

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3851

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

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

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

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

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

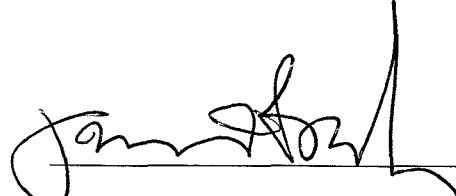
WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies,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

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

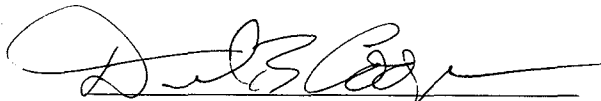
WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

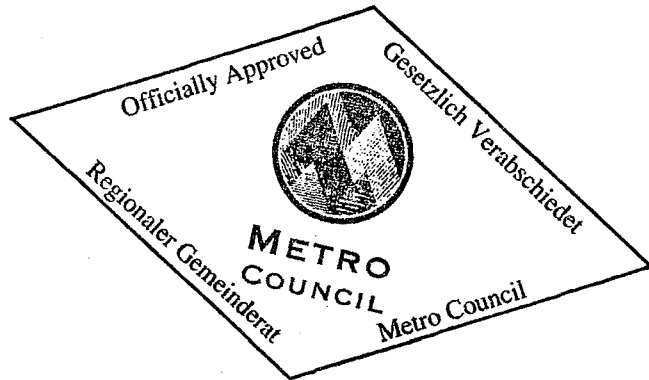
BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Johnson Creek and Watershed Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon on that date, and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

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


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:


Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



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

Background

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

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

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

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

Target Area Description

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Refinement Process

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

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

Findings

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

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

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

Goal

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

Objectives

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

Tier I Objectives

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

Tier II Objectives

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

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

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

Partnership Objectives

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

STAFF REPORT

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

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

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

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

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

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

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

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

3. **Anticipated Effects**

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

4. **Budget Impacts**

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3851.

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

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

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

Key Themes Discussed

Lava Domes (Clatsop Buttes)

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

Headwaters and Tributaries

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

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

Public Land Connections

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

Pleasant Valley and Springwater

- Corridors along creek drainages could serve dual purpose as trail connections between scattered open spaces and wildlife corridors.

Miscellaneous Comments

Labbe, Courtney, Sallinger

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

Bauer, Bussard, Skendarian

- Johnson Creek TMDLs.
- The Springwater area is of high concern given the presence of high quality existing habitat.
- Protect the best! (1) Springwater/reaches 16 & 17, (2) Lava Domes.

- Lava Domes tributaries important. Lava Domes have extensive open forest but heavy development pressure. Copper Bluff landslides, Lava Domes landslide potential/erosion.
- Small tributaries with good water quality
 - Errol Creek, cool clean water tributary to Johnson Creek
 - Reed College Canyon

Majedi, Hughes, Lev, Murrin, Fancher

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

Alsbury

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

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: JOHNSON CREEK AND WATERSHED

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

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

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

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

QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

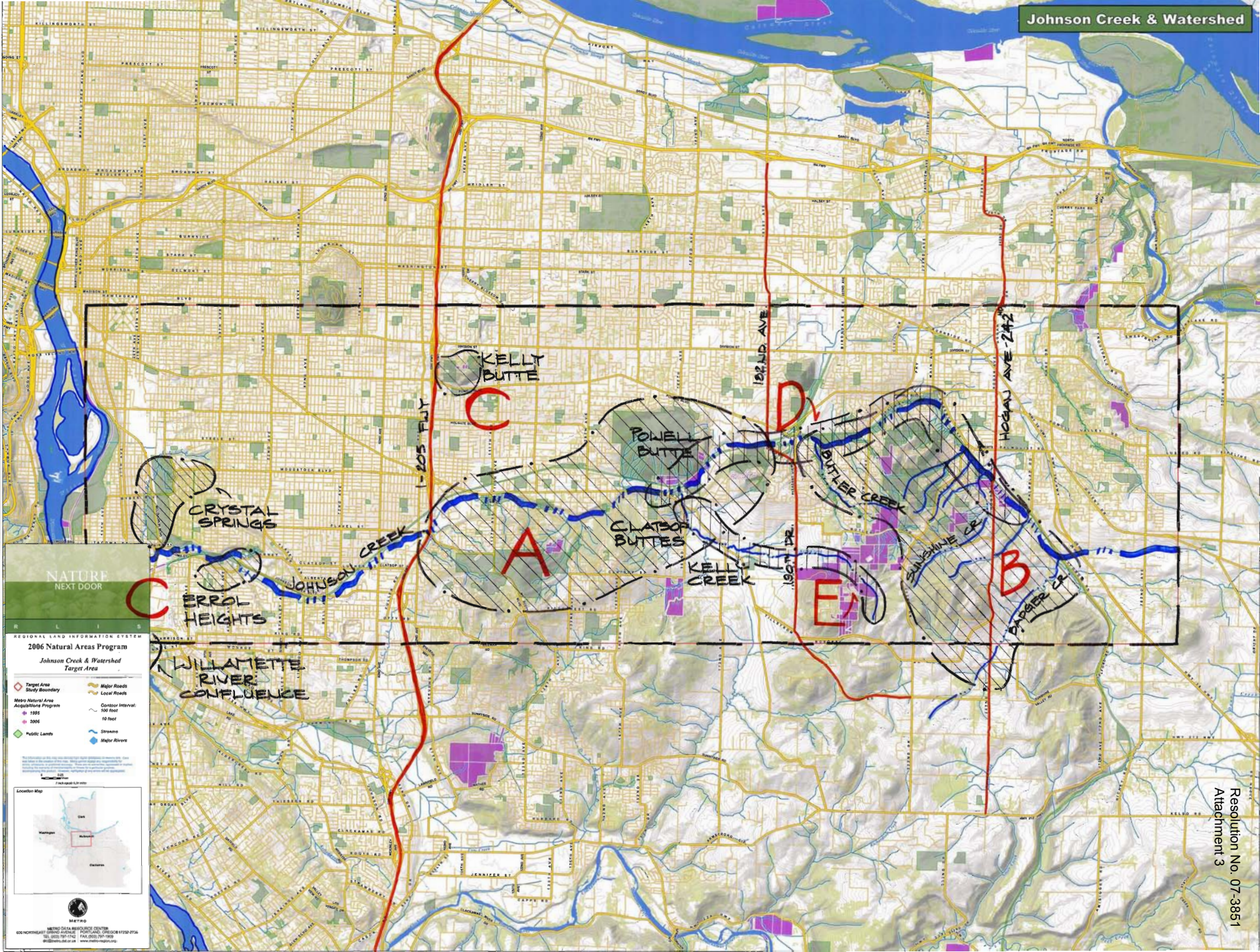
City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

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

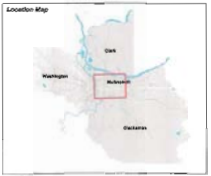


NATURE NEXT DOOR

2006 Natural Areas Program

Johnson Creek & Watershed Target Area

- Target Area Study Boundary
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Metro Natural Area Acquisition Program
- Contour Interval: 100 foot
- 1985
- 2006
- Public Lands
- Streams
- Major Rivers



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600 NORTHWEST 17TH AVENUE SUITE 400 PORTLAND, OREGON 97227-3776
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WWW.METRO.ORG

Johnson Creek and Watershed Survey Results

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Removal of encroaching blackberry bushes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Use lottery Funds.

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

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

Federal watershed grants.

National Dark Sky Association

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

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

Nature Conservancy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pileated woodpecker habitat, salmon water quality issues.

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

We're glad you're considering it!

Please save our salmon, and Pilliated Woodpeckers

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

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

Focus on increasing awareness.

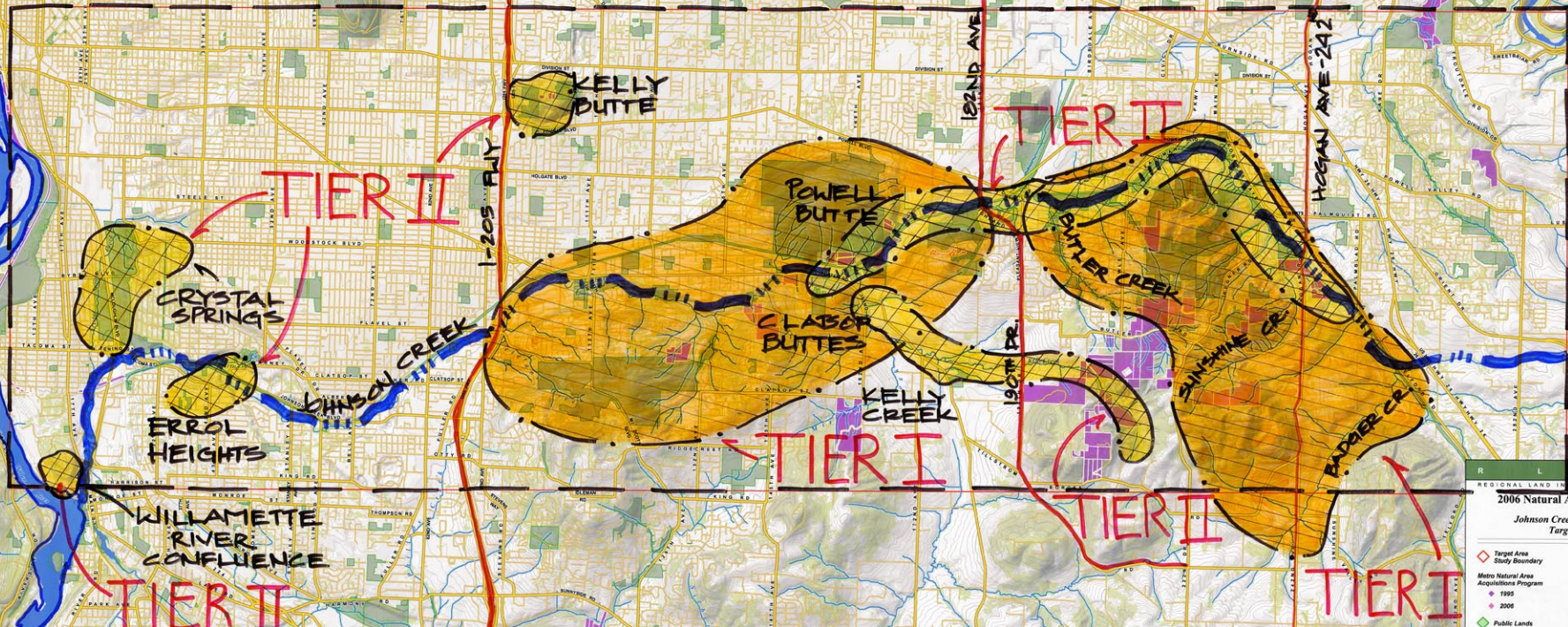
Building houses in this area is counter to protecting the water purity that is becoming ever so much more important in our world.

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

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

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

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



REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM

2006 Natural Areas Program
Johnson Creek & Watershed
Target Area

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

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Location Map

SEPTEMBER 2007

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