

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3849

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

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

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

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

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

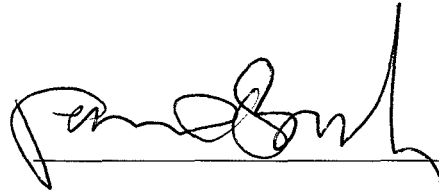
WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies,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

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

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

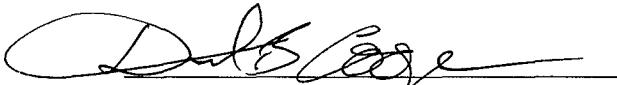
BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Tualatin River Greenway Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon, and hereby authorizes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

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 13th day of September 2007.

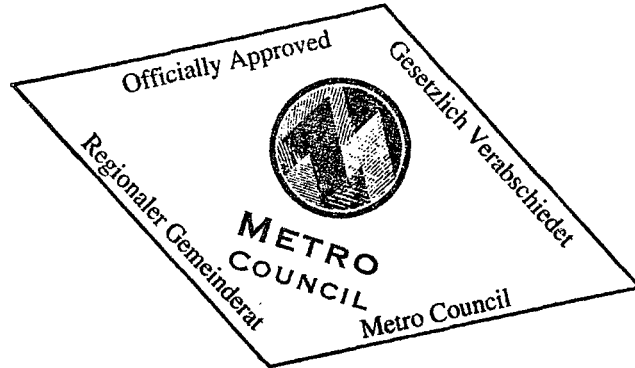


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



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

Background

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

The 2006 Natural Area bond measure stated:

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

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

Target Area Description

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

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

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

Refinement Process

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

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

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

Findings

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

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

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

Goals

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

Objectives

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

Tier I Objectives

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

Tier II Objectives

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

Partnership Objectives

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

STAFF REPORT

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

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

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

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

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

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

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

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

3. **Anticipated Effects**

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

4. **Budget Impacts**

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3849.

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

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

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

Key Themes Discussed

Improvements to the Water Trail

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

Wildlife Habitat Values

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

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

Land Trails and Other Linkages

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

Miscellaneous Comments

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

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: TUALATIN RIVER GREENWAY

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

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

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

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

QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

_____ Creating more picnicking and camping areas accessible by land.

_____ Creating more picnicking and camping areas accessible by water.

_____ Creating more trails for walking, hiking and biking.

_____ Providing opportunities for environmental education.

_____ Protecting and restoring wetlands and riparian areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

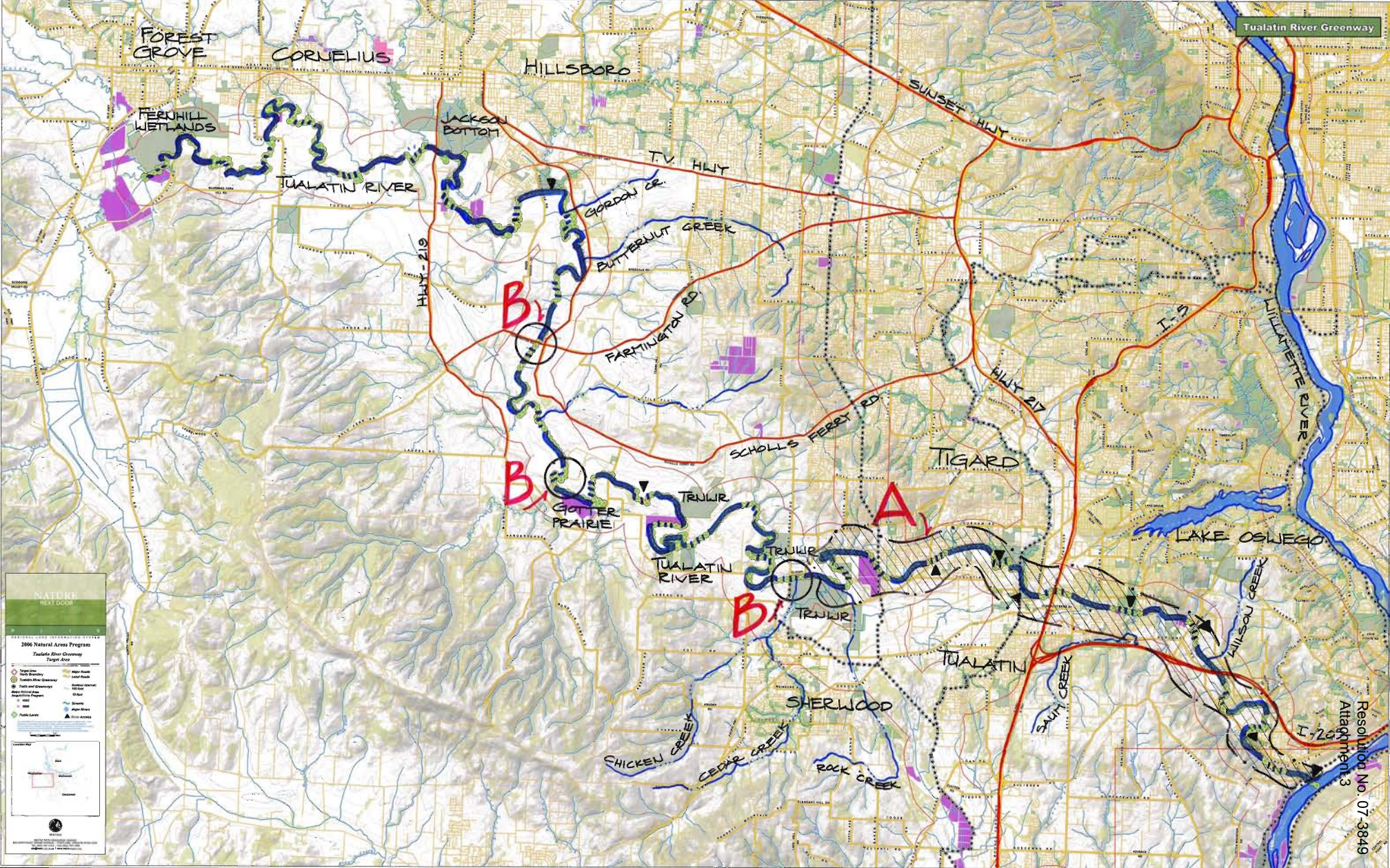
City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

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



FOREST GROVE CORNELIUS

HILLSBORO

FERRIS HILL WETLANDS

JACKSON BOTTOM

T.V. HWY

SUNSET HWY

TUALATIN RIVER

GORDON CR.
BUTTERNUT CREEK

B1

FARMINGTON RD

I-5

WILLAMETTE RIVER

SCHOLLS FERRY RD

HWY 217

TIGARD

B1

GOTTER PRAIRIE

TRUWIR

A

LAKE OSWEGO

TUALATIN RIVER

B1

TRUWIR

TUALATIN

SHERWOOD

SAVIT CREEK

CHICKEN CREEK

CEDAR CREEK

ROCK CREEK

WILSON CREEK

I-205

NATIDIO
NEXT DOOR

2006 Natural Area Program
Tualatin River Greenway
Target Area

- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- State and County
- Water Area
- Wetland
- 10 Acre
- 5000
- Water Access
- Water Access

Map Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile

Tualatin River Greenway Survey Results

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Private property should not be accessed by trail.

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

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

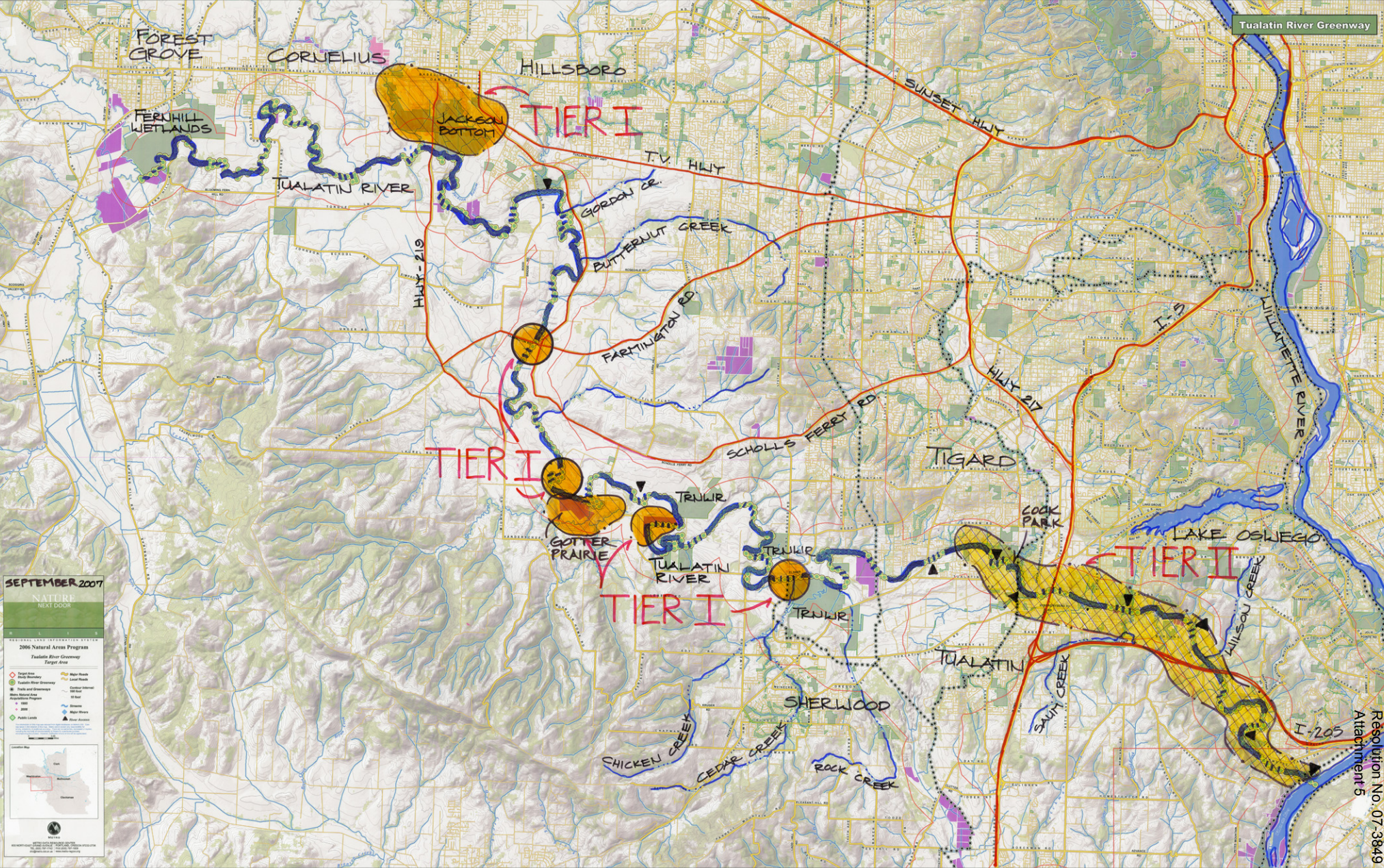
Work w/ local groups (RANS) to get grants for land acquisition and restoration.

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

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

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

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



SEPTEMBER 2007
 NATURE
 NEXT DOOR

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS
 2006 Natural Areas Program
 Tualatin River Greenway
 Target Area

Legend Map

Map Scale

Map Date

Map Author

Map Reviewer

Map Approval

Map Contact