BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE FANNO CREEK LINKAGES TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3837

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 Fanno Creek Linkages 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 Fanno Creek 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 Fanno Creek Linkages 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 Fanno Creek Linkages 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-Rresident



Approved as to Form:

G

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM FANNO CREEK LINKAGES TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN

Background

The 1995 refinement goal was to establish 12 miles of greenway along Fanno Creek and its tributaries in order to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and recreational values. Great progress was made in making purchases along Fanno Creek, and to date 39.08 acres have been protected by the Metro program.

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

Additions to this existing west side greenway will extend the corridor from the Tualatin River into a highly urbanized, "walker challenged" area of the city, and further protect water quality in one of our critical regional rivers.

Established science continues to show the importance of intact riparian areas for water quality and quantity protection, wildlife habitat and maintenance of overall watershed health along the main branch of Fanno Creek, as well as the following tributaries: Pendleton Creek, Woods Creek, Sylvan Creek, Vermont Creek and Ash Creek.

Target Area Description

Fanno Creek originates on the west side of the Tualatin Mountains and meanders through the cities of Portland, Beaverton, Tigard, Durham and Tualatin to its confluence with the Tualatin River. Along its route, small but significant natural areas have been protected and additional opportunities remain to secure lands along the main stem of the Fanno Creek and its tributaries for the benefit of water quality and wildlife.

The Fanno Creek Greenway Trail corridor mimics the creek's weaving path through five cities and two counties, stretching 15 miles from Willamette Park on the Willamette River Greenway, (just south of downtown Portland) through highly urbanized neighborhoods in Beaverton and Tigard and ending at the Tualatin River within the City of Tualatin. A new bridge was recently opened to the public this year that allows bikes and pedestrians to cross the Tualatin River at Cook Park and connects Tualatin to Tigard and Durham.

A completed Fanno Creek Greenway Trail will provide safe access connecting neighborhoods, parks, schools, community centers and other trails, such as the Willamette River Greenway at the northern end and the Tualatin River Greenway at the south. Within the city of Portland, several trail alignments have been proposed for bicycle commuters, walkers and hikers including the conversion to a trail of the former Red Electric Railroad corridor. With approximately half of the trail finished, the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail is on its way to becoming one of the premier urban greenway trails in the Portland metropolitan region.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Fanno Creek Linkages 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 13, 2007 at Metro Regional Center, one of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open house 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. Thirty-three people completed the Fanno Creek Linkages 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

- Fanno Creek is a regionally significant resource due to its recreation, fish, wildlife, and educational value.
- The greenway system is incomplete in the Tigard/Durham vicinity along the mainstem of Fanno Creek. Significant amounts of riparian corridor are already in public ownership, however. major portions of the corridor particularly between Cook Park (Tigard)/Durham City Park and Fanno Creek Park (Tigard) are not in public ownership. Creating a publicly owned corridor has high support among stakeholders.
- The main stem of Fanno Creek is fairly intact from the mouth to Vista Brook Park. From Vista Brook Park, the creek splits into numerous tributaries, which have been highly urbanized. The off-street alignment of the greenway/corridor will need to follow the proposed Red Electric Trail (Portland Parks and Recreation) through SW Portland to the Willamette River.
- Established science continues to show the importance of intact riparian areas for water quality and quantity protection, wildlife habitat, and maintenance of overall watershed health along the main branch of Fanno Creek, as well as the following tributaries: Pendleton Creek, Woods Creek, Sylvan Creek, Vermont Creek and Ash Creek.
- Flooding is a significant problem in the Fanno Creek watershed. Clean Water Services is lengthening the channel in several locations to address this issue. Partnership opportunities exist to work with local agencies to protect lands that could limit future flood damage.
- Easements, dedications, donations and other voluntary property-owner agreements could be pursued in addition to fee acquisition in order to stretch the value of the regional dollars spent.
- Thirty-three people completed the survey about Fanno Creek Linkages. 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* Securing missing sections of the proposed regional trail corridor within the City of Portland connecting the trail from the Garden Home Recreation Center to the Willamette River (including along the former Red Electric railroad corridor).
 - 2. *Map area* A Securing missing sections of the proposed regional trail corridor connecting Cook Park with Woodard Park.

Goal

Complete a continuous greenway trail from the Tualatin River into a highly urbanized, "walkerchallenged" area of Portland, and further protect water quality along Fanno Creek and its tributaries.

Objectives

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

Tier I Objective

• Connect publicly-owned land along the mainstem of Fanno Creek between Cook Park and Woodard Park to complete the corridor and enhance habitat and water quality protection in this area.

Tier II Objective

• Acquire key trail linkages along the Red Electric Corridor to connect the Garden Home Recreation Center and the Willamette River.

Partnership Objectives

- Pursue partnership opportunities with the City of Portland (Parks and Recreation and Bureau of Environmental Services), City of Tigard, City of Durham, Friends of Fanno Creek and Clean Water Services to leverage the regional investment in the Fanno Creek Linkages target area with local share funds and for management of purchased properties.
- Work with private landowners to explore opportunities for conservation easements.

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3837, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE FANNO CREEK LINKAGES 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 Fanno Creek Linkages 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 Fanno Creek Linkages 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. 07-3837.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Fanno Creek Linkages Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Steve Martin, City of Tigard Dave Drescher, Friends of Fanno Creek Bob Bothman, 40-Mile Loop Doug Vorwaller, Friends of Trails Tigard / Bull Mountain Shannon Axtell, BES Roland Sugnett, City of Durham Barbara Fryer, City of Beaverton Elaine Stewart. Metro Joy Chang, Washington County Wendy Bell, THPRD Duane Roberts, City of Tigard Gregg Everhart, Portland Parks and Recreation Mel Huie, Metro Jeffrey Gottfried, Educational Recreational Adventures Scott Bricker, Bicycle Transportation Alliance Don Baack, SW Trails William Eadie, Metro Kendra Smith, Clean Water Services Steve Gulgren, THPRD Deborah Lev, Portland Parks and Recreation Ahmin Wahab, BES Jim Sjulin, Portland Parks and Recreation

Key Themes Discussed

Fanno Creek Greenway Trail

- Link up the publicly owned parcels between Cook Park and Fanno Creek Park (Tigard) and between the creek and the railroad corridor to create a continuous greenway/trail corridor.
- Identify additional east/west links in Tigard to connect to the Fanno Creek Greenway.
- Areas of particular importance that were mentioned by stakeholders include:
 - 26 acres with 10-12 acres remnant oak and 10-12 acres of open meadow in the floodplain with creek frontage east of Hall Blvd and southwest of the rail line directly adjacent (east) to Fanno Creek Park .
 - A small triangle-shaped property bounded by Durham Road and RR tracks needed for trail completion.
 - Red Electric trail alignment parcels for continuing/creating an off-street trail from Garden Home to the Willamette River.
- Once into Portland, the 3 priority areas include: connecting Garden Home and Hillsdale, connecting Hillsdale to the River, and connecting to the Willamette Greenway.
- Close the one block gap from 92nd Scholls (potential use of the old RR ROW) while providing a safe crossing. 92nd.

Water Quality / Wildlife Habitat

- There are restoration opportunities on wooded wetlands that abut the trail on the 50 acres north of Summer Creek, adjacent to Fowler Middle School.
- Clean Water Services is increasing the channel length in several locations to slow down the creek.
- The parcels north of Vermont/East of 65th would be tremendous asset/open space due to habitat and opportunities for water quality preservation and restoration.
- Preserving creek/riparian corridors is important as they serve as wildlife corridors given the pace and type of development in the region. Notable wildlife information provided includes:
 - Fanno has both steelhead and local cutthroat –fish and macro report on CWS webpage for all drainages in Tualatin watershed.
 - \circ There are resident fish in main stem of Fanno up to SW 30th.
 - Elk have been seen in the last 3 years along Columbia Creek and near Woods Park.
- Connect separate parcels along main stem to make habitat and water quality management easier.

Existing Projects

- Clean Water Services is currently doing restoration work on Fanno Creek south of OR 99W and Fanno Creek Park (Tigard)
- There is MTIP funding for Hall Blvd crossing of Fanno Creek Trail.
- Fanno Creek Park master plan is being developed.
- Clean Water Services is realigning the creek through the Fanno Creek Park.
- BES has been focused on the main stem in order to have the greatest impact on meeting compliance requirements.
- Oleson Road improvements are occurring and can provide short-term on-street alternative for the Fanno Creek Greenway.

Miscellaneous Comments

- OES and Frank Estates have concerns regarding safety/privacy of students and property if a trail is located through/near their properties.
- Need innovative design for on-street segments
- Coordination of uniform wayfinding signs to help users find/follow the trail in on-street segments
- Property just north of Raleighwood Park is severely flood-prone with existing structure.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: FANNO CREEK LINKAGES AND 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

Additions to this existing west side greenway will extend the corridor from the Tualatin River into a highly urbanized, "walker challenged" area of the city, and further protect water quality in one of our critical regional rivers.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The following priorities were identified in the Fanno Creek Linkages and Trail target area based on information provided by key stakeholders in the area about the regional trail. Rank in order of importance to you, with 1 being the most important.
 - _____ Securing missing sections of the proposed regional trail corridor connecting Cook Park with Woodard Park. (Map area A)
 - Securing missing sections of the proposed regional trail corridor within the City of Portland connecting the trail from the Garden Home Recreation Center to the Willamette River (including along the former Red Electric railroad corridor). (**Map area B**)
- 2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Fanno Creek Linkages and Trail 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 lands along the main stem of Fanno Creek for water quality benefits.
 - Protecting water quality along the main tributaries of Fanno Creek, including Pendleton Creek, Vermont Creek, Woods Creek and Ash Creek.
 - _____ Securing a publicly owned regional trail corridor serving both recreational users and commuters.
 - _____ Preserving wetlands along Fanno Creek to benefit water quality and wildlife habitat.
 - _____ Protecting areas adjacent to the trail corridor to benefit wildlife and to improve access and connectivity to and from adjacent parks, natural areas and other trails.
- **3.** Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Fanno Creek Linkages and 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?
 - \Box Yes \Box 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 Fanno Creek Linkages and Trail target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Vame	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
hone	
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



Fanno Creek Linkages Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the Fanno Creek Linkages target area based on information provided by key stakeholders in the area about the regional trail. Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important	least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Securing missing sections of the proposed regional trail corridor connecting Cook Park with Woodard Park. (Map area A)	31.3% (10)	68.8% (22)	1.69	32
Securing missing sections of the proposed regional trail corridor within the City of Portland connecting the trail from the Garden Home Recreation Center to the Willamette River (including along the former Red Electric railroad corridor). (Map area B)	74.2% (23)	25.8% (8)	1.26	31
		answered question		
		0		

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the Fanno Creek Linkages target area?

	most important				least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting lands along the main stem of Fanno Creek for water quality benefits.	10.0% (3)	20.0% (6)	6.7% (2)	20.0% (6)	43.3% (13)	3.67	30
Protecting water quality along the main tributaries of Fanno Creek, including Pendleton Creek, Vermont Creek, Woods Creek and Ash Creek.	3.3% (1)	16.7% (5)	26.7% (8)	30.0% (9)	23.3% (7)	3.53	30
Securing a publicly owned regional trail corridor serving both recreational users and commuters.	62.5% (20)	6.3% (2)	12.5% (4)	3.1% (1)	15.6% (5)	2.03	32
Preserving wetlands along Fanno Creek to benefit water quality and wildlife habitat.	12.9% (4)	9.7% (3)	51.6% (16)	16.1% (5)	9.7% (3)	3.00	31
Protecting areas adjacent to the trail corridor to benefit wildlife and to improve access and connectivity to and from adjacent parks, natural areas and other trails.	12.5% (4)	46.9% (15)	3.1% (1)	31.3% (10)	6.3% (2)	2.72	32
					answered	question	32
skipped question						1	

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

Emphasize trail acquisition in Portland this round, since it was not a focus (due to route not being designated) in 1995 bond.

"Caution" signs when approach trail curves on weekend of heavy use. I have almost crashed on pedestrians who walk in the middle of the path. Instructions on path, etiquette at trail heads would be terrific.

Please, please, please connect the trail to the Willamette River Trail, and post adequate signs along the trail.

All of the above are important. Since southwest is so lacking in sidewalks, our trails system is particularly important. The more neighborhood connections the better, so that people can go for a walk from their doors. Improving walkability is also the best way to reduce traffic and its associated pollution. Of course the water quality issues are important too. The Garden Home and Raleigh Hills areas need much more pedestrian connectivity as well as green spaces.

Washington Square Regional Center Trail route east of 217 should be close to Oak St. to preserve largest possible greenspace (or lands LLP and Dr. Davis) without human impact, see map marking #1.

Please protect wildlife habitat for sensitive species such as turtles, red-legged frogs, etc. PLEASE make this a priority!

Fill gap between 92nd and HWY 217.

Would like to be able to bicycle from Fanno Headwaters to the Willamette.

In general, I think Metro's priorities for this funding are off the mark. The money should be used to purchase and conserve open space inside the urban growth boundary - in people' neighborhoods - for future use and enjoyment. Preserving water quality and wildlife habitat, especially on land outside of Metro's actual boundaries, is more properly the task of state agencies like the Department of Environmental Quality.

A pedestrian foot bridge across Stephens Creek in SW Portland at Stephens Creek Nature Park (SW Bertha Blvd. at SW Chestnut Drive and SW Capitol Hill Road).

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.

Hit up Burlington Northern for donating tracks or land?

The Garden Home Recreation Center would be a good place to advertise your concerns.

Partner with Tualatin River Keepers, Clean Water Services, City of Tigard.

Work with Portland Parks for trail (Wash Square Rec. Center Trail) around perimeter of Redtail Golf Course.

Obviously, Metro should partner with existing local governments who better know the needs of their citizens. Entities with their own taxing authority could combine their own funding with Metro greenspace dollars to get the maximum benefit, both fiscally and in terms of land conservation.

Use a portion of Portland's local share to partner with Portland on this investment.

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

The Fanno Creek trail would be a safe and efficient commuter trail ... if it were completed from Beaverton through Tigard. Currently, the trail is fractured and there are inconvenient and often unsafe crossings and detours that must be made to travel the corridor. Linking all the disparate sections will create a beautiful greenway that is encouraging to use; bicycle commuters would have a safe, off-street path to use, increasing ridership and decreasing morning and evening congestion on major roads.

The Garden Home trail, from the community center on Oleson to Scholls Ferry Rd, has many wetland areas that are trashy and overgrown with invasive plants, such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry. There also is a growing problem with Japanese knotweed. Occasionally deer, coyotes, pilieted woodpeckers, and kingfishers are spotted, along with woodland hawks. Please clean up and preserve this area for wildlife.

We are interested in a trail to connect the Raleigh Ridge and Wilcox West developments, which abut each other on Patton Road (near Scholls Ferry) but have no path connecting the two housing developments. There is a tributary of Fanno Creek running between these developments. We'd need a footbridge and an easement in each development to do the connection. Raleigh Ridge is cut off for pedestrians because there are no sidewalks on either Patton or Scholls Ferry. If kids could cross the creek into Wilcox West they could connect with the network of paths there that go to Bridlemile School and the rest of the Bridlemile neighborhood.

Yes, see attached... [there is a map attached to paper questionnaire with some lines/arrows drawn on it, and an extra sheet of paper]

Yes, please, we do not want trails along all the creeks! Some areas need to be kept JUST for wildlife - especially in urban areas.

Here and elsewhere, the effort should be focused on public purchase of land under threat of development.

Trail improvements along trail linkage.

