

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3838

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 Tryon 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 Tryon Creek Linkages 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

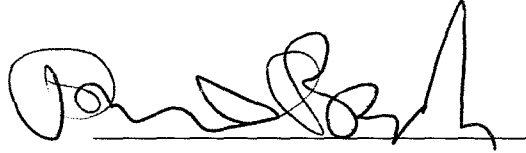
WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, 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 Tryon 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 Tryon 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 6th day of September 2007.

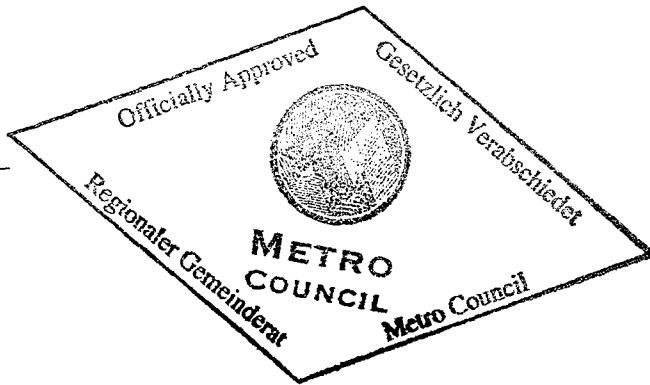


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
TRYON CREEK LINKAGES TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The 1995 refinement goals for Tryon Creek included protecting the streambed and riparian areas along Tryon Creek, providing a linkage between Tryon Creek State Park and Marshall Park, and acquiring key parcels in the headwaters of Tryon Creek and Arnold Creek. Great progress was made in making purchases on the main stem between Tryon Creek State Park and Marshall Park, and 59 acres were purchased, exceeding the original 20-acre goal.

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

Acquisition of key land parcels will build on the successful efforts to protect Tryon Creek State Natural Area and riparian areas of Tryon Creek's major tributaries.

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.

Target Area Description

The Tryon Creek Watershed covers more than 4,000 acres, including about 3,000 acres within Portland's city limits. Tryon Creek flows southeast for approximately seven miles from its headwaters near Multnomah Village to its confluence with the Willamette River in Lake Oswego and is one of the only streams in the metropolitan area with a run of steelhead trout.

Parks and natural areas make up about 21 percent of the watershed; the rest of the area is predominately made up of single-family homes. The 645-acre Tryon Creek State Natural Area is Oregon's only state park within a major metropolitan area and makes up a large portion of the undeveloped area in the Tryon Creek Watershed. The area supports good wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. Protecting and restoring the streams that feed into Tryon Creek will benefit water quality as well as support the integrity of the wildlife habitat at Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Tryon Creek Linkages 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 Plan were held on June 13, 2007 at Metro Regional Center and on June 18, 2007 at Athey Creek 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 area surveys were submitted either in person or online. Sixteen people completed the Tryon 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

- The Tryon Creek Linkages target area is a regionally significant natural area due to its fish, wildlife, regional recreation and water quality values.
- The Tryon Creek State Natural Area is the predominate feature within the Tryon Creek Linkages target area and provides significant wildlife and fish habitat.
- Protecting water quality in the tributaries and maintaining a contiguous open space corridor connecting publicly owned properties in the Tryon Creek mainstem canyon upstream of the State Natural Area has support among a large number of stakeholders.
- Water quality is a primary concern in Tryon Creek. Development pressure in the watershed is increasing runoff, altering natural flow regimes, and reducing the amount of forest cover. The amount of suspended sediment being deposited in Tryon Creek continues to increase.
- Maintenance or enhancement of fish resources will require careful attention to water quality issues. Protection of forested buffer areas around the State Natural Area would enhance watershed and interior wildlife habitat protection.
- Tributary creek corridors in the Tryon Creek watershed are important to protect for water quality, habitat value and flood control. Forested sections of these creek corridors are also important for controlling temperature and stream siltation.
- Arnold Creek is a key tributary stream to Tryon Creek for water quality and wildlife habitat but has very little publicly owned land within its sub-watershed.
- Established science continues to show the key importance of intact headwaters for water quality and quantity protection, habitat and maintenance of overall watershed health.
- Important upland and riparian habitat connections exist between the Tryon Creek Watershed and extensive habitat areas along the Willamette River.
- Sixteen people completed the survey about Tryon Creek. 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 lands along the main stem of Tryon Creek linking the State Natural Area with other publicly owned lands for habitat and trail connections.
 2. *Map area C* – Protect wildlife corridors and upland forest connections between the Tryon Creek watershed and the Willamette River.
 3. *Map area B* – Protect the forested edges around Tryon Creek State Natural Area and creating a greater natural buffer for wildlife habitat and for visitors.
 4. *Map area D* – Protect headwater areas in the upper main stem of Arnold creek for water quality benefits.

Goals

- Acquire few key land parcels to complete the connection between existing public lands and Tryon Creek State Natural Area.
- Protect connections to adjacent watersheds to maintain important wildlife corridors.

Objectives

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

Tier I Objective

- Close the remaining gaps in public ownership along the mainstem of Tryon Creek to create a continuous corridor that links to the Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Tier II Objective

- Protect important wildlife corridors and upland forest connections between the Tryon Creek watershed and the Willamette River.

Partnership Objectives

- Pursue partnership opportunities with the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services and Parks and Recreation, City of Lake Oswego, Oregon State Parks, Clackamas County and Friends of Tryon Creek to leverage the regional investment in the Tryon Creek Linkages target area with local share funds and for management of purchased properties.
- Work with private landowners to explore opportunities for conservation easements and other water quality protection strategies.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3838, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE TRYON 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 Tryon 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 Tryon 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. 07-3838.

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

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Jim Labbe, Portland Audubon
Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon
M G Devereux, Oregon State Parks and Recreation Dept.
Amin Wahab, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Don Baacke, Southwest Trails
Lisa Hammerlynck, City of Lake Oswego Parks
Deborah Lev, City of Portland Parks and Recreation
Stephanie Wagner, Friends of Tryon Creek State Park
Kathleen Murrin, City of Portland Parks & Recreation
Virginia Bowers, Three Rivers Land Conservancy
Christie Galen, Lewis & Clark College

Key Themes Discussed

Linking public properties along the Tryon mainstem

- Link up the publicly owned parcels along the Tryon Creek mainstem that separate the various public parks within the Tryon Creek canyon above the Tryon Creek State Natural Area.
- Public agencies are close to completing public ownership of substantial portions of the Tryon Creek riparian area above the state park.
- Areas of particular importance that were mentioned by stakeholders include:
 - Existing high quality wildlife habitat along Tryon Creek above the state park at the confluence with Arnold Creek.
 - The Boones Ferry “pinch” point where BES is looking into replacing the Boones Ferry culvert. This would open upper Tryon to fish passage for the listed salmonids in Tryon Creek.
 - There are numerous restoration opportunities and opportunities for purchase of conservation easements.

Forested Edges of Tryon Creek State Natural Area

- The forested edges around the Tryon Creek State Natural Area are important upland and riparian habitats and represent vital missing pieces in the completion of the park.
- Protecting the edge properties improves interior forest habitat by maintaining a deep buffer of vegetation between the forest edge and the interior.
- There are likely opportunities to purchase some of the larger border properties and sell back a small portion for development after land division, protecting the majority of the parcels in public ownership.
- Estate planning and conservation easements may also be successful strategies for large properties around the state park boundaries.

Wildlife and recreation corridors between Tryon Creek and the Willamette River

- The habitat connections between the Tryon Creek Watershed and the Willamette River are important to maintain for wildlife habitat health and recreational opportunities.
- The Cemetery/Lewis & Clark College connection over the ridge top in the Dunthorpe area is a particularly important habitat connection and upland habitat area.
- Tryon Creek confluence with the Willamette River in Lake Oswego is an important area for habitat and possibly recreational opportunities.

Trails and public access

- The Hillsboro to Lake Oswego trail route is designated to pass through the Tryon Creek Watershed and there are opportunities to provide missing trail linkages between the public parks along the Tryon Creek mainstem.
 - SW 18th Drive north of the Marshall Park gully.
- The City of Portland's SW Trails Plan also identifies properties that would connect existing trail sections.
- Look for opportunities for connections to the Willamette Greenway Trail.

Protect headwaters to maintain water quality

- Headwater streams and upland forests are important areas to protect for maintaining water quality and may have conservation easement opportunities.
- Nettle Creek and Park Creek are two of the healthiest tributaries to Tryon Creek and have good intact riparian and instream habitat.
- The upper one-third of the mainstem of the Tryon Creek Watershed currently has water quality and quantity problems especially above SW 26th & Taylor's Ferry and between Taylor's Ferry & I-5.
- Some headwaters areas are outside of Portland and Lake Oswego resource protection overlays and are vulnerable to development and degradation.

Arnold Creek riparian forest and connectivity

- Vacant, forested headwater lands in Arnold/Upper Arnold needs protection.
- Arnold Creek remaining riparian forest may have easement opportunities

Look for partnerships with other public and private entities

- There may be opportunities to stretch and leverage bond money with private interests or public/private partnerships with entities such as the Cities of Portland and Lake Oswego, Oregon State Parks, Friends of Tryon Creek, the Three Rivers Conservancy, and others.
- Some headwaters areas are outside of Portland and Lake Oswego resource protection overlays and are vulnerable to development and degradation.

Miscellaneous Comments

- The Iron Mountain/Kelly Creek area has rare or unique habitats and plant communities and is a high wildlife value corridor.
- Unincorporated Multnomah County areas are under heavy pressure to create estate lots and there is no septic or public sewer access.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: TRYON CREEK LINKAGES

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 1995 acreage goal for this target area was 20 and Metro has acquired 59 acres to date. 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

Acquisition of key land parcels will build on the successful efforts to protect Tryon Creek State Natural Area and riparian areas of Tryon Creek's major tributaries.

QUESTIONS

1. **The following priorities were identified in the Tryon Creek Linkages 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 the main stem of Tryon Creek linking the State Natural Area with other publicly owned lands for habitat and trail connections. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Protecting the forested edges around Tryon Creek State Natural Area and creating a greater natural buffer for wildlife habitat and for visitors. **(Map area B)**
- _____ Protecting habitat corridors and upland forest connections between the Tryon Creek watershed and the Willamette River. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Protecting headwater areas in the upper main stem of Arnold creek for water quality benefits. **(Map area D)**

2. **In general, what should be emphasized in the Tryon Creek Linkages 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.**

- _____ Protecting and restoring fish and wildlife habitat.
- _____ Protecting the water quality of rivers and stream corridors.
- _____ Protecting wetlands and floodplain areas for water quality and wildlife.
- _____ Providing public access, including trails and pathways for recreation.
- _____ Providing opportunities for environmental education and wildlife watching.
- _____ Securing remaining gaps in trail connections between parks along Tryon Creek.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Tryon Creek Linkages 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 Tryon Creek Linkages 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

Tryon Creek Linkages Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the Tryon Creek Linkages 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 the main stem of Tryon Creek linking the State Natural Area with other publicly owned lands for habitat and trail connections. (Map area A)	31.3% (5)	37.5% (6)	12.5% (2)	18.8% (3)	2.19	16
Protecting the forested edges around Tryon Creek State Natural Area and creating a greater natural buffer for wildlife habitat and for visitors. (Map area B)	25.0% (4)	18.8% (3)	37.5% (6)	18.8% (3)	2.50	16
Protecting habitat corridors and upland forest connections between the Tryon Creek watershed and the Willamette River. (Map area C)	25.0% (4)	31.3% (5)	12.5% (2)	31.3% (5)	2.50	16
Protecting headwater areas in the upper main stem of Arnold creek for water quality benefits. (Map area D)	18.8% (3)	12.5% (2)	37.5% (6)	31.3% (5)	2.81	16
	<i>answered question</i>					16
	<i>skipped question</i>					0

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

	most important				least important		Rating Average	Response Count
Protecting and restoring fish and wildlife habitat.	30.8% (4)	15.4% (2)	23.1% (3)	15.4% (2)	0.0% (0)	15.4% (2)	2.85	13
Protecting the water quality of river and stream corridors.	23.1% (3)	23.1% (3)	38.5% (5)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	15.4% (2)	2.77	13
Protecting wetlands and floodplain areas for water quality and wildlife.	15.4% (2)	23.1% (3)	7.7% (1)	23.1% (3)	23.1% (3)	7.7% (1)	3.38	13
Providing public access, including trails and pathways for recreation.	0.0% (0)	23.1% (3)	7.7% (1)	15.4% (2)	15.4% (2)	38.5% (5)	4.38	13
Providing opportunities for environmental education and wildlife watching.	7.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	15.4% (2)	23.1% (3)	38.5% (5)	15.4% (2)	4.31	13
Securing remaining gaps in trail connections between parks along Tryon Creek.	23.1% (3)	15.4% (2)	7.7% (1)	23.1% (3)	23.1% (3)	7.7% (1)	3.31	13
	<i>answered question</i>							13
	<i>skipped question</i>							3

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

Mountain biking!
Obtain trail linkage between Marshal and Maricara Parks
The southern section of area A is particularly important where Tryon Creek passes under Boones Ferry Road.
Buy the Tryon Creek Farm outright. It's located on Boones Ferry Rd adjacent to the state lands.
The trail corridor connecting the Lewis and Clark College area to the Willamette River and the Sellwood Bridge will be heavily used and should remain a trail priority in this area...currently the bike trail goes through Riverview Cemetery which is fenced off at night and can be dangerous at any time of the day because of the combination of blind turns and autos that drive through the cemetery.

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.

Maybe Three Rivers Land Conservancy could help work with landowners to acquire conservation easements.
The Friends of Tryon Creek and Three Rivers Land Conservancy are willing to look at partnerships for acquisition and easements.

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

Please do it right, we live here. Thanks.

The trail gaps are really critical because rogue trails are currently having negative impact on creek. Need enough land to get most of trail farther from creek.

Improving water quality and wildlife habitat in the area surrounding Tryon Creek State Natural Area is very important to all priorities listed above, and it is difficult to separate these out from each other. By focusing on water quality and wildlife habitat, we can also enhance educational and recreational opportunities in the Tryon Creek State Natural Area and foster a greater appreciation in the surrounding area of SW Portland for the interconnectedness between our residential and business communities and the natural environment. Securing pathways and trails ultimately connecting to Tryon Creek State Park also promotes the foregoing goals.

The Friends of Tryon Creek board sees Area A as a priority.

We really want to bring the salmon back to Tryon Creek! Metro can really help.

Good work to date.

