

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE ROCK CREEK
HEADWATERS AND GREENWAY TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3834

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 Rock Creek Headwaters 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

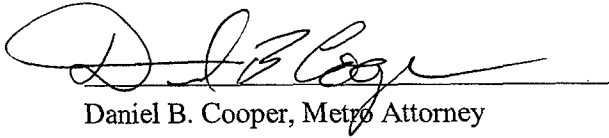
BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Rock Creek Headwaters 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 6th day of September 2007.

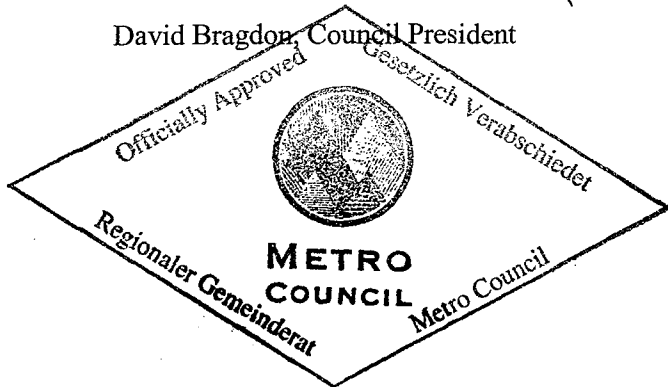


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
ROCK CREEK HEADWATERS AND GREENWAY TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The 1995 refinement plan goals for Rock Creek included acquisition of 300 acres along the greenway, acquiring key upland sites along Rock Creek's floodplain and tributaries, and creating a regional natural area at the confluence of Rock Creek and Holcomb Creek. A total of 116.5 acres were protected with 1995 bond funds. This was a challenging target area, and the focus on the lower creek within the UGB limited some opportunities. Rock Creek is a critical area for wildlife and water quality and the addition of the headwaters to this target area creates new opportunities. While the 1995 bond measure focused on acquisitions along Rock Creek within the UGB, the 2006 measure has a stronger focus on protection of headwater areas.

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

A major tributary of the Tualatin River, upper Rock Creek and its tributaries are under intense development pressure as urban growth expands throughout the watershed. Watershed managers have identified protection of the upper watershed as a high priority for meeting water quality protection goals in the lower watershed. Opportunities to improve and protect habitat also exist through the protection of key tributaries and their associated wetlands. In addition, the protection of key undeveloped sites in the lower reaches of Rock Creek, particularly in Hillsboro, will buffer growth, protect water quality and provide nature in neighborhoods for local residents.

A biological assessment for this target area indicates that oak woodlands and oak savanna habitat support varied wildlife, and expanding the protected natural areas would increase habitat opportunities for vulnerable species such as red-legged frogs, Western bluebirds and northwestern pond turtles. In addition, threatened species such as steelhead, cutthroat trout and coho salmon are present in Rock, Abbey, Holcomb, Bannister and Bronson creeks, as well as in an Abbey Creek tributary.

Target Area Description

Rock Creek flows from the Tualatin Mountains to the Tualatin River. The headwaters hold key areas of undeveloped land which provides linkages for wildlife. These areas also contribute to water quality. Because the creek and its tributaries pass through rapidly urbanizing neighborhoods within the city of Hillsboro, protecting water quality is a priority. Metro has acquired 11 parcels of land, six of which are contiguous, along Rock Creek. The city of Hillsboro and the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District (THPRD) are managing most of the land. Tualatin Hills Nature Park surrounds one 22-acre site on three sides. It was acquired jointly by THPRD and Metro.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Rock Creek target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. In addition, a biological assessment was performed for this target area by SWCA Environmental Consultants. 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 12, 2007 at the Portland Community College Rock Creek Event 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 area surveys were submitted either in person or online. Twenty-six people completed the Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. There are two maps associated with the questionnaire for this target area, and they are included as Attachment 3. Complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

- Rock Creek is a major tributary of the Tualatin River. The headwaters of Rock Creek and its tributaries have been targeted for acquisition due to intense development pressure as urban growth expands throughout the watershed. Watershed managers have identified protection of the headwater areas as a high priority for meeting water quality protection goals in the lower watershed and also to improve and protect wildlife habitat.
- The headwaters of Rock Creek originate on the west side of the Tualatin Mountains southwest of NW Skyline Boulevard and Forest Park. Numerous tributary streams flow through woodlands and agricultural lands before crossing into the urbanized area near West Union and Springville Roads.
- The watershed for Rock Creek includes in excess of 18,000 acres and numerous tributary streams. Major tributary streams include Abbey, Bronson, Holcomb and Beaverton Creeks.
- Established science continues to show the key importance of intact headwaters for water quality and quantity protection, habitat and maintenance of overall watershed health.
- The science report notes that the area’s oak woodlands and oak savanna habitat support varied wildlife, and expanding the protected natural areas would increase habitat opportunities for vulnerable species such as red-legged frogs, Western bluebirds and northwestern pond turtles. In addition, threatened species such as steelhead, cutthroat trout and coho salmon are present in Rock, Abbey, Holcomb and Bannister and Bronson creeks.
- Stakeholders identified protection of east/west wildlife corridors as just as important as north/south corridors.
- Multnomah County and Washington County do not regulate farm or forest practices (such as timber harvest) in the farm and forest zones. There are minimal regulations in place to protect upland habitat.
- Urbanization pressures are stronger in the Washington County portion of the target area than in Multnomah County, primarily because of differences in topography and availability of urban infrastructure. Washington County is currently preparing the *North Bethany Concept Plan* for approximately 800-acres that have been included within the Urban Growth Boundary. The North Bethany planning area sits at a unique location relative to local and regionally significant resource areas. Washington County is very interested in coordinating infrastructure plans for North Bethany with Metro’s refinement plans for the Rock Creek target area.
- Some stakeholders would like to see Metro focus on purchase of open spaces closer to the Urban Growth Boundary to help provide a natural edge between urban and rural areas.
- A substantial base of protected lands has been secured along the Rock Creek Greenway inside the Urban Growth Boundary, although there are some gaps in public ownership.

- Twenty-six people responded to surveys about Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway. 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* – Preserving lands along the creeks and the adjacent upland forest habitat in the Abbey Creek and Bronson Creek headwater areas
 2. *Map area C* – Connecting the Rock Creek confluence area to Forest Park along the main stem of Abbey Creek to provide wildlife travel corridors.
 3. *Map area B* – Expanding the protected natural area near the confluence of Holcomb Creek and Rock Creek to provide greater habitat for vulnerable species.
 4. *Map area D* – Protecting remaining gaps in public ownership along Rock Creek between Highway 26 and the Tualatin River.

Goals

- Protect the upper watershed to meet water quality protection goals in the lower watershed.
- Protect key undeveloped sites in the lower reaches of Rock Creek to buffer growth, protect water quality and provide nature in neighborhoods.
- Protect habitat along key tributaries and associated wetlands.

Objectives

Two target area maps showing the tiered objectives described below are included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Acquire and protect the riparian corridors and important upland habitat in the Abbey Creek headwaters.
- Acquire and protect a natural corridor along the main stem of Abbey Creek linking its confluence at Rock Creek to the Westside Trail and to Forest Park.
- Acquire the remaining gaps in public ownership along the Rock Creek Greenway between Highway 26 and the Tualatin River.

Tier II Objective

- Expand the protected natural area near the confluence of Holcomb Creek and Rock Creek to provide greater habitat for vulnerable species.

Partnership Objective

- Pursue partnership opportunities with Washington County, the City of Hillsboro, Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District, Clean Water Services (CWS), PCC-Rock Creek and Three Rivers Land Conservancy to meet protection goals in the Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway target area.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3834, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE ROCK CREEK HEADWATERS AND GREENWAY TARGET AREA

Date: September 6, 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 Rock Creek Headwaters 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 6, 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 Rock Creek Headwaters 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. 07-3834.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Joint Meeting of Forest Park & Skyline Neighborhood Associations
Tualatin Riverkeepers Advisory Committee
Mary Ordal, Hillsboro Parks Department
Andrea Vannelli & Aisha Willits, Washington County Planning
Robin Craig, Greenworks (Westside Trail)
Regional Stakeholder Group (Portland Audubon, Clean Water Services, Three Rivers Land Conservancy)
Chuck Beasley, Multnomah County Planning
Greg Malinowski, Organic Farmer
Dave Vanasche, Washington County Farm Bureau

Key Themes Discussed:

Water Quality

- For greatest water quality benefit – focus on protection of headwater areas at highest elevations in the watershed
- 1995 bond measure focused on acquisitions in the lower Rock Creek watershed; growing recognition that protection of headwaters might result in greater water quality benefits
- Focus on opportunities to buy land adjacent to the floodplain
- Abbey Creek mentioned as an important headwater creek (link to Forest Park and Rock Creek); could also potentially form an “edge” for urban expansion
- Planners are focusing on streams as the key amenity in the North Bethany concept planning
- CWS and Multnomah County Soil & Water Conservation District are working with farmers (on a voluntary basis) to make improvements such as fencing and planting trees along streams to benefit water quality

Wildlife Habitat

- Importance of wildlife corridors – open areas down-slope of Forest Park into the Tualatin Valley are very important for wildlife (sunnier, open fields, more available food and water)
- East/west wildlife corridors (Forest Park to Tualatin Valley) are just as important as north/south corridors (Forest Park to Coast Range)
- Unique clusters of white oak should be mapped – disappearing habitat in the region
- Minimal regulations to protect upland habitat – more and more areas are being harvested near Rock Creek & tributaries
- Rural areas zoned for farm & forestry might not be at risk for urbanization; however, farm and forest practices (including timber harvest) are allowed
- Abbey Creek mentioned as an important creek/riparian area
- Potential conflicts between wildlife and people using trails

Land Use / Urban/Rural Form

- Important to connect Forest Park to urban areas with “ribbons of green” – important for wildlife corridors, water quality and livability
- Build on wetland/creek confluence near PCC/Rock Creek – opportunity for a “natural edge” between urban and rural areas; Hillsboro and Washington County planners support a larger “regional” scale park farther up in the watershed, but accessible to the urban population
- Focus on linkage of Rock Creek Headwaters, Forest Park and Westside Trail regional target areas
- Look at opportunities to acquire open space nodes around the Westside Trail corridor
- Urbanization pressures going north & west of the existing UGB (Washington County and Hillsboro); less urbanization pressure in Multnomah County – West Hills Plan emphasis on keeping the area rural, topography is challenging and infrastructure is limited
- Consider mutual benefits of protecting open space and providing buffers for small farm operations in proximity to urban areas
- Metro program is focused on natural area functions – could serve a complimentary role to low impact agricultural practices, particularly those that supply local food markets

Miscellaneous Comments

- Different levels of protection/dedication of floodplain inside and outside of the UGB; Clean Water Services “buffer” requirements don’t apply in the rural areas
- Rock Creek Greenway and trail is a very important amenity for the City of Hillsboro and Washington County – accessible to many employers and higher density neighborhoods
- Strong support for expansion and connection of trails (partner with THPRD, City, County)
- North Bethany concept plan includes potential road and sewer connections across or along creeks (Rock & Abbey). Can infrastructure issues be coordinated with Metro acquisitions?
- Washington County would like to see Metro focus purchase of open spaces closer to the UGB; don’t consider upper headwaters of Rock Creek in Multnomah County at risk of urbanization
- Washington County Farm Bureau supports open space acquisitions near areas of urban expansion instead of more remote locations
- Westside Trail is not designated in the Multnomah County rural plan - Issues associated with public access & trails through rural/resource zones can be complicated

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: ROCK CREEK HEADWATERS 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 190 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

A major tributary of the Tualatin River, upper Rock Creek and its tributaries are under intense development pressure as urban growth expands throughout the watershed. Watershed managers have identified protection of the upper watershed as a high priority for meeting water quality protection goals in the lower watershed. Opportunities to improve and protect habitat also exist through the protection of key tributaries and their associated wetlands. In addition, the protection of key undeveloped sites in the lower reaches of Rock Creek, particularly in Hillsboro, will buffer growth, protect water quality and provide nature in neighborhoods for local residents.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The following priorities were identified in the Rock Creek Headwaters 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.**

- _____ Preserving lands along the creeks and the adjacent upland forest habitat in the Abbey Creek and Bronson Creek headwater areas. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Expanding the protected natural area near the confluence of Holcomb Creek and Rock Creek to provide greater habitat for vulnerable species. **(Map area B)**
- _____ Connecting the Rock Creek confluence area to Forest Park along the main stem of Abbey Creek to provide wildlife travel corridors. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Protecting remaining gaps in public ownership along Rock Creek between Highway 26 and the Tualatin River. **(Map area D)**

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway 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 remnant scattered oak woodlands and oak savanna habitat in the general area east of Cornelius Pass, between Springville and Germantown Roads.
- _____ Preserving habitat areas for sensitive species, including steelhead, red-legged frogs, pond turtles and bluebirds.
- _____ Preserving headwater areas, riparian areas and wetlands to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.
- _____ Protecting natural areas and corridors from the confluence of Rock Creek and the Tualatin River into Forest Park to benefit water quality, wildlife habitat and for future trail connections.
- _____ Providing a natural buffer between urban development and rural areas.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Rock Creek Headwaters 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 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 Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

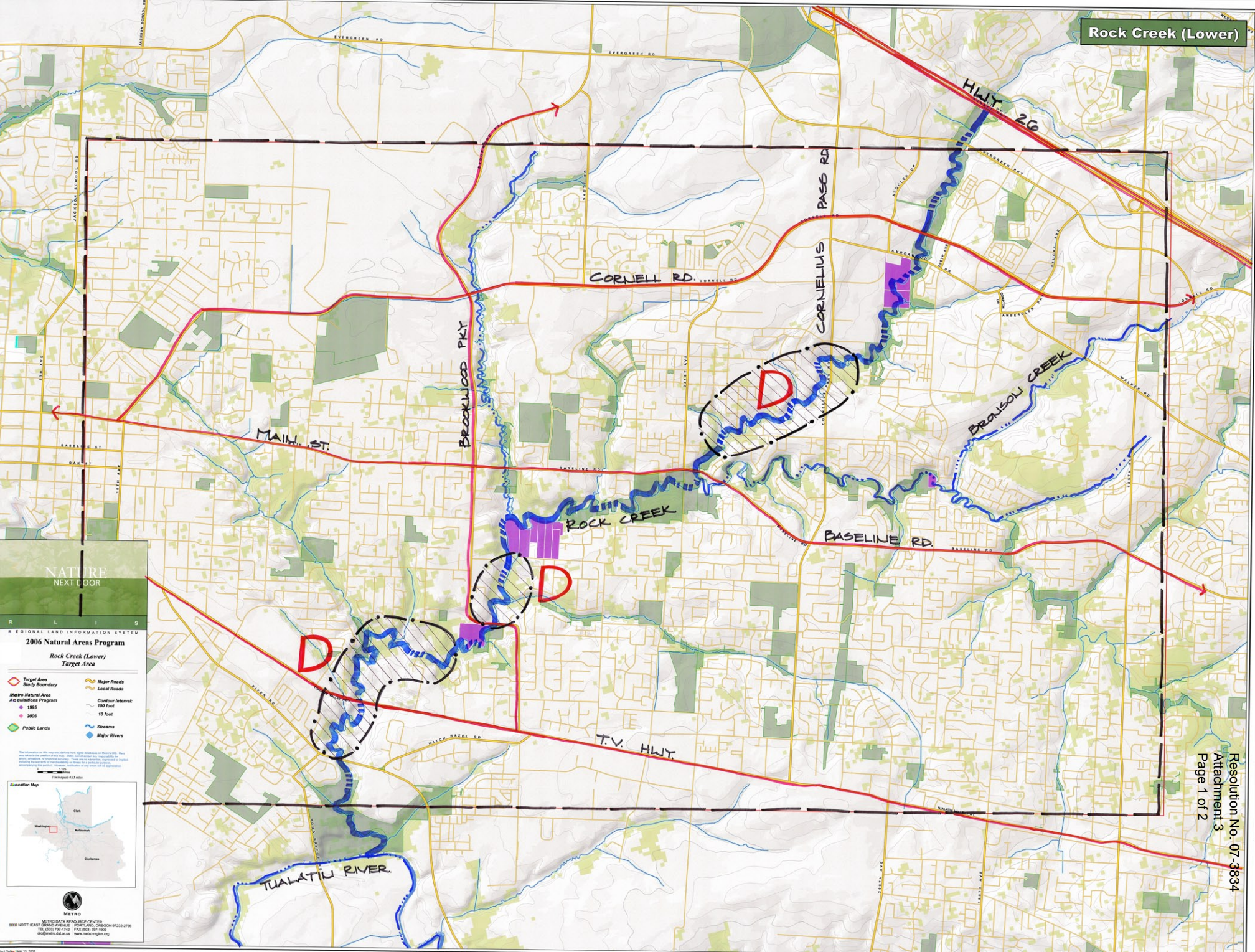
City/State/Zip _____

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



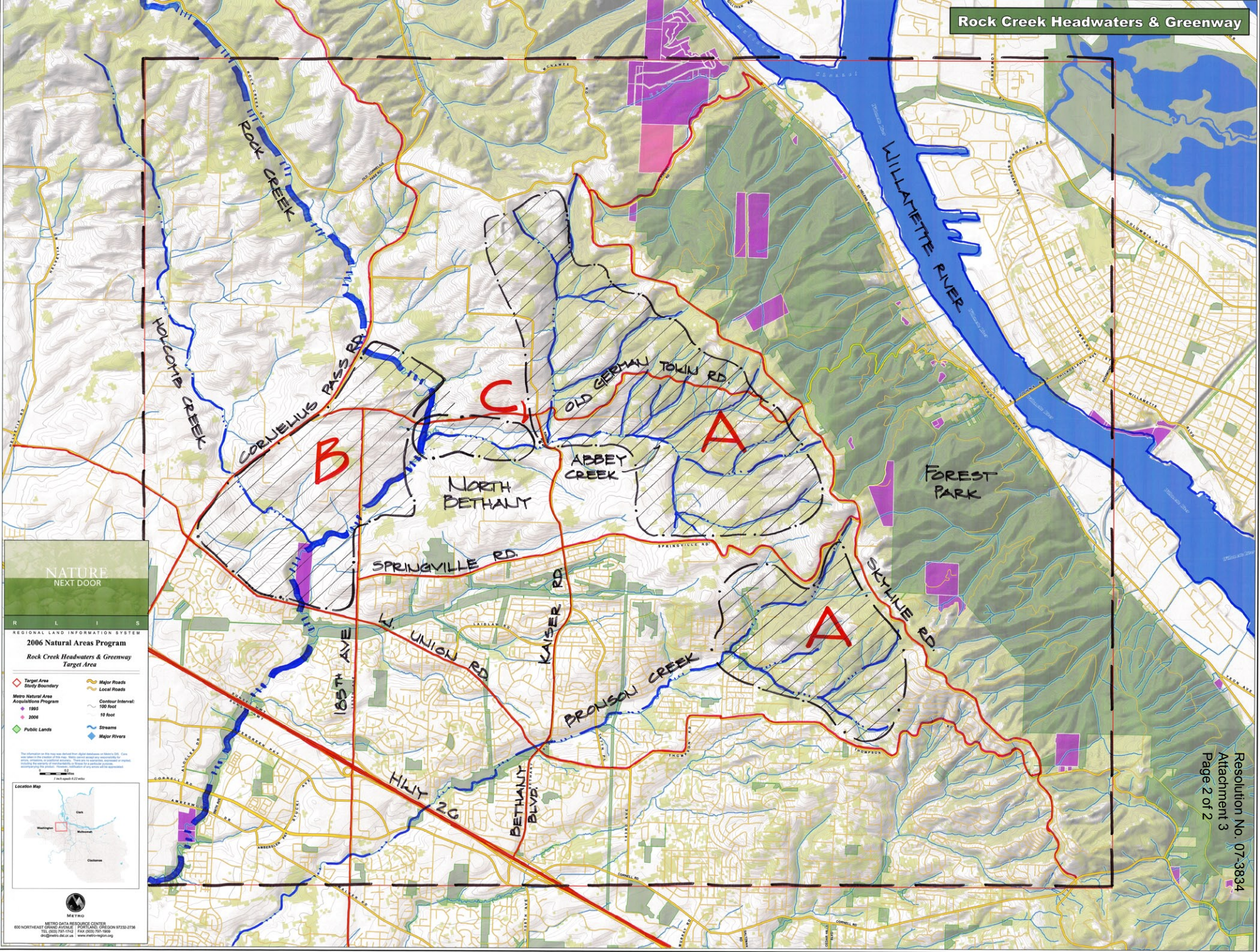
NATURE NEXT DOOR
REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM

2006 Natural Areas Program
Rock Creek (Lower)
Target Area

- Target Area Study Boundary
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Contour Interval: 100 foot, 10 foot
- Streams
- Major Rivers
- Metropolitan Natural Area Acquisitions Program: 1995, 2006
- Public Lands

Scale: 1 inch equals 0.11 miles





NATURE NEXT DOOR

R L I S

2006 Natural Areas Program
 Rock Creek Headwaters & Greenway Target Area

- ◆ Target Area Study Boundary
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Metro Natural Area Acquisitions Program
- Contour Interval: 100 foot
- 1995
- 2005
- Public Lands
- Streams
- Major Rivers

The information on this map was derived from digital data from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map. The information on this map is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. The information on this map is provided as a public service and is not intended to be used for any other purpose.



Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the Rock Creek Headwaters 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
Preserving lands along the creeks and the adjacent upland forest habitat in the Abbey Creek and Bronson Creek headwater areas. (Map area A)	57.1% (12)	19.0% (4)	23.8% (5)	0.0% (0)	1.67	21
Expanding the protected natural area near the confluence of Holcomb Creek and Rock Creek to provide greater habitat for vulnerable species. (Map area B)	9.5% (2)	28.6% (6)	52.4% (11)	9.5% (2)	2.62	21
Connecting the Rock Creek confluence area to Forest Park along the main stem of Abbey Creek to provide wildlife travel corridors. (Map area C)	28.6% (6)	38.1% (8)	19.0% (4)	14.3% (3)	2.19	21
Protecting remaining gaps in public ownership along Rock Creek between Highway 26 and the Tualatin River. (Map area D)	16.7% (4)	12.5% (3)	4.2% (1)	66.7% (16)	3.21	24
	<i>answered question</i>					24
	<i>skipped question</i>					3

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important				least important	Rating Average	Response Count	
Preserving remnant scattered oak woodlands and oak savanna habitat in the general area east of Cornelius Pass, between Springville and Germantown Roads.	26.1% (6)	8.7% (2)	26.1% (6)	17.4% (4)	21.7% (5)	3.00	23	
Preserving habitat areas for sensitive species, including steelhead, red-legged frogs, pond turtles and bluebirds.	8.7% (2)	30.4% (7)	17.4% (4)	34.8% (8)	8.7% (2)	3.04	23	
Preserving headwater areas, riparian areas and wetlands to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.	28.0% (7)	20.0% (5)	16.0% (4)	24.0% (6)	12.0% (3)	2.72	25	
Protecting natural areas and corridors from the confluence of Rock Creek and the Tualatin River into Forest Park to benefit water quality, wildlife habitat and for future trail connections.	17.4% (4)	13.0% (3)	30.4% (7)	8.7% (2)	30.4% (7)	3.22	23	
Providing a natural buffer between urban development and rural areas.	29.2% (7)	25.0% (6)	8.3% (2)	12.5% (3)	25.0% (6)	2.79	24	
	<i>answered question</i>							26
	<i>skipped question</i>							1

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

I could not tell if the Rock Creek Headwaters project included the idea of a park adjacent to the new Bonny Slope Elementary School and Bluffs Park. I consider that a project that would be very beneficial to the community in the area and hope you would count this feedback towards the idea somewhere in your planning.

Safe areas for wildlife that allow us to teach our children about wildlife -- places that families can visit and watch birds or other natural areas.

Also consider that the elk herds use both the riparian areas (food and water) and the open uplands (food, bulls running around and displaying) and upland mature woods (yarding up at night; daytime rest and shade; story shelter.) Protect some connected "stepping stone" forest and fields.

Greetings I think that it is very important that Metro consider buying and protecting as habitat, the actual upper Rock Creek watershed and associated riparian areas. There is roughly 100 acres bordering Rock Creek along Rock Creek Rd that is the best habitat remaining in the Rock Creek watershed. This area has trees around one hundred years old, and riparian areas that could be considered old second growth, and these areas support a great diversity of species, including red legged frogs, giant pacific salamanders, pilliated woodpeckers, mink , northern flying squirrels, pygmy rabbits, wood ducks, bobcat, cougar, elk, deer, black bear, three owl species, two red tail hawk nests, a nesting pair of merlins, band tail pigeons, at least twenty song bird species, the only beaver dam complex in the real upper watershed, cutthroat trout and even a few turtles. This area is the highest quality habitat left along Rock Creek, it is for the most part not inhabited , and with some effort on the part of Metro could be purchased for much less than you would be paying for much less desirable land along lower Rock Creek. If Metro is serious about protecting the Rock Creek watershed then you need to really consider the riparian zone upstream of boundary you are currently considering.

The UGB expansion process should be more careful about the exact location of the UGB boundary. The current North Bethany expansion primarily follows property lines, rather than natural features. This results in a failure to optimally use stream corridors and other natural features to define community and to separate urban and agricultural areas. It also results in irregular, inaccessible parcels "trapped" between the existing UGB and stream corridors. This is especially true in the northwest corner of North Bethany. The current planning process is spending a great deal of time and money trying to plan a "community of distinction" in North Bethany, but the result is necessarily flawed by the inability to plan and develop the entire community simultaneously.

Please consider alternative commuter connections in these corridors and public access to see these special habitats.

Please focus on acquiring land for state listed species (Red legged frog and turtles). Both present in this target area.

Please continue to provide trail access to advertise the importance of these headwaters and greenway

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, instead of urbanization and sprawl.

Turner Creek near TV Highway and Valley Memorial Mortuary is identified on the Metro website as 'High habitat conservation area' and 'Class 1 riparian, highest-value'. The area is under extreme stress due to residential development and sewer line component failure. It is not listed on any of the relevant agency sites for restoration/maintenance.

Rock Creek headwaters - along NW Rock Creek Rd and higher to head of creek - is fine wildlife area - beaver dam on Rock Creek adj. to Rock Creek Rd! Call Doug Wallover. Property owner close to beaver dam.

Orenco Golf course property.

N. Bethany Planning www.bethanyplan.org.

I would subdivide area A, and give a lower priority to the upper Bronson Creek because it doesn't connect as well to habitats to the west like upper Abbey Creek does.

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.

How about a new state park or wildlife area, related to the primacy of forest park, funded with lottery dollars? Or a small % fee on clean water services bills devoted to headwaters protection? Or a donation campaign (land \$) targeted at the relatively few very wealthy residents along the ridge - with appropriate honors of course.

Work with local landowners that allow current use and allow preservation of plants and wildlife.

With the number of relevant agencies and their various volunteer projects, ongoing and planned, it seems that structure is sufficiently in place to initiate or continue work in the identified areas: voters approval of the bond measure at the expense of other funding issues and are anxious to see action and timely results.

The Orenco neighborhood organization is engaged with the urban lands preservation alliance to raise money to purchase some (or all 55 acres) of the former Orenco golf course (NW corner at Cornelius Pass Rd. and Quatana, just south of the light rail line). Could Metro provide some funds to help initiate the purchase (with Urban Lands Conservation Alliance generating the bulk of the finances)--Urban Lands would own the property but there would be local control.

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

This is the most critical NW target area (Forest Park can use additions, but is already magnificent; Westside Trail is important, but just a narrow corridor). The multiple creek headwaters, quality habitat and year round water for animals are key to a viable (broad and mixed) wildlife corridor.

It's a high priority and has rare pond turtles that need our help and protection. Thanks!

I really support the efforts of Metro to strengthen natural resource protection in this area. You are doing great work.

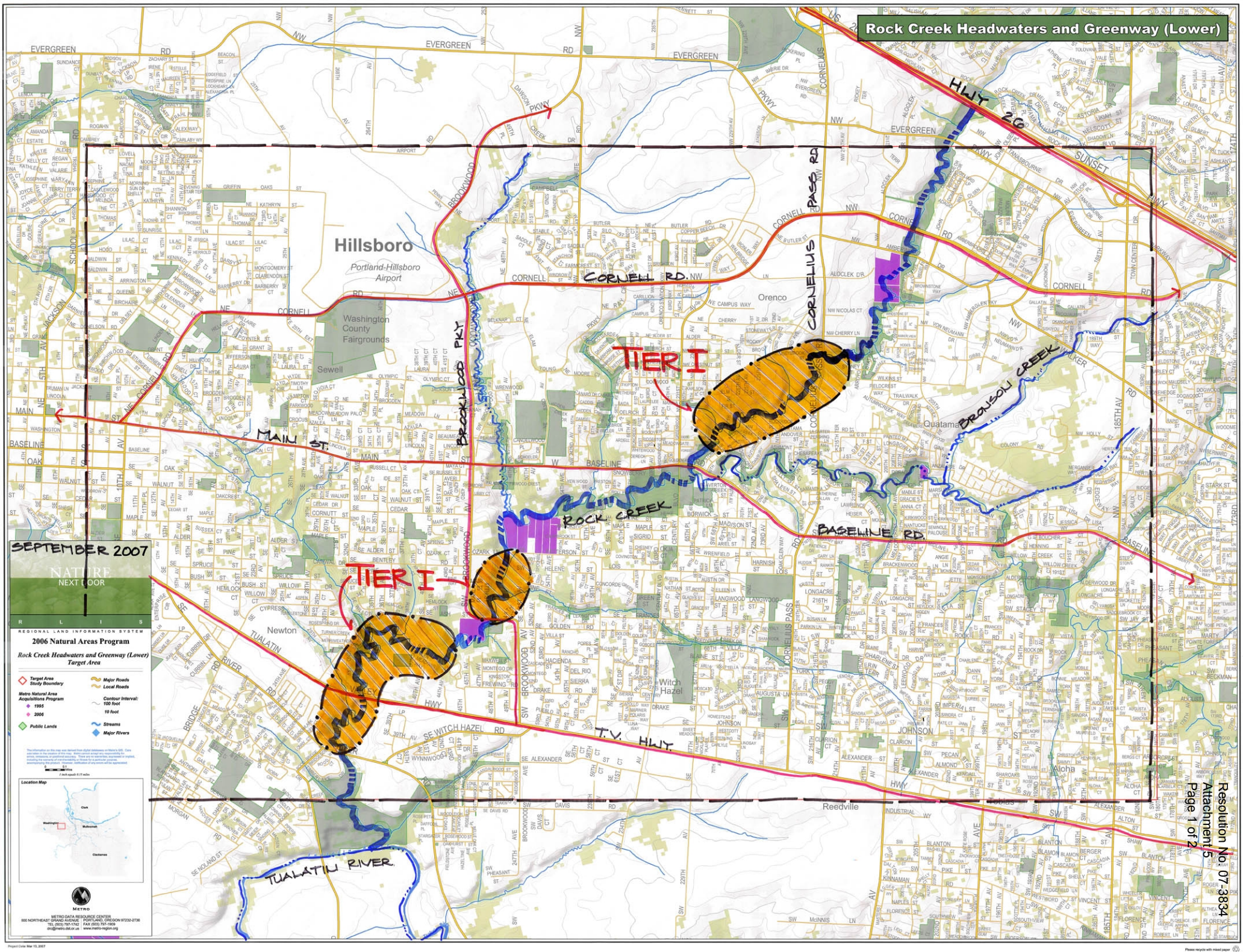
Thank you!

Would like to work with Metro to be a wildlife corridor. We are an organic farm. Malinowshi Farm.

I have requested information regarding Turner Creek from several agencies including the Metro Council and have received little; I have had rep's from Clean Water Services and Friends of Rock Creek tour the site (prior to the toxic sewage contamination) with minimal results. I remain available for contact in the event that the issue can be revisited. Macis.Dave@con-way.com 503 450 2180

I would like information on capital grants and local neighborhood organizations.

Polling done as the bond measure was developed clearly showed public support for natural areas and healthy streams, with diminishing support as human interactions were added. Metro should honor that by not requiring public access on conservation easement property and should not ass trails or public access on Metro owned property unless it does not conflict with and discourage wildlife, including human – sensitive species like elk.



SEPTEMBER 2007
NATURE
NEXT DOOR

2006 Natural Areas Program
Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway (Lower)
Target Area

- Target Area
- Study Boundary
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Contour Interval: 100 foot
- 1995
- 2006
- Streams
- Major Rivers
- Public Lands



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SEPTEMBER 2007
NATURE
NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program
Rock Creek Headwaters & Greenway (Upper)
Target Area

- Target Area Study Boundary
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Metroland Natural Area Acquisitions Program
- Contour Interval: 100 foot
- 1995
- 2006
- Public Lands
- Streams
- Major Rivers



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