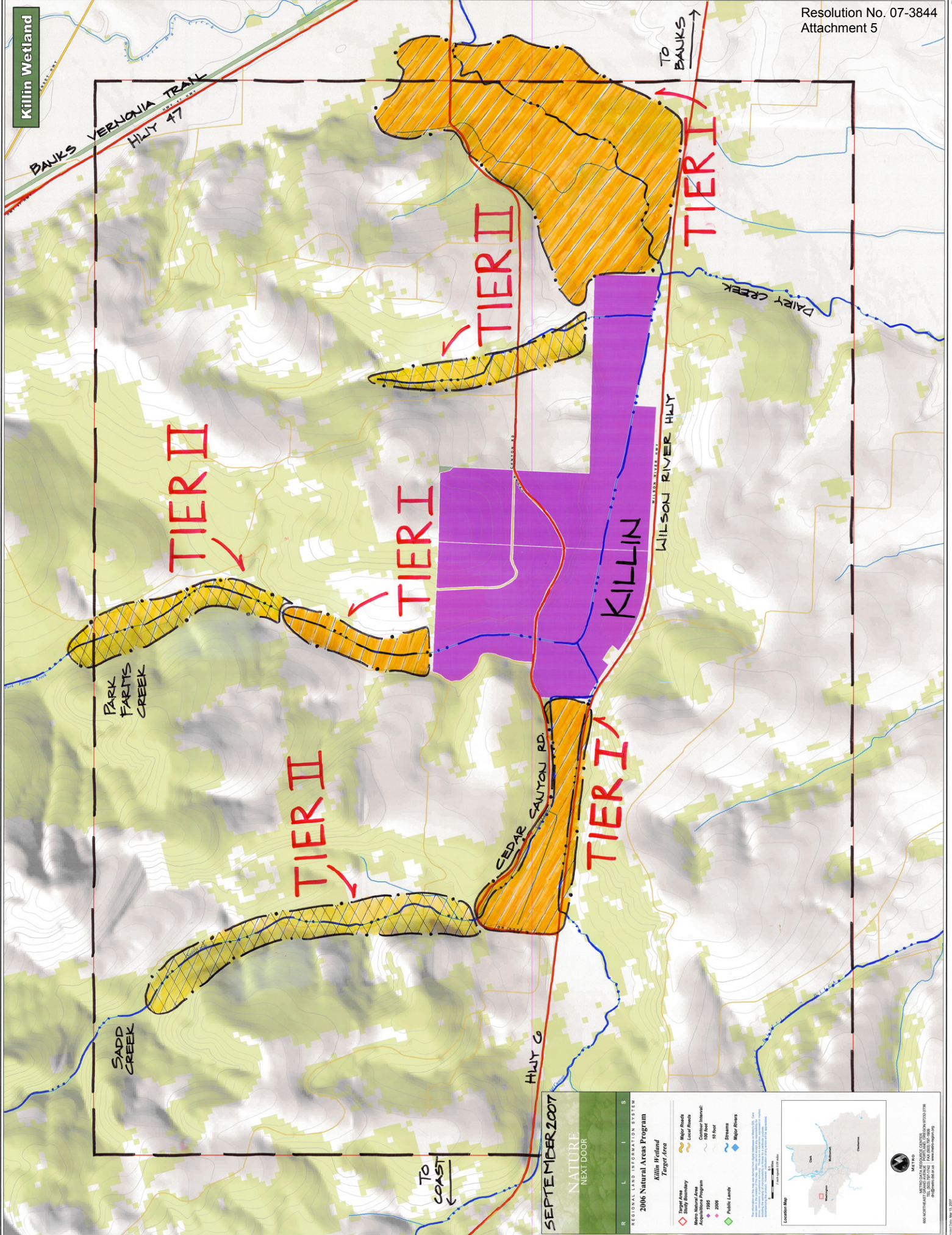
4. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

I am very pleased to see you considering this area, which I have visited frequently. I think it is a terrific place that absolutely warrants protection under the open space program.

Killin Wetland is a very, very special place and I'm so glad it is on your list to protect. Please make it a very high priority.

No outside UGB

Great rare relatively natural wetland. Metro has done good job here, should take advantage of opportunity to build on past investments.



BAWKS VERNONIA TRAIL
HWY 47

TO BAWKS

TIER II

TIER II

TIER I

TIER I

KILLIN

WILSON RIVER HWY

PARK FARMS CREEK

TIER II

CEDAR SANTON RD

TIER I

SADD CREEK

HWY 60

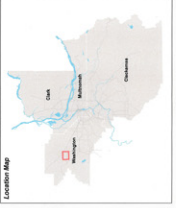
TO COAST

SEPTEMBER 2007

NATURE
NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program
Killin Wetland
Target Area

- Major Roads
- Study Boundary
- Local Roads
- Major Natural Area
- Acquisition Program
- 2006
- 2008
- Public Lands
- Stream
- Major River



Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile
 METRO DATA RESOURCE CENTER
 600 NORTHVALE AVENUE, SUITE 200
 MEDFORD, OREGON 97504
 TEL: 531.751.1412 FAX: 531.751.2000
 www.metrodata.com

Resolution No. 07-3845, Approving the Natural Areas
Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Gresham Fairview Trail Target
Area.

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Metro Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE GRESHAM-
FAIRVIEW TRAIL TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3845

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

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WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

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WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

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WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Gresham-Fairview Trail Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Gresham-Fairview Trail Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
GRESHAM-FAIRVIEW TRAIL TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

This multi-use trail is a major north-south connection through the Gresham area. It connects the Springwater Corridor at Linneman Junction and crosses the eastside MAX light-rail line at Ruby Junction. Continuing north to Blue Lake Regional Park, the trail ends at the Columbia River and connects to the existing Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway Trail (part of the 40-Mile Loop) along Marine Drive. Acquisition of the remaining corridor is needed to complete the trail and secure an important eastern spine of the regional trail system.

Completing corridor gaps will enhance the experience for trail users and improve public access to local and regional natural areas.

Target Area Description

The Gresham-Fairview Trail Target Area and the Columbia Slough Target Area join each other where the 40-Mile Loop Trail and the Columbia Slough Trail connect with the Gresham-Fairview Trail in the vicinity of Blue Lake Park.

The Gresham-Fairview Trail will serve as a major north/south connector for cyclists and pedestrians between two regionally significant and heavily used trails: the Springwater Corridor and the 40-Mile Loop (along Marine Drive on the Columbia River). The Gresham-Fairview Trail will also connect with the Columbia Slough Trail in the vicinity of Interlachen Lake. Separated from motorized traffic, the 5.2-mile trail will provide a safe north/south route for commuters as well as recreational users and provide access from Gresham to natural areas along Johnson Creek, Fairview Creek, the Columbia Slough and the Columbia River.

The Gresham-Fairview Trail has been constructed between Halsey and Burnside streets and along a portion of Sandy Boulevard where the alignment jogs west for a short distance. A master plan was completed for the Gresham-Fairview Trail in 2002 and a refined alignment study was completed for the northern portion of the trail in 2007. Gaps remain in the northern section of the trail corridor and additional acquisition may be needed adjacent to the purchased trail corridor between Division Street and Powell Boulevard to avoid disturbance to sensitive biological resources.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Gresham-Fairview Trail target area and analyzed maps. Individuals were interviewed representing various government agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

A public open house to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan was held on June 21, 2007 at Gresham City Hall, one of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a “virtual” open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available “online” via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. Fourteen people responded to the Gresham-Fairview Trail survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with

the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

- Acquisition of right-of-way and/or securing of easements is essential to complete the northern portion of the trail corridor between I-84 and Marine Drive. Securing the remaining trail corridor north of I-84 is time-critical with current development proposals on the table.
- Future sections of the 40-Mile Loop Trail and the Columbia Slough Trail will connect with the Gresham-Fairview Trail in the vicinity of Blue Lake Park. These connections are addressed in the Columbia Slough target area.
- Acquisition of additional easement is needed along the 201st right-of-way between I-84 and Halsey to allow for sufficient trail width that complies with federal and state standards. Trail development adjacent to 201st will most likely occur as part of a concurrent transportation project to widen the roadway.
- A regional trailhead near the junction of Gresham-Fairview Trail and the 40-Mile Trail at Marine Drive is needed to provide access to the regional trails in the area. This trailhead will likely be located at Blue Lake Regional Park.
- Acquisition of currently “underdeveloped properties” adjacent to the trail corridor between Halsey and Burnside is desired to provide small pocket parks and/or trail rest area amenities along the trail corridor.
- Public survey results indicated a strong preference for acquiring natural area lands adjacent to the trail corridor to preserve greenspace and provide public access and connections to adjacent parks, natural areas and trails.
- Easements, dedications, donations, and other voluntary property-owner agreements should be pursued in addition to fee acquisition in order to stretch the impact of the regional dollars spent.
- There were a total of 14 respondents, a relatively small sample size. Additional commentary was provided orally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area B* – Acquire lands adjacent to the trail corridor to provide public access and connections to adjacent parks, natural areas, and trails.
 2. *Map area A* – Secure land for a regional trailhead at the northern end of the trail in order to provide public access to both the 40-Mile Loop and Gresham-Fairview trail.

Goal

Complete this important eastern spine of the regional trail system by securing a complete public corridor along the proposed Gresham-Fairview Trail while also looking to provide access and connectivity to and from adjacent parks, greenspaces, trails and a potential regional trailhead.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objective

- Acquire right of way necessary to secure a continuous trail corridor connection to the 40-Mile Loop Trail and the Columbia Slough Trail.

Tier II Objective

- Acquire parcels that are adjacent to the trail corridor to provide access and connectivity to and from adjacent parks, greenspaces, and/or trails including Fairview Creek Headwaters at Southwest Community Park, Grant Butte, Johnson Creek Greenway and Springwater Trail. Acquisition of any Tier II property is subject to a 50% match from a local partner.

Partnership Objective

- Pursue partnership opportunities with the City of Gresham (Departments of Transportation, Solid Waste and Parks and Recreation) and the City of Fairview to leverage regional bond dollars.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3845, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE GRESHAM-FAIRVIEW TRAIL TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the Gresham-Fairview Trail Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the Gresham-Fairview Trail target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3845.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Gresham-Fairview Trail Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Rob Courtney, City of Gresham Parks Director
John Gessner, City of Fairview
Jim Labbe, Audubon Society
Emily Gardner, Bicycle Transportation Alliance
Rebecca Ocken, City of Gresham Planning
Ric Catron, City of Gresham Parks

Key Themes Discussed

Trail Corridor

- Priorities for acquisition for the trail are focused on the northern segment from I-84 to Marine Drive. Easements, right of way, or purchase is needed. Development is likely on several parcels.
- South of Ruby Junction, City has secured a 12' wide easement from Tri-met for the trail. City would like to have a 20' wide easement as the 12' easement is inadequate to accommodate the trail.
- The crossing of Burnside requires a diversion from the trail route. Acquisition in this area would allow a more direct mid-block crossing of Burnside.
- 201st between Halsey and I-84 will require roadway reconfiguration to accommodate the trail. This will require right of way acquisition on the east side of the existing road. The general plan is to shift the road to the east and accommodate the trail on the west side of the road right of way. This will protect several mature trees along the west side of the road.
- Potential links from the Gresham-Fairview trail include: the MAX line trail, I-84 Trail, Columbia Slough Trail, the 40-Mile Loop, and the Springwater Corridor.
- There is an existing segment of trail between NW Halsey and Burnside. Gresham would like to acquire "underdeveloped" parcels along this built portion to create pocket parks and other amenities.

Water Quality / Wildlife Habitat

- The headwaters of Fairview Creek / Grant Butte are important for water quality preservation.
- Two rock pit sites east of trail/south of MAX line will require significant restoration.
- The Boeing site north of Sandy Blvd will be developed into a water quality facility by the City of Gresham.
- Acquisition of lands around Fairview Creek / Grant Butte could provide wildlife corridor link to the Johnson Creek riparian corridor.
- Potential acquisition site should be considered immediately south of the Springwater Corridor at Linneman Junction. The site is on the banks of Johnson Creek and has good stands of mature cedars.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: GRESHAM-FAIRVIEW TRAIL

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

This multi-use trail is a major north-south connection through the Gresham area. It connects the Springwater Corridor at Linneman Junction and crosses the eastside MAX light-rail line at Ruby Junction. Continuing north to Blue Lake Regional Park, the trail ends at the Columbia River and connects to the existing Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway Trail (part of the 40-Mile Loop) along Marine Drive. Acquisition of the remaining corridor is needed to complete the trail and secure an important eastern spine of the regional trail system.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The Metro Council's goal is to secure a corridor from Gresham to Fairview as identified in the approved master plan for this regional trail. The following priorities have been identified in the Gresham-Fairview Trail target area. Please rank these in order from 1 to 2 with 1 being the most important.**

_____ Securing land for a regional trailhead at the northern end of the trail in order to provide public access to both the 40 Mile Loop and Gresham-Fairview trail. (**Map area A**)

_____ Acquiring lands adjacent to the trail corridor to provide public access and connections to adjacent parks, natural areas, and trails. (**Map area B**)

- 2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Gresham-Fairview Trail target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.**

_____ Preserving natural areas along the trail to enhance the experience for trail users.

_____ Creating buffers between private property owners and the trail corridor.

_____ Providing access to the trail for people at regional or local trailhead locations.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Gresham-Fairview Trail target area? Please be specific.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?

5. Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a trail or conservation easement on your property?

Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

6. Do you have any other comments about this target area?

Please add my name to the Gresham-Fairview Trail target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741

Gresham-Fairview Trail Survey Results

1. The Metro Council’s goal is to secure a corridor from Gresham to Fairview as identified in the approved master plan for this regional trail. The following priorities have been identified in the Gresham-Fairview Trail target area. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important	least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Securing land for a regional trailhead at the northern end of the trail in order to provide public access to both the 40 Mile Loop and Gresham-Fairview trail. (Map area A)	42.9% (6)	57.1% (8)	1.57	14
Acquiring lands adjacent to the trail corridor to provide public access and connections to adjacent parks, natural areas, and trails. (Map area B)	61.5% (8)	38.5% (5)	1.38	13
	<i>answered question</i>			14
	<i>skipped question</i>			0

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Gresham-Fairview Trail target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important		least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Preserving natural areas along the trail to enhance the experience for trail users.	42.9% (6)	28.6% (4)	28.6% (4)	1.86	14
Creating buffers between private property owners and the trail corridor.	7.1% (1)	42.9% (6)	50.0% (7)	2.43	14
Providing access to the trail for people at regional or local trailhead locations.	50.0% (7)	28.6% (4)	21.4% (3)	1.71	14
	<i>answered question</i>				14
	<i>skipped question</i>				0

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Gresham-Fairview Trail target area? Please be specific.

Sidewalks linking neighborhoods to the trail. Having to drive to the trail seems to miss the point.

My "wheelchair" is a recumbent tricycle. It is 24" wide, 76" long. The trails are not always wide enough.

Use trail as sort of connection for some parks.

Make sure trees and shrubs newly planted in Gresham along trail are watered. Some between Glisan and Halsey already dying.

Provide a MAX Blue Line Station Linkage where the trail comes closest to a station.

Purchase right of way and finish the construction of the trail.

1) Where the Gresham/Fairview Trail will intersect with the future MAX Trail just south of Burnside; the 3 westerly triangular parcels should be acquired for a future City park. This could serve as a skate park or Hispanic Farmer's Market within a half-block walk of the Ruby Junction Max Station. The site currently contains a PGE substation (it will go away) and a junky auto repair shop. 2) South of Halsey is a small turquoise house and a vacant parcel. Acquire and develop as a City pocket park. Rockwood lacks park facilities.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

Federal govt. put wind generator along the trail for local power.

Staff and funding support.

Work with People for Parks to develop and run the Hispanic Farmer's Market.

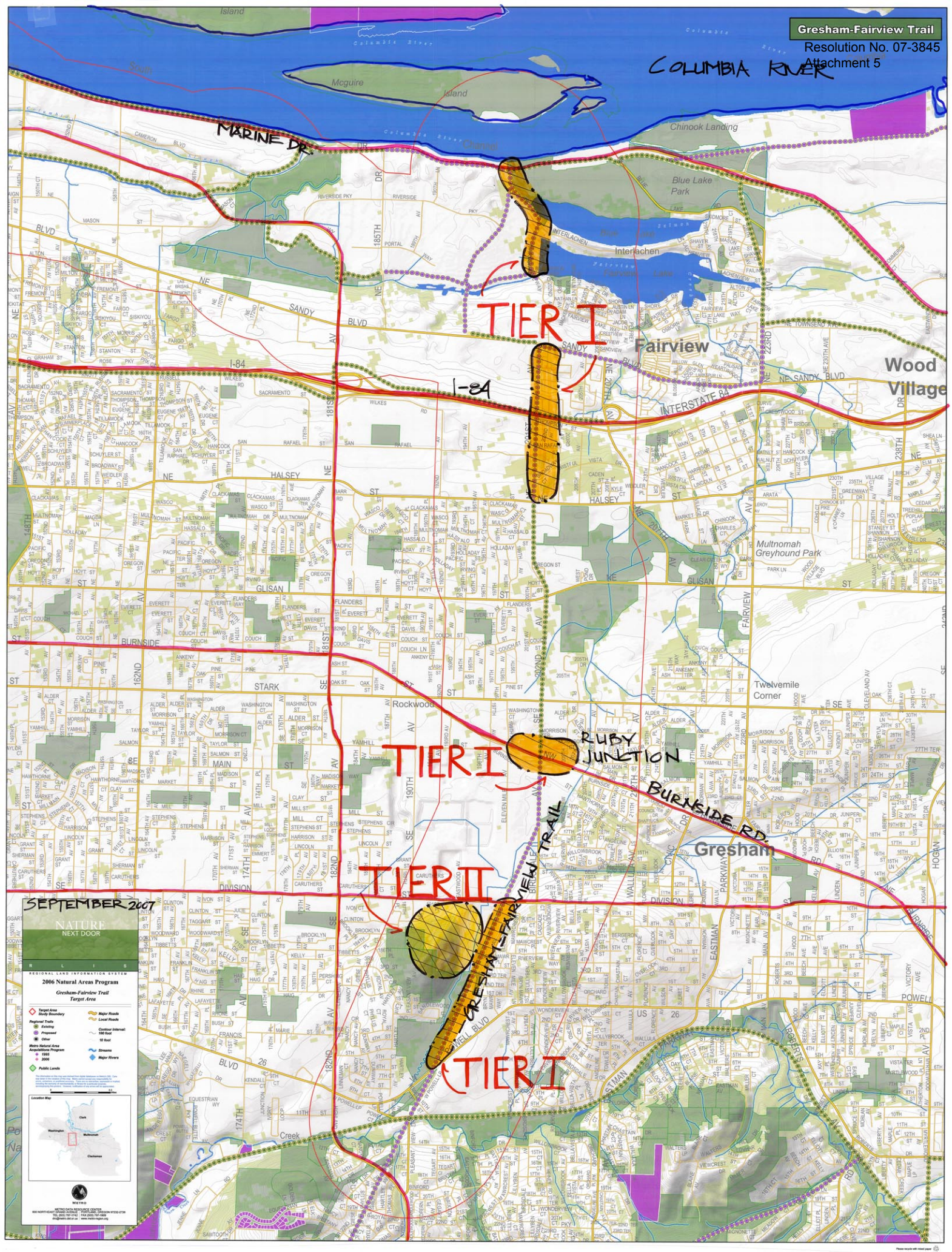
5. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

This is great for Gresham-Fairview Trail but I wonder why similar trailhead or corridor-widening opportunities are not part of Springwater Trail target area. Hopefully, sites useful for trail access can be secured in Johnson Creek target area.

We need as much green space as possible!

The trailhead is almost as important as the trail and frankly both should be pursued simultaneously as each piece is considered "infrastructure". However, missing gaps to the trail does no one any good.

COLUMBIA RIVER



SEPTEMBER 2007

NATURE NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL DATA INFORMATION SYSTEM

2006 Natural Areas Program
 Gresham-Fairview Trail
 Target Area

- Target Area Study Boundary
- Regional Data Mapping
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Proposed
- Other
- 100 Foot Buffer
- 500 Foot Buffer
- 1 Mile Buffer
- Major Roads
- Streams
- Public Lands

Map of the Gresham-Fairview Trail area showing the target area and surrounding regions.

Agenda Item Number 4.3

Resolution No. 07-3846, Approving the Natural Areas
Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Clackamas River Bluffs and
Greenway Target Area

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Metro Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE CLACKAMAS RIVER
BLUFFS AND GREENWAY TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3846

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition, building on the success of land acquisitions pursuant to Metro’s 1995 Open Spaces Bond Measure Program; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
CLACKAMAS RIVER BLUFFS AND GREENWAY TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

In 1995, this target area was the Clackamas River Greenway, and refinement planning efforts focused on the north bank of the Clackamas River from Clackamette Park to Carver. This relied on the 1992 North Bank Greenway study that is now outdated given recent development in the area. The 1995 refinement goal was to acquire 8 miles to create a lower Clackamas River Greenway located between the eastern city limit of the City of Gladstone and Barton Park. Tier I priorities were the Clackamas River riparian corridor, primarily the north bank, from Gladstone upstream to Carver. The 1995 Tier II and III objectives focused on Clackamas River riparian corridor from Carver to Barton. A total of 609 acres were acquired.

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

Clackamas River Bluffs represent the last remaining opportunity to protect a large regional park site within this rapidly developing portion of Clackamas County. Uncommon habitat types in this area, resulting from wet and dry conditions in close proximity, create a rich diversity of plant and animal habitats (e.g., oak, madrone, and fir mixed into side canyons of cedar). The site also abuts the Clackamas River North Bank Greenway from Barton Park to Clackamette Park and provides an important link to the lower river and the developing communities of Damascus and Happy Valley.

Target Area Description

The Clackamas River Greenway is defined as the river corridor from Gladstone upstream to the Barton Park area. Gravel bars and riparian zones interspersed with cottonwood forests are found in this lower portion of the river. Besides providing habitat for wildlife and fish, the river and its floodplain possess significant scenic value and offer a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The river is also an important source of drinking water in the region.

The Clackamas River Bluffs border the river's north bank between Southeast 232nd and Carver. This relatively undeveloped line of bluffs contains distinctive geologic formations with a cliff and cave system that provides unique bat habitat. The area is forested with a diverse mix of oak, madrone, cedar and fir, including patches of old growth providing large-scale wildlife habitat connections between the Clackamas River and watersheds of the East Buttes area near Damascus and Gresham.

The Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area is connected by wildlife corridors to several other Natural Areas Program target areas including Deep Creek, East Buttes, Cazadero Trail, and Johnson Creek.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various government agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

A public open house to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan was held on June 25, 2007 at Boring Middle School, one of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a "virtual" open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available "online" via the internet and

allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target area surveys were submitted either in person or online. One hundred forty-three people completed the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

Scientific Findings

- The Clackamas River serves as an important migration corridor for anadromous fish to available spawning habitats in upper tributaries.
- A priority for Metro acquisition along the Clackamas River should be undeveloped remnant side channels, floodplain lands and the confluence with creeks. Metro should purchase these now for preservation, and restoration of floodplain wetlands, gravel bars, side channels and enhanced habitat for anadromous fish.
- The quality of aquatic habitat and connectivity with other habitats increases with distance (upstream) from the confluence with the Willamette River. The lower reaches of the Clackamas River have degraded habitat with fewer side channel habitats, relatively long and well-established rip-rap along bank areas, and riparian zones dominated by weed species.
- The upper reaches of the Clackamas River have higher quality habitat with more side channel habitats, higher riffle/pool diversity, increased gravel bars, increased connectivity with the floodplain, and higher functioning “gallery” forests. Invasive weed species are also of concern in upper reaches, although appear to be manageable with moderate restoration efforts.
- The Clackamas River Bluffs area is a unique headland of exposed Boring lava cliff face with large parcels of undeveloped forest land that provides good habitat for birds and wildlife. No rare species or plant associations of conservation concern were found during recent site visits. No direct surface water connections exist between the Bluffs and the Clackamas River due to the separation in elevation by the precipitous cliff face.

Stakeholders

- The Bluffs area has old growth forest, rare geologic and natural heritage features that should be preserved. Additional purchases here would build on high quality forested habitat found on land protected by a Three Rivers Land Conservancy conservation easement and land owned by Clackamas County (Madrone Wall).
- Several stakeholders expressed interest in the “Big Park” – the concept that the Bluffs would become a State or Damascus city park. Clackamas County is planning on creating a park plan for the Madrone Wall site this summer.
- Richardson Creek, especially the lower reaches, provides some of the highest quality habitat and aquatic resources in the Portland Metro region. Richardson Creek is still fish bearing and a coho spawning habitat, despite the occurrence of flash floods.
- Some stakeholders suggest Metro revisit north bank Clackamas River Greenway (downstream) floodplain areas to see if land prices may have come down since 1995 bond acquisitions.
- There is an opportunity to acquire properties contiguous to current Metro land holdings along the Clackamas River. There is the potential to create a unique regional-scale natural area with a variety of habitat types, including riparian, floodplain and upland habitats (including the Bluff).

- Surrounding development will continue to impact the upper Clackamas River watershed, reducing source water quantity and water temperature.
- Current Damascus and Clackamas County zoning and development regulations may not adequately protect local natural resources. Building and filling in the floodplain continue to happen along the Clackamas River.
- The lands north of the Clackamas River are more susceptible to development pressures than those on the side, particularly in the Carver area between Richardson Creek and Carver that is within the UGB and the City of Damascus.

Survey Results

- 143 people completed the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway survey. Additional commentary was provided orally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area D* – Protect the scenic views and provide future recreational opportunities by acquiring lands along the Clackamas River Bluffs.
 2. *Map area A* – Protect undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Barton Park to Clear Creek (Carver boat ramp) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat.
 3. *Map area B* – Protect undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Clear Creek to Beebe Island (Johnson Creek curves) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat.
 4. *Map area C* – Protect undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Beebe Island (Johnson Creek curves) to the confluence with the Willamette River with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat.

Goals

- Protect sensitive riparian areas, wetlands, and side channels along the Clackamas River from Goose Creek west towards the confluence with the Willamette River for fish and wildlife habitat protection, enhancement and restoration. Protect water quality and improve fish and wildlife habitat in the lower Clackamas River by acquiring and restoring native plant communities and side channels.
- Protect unique geological features, habitat for rare species and lands that could provide a regionally significant nature park on the mostly undeveloped Clackamas River Bluffs.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Protect the undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Barton Park to Clear Creek (Carver Boat Ramp) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat and maintaining water quality.
- Protect the undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Clear Creek to Beebe Island (Johnson Creek curves) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat and maintaining water quality.

- Protect scenic views and provide future recreational opportunities by acquiring lands along the Clackamas River Bluffs to create a regionally significant nature park.

Tier II Objective

- Protect the undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Beebe Island (Johnson Creek curves) to the confluence with the Willamette River with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat.

Partnership Objectives

- Partnership opportunities exist for leveraging regional funds for fee-simple purchase or conservation easements with the Three Rivers Land Conservancy, which holds a conservation easement on a parcel on the Clackamas River Bluffs.
- Partnership opportunities may exist for long-term management of purchased properties on the Clackamas River Bluffs with Clackamas County Parks, North Clackamas Park District and Oregon State Parks.
- Partner with PGE for habitat enhancement and restoration project funding.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3846, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE CLACKAMAS RIVER BLUFFS AND GREENWAY TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3846.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Jayne Cronlund, Three Rivers L.T.
Michele Healy, North Clackamas Parks District
Dan Zinzer, Clackamas County Parks
Scott Pemble, Clackamas County Planning

Key Themes Discussed

Water Quality

- Watershed of Clackamas River
- Clackamas River frontage – active farms along the river are sending soil into the river. There are opportunities along the river – even down near the confluence with the Willamette River.
- Sunshine Creek – important for health of Johnson Creek (3 Rivers)

Wildlife Habitat

- Mt. Talbert – important wildlife habitat close in
- Clackamas River Bluffs – ecologically significant, talus caves, old growth trees, bats

Land Use / Urban / Rural Form

- Development – work west to east on acquisitions. Buy some open space lands close in – not all way out to the east.
- Zoning: EFU zoned land – anything goes. Can't regulate land use on agricultural land. Can be logged, farmed, etc. no matter how steep the slopes. Nursery and farming practices are not always stream friendly.

Wildlife Corridors

- Clackamas River Bluffs – connecting to the river between North Fork Deep Creek and Carver.
- Mt. Talbert/Camp Withycomb/Scott Creek

Scenic Resources

- Clackamas River Bluffs
- Steep slopes adjacent to Rock Creek
- Sieben Creek at confluence with Forest Creek
- Mt. Talbert

Connections to existing parks, natural areas, trails, waterways

- Connect Clackamas River Bluffs to Cazadero Trail
- Pigeon Park – at confluence of Richardson Creek and Clackamas River

Key Partners

- Oregon State Parks: Deep Creek (Cazadero Trail) also at the Bluffs. State should pay to develop Cazadero Trail – Metro should not spend any money on it.

Miscellaneous Comments

- 3 Rivers: pursuing conservation easements.
- County looking at putting a community park along Rock Creek. They have put an offer on property.
- Madrone Wall: County is working on master planning this site now, looking at how it works for recreation, trails and climbing. Day use only.
- Cazadero Trail: County is building a trail head/camping area at Barton Park. They will use their local share funds on this project.
- Clackamas River Bluffs: trails below to provide access to Cazadero Trail.

Key Priorities

East Buttes:

- Mt. Talbert: views, wildlife, recreation, high development pressures, connect to Mt. Scott Creek
- Rock Creek: has limited natural resources but scenic and recreational values
- Sunshine Creek: important for Johnson Creek

Other Clackamas County Target Areas

- Clear Creek, Abernethy Creek: focus on the forested parcels in upper watershed (3 Rivers)
- Clear Creek not a priority for Clackamas County.
- Tonquin – focus on wetland (County).

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: CLACKAMAS RIVER BLUFFS AND GREENWAY

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition. Initial estimates are that a minimum of 450 acres of land would be protected within this target area.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

Clackamas River Bluffs represent the last remaining opportunity to protect a large regional park site within this rapidly developing portion of Clackamas County. Uncommon habitat types in this area, resulting from wet and dry conditions in close proximity, create a rich diversity of plant and animal habitats (e.g., oak, madrone, and fir mixed into side canyons of cedar). The site also abuts the Clackamas River North Bank Greenway from Barton Park to Clackamette Park and provides an important link to the lower river and the developing communities of Damascus and Happy Valley.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The following priorities were identified in the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.**

- _____ Protecting undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Barton Park to Clear Creek (Carver boat ramp) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Protecting undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Clear Creek to Beebe Island (Johnson Creek curves) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat. **(Map area B)**
- _____ Protecting undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Beebe Island (Johnson Creek curves) to the confluence with the Willamette River with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Protecting the scenic views and providing future recreational opportunities by acquiring lands along the Clackamas River bluffs. **(Map area D)**

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

- _____ Protecting and preserving fish and wildlife habitat in the Clackamas River.
- _____ Providing public access to natural areas for recreation and wildlife watching.
- _____ Protecting water quality and floodplains along the Clackamas River.
- _____ Protecting scenic views along the Clackamas River.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area? Please be specific.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?

5. Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a trial or conservation easement on your property?

Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

6. Do you have any other comments about this target area?

Please add my name to the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

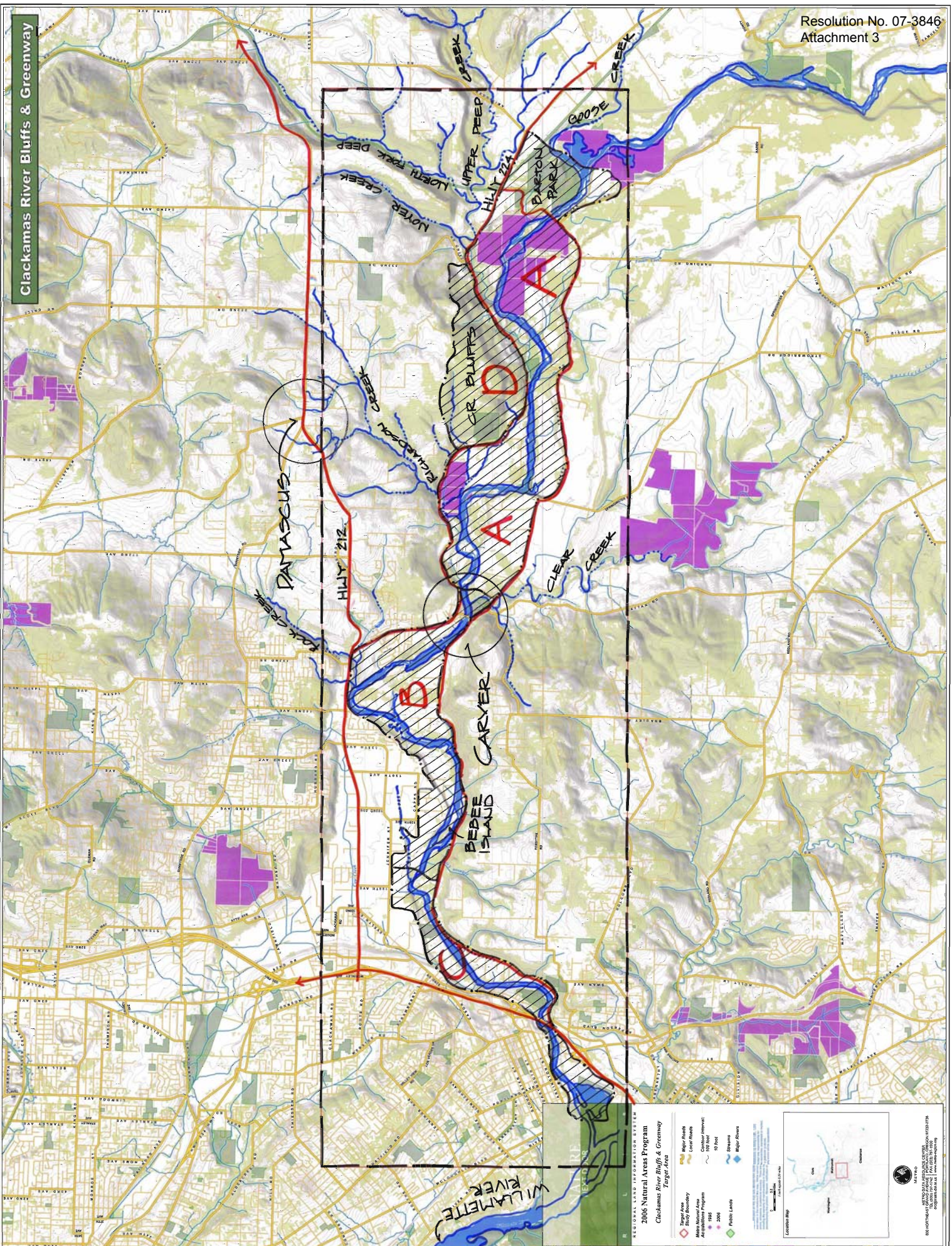
City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741



REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program
Clackamas River Bluffs & Greenway
Target Area

- Target Area
- Major Bluffs
- Local Bluffs
- County Interest
- 100 Foot
- 50 Foot
- Public Lands
- Streams
- Major Rivers

Scale: 1" = 200'

Location Map

Metrolink
100 NORTHWEST PLAZA AVENUE, PORTLAND, OREGON 97208
503.281.1000
www.metrolink.org

Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Barton Park to Clear Creek (Carver boat ramp) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat. (Map area A)	16.1% (19)	50.0% (59)	15.3% (18)	18.6% (22)	2.36	118
Protecting undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Clear Creek to Beebe Island (Johnson Creek curves) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat. (Map area B)	1.7% (2)	23.3% (28)	55.8% (67)	19.2% (23)	2.93	120
Protecting undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Beebe Island (Johnson Creek curves) to the confluence with the Willamette River with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat. (Map area C)	3.3% (4)	24.8% (30)	25.6% (31)	46.3% (56)	3.15	121
Protecting the scenic views and providing future recreational opportunities by acquiring lands along the Clackamas River bluffs. (Map area D)	81.3% (113)	4.3% (6)	2.9% (4)	11.5% (16)	1.45	139
	<i>answered question</i>					140
	<i>skipped question</i>					3

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting and preserving fish and wildlife habitat in the Clackamas River.	26.0% (32)	35.8% (44)	25.2% (31)	13.0% (16)	2.25	123
Providing public access to natural areas for recreation and wildlife watching.	57.7% (75)	14.6% (19)	17.7% (23)	10.0% (13)	1.80	130
Protecting water quality and floodplains along the Clackamas River.	12.5% (15)	35.0% (42)	34.2% (41)	18.3% (22)	2.58	120
Protecting scenic views along the Clackamas River.	6.7% (8)	15.8% (19)	20.0% (24)	57.5% (69)	3.28	120
	<i>answered question</i>					132
	<i>skipped question</i>					11

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target area? Please be specific.

<p>Prior to the closure, this site was an established rock climbing area. Many of the people who have a personal interest in this area do so because it is one of the most beautiful and best places to climb in the greater Portland area.</p> <p>We want rock climbing back at the Madrone wall...</p> <p>Open the Madrone Wall to climbers.</p> <p>I would like to promote non-motorized (low impact) recreational use of the region, particularly enhancing the Madrone Wall area for walking and climbing access, and riverfront for kayak/canoe/water user access. The fewer motors present, the more users can have a "wilderness experience," and the more positive impacts this area can have on future generations.</p> <p>Preserving and allowing access to the best one of only a few unique features in the entire NW area of the state, the Madrone Wall.</p> <p>The area we are most interested in seeing future public access to the Madrone Wall area, which I believe, is in 'Map area D'. Citizens have utilized this interesting formation as a rock climbing area for many years. We have found it a delightful place to visit because of the unique beauty of the Clackamas River Bluffs and its colorful forested slopes.</p> <p>Reopen Madrone wall to climbing!! (Area D)</p> <p>Please ensure that climbing at Madrone Wall remains a priority.</p> <p>Rock climbers are good stewards of climbing areas. We regularly clean and maintain climbing areas, and bring a mature, responsible presence to the areas that we frequent.</p> <p>We have an incredible opportunity to save the Madrone Wall for future generations as a park.</p> <p>Opening the Madrone Wall area to recreation and rock climbing as soon as possible. Madrone Wall can serve as the anchor and help shape future willing seller land acquisitions and park expansion.</p> <p>I think we should have more FIRST COME FIRST SERVE campgrounds available to the public.</p>
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A climbing and scenic view point at the "Madrone Wall" would be excellent. Since this area is regularly used illegally, but is well suited to be developed into a park, this only makes sense. And, of course, the county already owns it, it would be a logical link between Barton Park and the Carver Boatramp Park, and it is also not far west of the recent conservation easement placed on 29 acres of land. That land has a cave system, created eons ago by a partial collapse of a continuation of the Madrone Wall, that houses rare bats and many other species of wildlife.

Regional park at the Madrone Wall.

Please open up Madrone wall to climbers!

Please provide ample garbage and recycling facilities to give people every opportunity to manage their waste and take pride in their parks. Also provide porta-potties for the same reason.

Restoring access to the Madrone Wall rock climbing area and providing an adequate parking area for users.

The creation of a public access county-owned park similar to Forest Park, Tryon Creek Park, and Lewis & Clark Park would be a great asset for the community as well as providing habitat protection for fish and other animals.

Procuring land that is adjacent to already protected land (eg, Three Rivers Conservancy) above the Clackamas River. This land plus the Madrone Wall would make a fantastic park area, a major asset to the community.

Specifically, protecting the Madrone Wall property from development and increase recreational opportunities.

All of these areas are important to preserve. It is hard to prioritize them!

Madrone Wall climbing access.

Access to the climbing area

The area should be available to people that want to rock climb. It is one of the best local areas for rock climbers. Please permit access to climbers.

Please help reopen the Madrone Wall to climbing.

Willing seller land acquisition adjacent to Madrone Wall/Hardscrabble (44-acre) Clackamas County site in Clackamas River Bluffs which serves as an anchor site for future protection. This will provide the protection of contiguous property building on the only currently available public property along the Clackamas River Bluffs.

Do not increase through traffic in that area.

I find this survey frustrating because I consider all of the priorities listed to be equally important. I don't think we should have to choose one value over another.

Rock climbing access is a priority for me.

Re-establishing access to Madrone wall for rock climbing

Development of a recreation area for rock climbers and hikers.

Are there plans to create a river trail from Barton to Carver? Possible to tie the areas to the Johnson Creek Bike trail?

Acquiring land around Madrone Wall to create a more extensive park area

Many climbers in the area, myself and my family included, are hopeful that the excellent climbing on the Madrone wall will be made available to us for recreation. It's a beautiful area, and the thought of having such good climbing in a park setting is very attractive.

Access to Madrone Wall should be a priority for recreational users.

Minimize construction scope at the Bluffs (climbing area).

Please give conservation priority to the Madrone Wall area. I am glad to see the county moving forward with park in this area.

Climbing, hiking, & fishing.

It would just be nice to save something large along the Clackamas River because the area looks otherwise destined to be developed over.

Recreational area should be defined as non-motorized recreation. I would like to see the area opened for rock climbing. I suspect you'll find the Mazamas and the Access Fund ready to support in various ways.

I am particularly interested in the significant regional resource that the Madrone River Bluff provides for climbers -- and value that it exists within the larger Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway project.

Parking access off busy road, and toilet facilities. (if not that then at a bare minimum porta-potties).

The Madrone Wall in view area D is a unique and valuable resource to the local community. It is one of the few places in Oregon that could provide recreational rock climbers with high quality rock for climbing along with relatively easy access from Portland and the metro area. Climbers are an asset to the areas where they climb. They maintain the integrity and safety of the rock climbing, weed growth on trails and at the base of the cliff and the cleanliness of the area. Further, climbers' presence often wards off anyone considering any illegal activity or vandalism. Although Washington generally has higher quality rock, and thereby more areas with quality rock climbing, Beacon Rock State Park is an example of how rock climbing can be an asset to a park. In contrast, Oregon has less opportunities for such a park but the Madrone Wall area provides Oregon with one such opportunity.

Restore public access to Climbing/Hiking areas within proposed park boundaries.

Limiting recreation to human powered endeavors would greatly aid the protection and preservation goals.

Hardscrabble property /madrone wall.

Preserve the unique geology and habitat of the Clackamas Bluffs area (D).

Develop green separation between cities rather than let them grow together.

We should be protecting a regional scale park from the bluffs through the floodplain.

River access for rafts. Reopen access at 208th Hwy 224.

Please allow recreation, climbing, along the bluffs of Madrone. Climbing continues to be a positive sport for youth and is increasing in popularity every year. The PDX area has very limited area for climbing recreation, please do not take this away.

Please focus on this area: on the north bank of the River, from (generally) the mouth of Cow Creek to (generally) the mouth of Rock Creek. There are many acres of low-lying lands in this reach (frequently used for farmland now) that could be acquired from willing sellers and converted into wetland-rich and floodplain forest rich areas. Because the UGB includes (or is next to) these lands, they're somewhat more likely to be developed (someday) in a way that prevents them from achieving their full potential from an environmental perspective.

There is nothing out this way on a river for the public to enjoy outside of Barton park. Think big for future generations, like the makers of Forest Park thought big. There will be so many people here in 20 years. Set aside space for them to enjoy the out of doors

Focus on establishing a large regional park by buying as much of the bluff and floodplain that lies between existing Metro lands west and east.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

Keep the parking for this park as close to the highway as possible so as to maximize the amount of green space.

Recreational organizations exist tied to local vendors (kayak shop such as Alder Creek, climbing company like Portland Rock Gym); these can assist coordinating fund raising events for the area, as well as supply volunteer help for trail maintenance and building.

Partner with conservation groups, utilities, and local authorities.

Please ensure that climbing at Madrone Wall remains a priority.

Charge for overnight camping... possibly make some parts of the day use areas overnight and charge \$15 to \$20 a night.

Climbing groups are already keyed in and willing to do a lot of the work to establish the Madrone Wall park.

Involve the people living in that area who already are connected to or through the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee.

Could contact the Access Fund or Madrone Wall Preservation Committee to set up Adopt-a-Crag days where climbers could volunteer to help with the creation of trails and structures, and/or for future maintenance on those trails and structures.

There is a wonderful area of well protected, sturdy and climbable rock cliff in area D of the map. The AccessFund is a non-profit committed to opening public access to rock climbing areas such as this one. They may be able to offer financial support toward this end.

Madrone Wall Preservation Committee would be happy to help with public outreach to the 1,000 interested people on our mailing/email list anytime Metro Greenspace desires public input.

Work with the Access Fund to develop and implement a land use plan for rock climbing access.

The climbing community is generally willing to help with trail maintenance, etc.

I don't know, maybe the Access Fund or NRDC.

Use conservation easements by partnering with Three Rivers Land Conservancy.

I think working with the AccessFund to help manage the rock climbing in the target areas (zone D especially).

Climbing clubs: Mazamas, Chemeketans, Santiam Alpine Club, etc. - climbers care! Outdoor stores: REI, Climb Max, Mountain Shop, etc. Volunteers - see how well the low impact grass-roots development of nearby privately held Carver Bridges has worked out.

Consider linking this area with a bikeway from the Springwater Corridor to along the Clackamas River.

Access Fund, the local climbing shop, Climb Max, and the climbing community, loosely organized on the website Cascade Climbers, would probably be good resources.

The Access Fund may be interested in partnering at the Clackamas River Bluffs (Madrone Wall) for trail maintenance.

Partner with Clackamas Co on this and other publicly owned site by the county.

Clackamas County Parks, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection Program.

Consider protecting/buying working small farms as part of "natural" areas.

Damascus St. Parks Cl. County

Personal and business donations

Manage ODOT lands

Get together with the townships and the county. I bet everyone wants the same thing- greenery for tomorrow. Make it clear to the existing residents that selling their land to the PUBLIC will make them a profit. Everyone benefits.

Get State Parks involved. They have lots of lotto funds and are looking for new park opportunities. This area is the best opportunity in the Portland region for a new state park, and they already have the trail corridor as Cazadero.

5. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

The current No Trespassing policy is a disservice to the community. This is a very special place that is held dear by those who know of it and would be greatly appreciated by those who haven't yet visited.

This site has been closed to climbers for so long that you must take considerable weight in each comment that you receive about the Madrone Wall area. If more people knew, many many more would be commenting! Thank you.

Consider incorporating a small fee-based entry program to help subsidize access & use at the Madrone Wall site. Rock climbers are always open to the general idea if it is reasonable, although many climbers do earn less than 25k annually.

Please consider access for rock climbers as a priority.

Protecting the Clackamas River Bluffs is vital. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to protect a diverse and wild place for people to explore for years to come.

It's a fantastic opportunity, I hope we make this work.

Please ensure that climbing at Madrone Wall remains a priority.

I would like to see a website designed, pictures included, about the area. History, etc. People will become more involved once they see it! Possibly a fund raiser with games kids can play?

My husband and I are Clackamas County natives, residents and property owners there. If the spread of ticky-tacky housing developments can't be stopped, at least preserve the amount of greenspaces that your own bylaws require. We are especially interested in the Madrone Wall area. We are not only climbers, but we also live just up the road from the Carver boat landing, and this small park is overwhelmed every summer. We have written several letters to current and former county commissioners about converting the hardscrabble quarry area into a park.

Limit structures due to ongoing vandalism in this corridor.

The area known as "Madrone" is one of the best climbing area's in the greater Portland area, as well as the state. It would be a HUGE loss to not only the Portland climbing community, but to the Pacific Northwest Climbing community.

Prior to the closure of the Madrone Wall/Hardscrabble area (now many years ago), I and many of my friends enjoyed the unique rock climbing experience available at this site. Since it is one of the few places within the Portland metropolitan area that contains such high quality climbing opportunities, it is important that it be re-opened for such use. As the population of our region increases, it is vital that we maintain the green spaces and recreational opportunities that make this such a desirable place in which to live. Please allocate the funding that was authorized, and make it a reality.

I specifically am interested in the Madrone Wall area. We live across the street from this section and are most encouraged that Metro is interested in making this into a park. We were very involved in helping Clackamas County to understand that a rock quarry was not in the best interest of the area, county and State in general.

Access for rock climbing

I'm a climber of the cliffs known as 'Madrone' or 'The Quarry' but I feel the protection of wildlife is much more important. Thanks for your work on saving this area.

Save the wall!

In this area of wildlife diversity, there is opportunity for measurements, monitoring and research by nature programs, college classes, research programs, and such. Try-On Community Farm is currently working with local college groups in this arena. PNNL laboratories is doing research in Oregon habitats to measure the effects of global warming through the next decade. I think that the interaction of man and nature in the proposed areas is an interesting topic of research. Regardless of topic, any independent research involvement has potential to increase the visibility and positive publicity for a project of this scope.

Parks are used by many citizens, not just climbers. Many people will benefit from a new park. Wildlife will also benefit. It is important to protect what little open space we have left.

I want to see the Madrone Wall reopened for climbing!

1) If it is possible I would like an option on the survey to place water quality and habitat as equally important. I feel that both are necessary to preserving natural areas. 2) If recreation, specifically climbing, does become available please limit options to only traditional climbing and do not allow individuals to drill into the cliffs.

It is extremely important to protect this area now, before development pressures head further east. The area should be protected for recreation, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

I am a big fan of converting the Madrone Wall to park, especially if the wall will be available for rock climbing.

I'm thrilled that this land will be public space.

I haven't really spent any time in the area, but I recently started rock climbing and have been told that the cliffs at Madrone Wall are fantastic. I would live to be able to see and climb in this area.

I think this a wonderful project. Every time I drive out to the Clackamas River in the target areas, I find it very relaxing and enjoyable. It is nice to know that you are working to help keep the area as natural as possible.

The rock climbing, scenery and wildlife viewing at Madrone Wall are all superb and considering that this 44 acre parcel is already publicly owned, I believe it should be opened for public access immediately. For a truly minimal cost, the "No Trespassing" signs could simply be removed and the area made available to the public as-is. If automobile access and parking is required to open the park, this can also be achieved in very short order with minimal cost. There is already an access road and cleared level area that would serve well as a parking area. If the current access road and level area were graded, they would provide serviceable automotive access. Allowing public access after minimal (or no) improvement would not prevent future modifications to the site, it simply allows public access to a beautiful area with minimal expense.

I have enjoyed the Clackamas River for fifty years - swimming, rafting, picnicking, and the wonderful drinking water. I do hope you can preserve a chunk of this precious natural area.

Thanks for making it happen. The Madrone Wall has been on climbers' radar for decades. This is an excellent opportunity to develop a green, eco-friendly, self-sustaining activity that will draw folks to a beautiful area.

I am thrilled that the county is proceeding with re-establishing recreation (climbing) at Madrone wall!

Natural areas already there, should be protected for future generations, instead of creating a flat grass park for ball games and such. True wilderness within a city's boundaries is a gem.

I believe that opening the Madrone Wall area as a park would be a great asset to the area and the people who live around it.

Could you allow access to this area prior to completion of the master plan? Limits and restrictions on parking are prudent and acceptable.

Its good that you are targeting this region for preservation.

Think Big! The bluffs also have outstanding habitat, including falcon caves.

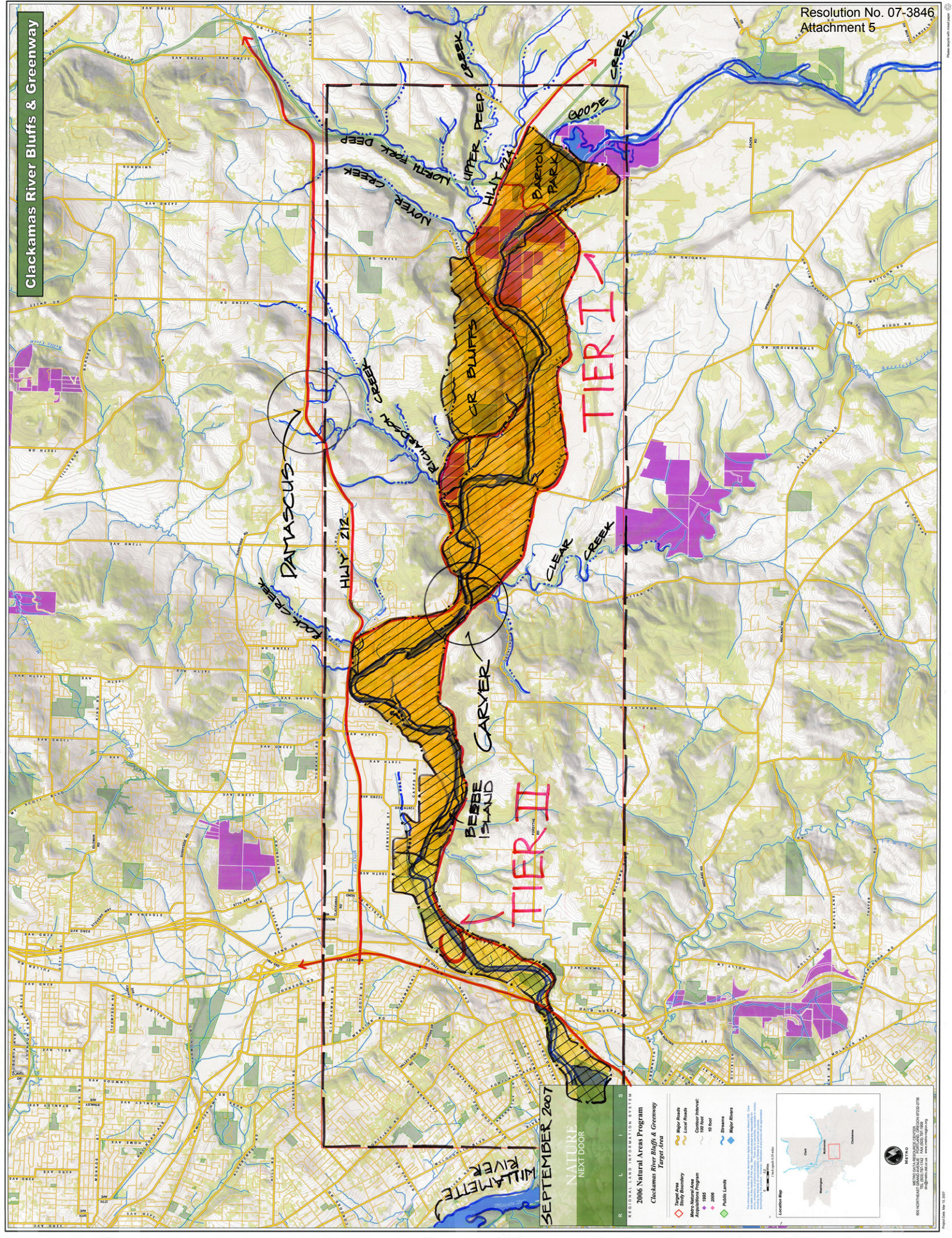
Value the concept of a "Forest Park" along the Clackamas offering wild trail system.

ODOT currently has a 17 acre site that was used by the general public, without ODOT's permission, for access to the Clackamas River. Public access was restricted in the summer of 2007. The parcels are located east of Carver off of Hwy 224. The ODOT site has a flat parking area and was called "Fisherman Bend". METRO is the best agency to move forward with a purchase and development of this location as a park to provide any future public access.

The Clackamas River is a jewel undiscovered and under utilized. The N side of Mt Hood and it's foothills are overused, and the southside and the Clackamas River could satisfy many Oregonians quest for forest and water recreation in a sustainable manner. Right now, I get to use it without the crowds.

The bluffs are an amazing natural resource and should be conserved. Get busy.

Clackamas River Bluffs & Greenway



SEPTEMBER 2007
NATURE
NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program
Clackamas River Bluffs & Greenway
Target Area

Legend

- Property Area
- Study Boundary
- Local Roads
- Major Roads
- Metro Natural Area
- Acquisition Program
- 100 Foot
- 50 Foot
- 15 Foot
- Streams
- Major Rivers
- Public Lands

Location Map

Clackamas

000 NORTH AVENUE, SUITE 2000, CLACKAMAS, OR 97015
PHONE: 503.655.3300
WWW.METRO-OR.GOV

Resolution No. 07-3847, Approving the Natural Areas
Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Abernethy and Newell Creeks
Target Area.

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Metro Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE ABERNETHY AND
NEWELL CREEKS TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3847

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the Abernethy and Newell Creeks Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition, building on the success of land acquisitions pursuant to Metro’s 1995 Open Spaces Bond Measure Program; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Abernethy and Newell Creeks Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Abernethy and Newell Creeks Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
ABERNETHY AND NEWELL CREEKS TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

Although Newell Creek watershed was a target area for 1995 bond measure acquisition, the greater Abernethy watershed has received limited attention in terms of natural resource inventories or acquisition. This area will likely be a target for urban growth in coming years, yet at this time it retains relatively large tracts of forested upland headwater areas, oak woodlands and high quality aquatic habitat.

The 1995 refinement plan goal focused on acquiring acreage for a future regional natural park area within Newell Creek Canyon to protect the unique natural features and water quality of the creek. To date, 280 acres have been protected. Together with lands owned and managed by Oregon City and the Oregon Department of Transportation, Newell Creek watershed includes the largest intact forested natural area in the southern Portland metropolitan area.

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

With successful protection of portions of Newell Creek, continued acquisition of undeveloped lands along its lower portion and along Abernethy Creek will expand fish and wildlife habitat critical to the area in and around Oregon City, especially threatened habitat for native steelhead and cutthroat populations.

A biological assessment supports previous finding of the key importance of the Abernethy Creek watershed including perennial streams that have high potential for future restoration and wildlife connectivity.

Target Area Description

The target area encompasses the lower third of the 14,500-acre Abernethy Creek watershed and includes major tributaries of Newell, Holcomb and Potter creeks. Historically, the Abernethy Creek watershed basin consisted of oak woodlands, prairie, and old-growth Douglas fir forests in the uplands, mixed deciduous-coniferous forests along streams, and wetlands. Abernethy Creek and its lower tributary Newell Creek provide significant fish and wildlife habitat in and adjacent to an urbanizing area and provide connectivity from foothills of the Cascades to the Willamette River. This important natural area, especially the lower Abernethy watershed, is severely threatened by nearby growth and development.

Located within Oregon City, Newell Creek originates near Clackamas Community College and winds north to its confluence with Abernethy Creek, a tributary of the Willamette River. Newell Creek supports significant native populations of fish, including coho salmon, cutthroat trout and steelhead. The presence of these native fish and the relatively large size of the bordering undeveloped land purchased with funds from the 1995 bond measure make the canyon biologically notable. These public holdings include a native forest of red cedar, Douglas fir, big-leaf maple and red alder with an understory of fern, snowberry and salmonberry. A portion of a former rail alignment purchased with 1995 bond funds has potential for a future trail.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Abernethy and Newell Creeks target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various government agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

A public open house to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan was held on June 18, 2007 at Athey Creek Middle School, one of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a “virtual” open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available “online” via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. Fifteen people completed the Abernethy and Newell Creeks survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

- Abernethy Creek and its lower tributary Newell Creek provide significant fish and wildlife habitat in and adjacent to an urbanizing area and provide connectivity from foothills of the Cascades to the Willamette River.
- Of the 14,500-acre Abernethy Creek watershed, the target area encompasses the lower third of the watershed that includes the major tributaries of Newell, Holcomb, Potter, Thimble, Martin and Root creeks. These streams are capable of bearing steelhead and resident cutthroat trout populations.
- A significant portion (280 acres) of remaining undeveloped land remaining in Newell Creek Canyon has been acquired to date, including the confluence with Abernathy Creek.
- Lower Abernethy Creek between the confluences of Willamette River and Newell Creek runs through a developed floodplain and long culvert of unknown condition and dimension.
- Obstruction to fish passage may exist at Hidden Lake (Mile 3.7) and Beaver Lake (Mile 8.9).
- In the lower watershed, fish and wildlife habitat quality of Holcomb and Potter creeks are relatively high.
- Large blocks of remnant native plant communities such as mature conifer forests and oak woodlands remain in portions of the watershed that can serve as significant wildlife habitat anchors and connectors to larger forest habitats such as Clear Creek Canyon.
- A limited number of private in-holdings remain in Newell Creek Canyon that, if acquired, could complete linkages of public lands and provide a potential trail alignment.
- Fifteen people responded to the Abernethy and Newell Creeks survey. Additional commentary was provided orally at the open house, which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area A* – Protect natural corridors along the main stem of Abernethy Creek and its major tributaries (Potter and Holcomb creeks) to protect water quality and habitat for fish downstream of Hidden Lake.
 2. *Map area D* – Protect remaining gaps along the creek corridor in Newell Creek Canyon and at the confluence area of Abernethy and Newell creeks for future restoration and wildlife connectivity.
 3. *Map area C* – Preserve large blocks of remnant native plant communities such as mature conifer forests and oak woodlands areas and provid upland habitat corridors or "stepping stones" to larger forest habitats such as Clear Creek Canyon.

4. *Map area B* – Protect natural corridors along the main stem of Abernethy Creek and its major tributaries to protect water quality and habitat for fish from Maple Lane Road to Beaver Lake.

Goals

- Protect undeveloped lands along lower Newell Creek for future restoration (especially threatened habitat for native steelhead and cutthroat populations) and wildlife connectivity.
- Protect natural corridors and uplands along the main stem of Abernethy Creek and its major tributaries to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Protect natural corridors along the main stem of Abernethy Creek and its major tributaries (Potter and Holcomb creeks) to protect water quality and habitat for fish downstream of Hidden Lake.
- Acquire large blocks of remnant oak woodlands and associated habitat in upper Holcomb and Potter creeks.

Tier II Objective

- Preserve large blocks of conifer forests and oak woodlands to provide upland habitat corridors or "stepping stones" to other public lands.
- Protect remaining gaps along the creek corridor in Newell Creek Canyon and at the confluence area of Abernethy and Newell creeks for future restoration and wildlife connectivity.

Partnership Objective

- Pursue partnership opportunities with the City of Oregon City, the Trust for Public Land, and others to leverage regional bond dollars.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3847, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE ABERNETHY AND NEWELL CREEKS TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the Abernethy and Newell Creeks Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the Abernethy and Newell Creeks target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3847.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Abernethy and Newell Creeks Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Alice Norris
Doug Neeley
Scott Archer
Pete Walter
Betsy Torell
Tim Blackwood
Jerry Herrmann
Kate McCutchen
Alison Heimowitz
Rebecca Miller
Sarah Miller
Anna McKinney
Clair Klock

See science report completed by Betsy Torell of Jones and Stokes for findings and perspectives from additional stakeholders. Betsy was not limited to a specific number of interviews as we were and thus was able to compile substantial information concerning the state of the watershed.

Key Themes Discussed

Habitat Protection

- Target high quality aquatic and riparian habitat in main stem and tribss
- Expand target area to larger watershed so that headwaters in forested undeveloped uplands can be protected from future development.
- Identify and purchase sensitive and rare habitats in greater watershed including remaining larger oak habitats.

Habitat Linkages

- Make habitat connections from watershed to watershed.—Abernethy Creek to Clear Creek
- Use acquisition process to link Abernethy Creek to Newell, Livesy, and Holcomb.
- Potter Creek has one remaining impediment. Owner wants to fix it.
- Identify remaining obstacles to fish passage and work with private landowners and public agency partners to remove barriers and open migrating and spawning habitat to upper reaches of creek.
- Work with ODOT and City of Oregon City Public Works to determine conditions in Abernethy outfall culvert under 99E. Explore opportunities to improve connectivity with upstream habitat.

Partnerships

- Many property owners along Abernethy and tributary creeks have expressed interest and willingness to restore habitat on their land if provided guidance and support.
- Anecdotal reports of private property owners restoring habitat along Abernethy and tributaries and observing steelhead and lamprey use
- Park Place developers may have interest in purchasing buffers on either side of Redland Road.
- Mark Mouser, fish passage specialist with Clackamas County Transportation, also operates a private enterprise working with private landowners to remove fish passage barriers on private land. Identify successful projects and newly opened areas of quality habitat.
- Partner on outreach efforts between jurisdictions and soil and water conservation districts to reduce chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides, improve water quality and urban habitat. (see Clack SWCD for successful golf course lawns program)
- Use Nature in the Neighborhoods and other education and incentive programs to expand natural resource protections beyond the acquisition program.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: ABERNETHY AND NEWELL CREEKS

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition. Initial estimates are that a minimum of 150 acres of land would be protected within this target area.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

With successful protection of portions of Newell Creek, continued acquisition of undeveloped lands along its lower portion and along Abernethy Creek will expand fish and wildlife habitat critical to the area in and around Oregon City, especially threatened habitat for native steelhead and cutthroat populations.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The following priorities were identified in the Abernethy and Newell Creeks target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.**

- _____ Protecting natural corridors along the main stem of Abernethy Creek and its major tributaries (Potter and Holcomb creeks) to protect water quality and habitat for fish downstream of Hidden Lake. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Protecting natural corridors along the main stem of Abernethy Creek and its major tributaries to protect water quality and habitat for fish from Maple Lane Road to Beaver Lake. **(Map area B)**
- _____ Preserving large blocks of remnant native plant communities such as mature conifer forests and oak woodlands areas and providing upland habitat corridors or "stepping stones" to larger forest habitats such as Clear Creek Canyon. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Protecting remaining gaps along the creek corridor in Newell Creek Canyon and at the confluence area of Abernethy and Newell creeks for future restoration and wildlife connectivity. **(Map area D)**

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Abernethy and Newell Creeks target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.

- _____ Preserving habitat areas for important fish species such as coho salmon, trout and steelhead.
- _____ Preserving riparian areas and wetlands to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.
- _____ Protecting natural areas and corridors to benefit water quality, wildlife habitat and for future trail connections.
- _____ Providing a natural buffer between urban development and rural areas.
- _____ Providing access to nature for people by connecting natural areas with local and regional trails.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Abernethy and Newell Creeks target area? Please be specific.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?

5. Are you interested in participating in Metro’s Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a conservation easement on your property?

Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

6. Do you have any other comments about this target area?

Please add my name to the Abernethy and Newell Creeks target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

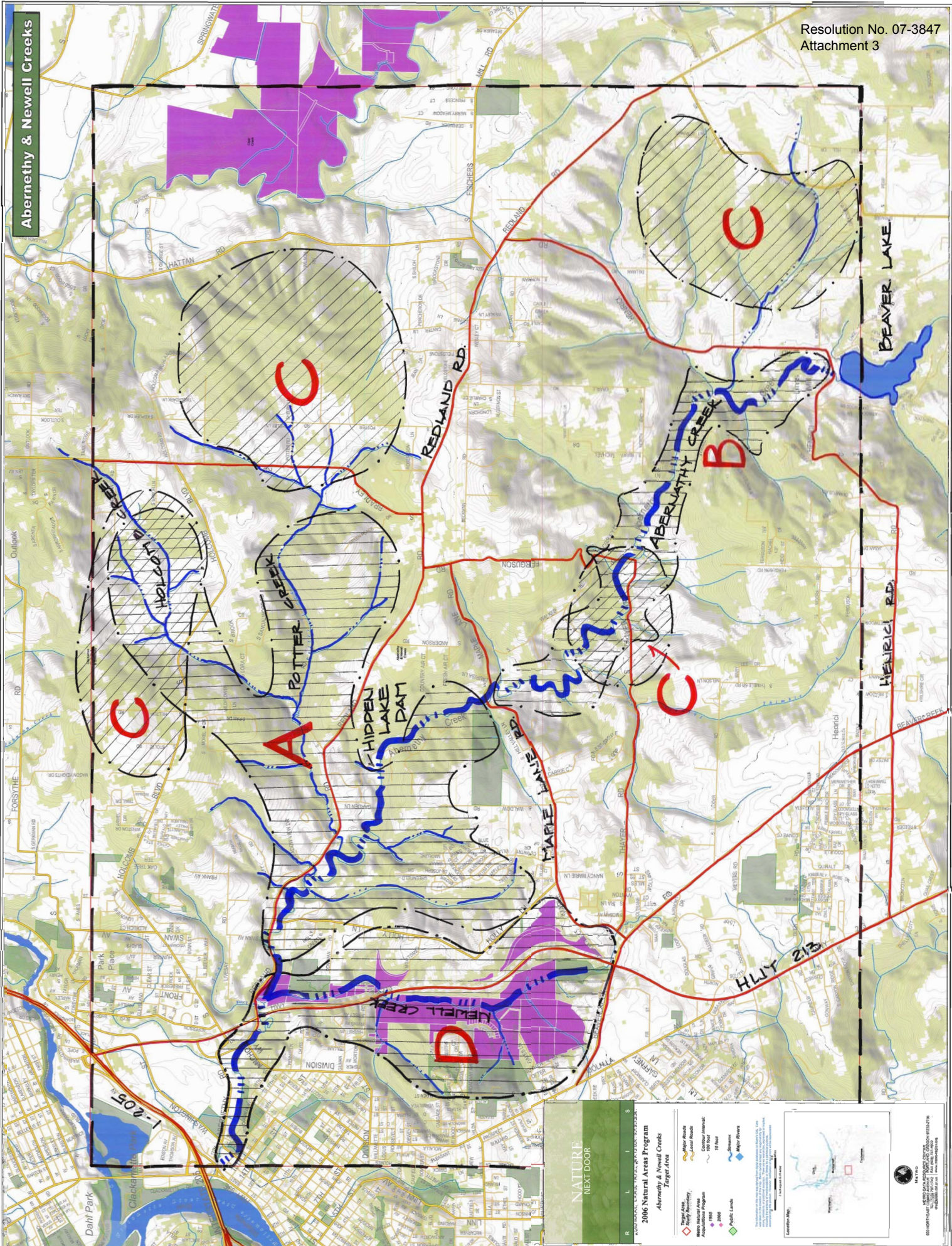
City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741



**NATURE
NEXT DOOR**

**2006 Natural Areas Program
Abernethy & Newell Creeks
Target Area**

- ◆ Target Area
- Study Boundary
- Metro Natural Area
- ◆ 1985
- ◆ 2006
- ◆ Public Lands
- ◆ Major Roads
- Stream
- Major Rivers



Abernethy and Newell Creeks Survey Results

- The following priorities were identified in the Abernethy and Newell Creeks target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting natural corridors along the main stem of Abernethy Creek and its major tributaries (Potter and Holcomb creeks) to protect water quality and habitat for fish downstream of Hidden Lake. (Map area A)	46.7% (7)	13.3% (2)	13.3% (2)	26.7% (4)	2.20	15
Protecting natural corridors along the main stem of Abernethy Creek and its major tributaries to protect water quality and habitat for fish from Maple Lane Road to Beaver Lake. (Map area B)	6.7% (1)	20.0% (3)	53.3% (8)	20.0% (3)	2.87	15
Preserving large blocks of remnant native plant communities such as mature conifer forests and oak woodlands areas and providing upland habitat corridors or "stepping stones" to larger forest habitats such as Clear Creek Canyon. (Map area C)	26.7% (4)	13.3% (2)	33.3% (5)	26.7% (4)	2.60	15
Protecting remaining gaps along the creek corridor in Newell Creek Canyon and at the confluence area of Abernethy and Newell creeks for future restoration and wildlife connectivity. (Map area D)	20.0% (3)	53.3% (8)	0.0% (0)	26.7% (4)	2.33	15
	<i>answered question</i>					15
	<i>skipped question</i>					1

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Abernethy and Newell Creeks target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important				least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Preserving habitat areas for important fish species such as coho salmon, trout and steelhead.	14.3% (2)	21.4% (3)	14.3% (2)	14.3% (2)	35.7% (5)	3.36	14
Preserving riparian areas and wetlands to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.	7.1% (1)	14.3% (2)	28.6% (4)	50.0% (7)	0.0% (0)	3.21	14
Protecting natural areas and corridors to benefit water quality, wildlife habitat and for future trail connections.	35.7% (5)	28.6% (4)	21.4% (3)	7.1% (1)	7.1% (1)	2.21	14
Providing a natural buffer between urban development and rural areas.	13.3% (2)	33.3% (5)	13.3% (2)	20.0% (3)	20.0% (3)	3.00	15
Providing access to nature for people by connecting natural areas with local and regional trails.	33.3% (5)	6.7% (1)	20.0% (3)	6.7% (1)	33.3% (5)	3.00	15
<i>answered question</i>							15
<i>skipped question</i>							1

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Abernethy and Newell Creeks target area? Please be specific.

Acquiring open spaces in the Park Place Village concept plan.
Providing park lands in the floodplains that are flat and usable for athletic sports.
Some signage along Hwy 213 to identify for people what Metro is doing there.
Work to fix the gigantic Abernathy Creek culvert that runs under McLoughlin and I-205!!! It is over 700 feet long!! Coho have been seen above the culvert, but I would assume this could potentially be a factor in why so few fish make it up to Abernethy creek. I have heard secondhand stories of old-timers catching many salmon in this drainage years ago.
Try to make open spaces where development is most likely to occur (i.e Oak woodlands/savannah) since current zoning rules (hopefully) will prohibit rampant development in the steep Abernethy canyons - where most of target areas are located.
Being asked to rank these protection goals did not reflect my true feelings. I chose trails in first place, because the more people have access to nature the more they will want to restore more. Also a regional trail system in this area will help reduce carbon releases and global warming. Any work you do will ultimately benefit wildlife and salmon.
With the proposed Park Place Village development as a result of the Park Place Concept Plan and The Rivers (landslide development at 205/213), there is a need to acquire riparian areas and wetlands on Redland Road from Abernethy to Holly Lane. This would allow protection of water quality and wildlife habitat while at the same time provide a natural areas corridor and a possible future trail connection.
Need a trail connecting to Oregon City, other areas and trails.

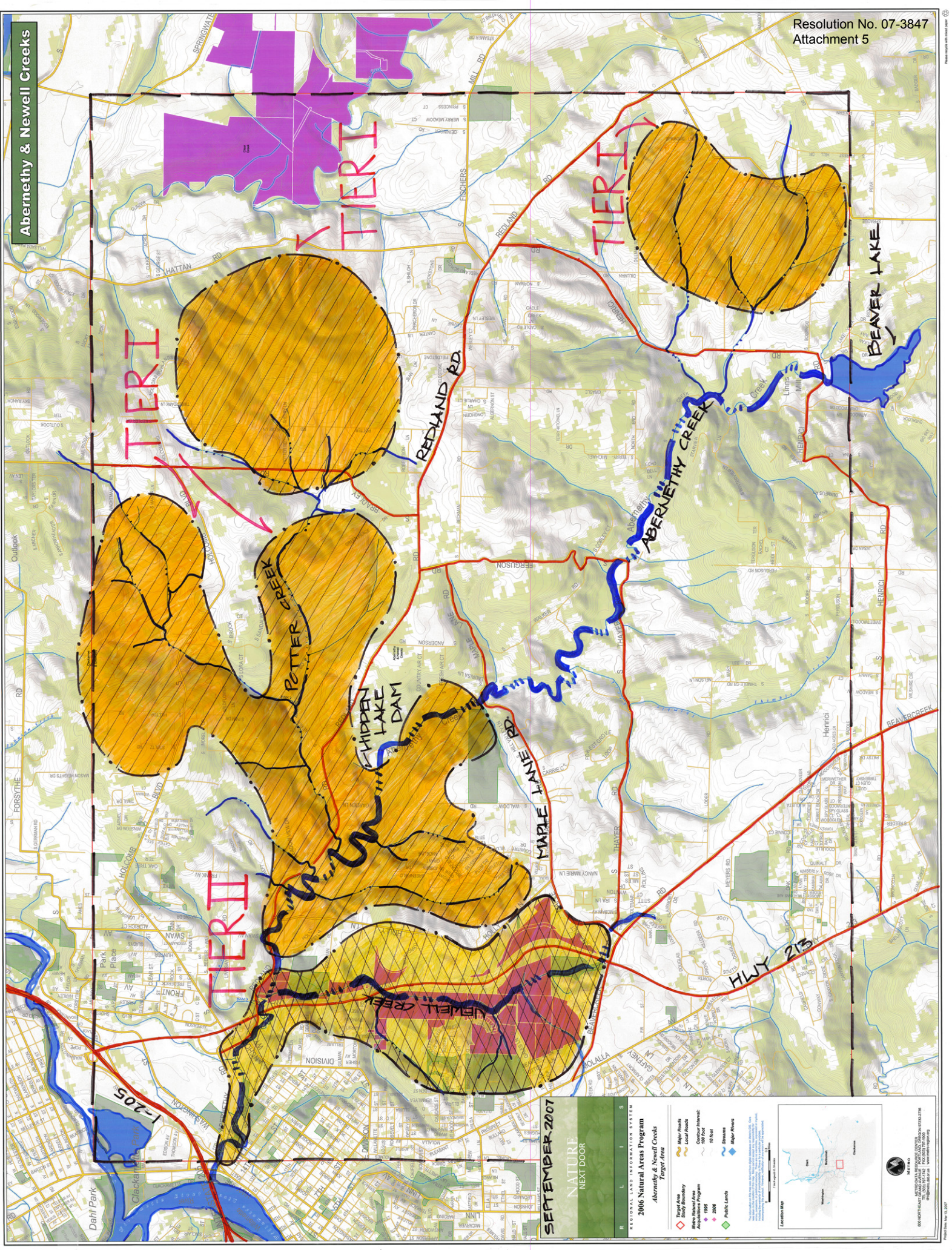
4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?

Work with landowners who have major portions of their property in floodplains.
Is the new watershed council there ready to help?
Greater Oregon City Watershed Council.
Since area is prone to landslides, is there a federal agency (or other entity) that pays out not to develop slide prone areas?
The Hamlet of Beaver Creek and Oregon Equestrian Trails are two organizations that have expressed interest in developing trails in this area. I understand that in other areas local landowners feel more positive if their concerns about security are addressed up front.
The Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District is looking/seeking conservation easements on farm and forest land - working with them might benefit all parties!

5. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

With the regional commercial centers going at I-205 and Hwy 213, it's important people in the Park Place area can walk/bike to centers.
Important to have trails and bike access on Redland Road and floodplains.
Don't expand the UGB in this area :)
The Abernathy Creek may be navigable by canoe. We have an interested donor of property by a resident within a mile or two of this site. He wants a trail.
Oregon City is planning a shopping center along Abernathy Road (both sides including Rossmans Landfill and the old county buildings. They are in the planning process now - this is the area we are attempting to create a trail from the end of the Oregon Trail and Clackamas Community College. This area is a CRUCIAL link, which could completely disappear if planning does not get involved (this is the proposed trail through Newell Creek Canyon).

Abernethy & Newell Creeks



SEPTEMBER 2007
NATURE
NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program
Abernethy & Newell Creeks
Target Area

- Target Area
- Study Boundary
- Major Road
- Local Road
- County Interstate
- 100 Foot
- 500
- 1000
- Public Lands
- Streams
- Major Rivers



Resolution No. 07-3848, Approving the Natural Areas
Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Lower Tualatin River Headwaters
Target Area.

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Metro Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE LOWER TUALATIN
RIVER HEADWATERS TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3848

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Tualatin River Headwaters Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Lower Tualatin River Headwaters Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Lower Tualatin River Headwaters Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
LOWER TUALATIN HEADWATERS TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

Watersheds in the southwest Chehalem Mountains retain significant wildlife habitat value and include Chicken, Cedar and Baker creeks. Protection of riparian lands within these headwaters will safeguard water quality in the lower Tualatin River basin.

A biological assessment noted that within all three stream corridors there are areas that offer opportunities to protect relatively high value habitat, in particular, the relatively large areas of undeveloped habitat adjacent to Baker Creek, the areas along Chicken Creek associated with steelhead spawning and rearing, some of the headwaters of Chicken Creek, and the confluence areas along Cedar Creek that provide a mix of forested upland, wetland, and riparian habitats.

Target Area Description

The headwaters of the lower Tualatin River are located in Washington County and include important tributaries that retain significant value for wildlife and contribute to water quality in the Tualatin River basin.

Chicken Creek at its confluence with the main stem of the Tualatin River flows into the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. This confluence area provides wetland, riparian and upland habitats for a variety of migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, fish and other resident wildlife. When flooded in fall and winter, it provides resting and wintering habitat for ducks, Canada geese, tundra swan and a variety of other waterfowl.

Baker Creek has forested uplands of Douglas fir, bigleaf maple, red alder and Western red cedar along with relatively large areas of undeveloped habitat adjacent to the creek that are used extensively by wildlife, including sensitive species like the Northern red-legged frog. The confluence of Baker Creek with the Tualatin River main stem is being restored by Metro in partnership with the Tualatin Riverkeepers and is now known as Gotter Prairie, a 164-acre natural area with an uncommon wet prairie habitat that is home to rare Pacific Northwest species of flora and fauna.

Cedar Creek traverses densely urbanized areas in its lower reaches within the city of Sherwood. Notwithstanding the surrounding urban development, Cedar Creek has valuable intact natural corridors along the creek and high quality headwater reaches, with significant opportunities to protect and enhance fish habitat.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various governmental agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

A public open house to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan was held on June 14, 2007 at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center, one of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a “virtual” open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available “online” via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique

visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. A total of 16 people completed the Lower Tualatin Headwaters survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

- The Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area, which is formed by the Chicken, Cedar and Baker creek watersheds in the southwest Chehalem Mountains, is a regionally significant natural area due to its wildlife habitat values and contribution to water quality in the Tualatin River Basin.
- Chicken and Cedar creeks are important water sources for the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Baker Creek is an important water source for the Gotter Prairie natural area.
- The biological assessment for this target area noted that within all three stream corridors there are areas that appear to offer opportunities to protect relatively high value habitat.
- Adjacent to Baker Creek there are relatively large areas of undeveloped habitat with extensive wildlife use, including sensitive species. The presence of red-legged frog was noted in the vicinity of Baker Creek and Gotter Prairie. This species (and others) would benefit from the protection of adjacent forested areas.
- Chicken Creek has been identified as steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. Steelhead are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- The stands of large mature trees along the headwater streams of Chicken Creek and the springs and forested wetlands at the headwaters of the west fork of Chicken Creek have high habitat value.
- Along Cedar Creek are areas that provide a mix of forested upland, wetland and riparian areas at the confluence of streams.
- The Lower Tualatin Headwaters are outside the Urban Growth Boundary, primarily within unincorporated Washington County. The Rural/Natural Resource Plan provides the planning framework for this area.
- The Chicken, Cedar and Baker creeks are identified as “Significant Natural Resources” on the Rural/Natural Resource Plan (Water Areas/Wetlands/Fish & Wildlife Habitat).
- Washington County does not regulate forest or agricultural practices in the unincorporated area. Washington County does provide outreach, education and other incentives in coordination with agricultural resource agencies to support “best management practices” adjacent to the major streams. Clean Water Services water quality buffer standards do not apply outside of the UGB.
- Clean Water Services, in partnership with local jurisdictions and the watershed community, manages the surface water system of the urban portion of the Tualatin Basin. The target area is outside Clean Water Services jurisdiction. However, Clean Water Services evaluated and ranked the Chicken and Cedar creek corridors as part of the Healthy Streams Plan. The Healthy Streams Plan includes a wealth of scientific information related to watershed and stream management and identifies and prioritizes projects and activities that could be implemented to improve water quality. The Healthy Streams Plan found that the streams that ranked highest within the target area are mostly located in the upper reaches of Chicken Creek tributaries. Some small segments within the upper reaches of Cedar Creek also scored high.
- Cedar Creek flows through the City of Sherwood before joining the Tualatin River. The City of Sherwood has been securing dedication of the stream corridors and floodplains along the creek on an incremental basis to establish a greenway.

- Raindrops to Refuge, a community watershed stewardship group, has been working to assess, restore and preserve the ecological health of Sherwood’s three watersheds, which include Cedar and Chicken creeks.
- Key themes from interviews with stakeholders relate to data availability, water quality and habitat, relationship to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, and trails and linkages.
- Sixteen people completed the Lower Tualatin Headwaters survey. Additional commentary was provided orally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area D* – Protect areas along Cedar Creek that provide a mix of forested upland, wetland and riparian values at the confluence of streams and intact habitat areas.
 2. *Map area A* – Protect lands along Baker Creek, particularly forested uplands and other intact habitat areas important to wildlife or used by sensitive species such as red-legged frogs and pond turtles.
 3. *Map area C* – Protect stands of large mature trees along the headwater streams of Chicken Creek and the springs and forested wetlands at the headwaters of the west fork of Chicken Creek.
 4. *Map area B* – Protect the natural areas associated with Chicken Creek’s steelhead spawning areas.

Goal

Protect lands within the Baker, Chicken, and Cedar creek watersheds in the southwest Chehalem Mountains that retain significant wildlife habitat and contribute to water quality in the Tualatin River Basin.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Protect lands along Baker Creek, particularly forested uplands and other intact habitat areas important to wildlife or used by sensitive species such as red-legged frogs and pond turtles.
- Protect habitat areas along the headwaters and main stem of Chicken Creek.

Tier II Objectives

- Protect wetlands, stream and creek corridors and floodplains for wildlife and water quality in the Cedar Creek watershed.
- Work with various government agencies to secure linkages to public areas including:
 - City of Sherwood to coordinate linkages along Cedar Creek, potentially connecting to Rock Creek and the Tonquin site, and a potential linkage between Sherwood and the Tualatin Refuge.
 - The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge to coordinate linkages to their holdings.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3848, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE LOWER TUALATIN RIVER HEADWATERS TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the Lower Tualatin Headwaters Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3848.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Lower Tualatin River Headwaters Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Ron Garst, Tualatin Riverkeepers/Raindrops to Refuge
Sue Marshall and Brian Wegener, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Norman Penner, Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
Kendra Smith, Clean Water Services
Julia Hajduck, City of Sherwood
Andrea Vannelli and Aisha Willits, Washington County
Bob Vanderzanden, Washington County Farm Bureau

Key Themes Discussed

Data availability about the three watersheds (Cedar, Chicken and Baker Creeks)

- Much more is known about Cedar and Chicken creeks.
 - Cedar and Chicken creeks have been studied by CWS as part of the Healthy Streams Report. These streams were described as some of the better quality headwater streams in the Tualatin Basin.
 - Raindrops to Refuge (R2R), a watershed stewardship organization, was formed in 2001 with representatives from the City of Sherwood, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Audubon Society of Portland, Sherwood area schools and others. R2R prepared an action plan for Chicken, Cedar and Rock creeks in December 2003.
- Limited information is available about Baker Creek. CWS has limited data points, mostly based on visual study.

Water Quality and Habitat

- Focus on protection of upland forested sites to get the most benefit for wildlife.
- Within CWS Healthy Streams study area Cedar and Chicken creeks were identified as relatively high quality systems.

Relationship to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

- Chicken Creek is the main water source serving the largest unit in the Refuge which is open to the public.
- Chicken Creek protection could provide water quality benefit to the Refuge -- incoming flows were noted as increasingly “flashy” and sediment-loaded.
- Some of the cities have plans to interconnect existing parks and trails and the Refuge provides a good destination.

- The Refuge was planned at 3,000 acres, but only about 1,300 purchased to date due to limited funds. There are low wetland areas between the Refuge and Sherwood northwest of Highway 99 with willing sellers, but they haven't been able to subdivide portions to sell.
- Bird watching is an important tourist attraction in the Refuge.

Trails and linkages

- Ideas for trails included a greenway trail along Cedar Creek, potentially connecting to Rock Creek and the Tonquin site, and potential link between Sherwood and the Tualatin Refuge.
- The City of Sherwood is expected to continue to grow and as riparian areas are brought into the City, they would likely be included as part of the City's system of parks and greenspaces.
- The City of Sherwood Transportation System Plan identifies a trail system along Cedar Creek and this will be reflected in the Brookman Road Concept Plan as well.

Miscellaneous Comments

- Coordination is needed with CREP/ECREP program for voluntary protection of riparian areas in active farmland.
- Best views are from Roy Rogers Road across the Refuge toward Mt. Hood.
- Three Rivers Conservancy is involved in easements on Cedar and Chicken creeks in conjunction with CWS.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: LOWER TUALATIN HEADWATERS

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition. Initial estimates are that a minimum of 300 acres of land would be protected within this target area.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

Watersheds in the southwest Chehalem Mountains retain significant wildlife habitat value and include Chicken, Cedar and Baker creeks. Protection of riparian lands within these headwaters will safeguard water quality in the lower Tualatin River basin.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The following priorities were identified in the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.**

- _____ Protecting lands along Baker Creek, particularly forested uplands and other intact habitat areas important to wildlife or used by sensitive species such as red-legged frogs and pond turtles. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Protecting the natural areas associated with Chicken Creek's steelhead spawning areas. **(Map area B)**
- _____ Protecting stands of large mature trees along the headwater streams of Chicken Creek and the springs and forested wetlands at the headwaters of the west fork of Chicken Creek. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Protecting areas along Cedar Creek that provide a mix of forested upland, wetland and riparian values at the confluence of streams and intact habitat areas. **(Map area D)**

- 2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.**

- _____ Preserving and/or restoring wildlife habitat in the upland forests.
- _____ Protecting fish and aquatic habitat.
- _____ Protecting wetlands, stream and creek corridors and floodplains for wildlife and water quality.
- _____ Protecting the headwaters of creeks in the Lower Tualatin watershed for water quality benefits.
- _____ Creating and protecting connections for people and wildlife.

3. **Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area? Please be specific.**
4. **In what ways can Metro's Natural Areas Program be compatible with agricultural uses in the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area?**
5. **Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?**
6. **Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a conservation easement on your property?**
 Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.
7. **Do you have any other comments about this target area?**

- Please add my name to the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741

Lower Tualatin Headwaters Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting lands along Baker Creek, particularly forested uplands and other intact habitat areas important to wildlife or used by sensitive species such as red-legged frogs and pond turtles. (Map area A)	46.2% (6)	0.0% (0)	15.4% (2)	38.5% (5)	2.46	13
Protecting the natural areas associated with Chicken Creek's steelhead spawning areas. (Map area B)	23.1% (3)	15.4% (2)	38.5% (5)	23.1% (3)	2.62	13
Protecting stands of large mature trees along the headwater streams of Chicken Creek and the springs and forested wetlands at the headwaters of the west fork of Chicken Creek. (Map area C)	14.3% (2)	42.9% (6)	21.4% (3)	21.4% (3)	2.50	14
Protecting areas along Cedar Creek that provide a mix of forested upland, wetland and riparian values at the confluence of streams and intact habitat areas. (Map area D)	21.4% (3)	42.9% (6)	21.4% (3)	14.3% (2)	2.29	14
	<i>answered question</i>					14
	<i>skipped question</i>					2

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

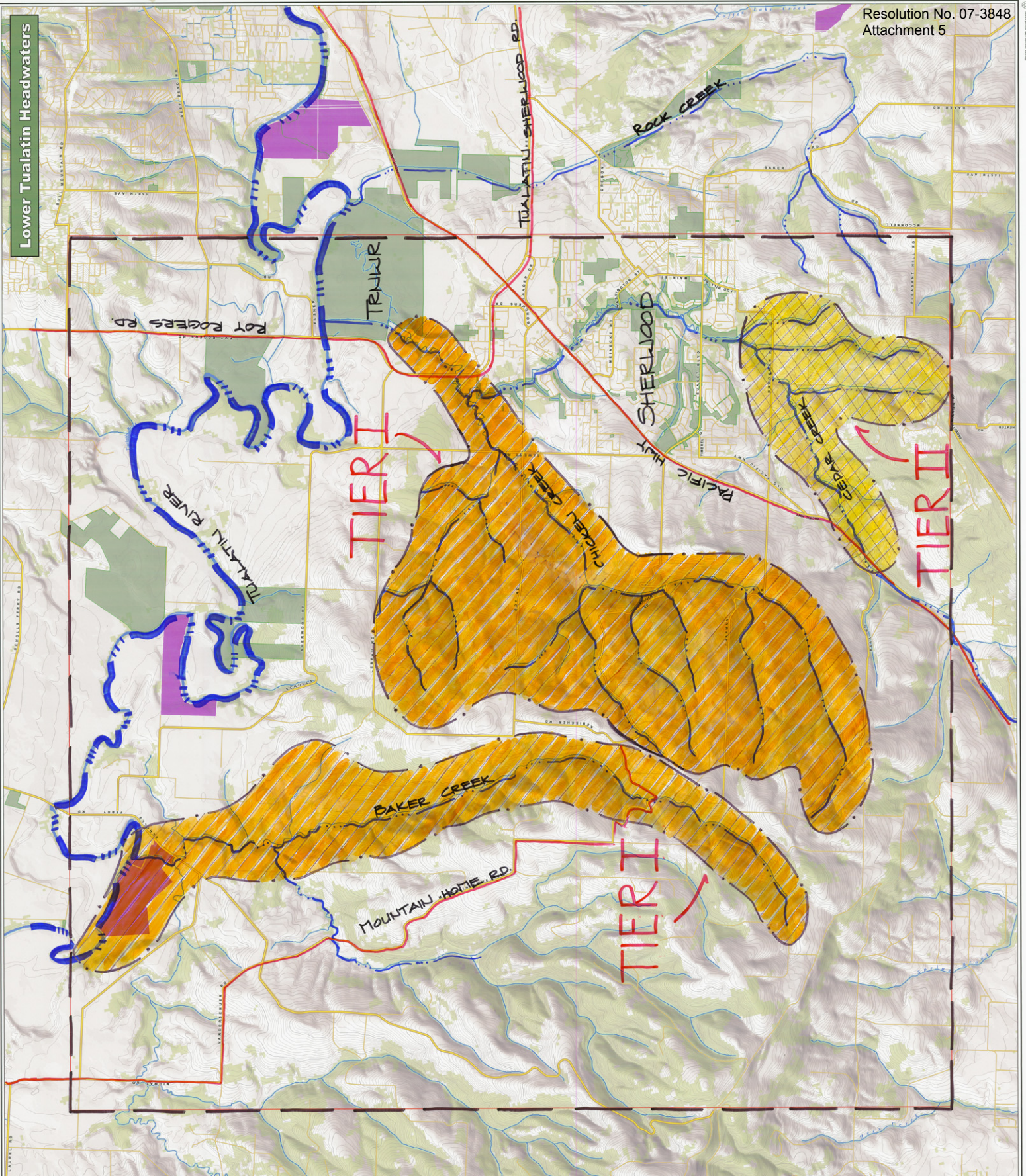
	most important				least important	Rating Average	Response Count	
Preserving and/or restoring wildlife habitat in the upland forests.	6.7% (1)	40.0% (6)	13.3% (2)	26.7% (4)	13.3% (2)	3.00	15	
Protecting fish and aquatic habitat.	13.3% (2)	6.7% (1)	40.0% (6)	33.3% (5)	6.7% (1)	3.13	15	
Protecting wetlands, stream and creek corridors and floodplains for wildlife and water quality.	53.3% (8)	13.3% (2)	26.7% (4)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	1.87	15	
Protecting the headwaters of creeks in the Lower Tualatin watershed for water quality benefits.	26.7% (4)	26.7% (4)	13.3% (2)	33.3% (5)	0.0% (0)	2.53	15	
Creating and protecting connections for people and wildlife.	0.0% (0)	13.3% (2)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	80.0% (12)	4.47	15	
	<i>answered question</i>							15
	<i>skipped question</i>							1

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area? Please be specific.

<p>Re priorities for acquisitions of natural areas (under bond measure 26-80), top priorities should be given to Lower Tualatin Headwaters and Wapato Lake. Either or both of these would add unusual conservation opportunities, and either or both would enhance the ecological value of the Tualatin National Wildlife Reserve.</p>
<p>Purchase perfect habitats for state listed species as a top priority. All are declining statewide.</p>
<p>Water quality is of large concern.</p>
<p>Heaton Creek that empties into Baker Creek is endangered by trashed vehicles. In the canyon to the west of Mountain Home Rd are almost a dozen trashed vehicles, some lining the creekbed. This is on private property. I have asked Wash. County Land Use and Transp to investigate, but their code enforcement officer can't enter private property. I'm concerned that the persons living in that canyon are degrading Heaton Creek.</p>

4. In what ways can Metro's Natural Areas Program be compatible with agricultural uses in the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area?

<p>Make good links between protected drainages and ditches in hayfields (there are many with shady banks) and the publicly owned streams. In some cases a bigger culvert or small bridge, if affordable, could be friendlier to wildlife.</p>
<p>Emphasis on the value of ongoing protection of these important natural resources for future generations.</p>
<p>Yes by making it tax advantageous for the farms to use low till fertilizers and pesticides, also use nature easements.</p>



SEPTEMBER 2007
NATURE
NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program
Lower Tualatin Headwaters
Target Area

- Target Area
- Study Boundary
- Major Road
- Local Road
- Contour Interval: 100 Foot
- Contour Interval: 10 Foot
- Public Lands
- Streams
- Major Rivers

600 NORTH EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 200, PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-2799
503.944.1000
www.metroregional.gov

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Location Map

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely a page number or reference code.

Agenda Item Number 4.6

Resolution No. 07-3849, Approving the Natural Areas
Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Tualatin River Greenway Target
Area.

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Metro Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE TUALATIN RIVER
GREENWAY TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3849

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the Tualatin River Greenway Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition, building on the success of land acquisitions in the Tualatin River Greenway Target Area pursuant to Metro’s 1995 Open Spaces Bond Measure Program; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Tualatin River Greenway Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Tualatin River Greenway Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
TUALATIN RIVER GREENWAY TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The 1995 refinement goals included acquisition of a minimum of 266 acres to establish four regional access sites along the Tualatin River Greenway, providing possible access to natural areas in and around the access points, and to preserve habitats along the river, including distinctive habitats such as the interiors of oxbows and the confluences of major creek tributaries. A total of 398 acres were protected by Metro's program including Gotter Prairie, the Morand site, which is being managed by the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, and five potential new river access points.

The 2006 Natural Area bond measure stated:

Providing additional access points along the river and increasing floodplain protection through acquisition and restoration will allow people to use the river and see improvements in wildlife habitat and water quality.

Field research and scientific findings note that the lower Tualatin River (southwest of King City to the Washington County line) includes important riparian corridors and that wetlands associated with the Tualatin River support several regional rare and endangered species including steelhead and salmon, Western painted turtles, pond turtles and Northern red-legged frog.

Target Area Description

The Tualatin River flows leisurely through a mosaic of agricultural and urban land for 78 miles from the Oregon Coast Range to the Willamette River. The river name, which means "lazy river," is derived from the Atfalati people who lived in the Tualatin basin before European settlement. The low gradient and languid water speed make it ideal for canoes and kayaks, but with limited public access, few have been able to experience its surprisingly lush beauty.

The riparian areas and floodplains of the Tualatin River are important for protecting the water quality of the river, which is heavily impacted by urban and agricultural uses. The floodplains and associated wetlands in this area provide water quality benefits and flood storage and support rare plants, considerable numbers of waterfowl and migrating neo-tropical birds.

Development of public access to the Tualatin River along the 30-mile stretch from Forest Grove to West Linn continues through efforts by Metro, local governments and citizen groups such as the Tualatin Riverkeepers.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Tualatin River Greenway target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various governmental agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

A public open house to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan was held on June 14, 2007 at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center, one of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a "virtual" open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available "online" via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. Seventeen people

completed the Tualatin River Greenway survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

- The Tualatin River Greenway is an important regional resource. It is characterized in the New Look Natural Landscape Features inventory (February 2007) as follows: “The riparian areas and floodplains of the Tualatin are important to protecting the water quality of this river heavily impacted by urban and agricultural uses. In addition to providing flood storage, the floodplains and associated wetlands support considerable numbers of waterfowl and migrating neo-tropical birds.”
- With the June 2006 opening of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, which includes more than 1,300 acres adjoining the Tualatin River, the Tualatin River is becoming a wildlife resource of national significance.
- The Tualatin is Washington County's only river and an important resource to the region. The river is used for regional drinking water supply and agricultural irrigation. In addition, canoeing, fishing, and wildlife viewing draw thousands of outdoor enthusiasts each year.
- The approximately 30-mile stretch within the target area touches ten communities including Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Tigard, King City, Tualatin, Durham, Rivergrove, Lake Oswego and West Linn. The river provides an important natural asset to each of these communities. The Tualatin River and its floodplains define a southern edge or greenbelt for most of these cities.
- Field research and scientific findings have noted that the lower Tualatin River (southwest of King City to the Washington County line) and Butternut Creek are important riparian corridors and that wetlands associated with the Tualatin support several regional rare and endangered species including steelhead and salmon, Western painted turtles, pond turtles and Northern red-legged frog.
- Progress has been made on the 1995 refinement goals. To date, 398 acres have been protected by Metro’s program including Gotter Prairie, the Morand, site which is being managed by the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, and five potential new river access points.
- There continues to be public interest in building on the accomplishment of the 1995 refinement plan by continuing to improve the water trail, including creating more access to the Tualatin River accommodating non-motorized boats for 5-10 mile trips. Some key locations where there is interest in additional boat access/pull-outs include the south of Farmington Road, the north side of the river in the vicinity of Rainbow Lane, and in the vicinity of Elsner Road.
- There is strong public support for protecting larger natural area lands with existing or future potential to support a diversity of plants and wildlife (such as additions to the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge and Gotter Prairie or similar areas).
- Washington County does not regulate forest or agricultural practices in the unincorporated area. Washington County does provide outreach, education and other incentives in coordination with agricultural resource agencies to support “best management practices” adjacent to the major streams.
- Clean Water Services was formed as the Unified Sewerage Agency of Washington County to address serious health and pollution problems in the Tualatin River and its tributaries. Dramatic improvements have been made over the last 30 years through the construction of advanced

sanitary and stormwater infrastructure. However, Clean Water Services water quality buffer standards do not apply outside of the Urban Growth Boundary.

- Within unincorporated Washington County, the Tualatin River and its extensive floodplains are identified as “Significant Natural Resources” on the Rural/Natural Resource Plan (Water Areas/Wetlands/Fish & Wildlife Habitat).
- Seventeen people completed the Tualatin River Greenway survey. Additional commentary was provided orally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. Protect larger natural area lands with existing or future potential to support a diversity of plants and wildlife (such as additions to the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge and Gotter Prairie or other areas labeled on the target area map).
 2. *Map area A* – Provide land trail connections to other publicly owned natural areas and trails along the Tualatin River.
 3. *Map area B* – Improve the water trail, including creating more access to the Tualatin River accommodating non-motorized boats for 5-10 mile trips.

Goals

- Protect and restore riparian areas and floodplains to improve water quality and to support a diversity of plants and wildlife.
- Provide additional or enhanced access that will allow people to enjoy the river.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Protect natural areas adjacent to existing public lands to provide public access and improve wildlife habitat protection.
- Continue the work begun in 1995 to enhance the water trail by providing access point sites along the Tualatin River Greenway that meet the following criteria:
 - Locations along the river at intervals of 5 to 10 river miles, allowing for day trips and shorter trips than is now practicable.
 - Safe accessibility from a public roadway that can adequately accommodate additional traffic.
 - Developable for boat ramps and/or docks by presence of existing shallow slopes and banks.
 - Associated with sufficient uplands for such features as parking, restrooms, picnic areas and buffering from the river and adjacent uses.
 - Associated with key locations where there is particular interest in additional boat access/pull-outs including: south of Farmington Road, north side of the river in the vicinity of Rainbow Lane, and in the vicinity of Elsner Road.

Tier II Objectives

- Acquire land along the Tualatin River for a regional trail that connects Cook Park in Tualatin to Stafford Road.
- Acquire through the use of easements, donations, dedications or partnership agreements, additions to large natural areas for wildlife habitat and public access.

Partnership Objectives

- Establish acquisition or management partnerships with other public and private agencies providing for current, proposed or potential access sites and natural areas along the river including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Oregon State Marine Board; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Clean Water Services; the Cities of Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Cornelius, Tualatin, Durham, River Grove and Lake Oswego; Three Rivers Conservancy.
- Establish cooperative agreements with groups such as the Tualatin Riverkeepers, Raindrops to Refuge and Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge for the purpose of monitoring and/or maintenance of acquired sites.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3849, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE TUALATIN RIVER GREENWAY TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the Tualatin River Greenway Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the Tualatin River Greenway target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3849.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Tualatin River Greenway Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Paul Hennon, City of Tualatin
Sue Marshall, Tualatin Riverkeepers
April Olbrich, Tualatin River Watershed Council
Mary Ordall, City of Hillsboro
Norman Penner, Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
Kendra Smith, Clean Water Services
Ralph Webber, Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge
Ron Garst, Tualatin Riverkeepers/Raindrops to Refuge
Bob Vanderzanden, Washington County Farm Bureau
Andrea Vannelli and Aisha Willits, Washington County

Key Themes Discussed

Improvements to the Water Trail

- Interest is still in access and recreational use – hiking and water trails, potentially overnight camping for canoeing.
- In terms of the water trail, areas below Highway 99W are already well covered. However, there are some gaps where additional boat access/pull-outs would be beneficial. Some key locations where there is interest in an additional boat access/pull-outs include:
 - South of Farmington Road
 - North side of the river in the vicinity of Rainbow Lane
 - In the vicinity of Elsner Road
- Clackamas County has plans to replace the Stafford Road bridge over the Tualatin River – look for opportunities for open space acquisition as part of the project.
- Great existing connections within the Tualatin Greenway (Fern Hill Wetlands, Jackson Bottom, Rood Bridge Park, Metro acquisitions, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, parks/natural areas in Tualatin, Durham, Lake Oswego and West Linn).
- Lots of community groups would like safe, convenient access to the river for day trips

Wildlife Habitat Values

- Gotter Prairie is a good example of a restoration project, but it is challenging in terms of river access.
- There are additional areas near Metro's existing Gotter Prairie property that have some unique habitat values.
- Metro should build on some earlier acquisitions to protect special habitat values (especially prairie and floodplain habitat).

- Adding on to existing open space holdings provides better opportunities for land management.
- Protecting identified Goal 5 habitats adjacent to the greenway is important. For example, wooded uplands adjacent to the river are important for osprey and eagle nests, heron rookeries, etc.
- Cross Creek, which drains out of Cooper Mountain, is in pretty good condition. Butternut Creek is relatively flat, low gradient stream; CWS is doing some plantings.

Land Trails and Other Linkages

- Land trail linkage between Cornelius and Forest Grove to the Fern Hill Wetlands.
- Potential for link between Wapato and Rood Bridge, along greenway trail CWS and Metro already own property. Trail down Gales Creek with potential tie in to Jackson Bottom and trail along the river.
- Potential opportunity for a land trail on CWS utility easements.
- METRO has identified a Regional Trail alignment along the Tualatin River from the River's confluence with the Willamette River to the Tualatin River NWR. The city of Tualatin owns four parcels contiguous to the Tualatin River between I-5 and the city's western boundary. The city is very interested in creating a continuous greenway corridor from I-5 to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge west of the City.
- Tualatin is interested in connecting publicly-owned parcels in the Saum Creek and Hedges Creek watersheds as well as a Athey Creek trail connection along Borland Road as a connector to regional trail network.

Miscellaneous Comments

- Among the communities along the river, Cornelius is the most underserved in terms of open space and there may be opportunities to expand acquisitions north of Council Creek.
- New emphasis on partnerships with farmers to enhance riparian tributaries. Coordination is needed with CREP/ECREP program for voluntary protection of riparian areas in active farmland.
- There is a landfill (Lakeside) operated by a Howard P. Grabhorn that has been cited in the past by DEQ as the source of groundwater and river pollution. The address is 14930 SW Vandermost Road, Beaverton, OR 97005. This problem came to our attention when he filed a Measure 37 application so he could expand the size of his landfill. Public hearings are underway. This request, if approved, could increase the pollution of the river. Wash. Co., DEQ and Metro have not been able to effectively control this landfill operation in the past. David Bragdon is aware of the problem. (Norman Penner, President, Friends of the Refuge).

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: TUALATIN RIVER GREENWAY

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

Providing additional access points along the river and increasing floodplain protection through acquisition and restoration will allow people to use the river and see improvements in wildlife habitat and water quality.

QUESTIONS

1. **The following priorities were identified in the Tualatin River Greenway target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most important and 3 being the least important.**

_____ Providing land trail connections to other publicly owned natural areas and trails along the Tualatin River. **(Map area A)**

_____ Improving the water trail, including creating more access to the Tualatin River accommodating non-motorized boats for 5-10 mile trips. **(Map area B)**

_____ Protecting larger natural area lands with existing or future potential to support a diversity of plants and wildlife (such as additions to the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge and Gotter Prairie or other areas labeled on the target area map).

2. **In general, what should be emphasized in the Tualatin River Greenway target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 6, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.**

_____ Preserving and/or restoring wildlife habitat areas along the river and its tributaries.

_____ Creating more picnicking and camping areas accessible by land.

_____ Creating more picnicking and camping areas accessible by water.

_____ Creating more trails for walking, hiking and biking.

_____ Providing opportunities for environmental education.

_____ Protecting and restoring wetlands and riparian areas.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Tualatin River Greenway target area? Please be specific.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?

5. Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a trail or conservation easement on your property?

Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

6. Do you have any other comments about this target area?

Please add my name to the Tualatin River Greenway target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

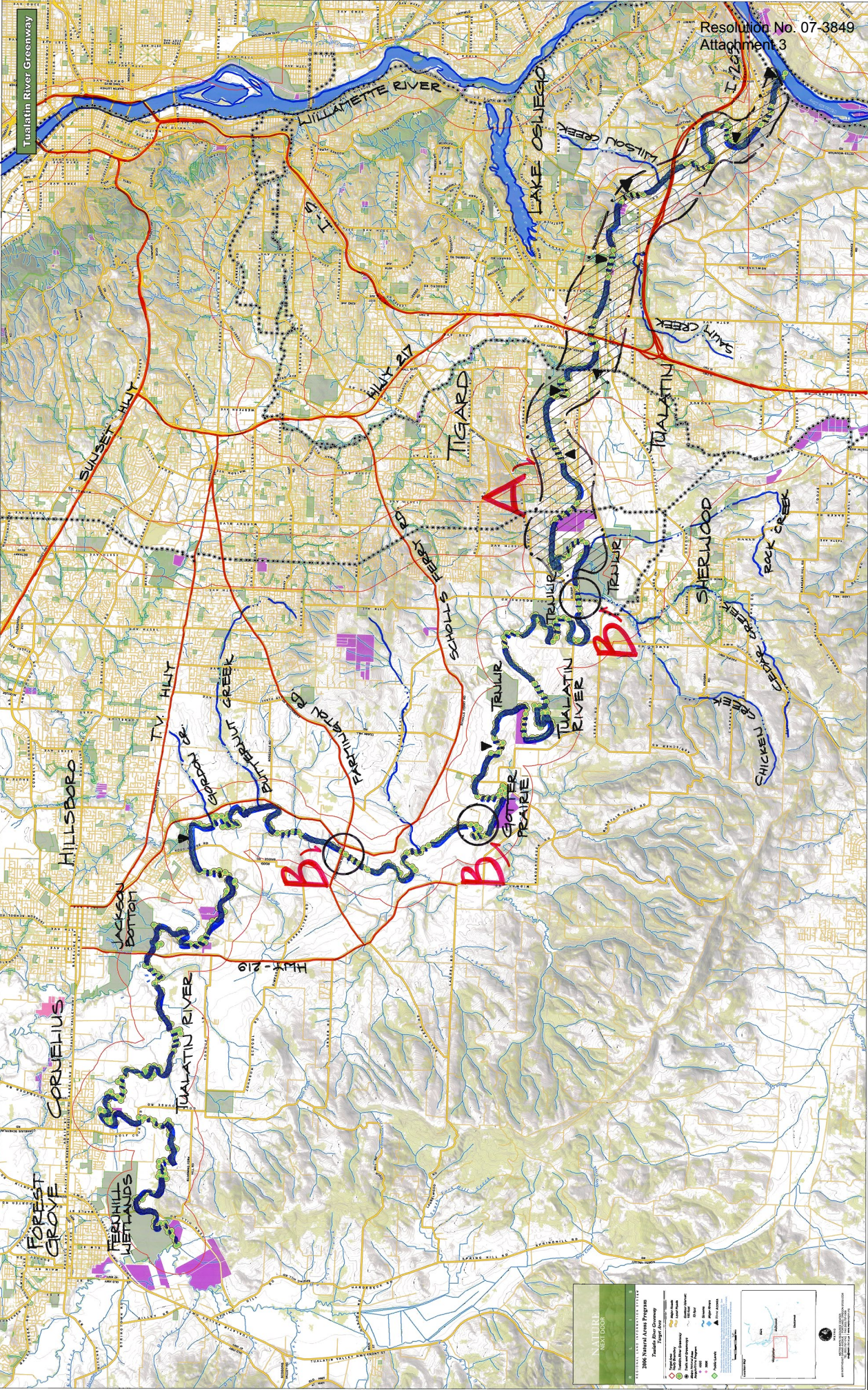
City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741



NATURAL
NEXT DOOR

2000 National Land Use Data
Public Use Greenway
Forest Grove
Forest Hill Wetlands
Jackson Bottom
Tualatin River
Wilson Creek
Lake Oswego
Sandy Creek
Rock Creek
Chickney Creek
Vinter Creek
Gutter Prairie

Legend:
Public Use Greenway
Forest Grove
Forest Hill Wetlands
Jackson Bottom
Tualatin River
Wilson Creek
Lake Oswego
Sandy Creek
Rock Creek
Chickney Creek
Vinter Creek
Gutter Prairie

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile
North Arrow

Prepared by:
Tualatin River Greenway Task Force
2007

Tualatin River Greenway Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the Tualatin River Greenway target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Providing land trail connections to other publicly owned natural areas and trails along the Tualatin River. (Map area A)	13.3% (2)		40.0% (6)	46.7% (7)	2.33	15
Improving the water trail, including creating more access to the Tualatin River accommodating non-motorized boats for 5-10 mile trips. (Map area B)	12.5% (2)		37.5% (6)	50.0% (8)	2.38	16
Protecting larger natural area lands with existing or future potential to support a diversity of plants and wildlife (such as additions to the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge and Gotter Prairie or other areas labeled on the target area map).	75.0% (12)		18.8% (3)	6.3% (1)	1.31	16
	<i>answered question</i>					16
	<i>skipped question</i>					1

and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you.

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Tualatin River Greenway target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important					least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Preserving and/or restoring wildlife habitat areas along the river and its tributaries.	40.0% (6)	33.3% (5)	20.0% (3)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	2.07	15
Creating more picnicking and camping areas accessible by land.	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	46.7% (7)	26.7% (4)	26.7% (4)	4.80	15
Creating more picnicking and camping areas accessible by water.	6.7% (1)	13.3% (2)	26.7% (4)	6.7% (1)	20.0% (3)	26.7% (4)	4.00	15
Creating more trails for walking, hiking and biking.	6.7% (1)	6.7% (1)	33.3% (5)	20.0% (3)	20.0% (3)	13.3% (2)	3.80	15
Providing opportunities for environmental education.	0.0% (0)	7.7% (1)	23.1% (3)	30.8% (4)	15.4% (2)	23.1% (3)	4.23	13
Protecting and restoring wetlands and riparian areas.	53.3% (8)	40.0% (6)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	1.67	15
	<i>answered question</i>							16
	<i>skipped question</i>							1

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in this target area? If so, please specify.

I lived in the Gotter Prairie area for 13 years on a property off of Rainbow Lane. There were more red-legged frogs there than I've ever seen anywhere. The frogs were breeding in flooded areas in the bottomlands and would disperse across the road and through the orchards. We had abundant long-toed salamanders, Pacific Chorus Frogs and a garter snake hibernaculum under an old cement slab. The place was alive with herps. We had frogs in the kitchen sink, bathtub, toilet, in all the flower pots on the porch, plastered all over the shady side of the house. We also had Lazuli Buntings, Lesser Goldfinch, Common Snipe, Western Bluebirds, Common Nighthawk -- lots of great birds. In the winter, swans and other waterfowl would use the flooded bottom. The owner was looking to sell to METRO several years ago -- perhaps she'd still be willing. know METRO has land in the area and this would be a great addition -- it has upland, bottomland and river frontage. As a field biologist I would rate this a highly valuable property.

Please continue acquiring land next to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

Please emphasize habitat acquisition protection for state western painted turtle and pond turtles and red legged frog.

Private property should not be accessed by trail.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

If lands continue to be acquired next to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, it may be possible to (eventually) get reimbursed by the US govt. (ie. sell the land to USFWS), allowing others lands to be acquired by Metro years later...it could greatly extend the value of the bond measure's funds by ensuring that more acres are preserved.

Work w/ local groups (RANS) to get grants for land acquisition and restoration.

Make sure all private property owners receive notice of meetings, maps and information.

5. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

Block up existing habitat -- The TRNWR is right next door as the bluebird flies, that piece with river access is just round the bend at the back of the Rainbow Ln Loop, Gotter Prairie is right across the way. This area floods in winter. It is a crappy place to build houses -- it is best turned back to wildlife habitat. Go for it!

We don't need more trails until we get more land bought and protected. And please no trails ever in areas w/ sensitive species.

Agenda Item Number 4.10

Resolution No. 07-3854, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition
Refinement Plan for the Cazadero Trail Target Area.

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Council Chamber

Resolution No. 07-3851, Approving the Natural Areas
Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Johnson Creek and Watershed
Target Area

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE JOHNSON CREEK
AND WATERSHED TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3851

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the Johnson Creek and Watershed Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Johnson Creek and Watershed Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Johnson Creek and Watershed Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
JOHNSON CREEK AND WATERSHED TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The Johnson Creek watershed is a key drainage in the City of Portland. Tens of thousands of people live within the Johnson Creek watershed, and there has been a significant investment of public funds in the acquisition and restoration of lands in this watershed, including the recent Metro acquisition of the Clatsop Butte property. The Springwater trail brings recreational users along the creek, allowing the public to experience the creek and its natural areas. This was not a specific target area in 1995 and so there was no acreage goal for Johnson Creek in the 1995 bond. However, many acres were acquired in what is now the designated Johnson Creek and Watershed target area, primarily as part of the 1995 East Buttes target area.

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

Johnson Creek remains the most densely urbanized creek in our region. Opportunities remain to acquire tracts within the remaining floodplain, upland habitat areas adjacent to the main stem, and along both Butler and Kelly creeks to protect water quality and connect public holdings with the Damascus Buttes.

Scientific findings suggest that headwaters areas are important targets for maintaining watershed habitat health and for protecting water quality.

Target Area Description

Johnson Creek flows 26 miles from its headwaters near the Sandy River to its confluence with the Willamette River, passing through four cities (Gresham, Portland, Milwaukie and Happy Valley) and two counties (Clackamas and Multnomah) along the way.

The Johnson Creek and Watershed target area is connected by wildlife corridors and streams to several other Natural Areas Program target areas including East Buttes, Deep Creek and Tributaries, Cazadero Trail and Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway target areas.

The Johnson Creek watershed is comprised of several smaller sub-watersheds, the areas that flow into Kelly Creek, Crystal Springs, Sunshine Creek, Butler Creek, Veterans Creek and Badger Creek. Undeveloped sections of the land along Johnson Creek remain available but unprotected in the stream's urban reach. Protecting the steep, undeveloped slopes of buttes above Johnson Creek offer significant water quality benefits and valuable wildlife habitat connections to larger natural areas and wildlife corridors in the East Buttes area.

Johnson Creek was once host to abundant native fish populations, including threatened salmon species. Following a series of floods in the mid-1990s, several public agencies began purchasing lands in the Johnson Creek floodplain. Protected as natural areas, these properties provide flood storage, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for wildlife observation along the Johnson Creek corridor. Ongoing stream bank restoration will improve habitat and water quality for threatened fish species.

Sunshine Creek and Kelly Creek drain into Johnson Creek from the Damascus Buttes in Gresham. The areas have high value for cutthroat trout and steelhead. As urbanization proceeds, it will be critical to protect the water quality and quantity and existing native vegetation along these creeks.

The Springwater Corridor regional trail follows Johnson Creek on its path from Gresham to the Willamette River, providing scenic resources and access to the creek for the public. Johnson Creek and the Springwater Corridor are intertwined, with at least 10 trail bridges crossing over it. In this area the public also enjoys access to great variety of parks and recreation opportunities including Johnson Creek

Park, Tideman Johnson Nature Park, Beggars-tick Wildlife Refuge, the I-205 Bike Path, Leach Botanical Garden, Powell Butte Nature Park and Gresham's Main City Park.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various government agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

Public open houses to discuss the proposed Refinement Plans were held on June 13, 2007 at Metro Regional Center and on June 21, 2007 at Gresham City Hall, two of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a "virtual" open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available "online" via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. Ninety-six people completed the Johnson Creek and Watershed survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

- The Johnson Creek and Watershed target area is a regionally significant natural area due to its fish, wildlife, regional recreation and water quality values.
- Important upland forest habitat and tributary streams still remain in the Clatsop Butte area (immediately south of Johnson Creek, east of I-205, and west of SE 162nd Avenue). This area contains the last remaining large tracts of mature native forest adjacent to the creek and is an important tributary water source that currently benefits the creek but could easily, through poor development practice, aggravate water quality problems in the creek and flooding issues in the Lents area immediately downstream.
- Opportunities exist to connect the expansive forested slopes in the Clatsop Butte area with publicly owned floodplain habitats in Lents and the East Buttes properties to the south and east.
- Established science continues to show the key importance of intact riparian areas and headwaters for water quality and quantity protection, wildlife habitat and maintenance of overall watershed health.
- Headwaters and tributary creek protection is important especially for major tributary creeks such as Crystal Springs Creek, Errol Creek, Butler Creek, Kelly Creek, Badger Creek and Sunshine Creek. The mix of small tributaries and uplands is important for sustaining water quality within the creek (particularly temperature) and preserving water quality in the overall watershed. Forested sections of these creek corridors are also important for controlling temperature and stream siltation.
- Johnson Creek Specific Ecosystem Diagnostic Treatment (EDT) modeling indicates reaches 16 and 17 are the highest quality habitat areas remaining on the mainstem.
- Recent documentation from the City of Portland indicates there may be a much higher number of native fish species within the creek than previously thought.
- Completing the connections of the publicly-owned properties along the mainstem of Johnson Creek/Springwater Trail within Gresham between Powell Butte and the Springwater area is

important primarily to protect the mainstem of the creek, the integrity of the riparian areas, and the habitat and potential human connections between the parcels already purchased in this area.

- The habitat corridors and trail linkages within the recently planned Pleasant Valley and Springwater areas are identified as areas of concern. The Springwater area is at greater risk given the presence of high quality existing habitat.
- Smaller sites are valuable for wildlife habitat and water quality contributions to the Johnson Creek Watershed. These areas include Crystal Springs and Reed College Canyon, areas surrounding Tideman Johnson Park, Errol Heights, Kelly Butte and the Willamette River confluence.
- Ninety-six people completed the Johnson Creek and Watershed survey. Additional commentary was provided orally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area A* – Protect headwater areas in the area around Powell Butte and Clatsop Butte, east of I-205, and west of SE 182nd Avenue to benefit water quality and wildlife habitat.
 2. *Map area B* – Protect lands along the important tributaries of Johnson Creek from Gresham to Boring including Butler Creek, Badger Creek and Sunshine Creek for water quality benefits (this area is located in east Gresham and includes the Springwater Plan area).
 3. *Map area D* – Protect remaining gaps along the main stem of Johnson Creek and the Springwater Corridor from Powell Butte eastward to Gresham.
 4. *Map area E* – Protect the wildlife corridors and secure trail connections within the recently planned Pleasant Valley area and along Kelly Creek.
 5. *Map area C* – Protect important smaller and more isolated sites along Crystal Springs and Reed College Canyon, areas surrounding Tideman Johnson Park, Errol Heights, on Kelly Butte and at the Willamette River confluence.

Goal

Pursue opportunities to acquire tracts within the remaining upland habitat areas adjacent to the main stem, along major tributary creeks, and within the Johnson Creek floodplain to protect water quality and connect existing public holdings.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Secure the upland forest habitat and tributary streams in the Clatsop Butte area immediately south of Johnson Creek, east of I-205, and west of SE 162nd Avenue.
- Protect lands along the mainstream and important tributaries of Johnson Creek from Gresham to Boring including Butler Creek, Badger Creek, Johnson Creek Reaches 16 and 17, and Sunshine Creek for water quality benefits.

Tier II Objectives

- In partnership with the City of Portland, secure key parcels adjacent to existing publicly protected resource areas including smaller sites such as Crystal Springs and Reed College Canyon, areas

surrounding Tideman Johnson Park, Errol Heights, Kelly Butte and the Willamette River confluence.

- Complete the connection of remaining gaps along the main stem of Johnson Creek and the Springwater Corridor from Powell Butte eastward to Gresham.
- Protect the wildlife corridors and secure trail connections within the recently planned Pleasant Valley area and along Kelly Creek.

Partnership Objectives

- Pursue partnership opportunities with the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services and Parks and Recreation, City of Gresham, City of Milwaukie, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties, and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council to leverage the regional investment in the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area.
- Work with private landowners to explore opportunities for conservation easements and water quality protection strategies.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3851, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE JOHNSON CREEK AND WATERSHED TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the Johnson Creek and Watershed Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3851.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Johnson Creek and Watershed Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Jim Labbe, Portland Audubon
Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon
Robb Courtney, City of Gresham
Linda Bauer, Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association
Michelle Bussard, Johnson Creek Watershed Council
Maggie Skendarian, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Mart Hughes, City of Portland Parks and Recreation
Deb Lev, City of Portland Parks and Recreation
Kathy Murrin, City of Portland Parks and Recreation
Kathy Majedi, City of Gresham
Steve Fancher, City of Gresham
Todd Alsbury, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Key Themes Discussed

Lava Domes (Clatsop Buttes)

- All stakeholders have mentioned the importance of protecting the upland forest habitat and tributary streams in the Boring Lava Domes area (Also referred to as Clatsop Buttes, immediately south of Johnson Creek, east of I205, and west of SE 162nd Ave.).
- Opportunities exist to connect the expansive forested slopes with publicly owned floodplain habitats in Lents and the East Buttes properties to the south and east.
- This area contains the last remaining large tracts of mature native forest adjacent to the creek and is an important tributary water source that currently benefits the creek but could easily, through poor development practice, aggravate water quality problems in the creek and flooding issues in the Lents area immediately downstream.

Headwaters and Tributaries

- Headwaters and tributary creek protection is consistently mentioned by stakeholders especially major tributary creeks such as Crystal Springs Creek, Errol Creek, Butler Creek, Kelly Creek, Badger Creek, and Sunshine Creek.
- The remaining mix of small tributaries and uplands within the Johnson Creek Watershed is important for sustaining water quality within the creek (particularly temperature) and preserving water quality in the overall watershed.
- Negative impacts to headwaters affect the entire watershed.
- The mainstem (reaches 16 & 17) in the Springwater area, along with the adjacent tributaries, is identified as the highest quality habitat remaining on Johnson Creek.

- Multiple smaller and more isolated sites were mentioned for protection because of their water quality (primarily temperature) benefits including Crystal Springs Creek and Reed College Canyon, areas surrounding Tideman Johnson Park, and Errol Heights Creek and wetlands.
- Kelly Butte and the Willamette River confluence were also mentioned for their unique habitat features. Kelly Butte is a rare upland site with unique plant species in the watershed and the confluence is important fish habitat.

Public Land Connections

- Completing the connections of the publicly-owned properties along the mainstem of Johnson Creek and the Springwater Trail within Gresham between Powell Butte and the Springwater area was identified as an important goal.
- These connections are important primarily to protect the mainstem of the creek, the integrity of the remaining riparian areas, and to protect the habitat and potential human connections between the parcels already purchased in this area.

Pleasant Valley and Springwater

- Recent master planning by Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District includes development of a Cooper Mountain Regional Trail to connect east-west between the Westside/Powerline Trail and the Burlington-Northern Trail through Cooper Mountain Nature Park.
- Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District recently acquired a 20-acre parcel just east of Cooper Mountain Nature Park, and is working with landowners to acquire right-of-way to connect the parcels by trail.
- Corridors along creek drainages could serve dual purpose as trail connections between scattered open spaces and wildlife corridors.

Miscellaneous Comments

Labbe, Courtney, Sallinger

- Johnson Creek Watershed Council – refining strategy with Portland and Gresham, focus on upper watershed, complete work of East Buttes for water quality
 - Sunshine Creek should be targeted for connectivity between Buttes, water quality and quantity
 - Corps protection areas high priority (Sunshine, Badger, Reaches 16 & 17)
 - Floodplain reconnection in upper creek, headwaters, upper tributaries
 - Pressure in Barbara Welch Creek area
 - Lava Domes – habitat, water quality, water quantity
- Coordination with Cities of Portland and Milwaukie, JC Watershed Council, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Ed Kerns (Lents), partners for property management restoration.
- Gresham – fill in missing gaps along Creek and Springwater Trail east of Powell out to Springwater Mainstem creek corridor.

Bauer, Bussard, Skendarian

- Johnson Creek TMDLs.
- The Springwater area is of high concern given the presence of high quality existing habitat.
- Protect the best! (1) Springwater/reaches 16 & 17, (2) Lava Domes.
- Lava Domes tributaries important. Lava Domes have extensive open forest but heavy development pressure. Copper Bluff landslides, Lava Domes landslide potential/erosion.
- Small tributaries with good water quality
 - Errol Creek, cool clean water tributary to Johnson Creek
 - Reed College Canyon

Majedi, Hughes, Lev, Murrin, Fancher

- Willamette TMLD and Johnson Creek temperature TMDLs!! Preserve the tributaries (DEQ) for temp
- The Springwater area is of high concern given the presence of high quality existing habitat.
- Protect the existing/best opportunities.
- Upland forests should be a focus. Opportunities for large intact forest/habitat areas. Development pressure in Lava Domes, much of Gresham.
- Small tributaries with good water quality and habitat
 - Resident trout in Errol Heights. Errol Heights property good cold source – 10% of JC summer flow
 - Butler Creek, high habitat, riparian
 - Crystal Springs
 - Sunshine & Badger Creeks in Springwater, continuous with Reach 16 & 17
 - Downstream of Tideman Johnson Park good fish habitat/riparian
 - Willamette confluence

Alsbury

- Crystal Springs has excellent water quality.
- Kelly Creek and Sunshine Creek tributaries have good fish habitat.
- Forested buttes have good wildlife habitat and the creeks provide corridors between them.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: JOHNSON CREEK AND WATERSHED

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition. Initial estimates are that a minimum of 200 acres of land would be protected within this target area.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

Johnson Creek remains the most densely urbanized creek in our region. Opportunities remain to acquire tracts within the remaining floodplain, upland habitat areas adjacent to the main stem, and along both Butler and Kelly creeks to protect water quality and connect public holdings with the Damascus Buttes.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The following priorities were identified in the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.**

- _____ Protecting headwater areas in the area around Powell Butte and Clatsop Butte, east of I-205, and west of SE 182nd Avenue to benefit water quality and wildlife habitat. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Protecting lands along the important tributaries of Johnson Creek from Gresham to Boring including Butler Creek, Badger Creek and Sunshine Creek for water quality benefits (this area is located in east Gresham and includes the Springwater Plan area). **(Map area B)**
- _____ Protecting important smaller and more isolated sites along Crystal Springs and Reed College Canyon, areas surrounding Tideman Johnson Park, Errol Heights, on Kelly Butte and at the Willamette River confluence. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Protecting remaining gaps along the main stem of Johnson Creek and the Springwater Corridor from Powell Butte eastward to Gresham. **(Map area D)**
- _____ Protecting the wildlife corridors and securing trail connections within the recently planned Pleasant Valley area and along Kelly Creek. **(Map area E)**

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.

- _____ Protecting fish and aquatic habitats including land along the creek and its tributaries.
- _____ Protecting wildlife corridors and habitat connections to other natural areas.
- _____ Preserving high quality wildlife habitat that remains in the area.
- _____ Protecting headwater areas for water quality benefits.
- _____ Providing public access and wildlife watching opportunities.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area? Please be specific.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?

5. Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a conservation easement on your property?

Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

6. Do you have any other comments about this target area?

Please add my name to the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

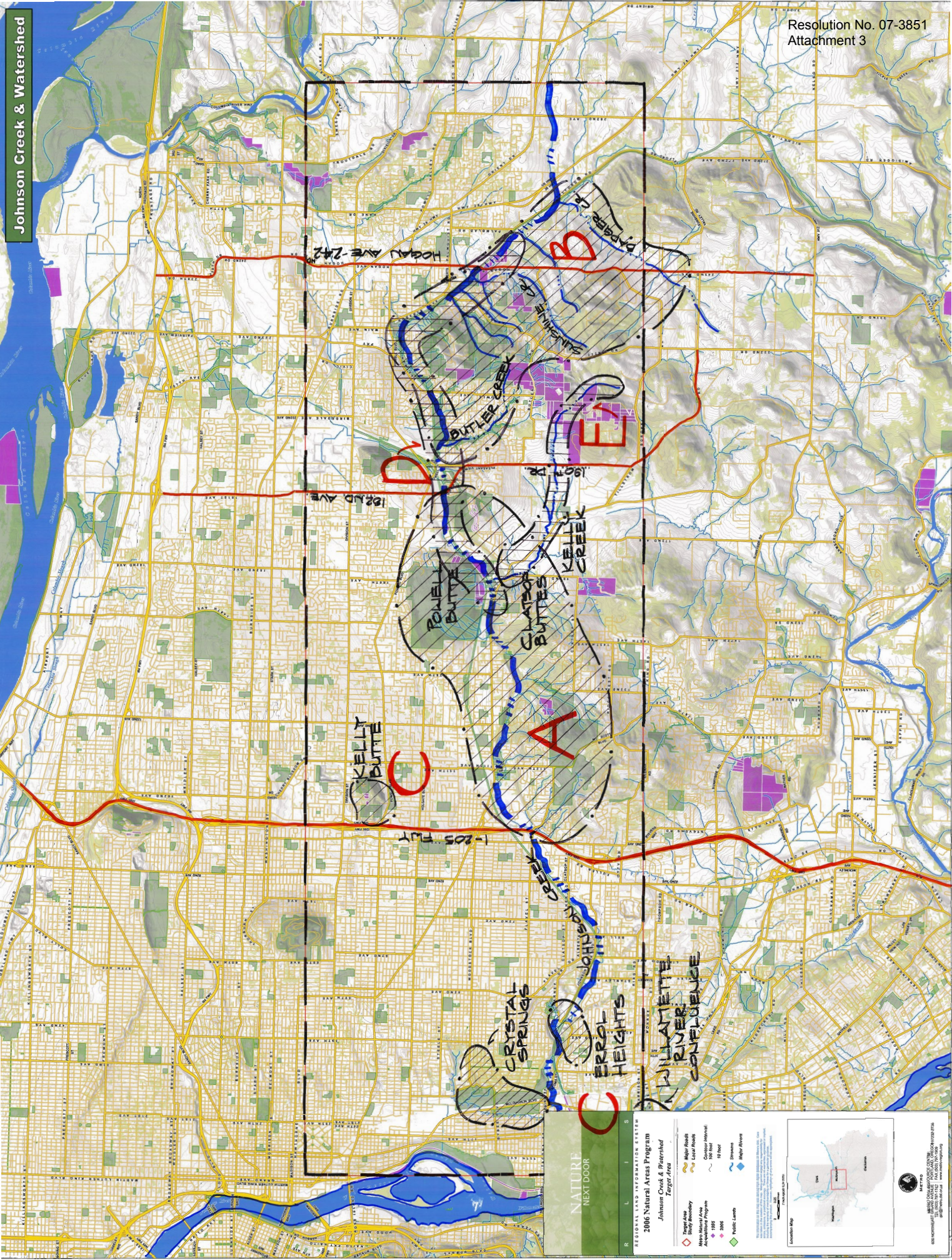
City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741



NATURE NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM

2006 Natural Areas Program
Johnson Creek & Watershed
Target Area

Legend:

- Target Area
- Study Boundary
- Major Road
- Local Road
- Contour Interval: 100 foot
- 1995
- 2005
- Public Lands
- Streams
- Major Rivers

Scale: 1" = 1000'

Location Map: Shows the location of the study area within the context of the Willamette River basin, including labels for Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties.

Source: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, 2006

Johnson Creek and Watershed Survey Results

- The following priorities were identified in the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important				least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting headwater areas in the area around Powell Butte and Clatsop Butte, east of I-205, and west of SE 182nd Ave. to benefit water quality and wildlife habitat. (Map area A)	76.4% (68)	7.9% (7)	7.9% (7)	3.4% (3)	4.5% (4)	1.52	89
Protecting lands along the important tributaries of Johnson Creek from Gresham to Boring including Butler Creek, Badger Creek and Sunshine Creek for water quality benefits (this area is located in east Gresham and includes the Springwater Plan area). (Map area B)	13.0% (7)	38.9% (21)	24.1% (13)	11.1% (6)	13.0% (7)	2.72	54
Protecting important smaller and more isolated sites along Crystal Springs and Reed College Canyon, areas surrounding Tideman Johnson Park, Errol Heights, on Kelly Butte and at the Willamette River confluence. (Map area C)	15.8% (9)	10.5% (6)	24.6% (14)	12.3% (7)	36.8% (21)	3.44	57
Protecting remaining gaps along the main stem of Johnson Creek and the Springwater Corridor from Powell Butte eastward to Gresham. (Map area D)	10.7% (6)	28.6% (16)	14.3% (8)	33.9% (19)	12.5% (7)	3.09	56
Protecting the wildlife corridors and securing trail connections within the recently planned Pleasant Valley area and along Kelly Creek. (Map area E)	4.5% (3)	27.3% (18)	22.7% (15)	27.3% (18)	18.2% (12)	3.27	66
	<i>answered question</i>						94
	<i>skipped question</i>						2

**2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area?
 Rank in order of importance to you.**

	most important				least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting fish and aquatic habitats including land along the creek and its tributaries.	17.6% (16)	16.5% (15)	35.2% (32)	14.3% (13)	16.5% (15)	2.96	91
Protecting wildlife corridors and habitat connections to other natural areas.	43.6% (41)	17.0% (16)	14.9% (14)	17.0% (16)	7.4% (7)	2.28	94
Preserving high quality wildlife habitat that remains in the area.	11.8% (11)	44.1% (41)	21.5% (20)	17.2% (16)	5.4% (5)	2.60	93
Protecting headwater areas for water quality benefits.	22.2% (20)	16.7% (15)	26.7% (24)	30.0% (27)	4.4% (4)	2.78	90
Providing public access and wildlife watching opportunities.	7.6% (7)	6.5% (6)	2.2% (2)	20.7% (19)	63.0% (58)	4.25	92
	<i>answered question</i>						95
	<i>skipped question</i>						1

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area? Please be specific.

<p>I consider all of the above so important, that it was hard to rank them. I ranked them based on urgency, as much as anything. Acquiring and restoring more areas in the flood plain -- to minimize flooding on the main stem. Also acquire property on the buttes closest to the creek, so the runoff from these buttes doesn't increase the flood danger. The headwaters of all these tributaries will be valuable/productive (especially for fish), only if the fish are able to make it through the main stem of the creek.</p>
<p>The private land on Kelly Butte contains unique species that contribute to the diversity and botany of the Metropolitan area. The Erythronium oregonum and the Populus tremuloides populations on Kelly Butte are uncommon species that deserve to be protected from destruction. Keeping Kelly Butte on the Greenspace priority list is critical to preserving these populations. Acquisition of the remaining open space land will complete the public ownership of this important wildlife habitat area.</p>
<p>The SE side of Kelly Butte has a population of thousands of plants of Erythronium oregonum, a wild fawn lily, and although this plant is not "rare", even with us, this is probably the largest population in our area. I have had the pleasure of observing the plants for at least 45 years and their numbers have been quite stable (appearing), the encroachment of ivy notwithstanding. The city would be poorer place to live if we do not preserve these plants and their habitat.</p>
<p>Please consider repaving the ailing sections of the Springwater Trail between 45th and 82nd avenue, and again from 92nd to Gresham. It's badly worn.</p>
<p>Springwater Corridor Trail is main access to seeing Johnson Creek. Leverage the existing investment by securing a few more trailheads for those who don't live along the trail. Some trailhead sites could also include land on creek and any site could demonstrate good stormwater management. See whether any more property can be secured for flood abatement/natural resource enhancement in Lents.</p>
<p>Protecting and adding areas that add to the urban forest canopy, protecting ESRA areas in the outer watershed (like Springwater and Pleasant Valley) from development. <i>Staff note: 44 surveys included detailed address and tax lot number information not detailed here (Clatsop Buttes property acquired by Metro July 13, 2007).</i></p>
<p>Providing public access to the watershed. Specifically I would like to see a trailhead developed on the west side of Powell Butte, at the Old Holgate Trail.</p>

1) Flooding - reducing paved area in J.Ck headwaters 2) Slope stability - acquire some land on the steepest hillside above J.Ck.

More emphasis on the acquisition and preservation of watershed land east of Gresham and including the Springwater Neighborhood.

The priority should be raising public awareness of Johnson Creek, so land should be acquired and small interpretive parks developed at the major street crossings. Nothing would do more to protect and enhance the Johnson Creek Watershed for multiple purposes. The key crossings are Johnson Creek Blvd., 82nd, 92nd, 122nd, 181st, etc.. The land acquisitions could be prioritized by the number of cars crossing the creek per day. Raising awareness is the best way to arrive at natural area protection. How many people know they have crossed the creek on 82nd??

Kelly Creek Mainstem Johnson Creek Mainstem Reach 16 & 17 Portland East Buttes

Removal of encroaching blackberry bushes.

Try leaning on Portland Parks and Recreation to follow and implement the Westmoreland Park Masterplan!

Acquisition of lands south of Powell Butte in the vicinity of Johnson Creek. This is a desirable residential area, but would benefit existing local neighborhoods for increased passive park acreage.

Non-point surface water pollution, sediments, etc. unpaved streets without storm water management or mitigation. increased traffic on SE Foster Road due to Damascus/Boring/Pleasant Valley urbanization without any mitigation

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

Develop partnerships with ODOT and Tri-Met (and others, like Friends of Trees) to add vegetation along the I-205 bike path and the light rail to Clackamas (under construction) -- to provide at least a minimal wildlife corridor (for birds, if nothing else) between the Columbia River/Columbia Slough and Johnson Creek.

Possibly investigate riparian easements or some way to do more planting on banks for erosion prevention and shade.

Work with business in the watershed that have a commitment to the community in which they operate to help fund projects. Work with the existing neighborhood associations to formulate plans.

Sell these parcels as stocks, not property...in small increments. Or offer them as environmental investments/sustainability to larger businesses

Use lottery Funds.

In developing access to Powell Butte, partner with Parks and Rec. Dept., and or Portland Water Bureau.

Consider land/trust partnerships. *Staff note: this suggestion was made by 14 survey respondents.*

Federal watershed grants.

National Dark Sky Association

Uncertain - There are many areas upstream and downstream from these properties that are being (or have been) rehabilitated.

I think highway money should be used in combination with parks money.

Nature Conservancy

Try getting the real human communities (as opposed to the jurisdictional bureaucracies) interested and involved in their resource heritage.

Work/fund co-projects with Friends of Trees for habitat restoration.

Lobby the governor and legislature to fulfill the mandate of BM 66 -- purchase of critical lands for watershed protection, natural area public access with lottery funds vs. past practice of using funds for natural resource agency budget backfill -- more federal funds for protection vs. nearly-exclusive emphasis on mega-transportation initiatives like (I-5) bridge corridor -- why can't Clackamas & Washington county gov't make a contribution -- totally inadequate planning or acquisition or maintenance for recreation despite huge population growth, including unincorporated areas?

5. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

There are several large parcels of land on the buttes closest to Johnson Creek that are threatened with development THIS YEAR, especially on Clatsop Butte. Are Mt Tabor and Rocky Butte considered part of the East Buttes? These, combined with Kelly Butte are important wildlife nodes that help wildlife (at least birds) travel between the Columbia River/Columbia Slough and Johnson Creek. Look into acquisitions adjacent to Leach Botanical Garden (especially the parcel along 122nd Ave at the top of the bluff, next to where the park entrance is to be re-located. This would expand an important node. It would be great if a wildlife corridor could be created/preserved, eventually, between the Leach property and the Brookside flood plain property downstream. I agree that the views from sections of Regner Road should be preserved. As a child growing up south of Gresham (at the headwaters of Heiney Creek, a tiny tributary to Johnson Creek), our school bus turned around every morning at the Onchi farm which was located at the county line -- so I enjoyed the fabulous view of Mt Hood on a daily basis! I'd like to see additional property acquired in the Errol Heights area, if at all possible -- and improved access for residents of that much-neglected area.

Some of your original priorities are not really either/or choices; they may work together or they may be "and" choices: both the headwaters and downstream are probably necessary to maintain aquatic habitat; improving the aquatic habitats also requires the margins of the streams be improved, thus benefiting the flora and fauna they're inhabiting.

Some of the buildings and roadways along Crystal Springs are way too close to creek. Make special efforts, even where very expensive, to secure some of that land and remove buildings. This creek has excellent cold water and offers excellent possibility for urban residents to see salmon return to streams.

Building more homes in these areas would be harmful to native plants and indigenous wildlife in the area. Preservation now instead of cleaning up after the fact would be more beneficial to the environment and natural habitat.

In the Boring Lava Dome Study, they have outlined the importance of this parcel of land. It is an intact forest. I support many organizations who protect environment. Thank you for listening to the input from citizens. I don't live in this area, but I have enjoyed the Johnson Creek and Watershed for hiking and biking.

Maybe I'd sell. All I have is my single home with 1/4 acre lot on greenspace.

Please refer to the Boring Lava Dome study. *Staff note: this suggestion was made by 15 survey respondents.*

Pileated woodpecker habitat, salmon water quality issues.

Yes - another consideration of mine is to also protect our disappearing dark skies. Light pollution is a consideration. Our night sky is disappearing - street lights from developments obliterate the night sky.

We're glad you're considering it!

Please save our salmon, and Pilliated Woodpeckers

The development that has already gone on has caused drainage problems due to the slope of the hillsides above target area. High density development is not optimum for this area.

This area needs to be protected from increases housing density which will create water runoff problems and flooding if developed.

Focus on increasing awareness.

Building houses in this area is counter to protecting the water purity that is becoming ever so much more important in our world.

The more urbanized zones should be given the highest priority for acquisition.

Save Kelly Butte's Erythronium's: Kelly Butte harbors a population of (perhaps tens of) thousands of Erythronium oregonum plants, whose large size is almost certainly unique in our area. If this property is not currently in public ownership, Metro should acquire it, so future generations can enjoy these plants for longer than the 45 years I have visited them.

I urge you to continue to protect Kelly Butte from development. KB is home to a unique set of urban plants, including Erythronium oregonum. I heavily value the remaining natural areas within the city. I encourage you to purchase any private land surrounding KB, especially land that is home to the currently healthy population of Erythronium oregonum. I would consider purchase of such land to be a wise use of Metro's bond measure funds. Thank you.

I tried to send a plea to purchase private land on Kelly Butte and extend the greenspace, but the web site says my feedback contained a forbidden character. I'll try again with this. Please! Thanks.

Agenda Item Number 4.8

Resolution No. 07-3852, Approving the Natural Areas
Acquisition Refinement Plan for the East Buttes Target Area

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE EAST BUTTES
TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3852

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the East Buttes Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition, building on the success of land acquisitions in the East Buttes Target Area pursuant to Metro’s 1995 Open Spaces Bond Measure Program; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the East Buttes Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the East Buttes Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
EAST BUTTES TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

In 1995 Metro's goal for this target area was to create a biologically significant natural area between Gresham and Damascus. The focus of Tier I acquisition was along Butler Ridge, located south of Gresham, and on Mt. Talbert, with an acreage goal of 545 acres. Tier II and III objectives focused on enhancing and connecting existing open space properties at Mt. Scott, Powell Butte, Rocky Butte, Kelly Butte and Scouter Mountain, in addition to providing biological links between the East Buttes and the Clackamas River. Acquisitions at the more urban buttes (Talbert, Kelly, Rocky, and Powell) required a 25% local match. Metro acquired a total of 855 acres within this target area.

The 2006 Natural Area bond measure stated:

The remaining undeveloped wooded slopes of extinct lava domes in our eastern metropolitan region provide opportunities to protect water quality and large areas for wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors from the outer reaches of the Cascades to the inner Portland urban area such as Scouter Mountain and buttes in the Damascus area. Panoramic vistas east and south from the butte tops provide stunning views of valleys, farmland and the Cascades. The forested buttes frame the valleys, create a unique geography for local residents and provide welcome visual relief from surrounding land uses. By protecting these wooded slopes, Metro can maintain a system of natural area habitat patches connected to each other and ultimately to the Cascades via the Clackamas River corridor.

The East Buttes target area is connected by wildlife corridors to other target areas including Johnson Creek and Watershed, Deep Creek and Tributaries, and Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway.

Target Area Description

A group of extinct volcanoes and lava domes in north Clackamas and east Multnomah counties lend unique geographic character to the region, providing wildlife habitat and panoramic vistas. The East Buttes target area is Metro's largest, stretching from Rocky Butte in Portland to the Clackamas River in the south, and from I-205 in the west to Highway 26 in the east. Primary goals are to secure a regionally and biologically significant natural area between Gresham and Damascus, and to help protect several urban buttes and extinct rugged lava domes rising 500 to 1,000 feet above the Willamette Valley floor. The area contains some of the largest contiguous wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors in the region.

South of Gresham on North and South Butler Buttes, a broad forested corridor of natural area stretches along a section known as "Butler Ridge" and the adjacent North Damascus Buttes. Part of this area along Regner Road has commanding mountain views to the north, northeast and east. At almost 2,000 feet elevation, a meadow near the crest of a forested butte north of Borges Road and east of 190th Avenue offers panoramic views of Mt. Hood, the entrance to the Columbia River Gorge and mountains of Washington state.

Sunshine Butte, adjacent to and east of Butler Ridge, provides excellent wildlife connectivity between upper Johnson Creek and upper Sunshine Creek and important linkages to North Butler Ridge and Dower Butte. Tower Butte and Zion Butte contain healthy forested areas and provide high-quality habitat and excellent connectivity with headwaters of Johnson Creek, Deep Creek, Noyer Creek, Sunshine Creek and Badger Creek.

Rising more than 700 feet above the valley floor, Scouter Mountain offers views of the Cascades and surrounding Pleasant Valley. Located between rapidly growing Happy Valley and Pleasant Valley east of

I-205, this area includes Mitchell Creek and its tributaries feeding Kelley Creek and ultimately Johnson Creek.

Mt. Talbert is the largest undeveloped butte in northern Clackamas County, rising as a forested green sentinel overlooking the busy I-205 and Sunnyside Road interchange just to the west. Metro and North Clackamas County Parks and Recreation District protected 193 acres with 1995 bond funds, including the top of the former lava dome. This preserved quality wildlife habitat as well as the integrity of west and north facing slopes visible to tens of thousands of people daily. A master plan has been approved for public use of the area, and the Mount Talbert Nature Park is slated for opening in summer 2007.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the East Buttes target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various government agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

Public open houses to discuss the proposed Refinement Plans were held on June 21, 2007 at Gresham City Hall and on June 25, 2007 at Boring Middle School, two of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a “virtual” open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available “online” via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. Fifty-seven people completed the East Buttes survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

Scientific

- The East Buttes provide critical habitat to migratory wildlife and important linkages to the Clackamas River and Cascade Mountains.
- Larger patches of intact native vegetation should be protected in preference to smaller ones.
- Headwaters of urban creeks surround the buttes in all directions. These valuable riparian corridors serve as important wildlife corridors. Sustaining wildlife habitat connectivity moderates the seclusion of habitat fragments.
- Land acquisition strategies within the target area should promote contiguous core wildlife habitat, retain unique and at-risk habitats, and connections between wetlands, riparian corridors and upland habitat.
- High quality habitat adjoining lands already in public ownership is of high priority for conserving core wildlife habitat. This includes the land areas of South Butler Ridge, Sunshine Butte, North Butler Ridge and connectivity to Johnson Creek where a significant investment in publicly owned lands already exists.
- Sunshine Butte is one of the largest forested buttes in the target area and provides connectivity to upper Johnson Creek and Sunshine Creek riparian corridors and important linkages to North Butler Ridge and Tower Butte.
- Mt. Talbert, Zion Butte and Tower Butte areas have the best connectivity, better wildlife corridor and greater amounts of undeveloped land. The Tower Butte and Zion Butte areas have high-valued wildlife habitat but require the acquisition or protection of larger areas. The Zion Butte

and Tower Butte areas provide a significant north-south corridor from the Deep Creek system to the Butler Ridge system.

- Scouter Mountain, Johnson Creek Uplands and Damascus Buttes are important areas that buffer and connect habitats of concern. The areas are surrounded by dense urban development and several major arterial roads, both of which negatively affect the value of the core areas and connectivity. Within this area, it is recommended that priority be given to acquiring undeveloped land adjoining public land holdings on Scouter Mountain, which is a candidate for Oregon white oak habitat restoration.

Stakeholder

- Provide wildlife corridors and connectivity between the East Buttes target area and the Cascades via the Clackamas River riparian corridor. Deep Creek and Richardson Creek are the most mentioned routes, a link between Mt. Talbert and the Clackamas River was also highlighted.
- A top priority for acquisition is to fill in the gaps on Butler Ridge. This may be the last chance to purchase properties – they are at risk of development.
- To provide habitat connectivity, the pinch point between North Fork Deep Creek and Zion Hill, and a wildlife connection through Sunshine Valley are key to consider for acquisition.
- Sunshine Creek is fish bearing with resident cutthroat and historically supported anadromous fish. Mt. Scott Creek below Happy Valley remains a great riparian corridor with intact vegetation and some fish passage projects have enhanced habitats in upper reaches.
- Current Clackamas County, Happy Valley, Damascus and Gresham zoning and development regulations may not protect local natural resources. The degree of protection of buttes land within Damascus will depend upon future upland area protections and regulations enacted by the City of Damascus.
- The route of the Sunrise Parkway, from 172nd east through Damascus to Highway 26, will be a major factor in planning future wildlife corridors. The Sunrise Parkway is planned as a “landscaped corridor” with four lanes and proposed design speed of 45 miles per hour but the proposed design route is not firm. Preliminary design plans call for protection of the buttes, attention to views and vistas, and bridges over riparian areas.

Survey Results

- Fifty-seven people completed the East Buttes survey. Additional commentary was provided verbally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area E* – Protect lands on Scouter Mountain in close proximity to other protected areas and create a larger natural area on the butte to benefit wildlife and support water quality goals in Johnson Creek (Mitchell Creek).
 2. *Map area F* – Protect lands on the north side of Mount Talbert adjacent to other protected areas and including a connection to Mount Scott Creek.
 3. *Map area A* – Close gaps in public ownership along Butler Ridge to create a biologically significant natural area.
 4. *Map area B* – Protect lands on Sunshine Butte and along the tributaries of Sunshine Creek to preserve a wildlife corridor and a connection to the Clackamas River.
 5. *Map area D* – Protect lands along the unnamed tributary north of the North Fork of Deep Creek connecting to Tower and Zion buttes and the Deep Creek riparian corridor to preserve a wildlife corridor.

6. *Map area C* – Protect properties on Tower and Zion buttes for water quality benefits and connections to the Clackamas River.

Goals

- Connect the substantial Butler Ridge natural area in public ownership to create a wildlife corridor and potential access to the Clackamas River via Sunshine Butte, Tower Butte, Zion Butte and the North Fork Deep Creek.
- Protect butte tops and slopes for wildlife habitat and corridors between these wooded slopes and create scenic vistas that provide visual relief to urban residents.
- Protect headwaters of healthy streams through acquisition of wooded hillsides on Scouter Mountain and Mount Talbert.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Protect wooded slopes on Sunshine Butte and along tributaries to Sunshine Creek to maintain wildlife corridors to the Clackamas River.
- Protect wooded slopes on Tower and Zion Buttes to secure wildlife corridors to the Clackamas River.
- Acquire land on Scouter Mountain in close proximity to other public land holdings to create a larger contiguous open space on the butte.

Tier II Objectives

- Close the gaps in public ownership by acquiring key parcels along Butler Ridge to create a biologically significant natural area and to facilitate public access to these lands.
- Acquire properties on the north side of Mt. Talbert contiguous with other public holdings and in the headwaters of Mt. Scott Creek.

Partnership Objectives

- Pursue partnership opportunities with the City of Damascus, ODOT, the City of Gresham, Clackamas County, North Clackamas Park District, Damascus, Happy Valley and the Three Rivers Land Conservancy to achieve the priority objectives and to leverage the regional bond funds.
- Explore partnership possibilities with school districts, including Gresham-Barlow School District on their facility development plans for their property on Sunshine Creek.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3852, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE EAST BUTTES TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the East Buttes Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the East Buttes target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3852.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for East Buttes Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Dan Bartlett, Damascus
Doug McClain, Clackamas County
Jason Tuck, Happy Valley
Michael Walters, Happy Valley
Rob Courtney, Gresham
Mary Weber, David Evans & Associates
Jim Labbe, Audobon Society
Melinda Trask, ODOT
Thomas Picco, ODOT
Jayne Cronlund, Three Rivers Land Conservancy
Ray Valone, Metro
Todd Alsbury, ODFW
Andy Cotugno, Metro
Dean Apostol, Landscape Architect

Key Themes Discussed

Water Quality

- Richardson Creek, especially the lower reaches, provides some of the highest quality habitat and aquatic resources in the Portland Metro region. Richardson Creek is still fish bearing and a coho spawning habitat, despite its flashiness. The upper watershed is subject to future development around Highway 212 in Damascus.
- Forested buttes are important to water quality in Johnson Creek.

Wildlife Habitat

- Focus on preserving larger patches of habitat. It is important to consider how wildlife are going to get from one patch to another.
- Riparian corridors between buttes are important wildlife connections, especially Sunshine Creek.
- The most often mentioned wildlife corridor connects Butler Ridge to Sunshine, Tower and Zion Buttes, then on to North Fork Deep Creek.
- Provide wildlife corridors and connectivity between the East Buttes Target Area and the Cascades via the Clackamas River riparian corridor. Deep Creek and Richardson Creek are the most mentioned routes, a link between Mt. Talbert and the Clackamas River was also highlighted.
- A top priority for acquisition is to fill in the gaps on Butler Ridge. This may be the last chance to purchase properties – they are at risk of development.
- To provide habitat connectivity, the pinch point between Deep Creek and Zion Hill and a wildlife connection through Sunshine Valley are key to consider for acquisition. Sunshine Creek is fish bearing with resident cutthroat and historically supported anadromous fish.

- Kelly Creek is the last remaining good riparian habitat draining into the lower Johnson Creek basin (which is heavily impacted). The Kelly/ Mitchell Creek riparian corridors are important to preserve.
- Mt. Scott Creek below Happy Valley is still a great riparian corridor with intact vegetation and some fish passage projects have enhanced habitats in upper reaches.

Land Use / Urban / Rural Form

- Clackamas County zoning is perceived as the most imminent threat to preserving and connecting wildlife habitats in the target area. Current Damascus and Clackamas County zoning and development regulations may not protect local natural resources. The degree of protection of buttes land within Damascus will depend upon future upland area protections and regulations enacted by the City of Damascus.
- Future development in Damascus may necessitate the construction of a sewer trunk line within the Richardson Creek corridor.

Miscellaneous Comments

- Look for opportunities to increase and build upon current land holdings within the target area.
- If more land were acquired on Scouter Mountain (west and northwest sides), it could become a nice park for Happy Valley. The value as a natural area would increase with a connection to Powell Butte via Mitchell/ Kelly Creek corridor.
- The route of the Sunrise Parkway, from 172nd east through Damascus to Highway 26, will be a major factor in planning future wildlife corridors. The Sunrise Parkway is planned as a “landscaped corridor” with 4 lanes and proposed design speed of 45 miles per hour but the proposed design route is not firm. Preliminary design plans call for protection of the buttes, attention to views and vistas, and bridges over riparian areas.
- Consider adding land holdings that will enable the East Buttes trail to continue and make connections to the Springwater Corridor/ Cazadero Trail in the future.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: EAST BUTTES

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition. Metro has acquired 866 acres in this target area since 1995. The 2006 program will provide additional funding for protection goals in this target area.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

The remaining undeveloped wooded slopes of extinct lava domes in our eastern metropolitan region provide opportunities to protect water quality and large areas for wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors from the outer reaches of the Cascades to the inner Portland urban area such as Scouter Mountain and buttes in the Damascus area. Panoramic vistas east and south from the butte tops provide stunning views of valleys, farmland and the Cascades. The forested buttes frame the valleys, create a unique geography for local residents and provide welcome visual relief from surrounding land uses.

QUESTIONS

1. **The following priorities were identified in the East Buttes target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 6, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.**

- _____ Closing gaps in public ownership along Butler Ridge to create a biologically significant natural area. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Protecting lands on Sunshine Butte and along the tributaries of Sunshine Creek to preserve a wildlife corridor and a connection to the Clackamas River. **(Map area B)**
- _____ Protecting properties on Tower and Zion buttes for water quality benefits and connections to the Clackamas River. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Protecting lands along the unnamed tributary north of the North Fork of Deep Creek connecting to Tower and Zion buttes and the Deep Creek riparian corridor to preserve a wildlife corridor. **(Map area D)**
- _____ Protecting lands on Scouter Mountain in close proximity to other protected areas and creating a larger natural area on the butte to benefit wildlife and support water quality goals in Johnson Creek (Mitchell Creek). **(Map area E)**
- _____ Protecting lands on the north side of Mount Talbert adjacent to other protected areas and including a connection to Mount Scott Creek . **(Map area F)**

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the East Buttes target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

- _____ Preserving forested upland habitat for wildlife.
- _____ Preserving streams and creeks to maintain water quality.
- _____ Protecting wildlife corridors between the East Buttes and the Clackamas River.
- _____ Providing public access to natural areas for recreation and wildlife watching.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the East Buttes target area? Please be specific.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?

5. Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a conservation easement on your property?

- Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

6. Do you have any other comments about this target area?

Please add my name to the East Buttes target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741

East Buttes Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the East Buttes target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important					least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Closing gaps in public ownership along Butler Ridge to create a biologically significant natural area. (Map area A)	21.7% (10)	8.7% (4)	23.9% (11)	13.0% (6)	6.5% (3)	26.1% (12)	3.52	46
Protecting lands on Sunshine Butte and along the tributaries of Sunshine Creek to preserve a wildlife corridor and a connection to the Clackamas River. (Map area B)	11.6% (5)	11.6% (5)	23.3% (10)	14.0% (6)	27.9% (12)	11.6% (5)	3.70	43
Protecting properties on Tower and Zion buttes for water quality benefits and connections to the Clackamas River. (Map area C)	6.8% (3)	9.1% (4)	20.5% (9)	31.8% (14)	18.2% (8)	13.6% (6)	3.86	44
Protecting lands along the unnamed tributary north of the North Fork of Deep Creek connecting to Tower and Zion buttes and the Deep Creek riparian corridor to preserve a wildlife corridor. (Map area D)	8.9% (4)	11.1% (5)	22.2% (10)	24.4% (11)	17.8% (8)	15.6% (7)	3.78	45
Protecting lands on Scouter Mountain in close proximity to other protected areas and creating a larger natural area on the butte to benefit wildlife and support water quality goals in Johnson Creek (Mitchell Creek) (Map area E)	48.0% (24)	18.0% (9)	10.0% (5)	4.0% (2)	10.0% (5)	10.0% (5)	2.40	50
Protecting lands on the north side of Mount Talbert adjacent to other protected areas and including a connection to Mount Scott Creek (Map area F)	17.0% (8)	40.4% (19)	4.3% (2)	12.8% (6)	10.6% (5)	14.9% (7)	3.04	47
	<i>answered question</i>							55
	<i>skipped question</i>							2

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the East Buttes target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Preserving forested upland habitat for wildlife.	41.3% (19)	23.9% (11)	23.9% (11)	10.9% (5)	2.04	46
Preserving streams and creeks to maintain water quality.	20.4% (10)	44.9% (22)	28.6% (14)	6.1% (3)	2.20	49
Protecting wildlife corridors between the East Buttes and the Clackamas River.	32.6% (15)	23.9% (11)	26.1% (12)	17.4% (8)	2.28	46
Providing public access to natural areas for recreation and wildlife watching.	14.6% (7)	10.4% (5)	18.8% (9)	56.3% (27)	3.17	48
	<i>answered question</i>					52
	<i>skipped question</i>					5

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the East Buttes target area? Please be specific.

<p>Boy scout camp has lodge + day camp acres already in place on Scouters Mountain. Excellent outdoor school and educational value for kids--wildlife habitat so important with all the development--close to town, easy transport for school kids.</p> <p>Accessing trails and outdoor areas by bike is important.</p> <p>Please overlay the regional trails plan and also anticipate what will be needed for three trails that connect to Springwater in this area.</p> <p>I picked area D since it may act as a buffer between Damascus and Boring. That way they can maintain their own character. C, B and A would help do the same thing.</p> <p>It was tough to rank question number two. I came to this forum for all these reasons. Seems like most are covered but one other reason to consider is just to preserve the scenic beauty in our area and reduce noise, pollution, congestion resulting from dense housing development.</p> <p>Preserve the beautiful scenery.</p> <p>Scouter's Mountain.</p> <p>Get the areas vulnerable to development first.</p> <p>All of the items in question 3 are important and should be pursued.</p> <p>If the lands will be available for public use, adequate parking or public transportation from "park and ride" facilities must be provided.</p> <p>Please focus on protecting lands in and near Rock Creek's canyon...this area is between the Clackamas River and SE 172nd Avenue. It is an outstanding, existing corridor for wildlife that is between the East buttes and the Clackamas River.</p> <p>Save Scouter Mt. public access to East Buttes.</p> <p>Public access from the west. A trail that allows public to access the rim of the butte and Mt Hood views. A park for the public. We don't have any parks here except Blue Lake and a new park here, Johnson City (Springwater Trail) is really needed. It needs to be done NOW.</p> <p>From question #1: I thought Clatsop Butte was to be part of "East Butte." Hopefully this is part of the plan to be included.</p>

For question #1: We were under the impression that Clatsop Butte was part of the "East Buttes" (on extreme Western end) - That's the way it's listed on MANY maps.

Damascus Buttes

Respect and honor the viewpoints of current landowners in the target areas.

Scouter's Mountain is a natural wildlife preserve that should be maintained as a park if at all possible. Scouter's Mountain is link in the trail system between the east buttes and the Clackamas River as well as east-west trails.

Scouters mountain is a beautiful resource and has the opportunity to provide both habitat protection for the water resources and the wildlife that enrich the community while already having recreational facilities (Scouters Camp site) for the community. The area adjacent to Scouters Mountain is among the fastest growing in the Metro area, and has one of the highest percentages of children per household. It would be a shame to miss the chance to provide this unique resource to the surrounding communities and their children.

Preservation of historical landmarks should also be a priority such as the lodge on Scouters Mountain and the pioneer cemetery on the Southwest side of the mountain.

Scouters Mountain is "the" key butte to the inner larger habitat areas, which not only holds historical importance, that Metro is responsible for maintaining, IE cemeteries, but has been part of the Metro Trails master plan, since I worked on the data base for the very first bond measure back in 1991. The early Clackamas County Parks Map also once reflected this importance. The existing power & gas line easements between Butler Butte, down through Scouters Mountain, and unto the Clackamas Rivers are key habitat routes, and must be preserved. Scouters Mountain also provides the head waters to the Mt Scott & Kellogg Creek Drainages as they travel past Mt Talbert. Scouters Mountain is a hub for trails and routes of all kinds for human and wildlife....it has to be preserved. Routes from the NW...being the Elcoa/ the old Girl Scout Camp by Willamette National, to the north Johnson Creek/Bundy Park, The Springwater, and Powell Butte, NE to Butler Butter, Millers Creek, and East/SE to Pleasant Valley, and Deep Creek, South to Clackamas River via Seiban Creek, and west to Happy Valley Wetlands, Mt Scott Nature Park, Mt Scott Creek, and on down to Talbert. ***Thank-you

Connect open space to Clackamas River corridor to assure future development doesn't create an "Island" of nature. More emphasis on Johnson Creek Watershed through, and east, of Gresham to the south (near Sunshine Valley). This may help flood control.

Scouters Mountain is the most important acquisition priority due to its proximity to the City of Happy Valley and the quality of forested upland habitat for wildlife. The steep slopes of the mountain are visible from several other outdoor areas in the eastern part of Clackamas County. Scouter's Mountain has a long history of public use and conservancy.

Like all the projects which would preserve land along ridgetops, buttes, etc., this project would also enhance the quality of life for all in the visible area by providing us with views of greenery and open spaces along our hilltops, instead of McMansions. This greatly adds to the feeling of even more natural area in our neighborhoods, instead of urbanization and sprawl.

I find nothing on wildlife corridor(s)connecting East Buttes with Scouter Mountain ridge. The rather open valley (Pleasant Valley/upper Rock Creek Valley) is sandwiched between these two highland ridges, and currently wildlife crosses freely from one to the other in an east-west direction through meadows, riparian forests, nursery lands, Christmas tree farms, orchards, berry fields, and my garden. In this valley I've seen deer, foxes (both red and gray), a bobcat, elk, coyotes galore, and there's an active cougar scratching post next to a branch of Rock Creek on my property. I've counted up to 29 bird species on my property in one day. There seems to be no plan for preserving wildlife habitat or connecting corridors in this valley. Instead the traffic will be forced to follow the ridges. Though preserving the buttes is extremely important, I feel there should also be some provision for preserving cross-valley wildlife corridors.

Stop purchasing land which can be used for high end development.

The ranking above should not be construed to mean lower priorities are not important, i.e. provision of public access. This is important, but we can't provide access unless we buy it first. Metro needs to think of the east buttes as an ecological system in which upland forests, streams, wildlife corridors, and visual open space are integrated. Your questionnaire is phrased in a way that makes these appear to be separate issues, but they are not. We either conserve a system or we conserve a few fragmented patches of habitat. Unfortunately, you did not make the bond measure large enough to conserve systems throughout the Metro area.

Preservation of natural resources should take precedent, but resources also need to be allocated for trail and trail-head development too.

Balance – i.e. I think Scouter Mountain could be opened up to housing, but keep the rock stream area open for wildlife habitat. Also, filling in the "gap" between larger Metro and land to recreate a larger block of undeveloped land makes a lot of sense.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

Perhaps some partnership with Boy Scouts? Caretakers on site now continue to offer security and maintain--Some repairs needed--potential for petting zoo? Volunteer opportunities to work with at-risk kids.
Receive funds from the lottery
What about personal and business financial donations?
Can Metro partner with businesses and corporations to preserve forest preservation? Local and national corporations give millions of dollars each year to good causes such as this.
Buy easements to stretch the dollar out.
If the City of Happy Valley can integrate their development plans to assist Metro with the necessary infrastructure, that would assist in reaching the goals.
The North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District now serves this entire area (Rock Creek canyon...between the Clackamas River and SE 172nd Avenue). They'd be a logical partner.
A partnership with the city of Gresham looking to local businesses.
Partner with North Clackamas Parks and Recreation and the City of Happy Valley to purchase Scouter's Mountain.
Metro should partner with Happy Valley and NCPRD to try to save as much of Scouters Mountain as possible.
Partnership with the other interested revenue sources: The Cities located in the area adjacent to the location: the Clackamas County government, the N. Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, the Nature Conservancy. Any potential Federal funding sources. A funding measure targeting to the voters for this specific vicinity.
Banning access to the north face of Mt Talbert is not a very good way to enhance or promote a natural habitat area. I was recently up on Mt Talbert and noticed that they had cut off access to the north side and a large trail area that enhances the size and beauty of the mountain.
The partners that I originally formed as Mayor of Happy Valley have long been forgotten at Metro, as, sadly, their original promises. We had hoped for better joint funding with Clackamas Parks, but they reprioritized their wishes via political interests elsewhere...we could have had the whole Scouters Mountain for under \$5 million back then, but was not a big enough city to carry the full load.
Metro has an opportunity to partner with the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, City of Happy Valley and Boy Scouts of America for preservation of the Scouters Mt. area.
Metro should work with the Boy Scouts of America, the City of Happy Valley and Clackamas County Recreation District to acquire 75-100 acres of Scouter's Mountain. The area is rapidly urbanizing on lands around the base of the mountain. It should be a key priority as land on and around the mountain is becoming highly desirable for housing and expensive to purchase. Other public groups would be interested in helping preserve Scouter's Mountain and the old Chief Obie Lodge on top.
Enhance and improve local neighborhood parks.
You have to forge a close working relationship with Damascus, the local watershed councils, and Gresham. Some sort of "Buttes Conservancy" should be established that helps integrate conservation programs. Metro tends to operate in its own universe too often.
Work with the Nature Conservancy and assorted land trusts if not already doing so.

5. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

Scouters Mountain needs to be saved for kids and wildlife habitat! Potential income from events that could be held there.
If and where you already have land, I support adding to it, and creating a "mass" of space to create a larger long term impact. The areas that are rapidly developing need to be addressed, so you're not trying to recreate untouched areas...specifically in Happy Valley where the development seems to be on fast forward.
No mention of trying to maintain local small farms which also assist in wildlife migration and habitat.

Please save as much of Scouter's Mountain as possible. Many deer have been displaced and killed due to the loss of habitat to the quickly developing areas surrounding it. We want to see them survive. Also, Scouter's Mountain is a wonderful place for people to enjoy light recreation. Save the lodge too! It's beautiful in itself and has a larger than life breathtaking view of Mt. Hood.

This is the last/best chance to plan a new city with a complete greenbelt - including small farms. Be creative and stretch the dollars.

I urge you to purchase all of the Scouters Mountain. Please purchase as much of the property on the north side of Mt. Talbert. It is important for the health of Mt. Scott Creek.

I am a non-resident owner of property that will be affected and have no knowledge of the other areas referenced.

More public access. Park located on Johnson Creek or Kelly Creek. Somewhere South Gresham can use.

Scouter's Mountain is a rare opportunity to purchase land in the Metro area, the Boy Scouts are willing sellers, in the hands of one owner (200 acres) and it is a pristine property right on the edge of growth. We were told the goal was to acquire 70-90 acres of this property for open space and it has been lumped in with East Buttes where it is not very distinguishable.

I wholeheartedly agree with and support the following comments regarding Scouter's Mountain: "Scouter's Mountain is the key "hub" to all the SE "green areas", and has to be preserved to insure connectivity for both human hiking activity and wildlife migration. From Scouters Mountain heading north is the wheel spoke to the Miller Creek purchase (162nd & Clatsop) already completed by Metro, which starts the connected of the riparian areas all the way down to Johnson Creek, and the Spring Water Corridor. To the NE is the power and gas line easements that make the connection to Butler Butte/Gresham. To the east/south-east is the drainage going down into Pleasant Valley and the Rock Creek Riparian system. To the South is the beginning of Sebian Creek riparian area down to the Clackamas River. To the SW is the spoke through the open spaces, that run between the developments going towards Spring Mountain. To the west is the spoke to the Wetlands behind the grade school, city park, and the Mt Scott Creek Riparian areas, including connections later down stream to the Happy Valley Nature Park, and Mt. Talbert. Another key connection that keeps getting forgotten is from the Happy Valley Nature Park on the SE of slopes Mt Scott, and once was identified as a regional significant trail corridor that crested over Idleman, just west of Mt Scott Lane, and headed into both cemeteries...the riparian area going North/NE through Willamette National Cemetery connects to the already Metro purchased Elcoa/old Girl Campfire site. This Metro site just off of SE Flavel, and 124th makes a connection via a riparian area down to the covered bridge at SE 132ND/Deardorff Road. From the cover bridge is a old wagon road that connects upstream to the Metro purchased..."Bundy Park" at the end of SE 141st. If one walks north on 141st, then one can cross Foster Road, and quickly be on the Spring Water Corridor at the base of Powell Butte. This route made the significant connection of allowing on to hike from Powell Butte to Mt Scott, then to Mt Talbert. If one was then tried of the all the ups and downs, then one could return via the flatter I-205 bike route to the Spring Water Trail, and back to the beginning. This was a very significant hike with some great views."

The Happy Valley voters supported the Metro Bond under the assumption that a portion of Scouters Mountain would be saved (70-90 acres). We hope that Metro continues to work with the Boy Scouts in conjunction with the new developer to continue with the proposed plan.

All the protected areas should not be on butte alone.

As I testified before the Metro Council when they were still located on Front Ave, and considering the "Green Spaces Program"... "We don't inherit this land from our forefathers, but we borrow it from our children, the work we do today is just one of the loan payments." In reference below...already gave a easement for a riparian zone to the city on past property that I once lived on.

Scouter's Mountain is accessible via trails and roads built for the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA land is adjacent to a pioneer cemetery that holds the remains of the founding members of the City of Happy Valley. The trails, roads and old cemetery should be maintained. The headwaters of Mitchell Creek area on the eastern flank of the mountain and this water corridor should be preserved to connect with other scenic and outdoor areas between the Eastern Buttes.

Direction and focus to acquire land for the elite is misguided and overly cost burdensome for the well to do.

You won't be able to buy enough, so a parallel effort needs to be made to work with local land trusts and private landowners who wish to continue to own and manage their land. They need to be offered technical support and incentives in exchange for progressive management practices, including selective timber harvesting and sustainable farming.

On behalf of the Native Plant Society Of Oregon, Portland Chapter, I urge you to purchase the site on Kelly Butte that contains the population of Erythronium oregana, the Oregon Fawn lily. As you may be aware, Portland once had an abundant and diverse native flora community. We now have an opportunity to save the last remnant, but significant population of the beautiful Oregon Fawn Lily. It would be a shame to lose the largest population in Portland of a Fawn Lily named after our state. This opportunity to preserve this natural treasure should not be missed.

Resolution No. 07-3853, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Deep Creek and Tributaries Target Area.

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE DEEP CREEK AND
TRIBUTARIES TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3853

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the Deep Creek and Tributaries Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Deep Creek and Tributaries Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Deep Creek and Tributaries Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
DEEP CREEK TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

The intact, steeply wooded slopes of Deep Creek canyon in eastern Damascus hold some of the largest contiguous wildlife habitat remaining in the region. The creek's sweeping alignment serves as the principal corridor connecting the Clackamas River to habitat areas within the more urbanized portions of the county. The corridor includes the Cazadero Trail that will link Gresham, Barton and public lands in the area. It will also complete the Springwater Corridor from downtown Portland to Barton.

A biological assessment conducted for this target area noted that the mainstem of Deep Creek and the North Fork of Deep Creek provide excellent habitat for fish passage and spawning. The North Fork of Deep Creek provides an essential wildlife corridor connecting the Butler Ridge and Sunshine-Tower-Zion Buttes to the Clackamas River. It has been noted that Noyer Creek has good water quality and habitat for terrestrial wildlife because of its undeveloped and contiguous forest but does not have fish passage because of a natural barrier.

Target Area Description

Deep Creek serves as the wildlife corridor connecting the Clackamas River (and the Cascades to the east) to the East Buttes area of Gresham and the urbanizing Johnson Creek watershed. The proposed Cazadero Trail route follows the North Fork of Deep Creek Canyon from Boring and Damascus to Barton.

Deep Creek and its tributaries are significant habitat for coho, spring Chinook, wild winter steelhead, migratory and resident cutthroat trout, and lamprey eel. Key natural resources of concern include threatened wild winter steelhead and coho salmon.

Besides offering significant habitat for wildlife and fish, the creek and its tributaries are also important to water quality as they enter the Clackamas River above municipal water intakes. As the name Deep Creek indicates, areas along the creek are mostly steep and forested with moderate to large Douglas fir, cedar and hardwoods. Deep Creek and its tributaries are a feature in several of Metro's Natural Areas Program target areas.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Deep Creek and Tributaries target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various government agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

A public open house to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan was held on June 25, 2007 at Boring Middle School, one of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a "virtual" open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available "online" via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. Eighteen people completed the Deep Creek and Tributaries survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

Scientific

- Deep Creek and its tributaries are divided into four distinct areas: Lower Deep Creek, Upper Deep Creek, North Fork of Deep Creek and Noyer Creek.
- Lower Deep Creek is considered the main stem of Deep Creek between the confluence with the Clackamas River to the confluence of the North Fork. It provides a significant spawning habitat for Chinook, Coho and Steelhead and is a migratory corridor to upstream tributaries.
- Upper Deep Creek extends east from the North Fork to Tickle Creek. Its habitat conditions are considered very good for fish – Upper Deep Creek produces the highest number of migrating Coho in the lower Clackamas basin.
- The side slopes of upper Deep Creek are considerably less steep and therefore have a higher threat of development and logging.
- The North Fork of Deep Creek extends north from the main stem of Deep Creek at Boring and traverses north to Boring. The North Fork is occasionally used for spawning by Coho. The North Fork suffers from serious water quality impacts from sediments and nutrients from upstream sources. A power line corridor follows the North Fork that allows for vectors of noxious weed invasions. The Cazadero Trail offers access in and along the North Fork of Deep Creek.
- Noyer Creek traverses north from lower Deep Creek to Damascus. Noyer Creek has a natural waterfall near the mouth that prevents fish passage. Noyer Creek is a steep gradient stream tributary with limited access and development potential due to steep side slopes.
- Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Blackberry and Reed Canary Grass are noxious invasive weeds found along Deep Creek and its tributaries.

Stakeholder

- Deep Creek and its tributaries is a regionally significant natural area due to its valued habitat for fish and wildlife. This area also provides an important wildlife corridor connecting the Clackamas River to the East Buttes target area.
- Current zoning and development regulations may not adequately protect natural resource lands.
- Development pressures are strongest for lower Deep Creek as it lies within the Urban Growth Boundary, is bordered by Hwy 224.
- Noyer Creek and the North Fork of Deep Creek are outside the Urban Growth Boundary, so the urban-level development pressure will only come from Measure 37 claims or future expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary. Logging within and near the creeks is a threat.
- Despite records of poor water quality, Deep Creek and its tributaries are relatively undisturbed by current development patterns. There is little urban development in the area and the density of impervious surfaces is very low. However, future urban development in the City of Damascus and in the Boring area will threaten this target area by adding impervious surfaces, increasing the volume and velocity of stormwater moving through these streams.
- Water quality in the North Fork is lower than other tributaries to the Clackamas River including Richardson Creek, Clear Creek and Eagle Creek.
- The main stem of Deep Creek has better water quality than North Fork and Noyer Creek because there is less development in the upper watershed and it has intact riparian vegetation.
- The route of the Sunrise Parkway from 172nd east through Damascus to Highway 26 could impact wildlife corridors connecting East Buttes to the Clackamas River. Acquiring land between the

North Fork and Zion Butte would help ensure wildlife corridors are preserved when the Parkway is completed.

- Wildlife including spotted owls and sensitive bat species are likely present in the Deep Creek target area. These species prefer large stands of closed canopy forests that exist along Deep Creek and its tributaries.
- Deep Creek is noted to be excellent habitat for migratory birds.

Survey Results

- 18 people completed the Deep Creek and Tributaries survey. Additional commentary was provided orally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area B* – Protect undeveloped natural areas within the canyons of the North Fork of Deep Creek to the trailhead for the Cazadero Trail in Boring to support water quality and fish habitat.
 2. *Map area A* – Protect undeveloped natural areas within the canyons of upper Deep Creek above the confluence with the North Fork to Amisigger Road to support water quality and fish.
 3. *Map area C* – Protect lands along Lower Deep Creek from the North Fork to the confluence with the Clackamas River.
 4. *Map area D* – Protect land along the unnamed tributary north of the North Fork of Deep Creek to provide wildlife habitat connectivity between Zion Butte and Deep Creek. This is also identified as a priority in the East Buttes target area.
 5. *Map area E* – Protect forested lands in the Noyer Creek canyon to support water quality.

Goals

- Preserve and protect the canyons and streams of Deep Creek that provide vital natural areas and green space for water quality, fish, and wildlife habitat.
- Protect the North Fork of Deep Creek to connect the Clackamas River to the Zion-Tower-Sunshine-Butler Ridge system of linked wildlife habitat.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Acquire land to protect forested areas in the canyons of the North Fork of Deep Creek to Boring.
- Acquire land along unnamed tributary connecting the North Fork of Deep Creek to Zion Butte.

Tier II Objectives

- Protect lands along Lower Deep Creek from the North Fork to the confluence with the Clackamas River.
- Protect undeveloped natural areas within the canyons of upper Deep Creek above the confluence with the north fork to Amisigger Rd. to support water quality.

Partnership Objective

- Pursue opportunities for leveraging regional funds and/or managing properties with Oregon State Parks, Three Rivers Land Conservancy, Damascus, Boring, Clackamas County and the Clackamas River Basin Council.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3853, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE DEEP CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the Deep Creek and Tributaries Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the Deep Creek and Tributaries target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3853.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Deep Creek Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Thomas Grey, Barton Park Ranger (Clackamas County)
Tim Shibahara, PGE
Jayne Cronlund, Three Rivers Land Conservancy
Dean Apostol, Landscape Architect
Todd Alsbury, ODFW
Andy Cotugno, Metro

Key Themes Discussed

Water Quality

- The North Fork of Deep Creek and Noyer Creek are both highly impacted by adjacent development are water quality compromised (heavily influenced by siltation from farming).
- Agricultural water withdrawals for nursery irrigation from Deep Creek affect water quality and temperature.
- Groundwater withdrawals for agricultural use within the watershed basin reduce summer water flows and levels which affects water quality and temperature of Deep Creek.
- The mainstem of Deep Creek has good water quality conditions because there is less development in the upper watershed and has intact riparian vegetation.
- Water quality in the North Fork is worse than other tributaries to the Clackamas including Richardson Creek, Clear Creek, and Eagle Creek. Much of the surrounding land uses around Deep Creek are agricultural. It is believed that the agricultural non-point source pollution attribute to the poorer water quality of the North Fork.

Wildlife Habitat

- Deep Creek is a regionally significant natural area due to its valued habitat for fish and wildlife. Deep Creek is also an important wildlife corridor connecting the Clackamas River to the East Buttes.
- The route of the Sunrise Parkway from 172nd east through Damascus to Highway 26 will be a major factor that could affect potential wildlife corridors connecting East Buttes and the Clackamas River. Acquiring land between the North Fork and Zion Butte before the planning stages would ensure future wildlife corridors.

Land Use / Urban / Rural Form

- Current Damascus and Clackamas County Zoning and development regulations may not provide sufficient protections for local natural resource lands, thus it is hard to predict if the steep wooded slopes of the Deep Creek canyon will be protected by regulations or will need to be acquired.
- The biggest threat to Deep Creek and its tributaries is development.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: DEEP CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition. Initial estimates are that a minimum of 200 acres of land would be protected within this target area.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

The intact, steeply wooded slopes of Deep Creek canyon in eastern Damascus hold some of the largest contiguous wildlife habitat remaining in the region. The creek's sweeping alignment serves as the principal corridor connecting the Clackamas River to habitat areas within the more urbanized portions of the county. The corridor includes the Cazadero Trail that will link Gresham, Barton and public lands in the area. It will also complete the Springwater Corridor from downtown Portland to Barton.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The following priorities were identified in the Deep Creek target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.**

- _____ Protecting undeveloped natural areas within the canyons of upper Deep Creek above the confluence with the North Fork to Amisigger Road to support water quality and fish. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Protecting undeveloped natural areas within the canyons of the North Fork of Deep Creek to the trailhead for the Cazadero Trail in Boring to support water quality and fish habitat. **(Map area B)**
- _____ Protecting lands along Lower Deep Creek from the North Fork to the confluence with the Clackamas River. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Protecting land along the unnamed tributary north of the North Fork of Deep Creek to provide wildlife habitat connectivity between Zion Butte and Deep Creek. This is also identified as a priority in the East Buttes target area. **(Map area D)**
- _____ Protecting forested lands in the Noyer Creek canyon to support water quality. **(Map area E)**

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Deep Creek target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

- _____ Preserving forested upland habitat for wildlife.
- _____ Preserving streams and creeks to maintain water quality.
- _____ Protecting wildlife corridors between the East Buttes and the Clackamas River.
- _____ Providing public access to natural areas for recreation and wildlife watching.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Deep Creek target area? Please be specific.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?

5. Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a conservation easement on your property?

- Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

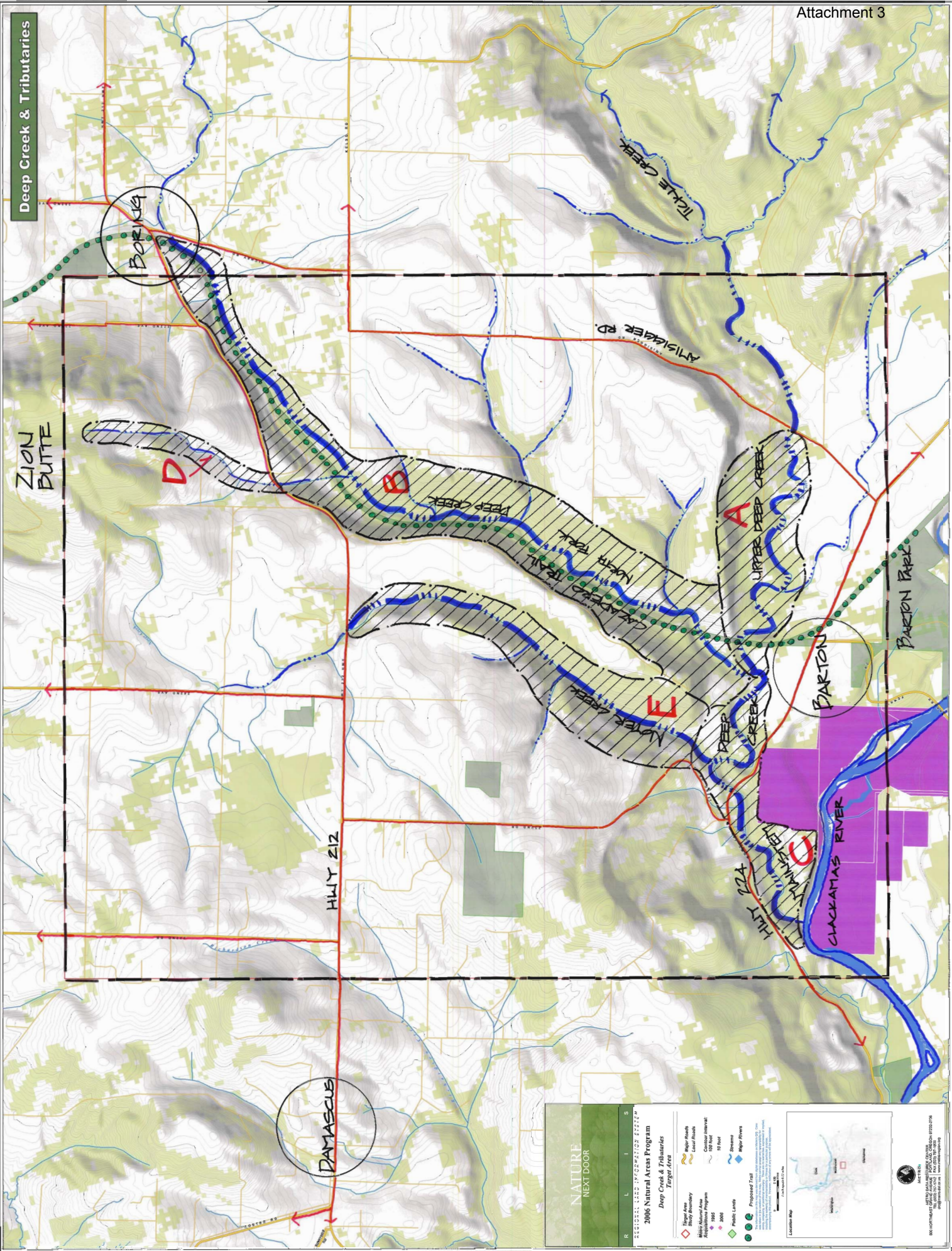
6. Do you have any other comments about this target area?

Please add my name to the Deep Creek target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741



Deep Creek & Tributaries

ZION BUTTE

BORKING

D

B

ARTISAGER RD

UPPER DEEP CREEK

A

MIDDLE DEEP CREEK

E

LOWER DEEP CREEK

BARTON

BARTON PARK

Hwy 212

Hwy 224

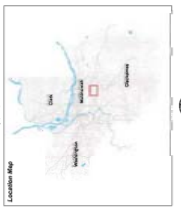
CHICKAMAAS RIVER

DAMASCUS

NATURE
NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program
Deep Creek & Tributaries
Target Area

- Stream Boundary
- Public Lands
- Proposed Trail
- Major Roads
- Major Tributaries
- Major Rivers
- Major Roads
- Major Tributaries
- Major Rivers
- Major Roads
- Major Tributaries
- Major Rivers



GALE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER
100 SOUTH BRADLEY AVENUE
DAMASCUS, GA 30039
800-368-7428
WWW.GA.GOV

Deep Creek and Tributaries Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the Deep Creek target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important				least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting undeveloped natural areas within the canyons of upper Deep Creek above the confluence with the North Fork to Amisigger Road to support water quality and fish. (Map area A)	25.0% (4)	12.5% (2)	18.8% (3)	31.3% (5)	12.5% (2)	2.94	16
Protecting undeveloped natural areas within the canyons of the North Fork of Deep Creek to the trailhead for the Cazadero Trail in Boring to support water quality and fish habitat. (Map area B)	50.0% (9)	33.3% (6)	5.6% (1)	11.1% (2)	0.0% (0)	1.78	18
Protecting lands along Lower Deep Creek from the North Fork to the confluence with the Clackamas River. (Map area C)	6.3% (1)	25.0% (4)	25.0% (4)	31.3% (5)	12.5% (2)	3.19	16
Protecting land along the unnamed tributary north of the North Fork of Deep Creek to provide wildlife habitat connectivity between Zion Butte and Deep Creek. This is also identified as a priority in the East Buttes target area. (Map area D)	18.8% (3)	18.8% (3)	6.3% (1)	6.3% (1)	50.0% (8)	3.50	16
Protecting forested lands in the Noyer Creek canyon to support water quality. (Map area E)	6.3% (1)	6.3% (1)	43.8% (7)	18.8% (3)	25.0% (4)	3.50	16
	<i>answered question</i>						18
	<i>skipped question</i>						0

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Deep Creek target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Preserving forested upland habitat for wildlife.	6.3% (1)	31.3% (5)	31.3% (5)	31.3% (5)	2.88	16
Preserving streams and creeks to maintain water quality.	31.3% (5)	12.5% (2)	50.0% (8)	6.3% (1)	2.31	16
Protecting wildlife corridors between the East Buttes and the Clackamas River.	37.5% (6)	43.8% (7)	12.5% (2)	6.3% (1)	1.88	16
Providing public access to natural areas for recreation and wildlife watching.	25.0% (4)	12.5% (2)	6.3% (1)	56.3% (9)	2.94	16
	<i>answered question</i>					16
	<i>skipped question</i>					2

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Deep Creek and Tributaries target area? Please be specific.

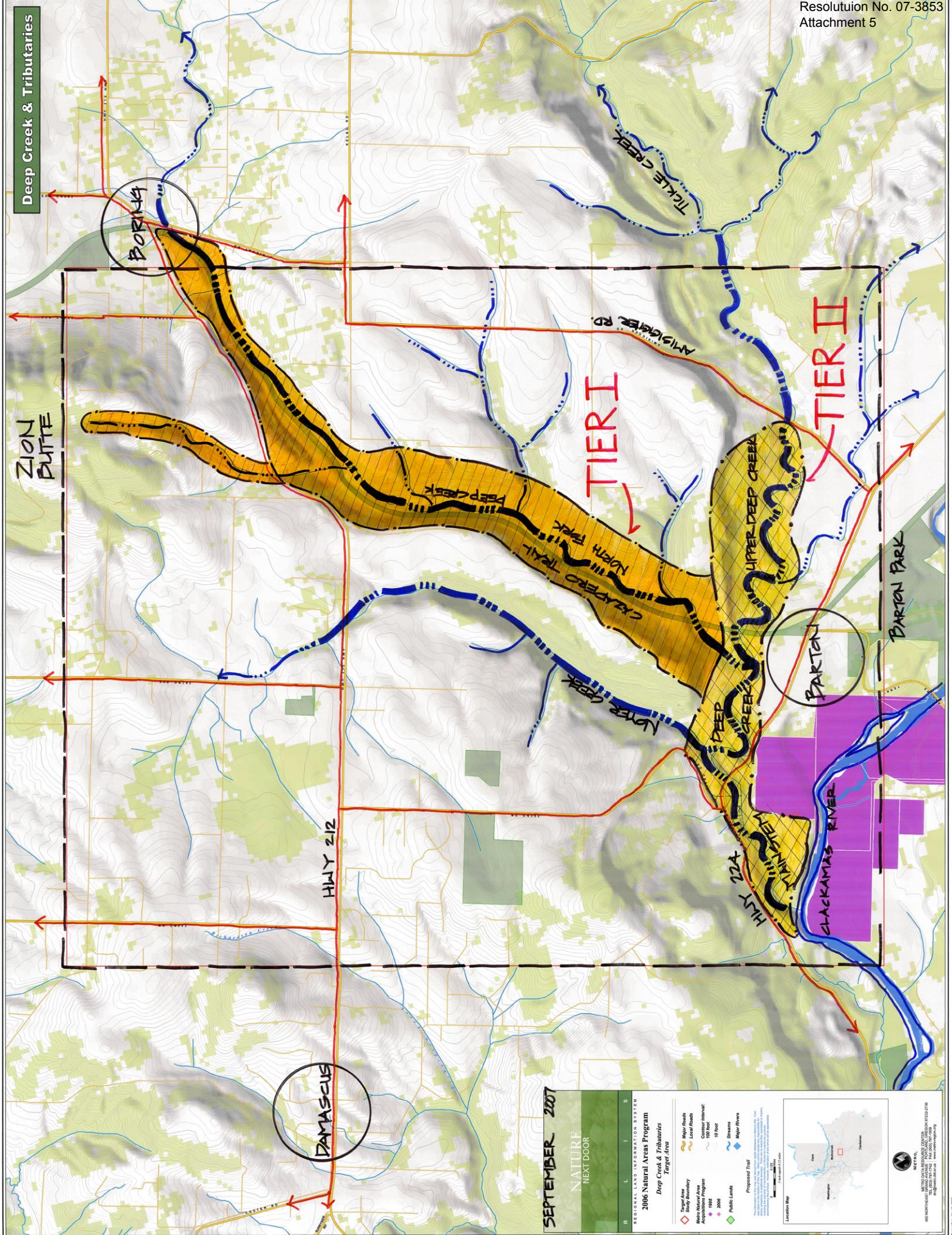
If trails are developed--no pavement! Keep natural as possible--equestrian usage high priority! Keep pavement near urban centers only where higher population is.
Purchase from willing sellers; use conservation easements when cannot buy; leverage funds with conservation districts and private business and non-profits.
Protect greenspace between Boring and Damascus.
Maintaining green corridors between cities so that wildlife can migrate and individual cities can control their surroundings.
You need to preserve forested upland habitat for wildlife to preserve streams and creeks to maintain water quality.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

Partnership-Oregon Equestrian Trails-Volunteer labor for trail development and maintenance - security patrols.
Can the Salvation Army camp qualify for grants that METRO cannot?
Local CPO's in unincorporated areas.
Partner with State Parks, Boring CPO, and Clackamas County.
Personal and business donations.

5. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

Biggest concern protection of wildlife. Leaving area as natural as possible - As more development comes wildlife are under more pressure to move to this area.
Although it is not specifically mentioned, Area B is a top priority to me because of the potential for Cazadero Trail between Boring and Barton.
Local farms should be considered in the "big" picture of protection since they also provide wildlife areas.
Think and act big.



Deep Creek & Tributaries

ZION BUTTE

BORING

TIER I

TIER II

HWY 212

HWY 224

DAMASCUS

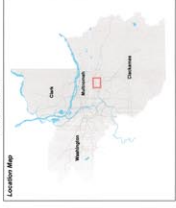
BARTON PARK

SEPTEMBER 2007

NATURE
NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program
Deep Creek & Tributaries
Target Area

- Target Area Boundary
- Major Road
- Local Road
- County Interval
- Proposed Interval
- 10 Foot
- 50 Foot
- 100 Foot
- Public Lands
- Proposed Trail
- Major Stream



Clackamas County
METRO
1000 NORTHVALE DRIVE SUITE 200
CLACKAMAS, OREGON 97015-2278
PH: 503.655.3333
WWW.CLACKAMASCOUNTY.ORG

Agenda Item Number 4.10

Resolution No. 07-3854, Approving the Natural Areas Acquisition
Refinement Plan for the Cazadero Trail Target Area.

Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE CAZADERO TRAIL
TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3854

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the Cazadero Trail Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Cazadero Trail Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Cazadero Trail Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2007.

David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
CAZADERO TRAIL TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

This forested 4-mile corridor located between Boring and Barton Park runs along the north fork of Deep Creek and follows an historic rail line used to ship timber from Cascade forests to the Portland riverfront. Enhancement of the corridor for trail use will connect campgrounds, future interurban trails, and Portland (via the Springwater Corridor) to Mt. Hood and the Pacific Crest Trail.

The primary focus within this target area is acquisition of the remaining right of way necessary to develop the trail.

Target Area Description

The proposed Cazadero Trail route follows the historic Oregon Water Power and Railway Co. rail line which connected Portland to Cazadero two miles upriver from Estacada. The trail alignment drops into Deep Creek Canyon from the northeast in Boring and extends the Springwater Corridor from downtown Portland to Barton. The creek alignment serves as the principal corridor connecting the Clackamas River to habitat in the Johnson Creek watershed.

The 4-mile corridor is owned by Oregon State Parks – little to no acquisition is anticipated for right of way within this target area. In the future, the Cazadero Trail could extend beyond Barton through Eagle Creek, Estacada, the Faraday, Cazadero and Promontory Park areas on up the Clackamas River corridor eventually connecting to Mt. Hood and the Pacific Crest Trail.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Cazadero Trail target area, analyzed maps and conducted field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various government agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

A public open house to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan was held on June 25, 2007 at Boring Middle School, one of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a “virtual” open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available “online” via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. Thirty-one people completed the Cazadero Trail survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

Stakeholder Findings

- The Cazadero Trail alignment is a 4-mile corridor that runs through a forested ravine along the north fork of Deep Creek between Boring and Hwy 224/ Barton Park.
- The trail corridor is an abandoned rail bed that was used to ship timber from the Cascades to the Portland riverfront. A streetcar line also ran in the corridor.

- The 4-mile corridor is publicly owned (Oregon State Parks) – little acquisition is required.
- The trail will be an extension of the Springwater Corridor connecting Portland, Gresham, Boring, Estacada and the Mt. Hood National Forest Trails and Pacific Crest Trail.
- The trail follows a PGE power line corridor. PGE maintenance vehicles will continue to have access to the corridor.
- There are conceptual plans for a park in downtown Boring on the north side of Hwy 212 which would also serve as a trailhead.
- The trail bisects a private youth camp at a remote section of their property. The camp is concerned with bringing the public in the vicinity of the “at-risk” youth camp users. Camp officials would prefer the trail be re-routed around their property, however, re-routing the trail in this section would require a bridge to be built across Deep Creek, significantly increasing the cost of designing and constructing the trail.
- If the trail remains in the existing corridor bisecting the camp, two future creek crossings will be needed and some land acquisition may be needed to accommodate switchback trails.
- Barton Park (owned and operated by Clackamas County Parks) plans on developing a horse camp/equestrian facility on the north end of the park which could also provide parking for trail use.
- The Cazadero Trail offers access to nature in the Deep Creek target area. The trail is adjacent to the North Fork of Deep Creek, which is a regionally significant natural area due to its valued habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Deep Creek is a potentially important wildlife corridor connecting the Clackamas River to the East Buttes, but limited by high wildlife mortality in crossing Hwy 212.

Scientific Findings

- Wildlife, including spotted owls and sensitive bat species, are likely present along the Cazadero Trail corridor. These species prefer large stands of closed canopy forests that exist along the North Fork of Deep Creek.
- The trail corridor and the North Fork of Deep Creek are noted to be excellent habitat for migratory birds.
- North Fork of Deep Creek provides suitable habitat for spawning steelhead.
- A power line corridor follows the North Fork that serves as a conduit for movement of noxious weed invasions including Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan blackberry and reed-canary grass.

Public Input Findings

- The public’s highest priority for the Cazadero target area was to preserve forested corridors to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.

Survey Results

- 31 people completed the Cazadero Trail survey. Additional commentary was provided verbally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area B* – Acquire additional lands between Barton Park and Hwy. 224 for a regional trailhead.
 2. *Map area A* – Acquire additional lands in Boring on the south side of Hwy. 212 for a regional trailhead.

Goal

- Acquire lands necessary to complete the Cazadero Trail between Boring and Barton Park.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Acquire property in Boring to establish a trailhead and provide additional parking on the south side of Hwy 212.
- Acquire land necessary to connect trails via trestles over the creek.

Tier II Objectives

- If the trail must be re-routed acquire land and/or easements in the area to the northwest, west and south of the camp.
- Acquire property just south of Hwy 224 (north of Barton Park) to establish a southern trail head outside of Barton Park.

Partnership Objective

Pursue partnership opportunities with Oregon State Parks and possibly PGE to leverage regional bond dollars for trail construction funds.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3854, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE CAZADERO TRAIL TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the Cazadero Trail Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the Cazadero Trail target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3854.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Cazadero Trail Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

M G Devereux, Oregon State Parks and Recreation Dept.
Rocky Houston, Oregon State Parks and Recreation Dept.
Hayden Lewis, Salvation Army Camp Kuratli
Colonel Kyle, Salvation Army Representative
Mathew Hampton, Boring Resident
Dean Apostle, Boring Resident
Mike Mclees, Clackamas County
Thomas Grey, Barton Park
Jayne Cronlund, Three Rivers Land Conservancy
Tim Shibihara, PGE Scientist
Mike Livingston, PGE – Property Services Manager
Arthur Krueger, PGE – Property Agent

Key Themes Discussed

Background Information

- The 4 mile corridor is publicly owned (Oregon State Parks) – little to no acquisition would be required, unless the trail is re-routed to the west side of the Salvation Army Camp.
- The trail corridor follows a historic rail line that used to ship timber from the Cascades to the Portland riverfront.
- The trail follows a PGE power line corridor.

Environmental Considerations

- The North Fork of Deep Creek is a regionally significant natural area due to its valued habitat for fish and wildlife.
- The trail corridor runs along the north fork of Deep Creek, which has a well-established tree canopy, which creates excellent fish and wildlife habitat.
- Spotted owls have been heard within the canyons of the North Fork of Deep Creek. It's believed to be hunting grounds for owls coming from Mt. Hood National Forest.

Wildlife corridor between East Buttes and the Clackamas River

- The trail corridor follows the North Fork of Deep Creek which is an important wildlife corridor connecting the Clackamas River to the East Buttes. The sunshine corridor, future highway connecting I-205 to Hwy 26, will pose a threat to the wildlife link unless property is secured.

Trail linkages and public access

- The trail will be an extension of the Springwater Corridor connecting Portland, Gresham, and Boring to Estacada and the Pacific Crest Trail.
- Look for opportunities for connections to future trails along the Clackamas Bluffs.

- The Cazadero Trail offers access to nature in the Deep Creek target area. The trail is adjacent to the North Fork of Deep Creek.
- Barton Park plans on developing a horse camp on the north end of the park, which would provide parking for trial use. There are day-use fees for Barton Park during peak season.
- The proposed Tickle Creek Trail will connect the Cazadero Trail to the city of Sandy.

Land Use

- The Trail follows intact forested ravine of the North Fork of Deep Creek. The steep ravine provides difficulty for development. Much of the property could be considered undevelopable.
- Much of the surrounding land uses around the Cazadero Trail are agricultural. It is believed that the agricultural non-point source pollution attribute to the poorer water quality of the North Fork of Deep Creek.
- There are industrial uses at the north end of the trail (near Hwy. 212) that are not only unsightly and not compatible with trail use, but also pose a threat to water quality.
- Most of the corridor consists of small undeveloped forested parcels that could be developed as land value and density increases in the future.
- Erosion and water spillage problems have caused part of the trail to be blown out.

Miscellaneous Comments

- There are conceptual plans for a park in downtown Boring on the north side of Hwy 212 which would also be a trailhead.
- There are two large creek crossings at the southern end of the trail that will require significant construction funds and possible land acquisition to cross at a more ideal location.
- The trail bisects the Salvation Army youth camp at a remote section of their property.
- The Salvation Army is concerned with bringing people through their site, bringing the public in the vicinity of the “at-risk” youth camp users.
- The Salvation Army would prefer the trail be re-routed around their property.
- If the trail remains in the existing corridor through the camp, additional land may be needed for switchback trails at the location of two future trestles at the creek crossings. Two new trestles would need to be built.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: CAZADERO TRAIL

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

This forested 4-mile corridor located between Boring and Barton Park runs along the north fork of Deep Creek and follows an historic rail line used to ship timber from Cascade forests to the Portland riverfront. Enhancement of the corridor for trail use will connect campgrounds, future interurban trails, and Portland (via the Springwater Corridor) to Mt. Hood and the Pacific Crest Trail.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The Metro Council's goal is to secure the entire Cazadero Trail corridor for use as a regional trail. The following priorities have been identified in the Cazadero Trail target area. Rank in order of importance to you with 1 being the most important.**

_____ Acquiring additional lands in Boring on the south side of Hwy. 212 for a regional trailhead.
(Map area A)

_____ Acquiring additional lands between Barton Park and Hwy. 224 for a regional trailhead.
(Map area B)

- 2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Cazadero Trail target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.**

_____ Preserving forested corridors to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.

_____ Preserving scenic views along the trail.

_____ Creating buffers between private property owners and the trail corridor.

_____ Providing access to the trail for people at trailhead locations.

**3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Cazadero Trail target area?
Please be specific.**

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?

5. Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a trail or conservation easement on your property?

Yes No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

6. Do you have any other comments about this target area?

Please add my name to the Cazadero Trail target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

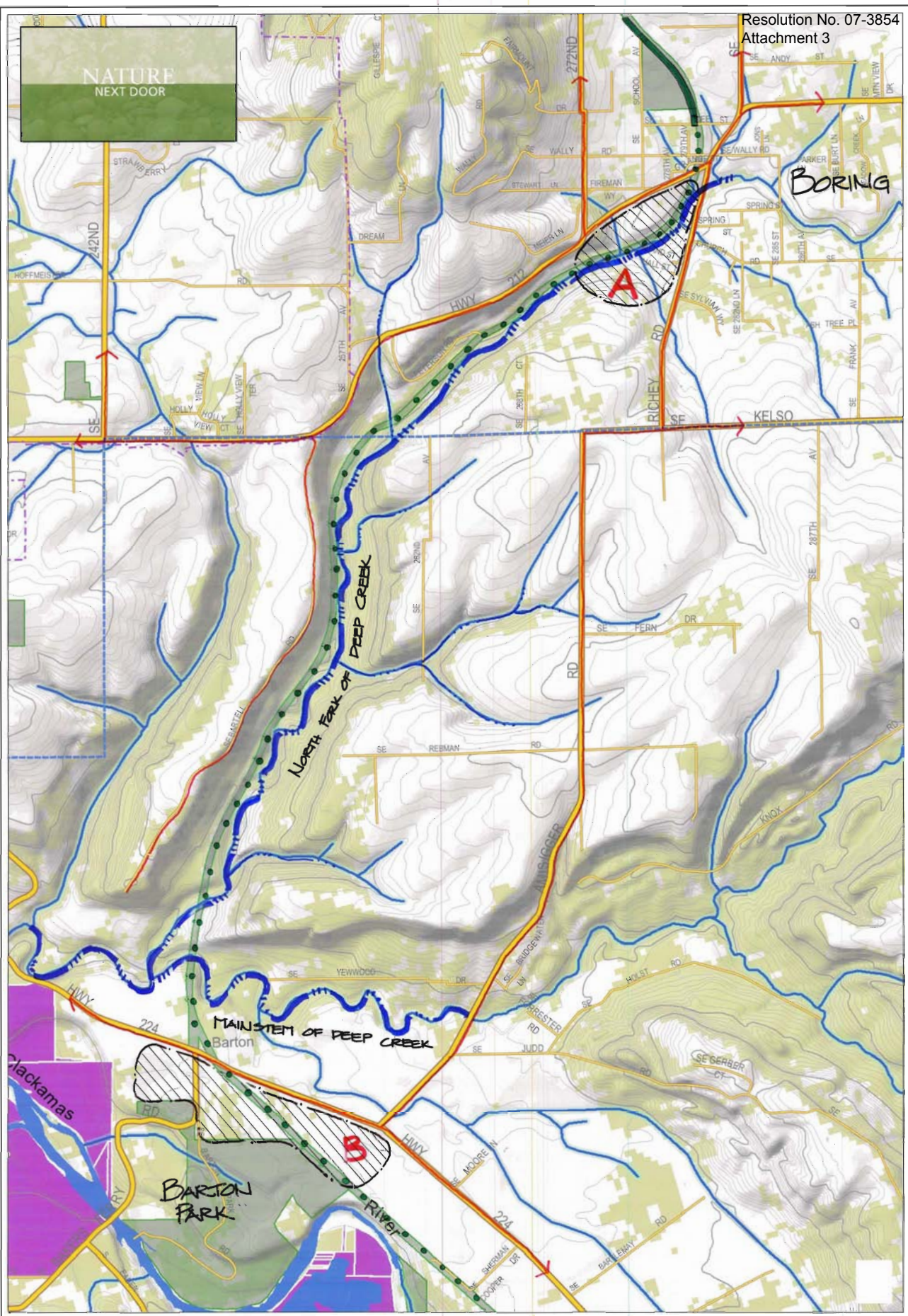
Phone _____

E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741

NATURE
NEXT DOOR

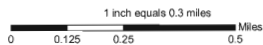


Cazadero Trail

Boring to Barton Park



Parks and Open Space
600 Northeast Grand Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-2736
TEL (503) 797-1742
www.metro-region.org



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Metro Natural Area Acquisitions Program

- ◆ 1995
- ◆ 2006

- Proposed Water Trail
- Proposed Greenway Corridor
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Public Lands
- Contour Interval: 100 foot
- 10 foot
- Streams
- Major Rivers

Cazadero Trail Survey Results

1. The Metro Council's goal is to secure the entire Cazadero Trail corridor for use as a regional trail. The following priorities have been identified in the Cazadero Trail target area. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important	least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Acquiring additional lands in Boring on the south side of Hwy. 212 for a regional trailhead. (Map area A)	48.3% (14)	51.7% (15)	1.52	29
Acquiring additional lands between Barton Park and Hwy. 224 for a regional trailhead. (Map area B)	57.1% (16)	42.9% (12)	1.43	28
	<i>answered question</i>			30
	<i>skipped question</i>			1

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Cazadero Trail target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Preserving forested corridors to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.	41.4% (12)	31.0% (9)	10.3% (3)	17.2% (5)	2.03	29
Preserving scenic views along the trail.	10.3% (3)	34.5% (10)	31.0% (9)	24.1% (7)	2.69	29
Creating buffers between private property owners and the trail corridor.	20.7% (6)	17.2% (5)	31.0% (9)	31.0% (9)	2.72	29
Providing access to the trail for people at trailhead locations.	30.0% (9)	16.7% (5)	26.7% (8)	26.7% (8)	2.50	30
	<i>answered question</i>					30
	<i>skipped question</i>					1

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Cazadero Trail target area? Please be specific.

Creating multiuse trails that include equestrian access. Connecting from Boring to Barton Park, where the County is going to build a horse camp, from there to McIver, and onward to PCT. This would be a truly wonderful way to enjoy the area and provide for future generations.
Map area B -- relative to Barton Park enhance park experience -- opportunities for parking and camping -- equestrian trail-head -- Tourism -- Estacada
Safe crossing of highways 212 and 224. (Underpass like Springwater trail at 242nd?)
Coordinate with grass roots Boring Parks and OPO efforts, listen to them
I would like to see the trail appropriate for bicycle use- accessing Hwy 225 to the Springwater trail- not paved, but rideable
Dealing with closeness the trail passes the trestle glen camp (youth); protecting the camp attendees
Make sure there will be adequate security along the trail for the property owners who border the railroad and no smoking in the canyon!
Design the trail so as to minimize conflicts between users (cyclists, walkers, etc.)

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

Yes, I do. There are many active equestrian groups in the area. Oregon Equestrian Trails is a statewide group that works with agencies to build and maintain horse camps and trail. The North Valley Chapter has stepped forward to help build the Barton Park Horse Camp and trails. Currently they work with the PCT trail system and McIver. They can be counted on for volunteer work and design expertise.
Rails to trails conversions.
Clackamas River Basin Council could help plan: interpretive signs relating to watershed health riparian enhancement and restoration fish habitat improvements all related to similar projects up and downstream of the Cazadero Trail.
Work with the interested individuals and organizations, public, private, business, governmental, conservation districts, non-profits.
We would like some advice on proceeding with a Master Plan for the Boring Trail Head.
Clackamas County Parks
State Parks acquisition and development \$
Definitely, a partnership with county and then the state who owns the property. Bike alliance groups.
Equestrian groups in the area would be natural allies; they have expressed interest and support.
Leverage the dollar given to the Salvation Army recently by a benefactor who wants to increase public health to build a bike/ped destination resort so people from out of the county could fly to PDX and get on a bike and the 26 miles to the Trestle Glen (currently owned by the Salvation Army) and stay at this wonderful regional asset that was sold from the tax payers.
Make private property closest to the trail safe and secure for public use.

5. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

In November you came to the Clackamas PAB meeting outlining your future plans. Which by the way was really super. As a member of the board I look for features that include multiuse and access. Are you planning any handicap access to your plans? Additionally, buying the property that is next to Barton Park that backs up to the Barton store. I believe it was logged and the owner passed away and the heirs may want to sell. I know it would enhance the system and the County is looking at it as well.

Leave as natural as possible--no pavement!

Both trailheads are important but Clackamas Co has enough land at Boring. More would be ideal as better way to handle parking but Barton is critical.

I think you should get a little more historical research on the name and the line. a. some of your info claims timber on the rail line, some "commuter line" use, and some tourism (how much of each, and what else? Springwater farmers' products to Portland?) b. for P.R. reasons, clarify the names: how do Springwater Line and Cazadero relate? I know that a road went between the Springwater community and the Cazadero site, perhaps before a bridge crossed the Clackamas at what was to become Estacada

Very Important.

I think adding this trail to the network of trails will add to the recreational possibilities of this area of Clackamas County outside the UGB.

Purchase the 5 acre parcel next to me that may not be able to be sold for environmental reasons- clean it up- use the house area for riders on the trail- put in a picnic area and portapotties. Much prettier there than out at Hwy 212- possible trailhead station?

This would be a fabulous continuation of the Springwater Trail.

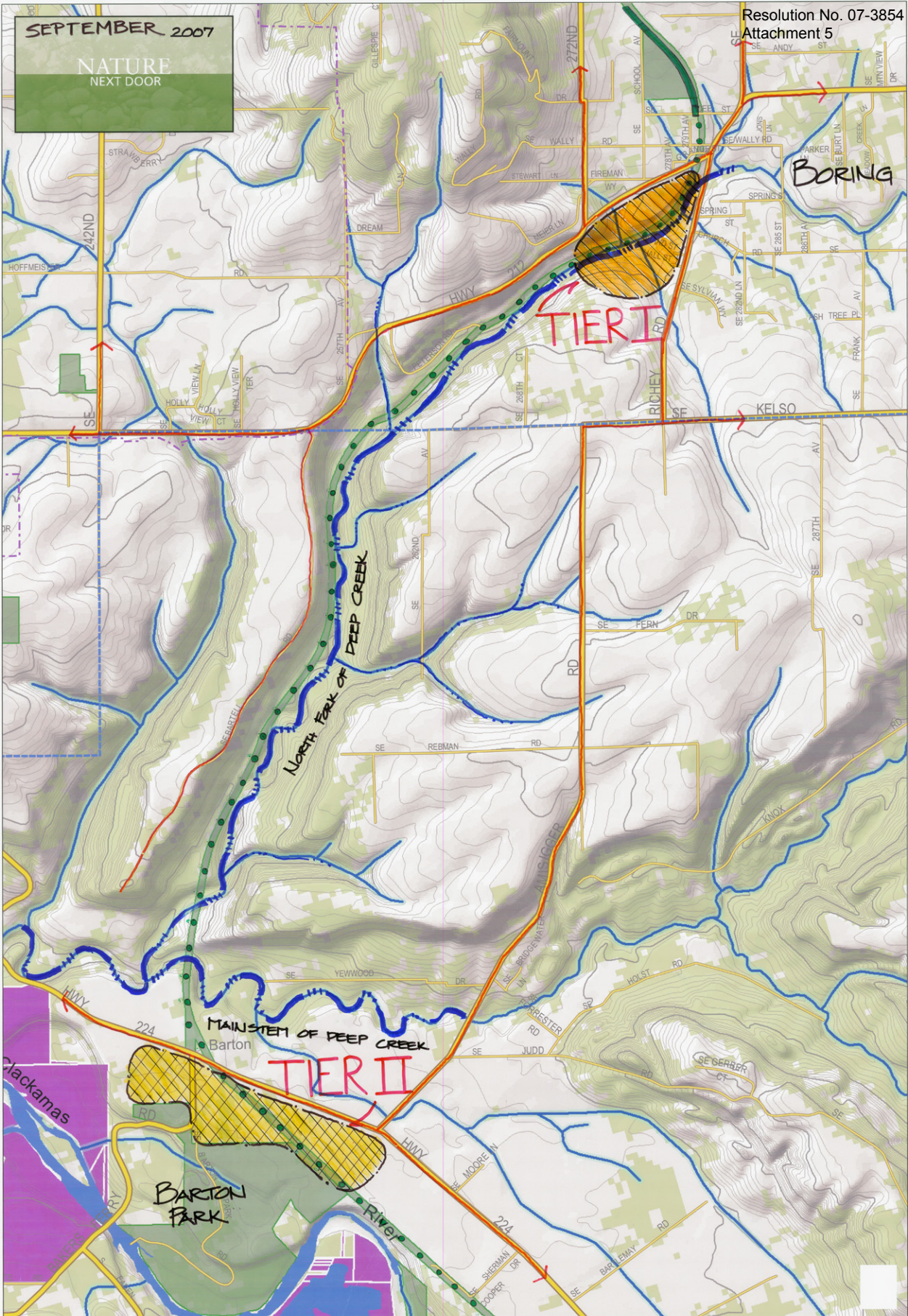
Salmon bearing stream and spotted owl hunting grounds (intact corridor from Mt. Hood National forest down trickle Creek to N. Fork Deep Creek) + Talus Caves (most unique geography in the region) = The most prime habitat to preserve un the region (look at all the overlap in the Tarsset Ovens) Do something big! Exceptional! Buy all of the Clackamas County bluffs and canyon!

Keep private property safe from public use.

SEPTEMBER 2007

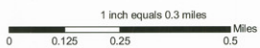
NATURE
NEXT DOOR

Resolution No. 07-3854
Attachment 5



Cazadero Trail

Boring to Barton Park



Parks and Open Space
600 Northeast Grand Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-2736
TEL (503) 797-1742
www.metro-region.org

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Metro Natural Area Acquisitions Program

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- ◆ 2006

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