

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE WAPATO LAKE
TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3856

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 Wapato Lake 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

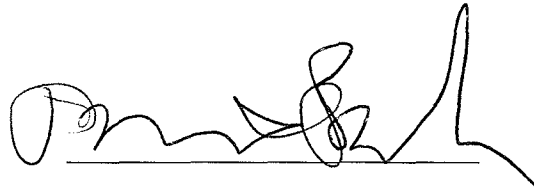
WHEREAS, Metro’s acquisition of properties within the Wapato Lake Target Area will be in accordance with Metro Resolution 06-3727, “For the Purpose of Establishing Metro Council Policy Regarding the Acquisition of Rural Agricultural Land Pursuant to the 2006 Natural Areas Acquisition and Water Quality Protection Bond Measure,” adopted September 7, 2006; 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

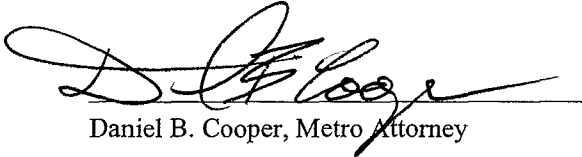
BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the Wapato Lake Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the Wapato Lake 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 20th day of September 2007.



David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
WAPATO LAKE TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure stated:

This ancient lakebed historically supported large numbers of waterfowl, including tundra swans. This flood-prone bottomland of the Tualatin River is being considered as a future wildlife refuge that will connect to existing public lands to the north located near Forest Grove and Hillsboro and attract tourists to Washington County. The area has the highest potential for protecting wildlife habitat and water quality in this part of the region, and also offers significant restoration opportunities.

On September 7, 2006, the Metro Council passed Resolution 06-3727 “For the Purpose of Establishing Metro Council Policy Regarding the Acquisition of Rural Agricultural Land Pursuant to the 2006 Natural Areas Acquisition and Water Quality Protection Bond Measure.” This resolution provides direction to staff for land acquisition in target areas with rural agricultural land. The Wapato Lake target area is one such area. During the refinement process representatives from various agricultural interests were consulted. Within this target area, land acquisition will be pursued in accordance with both the letter and the spirit of this resolution. Water quality and habitat protection are the primary focus for land acquisition. When contact is made with landowners, Metro staff will offer to purchase a conservation easement to protect the natural resources identified in this Refinement Plan. If the landowner prefers a fee title sale, Metro will purchase the land and will identify areas which are essential to achieve water quality and habitat protection goals and which are viable for agricultural use without conflict. Metro will offer this agricultural land for sale subject to a conservation easement. At the time habitat restoration commences, potential impacts to adjacent agricultural properties will be addressed.

A biological assessment conducted for this target area placed high value on the potential for habitat restoration in the Wapato Lake area.

Target Area Description

The Wapato Lake target area lies near Gaston and Forest Grove close to the headwaters of the Tualatin River. Wapato Lake, once an ancient lakebed, is now largely in agricultural use. Farming and growers have helped maintain the rural character of the area and provided stewardship of this land for decades.

Historically, Wapato Lake was one of the most important waterfowl sites in the Willamette Valley. The lake basin held water year-round, supporting a large wetland scrub-shrub community, which included diverse wildlife and the wetland plant known as wapato, whose tuber was an important potato-like staple for native and early Americans. With seasonal floodwaters of the Tualatin River, the lake would spread from approximately 600 acres to nearly 1,500 acres. The organic peat soils of the lakebed are a large and unique remnant of a wetland system once widely distributed in the Willamette Valley but scarce today.

In the 1930s, local landowners drained the lake in order to use the area for agricultural purposes. Even with vast changes over the years, the lake is still used extensively by tundra swans, geese and dabbling ducks. Much of the Wapato Lake area was recently designated a National Wildlife Refuge. There is potential to connect more than 5,000 acres of wetland habitat from Cornelius to the southwestern edge of Washington County.

A biological assessment conducted for this target area noted that the Wapato lakebed and the Tualatin River floodplain provide a major opportunity to restore more riparian forest and floodplain wetlands with high conservation value. These habitats have incurred large losses in the Willamette Valley and many species of concern depend on them. Restoration of wetlands on the

Wapato lakebed is a significant opportunity to restore a rare ecosystem and to connect to the protected lands downriver and to form an important corridor along the entire floodplain.

Vital wildlife corridors link the nearby Chehalem Ridgetop to Refuge target area to Wapato Lake and the Coast Range.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Wapato Lake 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.

A public open house to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan was held on June 26, 2007 at the Forest Grove Community Auditorium, 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. Twenty-eight people completed surveys for Wapato Lake. 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

- Wapato Lake, at the headwaters of the Tualatin River Valley, is an ancient lakebed that was historically one of the most important waterfowl sites in the Willamette Valley and is still extensively used by dabbling ducks, Canada geese, and tundra swans.
- This flood-prone bottomland of the Tualatin River was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for acquisition and development as a National Wildlife Refuge that will connect to existing public lands to the north (such as Metro’s Gales Creek Open Space) located near Forest Grove and Hillsboro and attract tourists to Washington County.
- Birds, northern red-legged frogs and western pond turtles use the wetland habitats in the area.
- Restoring Wapato Lake would improve habitat conditions for a number of native fish species including Chinook salmon, upper Willamette River steelhead, coho salmon and Oregon chub, among many others.
- Stream and riparian restoration could link Wapato Lake to adjacent spawning habitat.
- Wapato soils are organic peat that once supported a broad group of regionally rare plants such as Geyer willow, Columbia sedge and bogbean. The wapato plant (*Sagittaria latifolia*) was found in stands in the upper marsh areas.
- A science assessment conducted by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program in April 2007 placed high habitat value on the Wapato target area.
- The Wapato lakebed and the Tualatin River floodplain north of the Wapato Lake water control structures contain significant remnant stands of riparian forest and organic muck soils of the former Wapato lakebed.
- Habitats similar to Wapato have had large losses in the Willamette Valley and many species of conservation concern depend on them.

- Wapato lakebed offers an opportunity to contribute to groundwater recharge and flood water storage as well as the wildlife benefits.
- Establishing connections between Wapato Lake and the flanking Chehalem uplands will provide important corridors for wildlife using both target areas.
- Because these connections are dependent on priorities set in both the Wapato Lake and the Chehalem Ridge target areas, it is important to coordinate refinement goals and acquisitions in these two target areas.
- Gales Creek offers opportunities to link public land for the protection of riparian areas and to provide public access adjacent to the City of Forest Grove.
- Partnership opportunities exist with the City of Forest Grove, Clean Water Services, Tualatin River Watershed Council, Tualatin Riverkeepers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Joint Water Commission in protecting and enhancing the Gales Creek area.
- A need exists for continuing cooperative partnerships with the Washington County Farm Bureau and other area agricultural interests.
- Twenty-eight people completed surveys for Wapato Lake. In rank order, the public priorities matched the order they appear on the map areas:
 1. *Map area C* – Protect lands along Gales Creek, including the floodplain, from its confluence with the Tualatin River north to Ritchey Road for wildlife connections, flood management, and future recreation opportunities.
 2. *Map area A* – Protect bottomland and lands along the Tualatin River south from the Fernhill Wetlands area to Gaston, including the northern basin of Wapato Lake, which is the northern portion of the wildlife refuge area designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
 3. *Map area B* – Seek connections to the Chehalem Mountains to protect wildlife corridors and water quality, as identified in the Chehalem Ridgetop target area objectives.
 4. *Map area D* – Support the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s acquisitions of Wapato Lake properties south of Gaston Road in the southern portion of the wildlife refuge area designated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Goals

Protect lands in the Wapato Lake area for water quality and wildlife habitat benefits.

Objectives

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

Tier I Objective

- Protect bottomland and lands along the Tualatin River south from the Fernhill Wetlands area to Gaston, including the northern basin of Wapato Lake.

Tier II Objective

- Protect lands along Gales Creek, including the floodplain, from its confluence with the Tualatin River north to Ritchey Road for wildlife connections and water quality.

Partnership Objectives

- Support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s land acquisition efforts in the Wapato Lake area.

EXHIBIT A TO RESOLUTION NO. 07-3856

- Explore partnership opportunities with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Forest Grove, Clean Water Services, Tualatin River Watershed Council, Tualatin Riverkeepers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Joint Water Commission to leverage regional dollars targeted to Fernhill Wetlands/Gales Creek area.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3856, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE WAPATO LAKE TARGET AREA

Date: September 20, 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 Wapato Lake 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 Wapato Lake 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. 07-3856.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for Wapato Lake Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

April Allison, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Bob VanderZanden, Washington County Farm Bureau
Halley Hayworth, Gaston resident and farmer
Kendra Smith, Clean Water Services
Ron Garst, Tualatin Riverkeepers/Tualatin River Watershed Council
Tom Gamble, City of Forest Grove Parks Department
Tualatin Riverkeepers Board Meeting: Brian Wegener (Staff); Sue Marshall, Sue Beilke. Ramsay
Weit, Segeni Meingae, Sue McCloud, John Driscoll (Board Members)
US Fish & Wildlife

Key Themes Discussed

Water Quality

- Wapato provides a natural storage facility that could have significant value if not pumped; could take pressure off Hagg Lake dam.
- First priority is tying in Fernhill Wetlands from the north to Wapato, then to Gales Creek.
- Water quality in this portion of Tualatin River basin is priority, given the proximity of Forest Grove's water treatment facility.
- Holding water in Wapato will assist with groundwater recharge.
- Prioritizing riparian corridor acquisitions will improve water quality of the Tualatin River.
- Natural spring on slope of Chehalem Ridge serves eleven properties along Spring Hill Road.
- Protection of Chehalem Ridge will have positive impacts to water quality of Wapato.

Wildlife Habitat

- Lake is key habitat for Tundra Swans and other migratory birds.
- Riparian corridor protection offers opportunity for increased quality of habitat for fish and wildlife.
- There is a wildlife and potential human access corridor east along tributaries from Chehalem Ridgetop. Land Use / Urban/Rural Form
- Pursue easements on farmland to greatest extent possible.
- Farmers require access to water sources through publicly-owned riparian areas.
- Forest Grove plans encourage trail along Gales Creek, especially along floodplain. Good opportunity to contain development north of Gales and opportunity to link Gales to Hagg Lake.

Public Access/Trails

- Link Wapato to Gales Creek via Fernhill Wetland complex. Potential for trails connecting from Forest Grove to Chehalem Ridgetop and down to Wapato Lake.
- Wapato Lake provides significant opportunity for education; need to address public access across agricultural land.
- Tualatin River Trail can connect through Gales Creek and onto Banks/Vernonia Trail.
- Concentrate activity toward Highway 47 and away from agricultural areas and rural “scenic routes”. Concern regarding traffic (auto and bicycle) impacts in agricultural areas as public access increases.
- Metro property near Fernhill Wetlands could provide a good trailhead site.

Challenges

- Wildlife and farming – need to analyze population dynamics and water impacts to adjacent lands; Jackson Bottoms provides a relevant case study.
- Limited funding – look to partner with ecrep and crep programs and for easements.
- Potential increase in beaver and other wildlife near agricultural uses that effect farming. Need to create “critical mass” for habitat and remove “easy connections” to farmland in order to make Metro lands more attractive to wildlife.

Other Stakeholder Comments

- Metro needs to honor its agriculture agreement to pursue easements for precise properties needed for habitat and water quality in order to maximize land left in use for farming.
- Forest Grove is in the midst of a Parks and Trails planning process that could contribute to public access strategies (to be completed by August 2007).
- Clean Water Services and other partners are in the midst of developing a master plan for Fernhill Wetlands Complex that may effect refinement strategies.
- Location of US Fish and Wildlife’s interpretive center for Wapato could effect refinement strategies.
- Water quality is critical west of Highway 47 near Mt. Richmond Road, where the Tualatin River turns from “crystal clear” to “turbid” due to on-going agricultural-related erosion. Improving this area could significantly improve water quality downstream/Wapato Lake.
- Difficult to farm with rising water levels at Hagg Lake
- Concern about taking land out of farming
- Turning Wapato Lake into a year-round lake could have negative impacts on surrounding farms; if Metro purchases land outright, need to review impact to adjacent properties.
- Waterway debris piles up and effects agricultural uses; need to mitigate impacts.
- For trail/access, bridge over Gales Creek required to link Fernhill to Wapato.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: WAPATO LAKE

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 400 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

This ancient lakebed historically supported large numbers of waterfowl, including tundra swans. This flood-prone bottomland of the Tualatin River is being considered as a future wildlife refuge that will connect to existing public lands to the north located near Forest Grove and Hillsboro and attract tourists to Washington County. The area has the highest potential for protecting wildlife habitat and water quality in this part of the region, and also offers significant restoration opportunities.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The following priorities were identified in the Wapato Lake 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 bottomland and lands along the Tualatin River south from the Fernhill Wetlands area to Gaston, including the northern basin of Wapato Lake, which is the northern portion of the wildlife refuge area designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Seeking connections to the Chehalem Mountains to protect wildlife corridors and water quality, as identified in the Chehalem Ridgetop target area objectives. **(Map area B)**
- _____ Protecting lands along Gales Creek, including the floodplain, from its confluence with the Tualatin River north to Ritchey Road for wildlife connections, flood management, and future recreation opportunities. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Supporting the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's acquisitions of Wapato Lake properties south of Gaston Road in the southern portion of the wildlife refuge area designated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. **(Map area D)**

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

- _____ Preserving land along the Tualatin River and Gales Creek including their associated wetlands to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.
- _____ Protecting the floodplains along the Tualatin River and Gales Creek for future wetland enhancement potential.
- _____ Establishing the Wapato Refuge and connecting it to the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge.
- _____ Providing a natural buffer between urban development and farmland in the area.
- _____ Providing access to nature for people in the future, particularly opportunities for wildlife watching and environmental education.

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the Wapato Lake target area? Please be specific.

4. In what ways can Metro's Natural Areas Program be compatible with agricultural uses in the Wapato Lake target area?

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

6. 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.

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

Please add my name to the Wapato Lake target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Name _____

Address _____

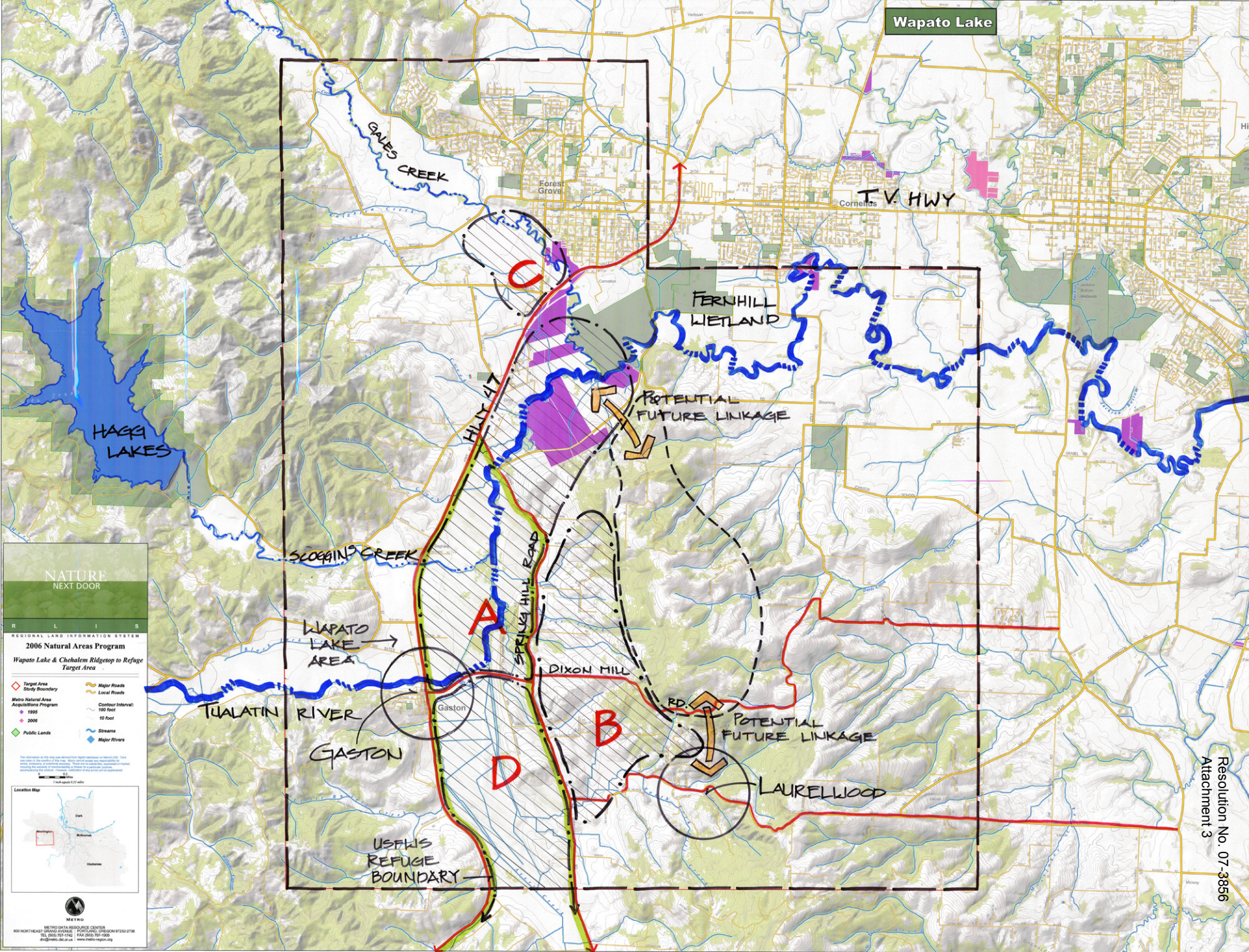
City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

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

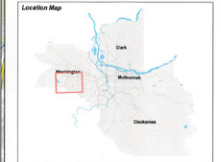


NATURE
NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program
Wapato Lake & Chehalis Ridgtop to Refuge
Target Area

- Target Area Study Boundary
- Metro Natural Area Acquisition Program
- 1996
- 2006
- Public Lands
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Contour Interval: 100 foot
- 50 foot
- Streams
- Major Rivers

Scale: 1 inch equals 0.25 miles



Wapato Lake Survey Results

1. The following priorities were identified in the Wapato Lake 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 bottomland and lands along the Tualatin River south from the Fernhill Wetlands area to Gaston, including the northern basin of Wapato Lake, which is the northern portion of the wildlife refuge area designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (Map area A)	23.1% (6)	38.5% (10)	38.5% (10)	0.0% (0)	2.15	26
Seeking connections to the Chehalem Mountains to protect wildlife corridors and water quality, as identified in the Chehalem Ridgetop target area objectives. (Map area B)	11.5% (3)	46.2% (12)	15.4% (4)	26.9% (7)	2.58	26
Protecting lands along Gales Creek, including the floodplain, from its confluence with the Tualatin River north to Ritchey Road for wildlife connections, flood management, and future recreation opportunities. (Map area C)	53.8% (14)	7.7% (2)	23.1% (6)	15.4% (4)	2.00	26
Supporting the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's acquisitions of Wapato Lake properties south of Gaston Road in the southern portion of the wildlife refuge area designated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (Map area D)	11.5% (3)	7.7% (2)	23.1% (6)	57.7% (15)	3.27	26
	<i>answered question</i>					27
	<i>skipped question</i>					1

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

	most important				least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Preserving land along the Tualatin River and Gales Creek including their associated wetlands to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.	65.4% (17)	7.7% (2)	7.7% (2)	11.5% (3)	7.7% (2)	1.88	26
Protecting the floodplains along the Tualatin River and Gales Creek for future wetland enhancement potential.	8.0% (2)	64.0% (16)	20.0% (5)	4.0% (1)	4.0% (1)	2.32	25
Establishing the Wapato Refuge and connecting it to the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge.	16.0% (4)	12.0% (3)	20.0% (5)	12.0% (3)	40.0% (10)	3.48	25
Providing a natural buffer between urban development and farmland in the area.	0.0% (0)	16.0% (4)	44.0% (11)	24.0% (6)	16.0% (4)	3.40	25
Providing access to nature for people in the future, particularly opportunities for wildlife watching and environmental education.	11.5% (3)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (2)	46.2% (12)	34.6% (9)	3.92	26
	<i>answered question</i>						27
	<i>skipped question</i>						1

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

Work to reduce or eliminate trespassing on private land.
It appears that there may be more important opportunities for lands along stream and river corridors that have already been identified as important resources to protect like the Tualatin River, Council Creek and Gales Creek. The land use zoning along these corridors may permit development to some extent and preclude future public uses. The Wapato Lake area (Area A) already has some of the most restrictive zoning in the Metro area in place that would preclude future development. Area B east of Gaston already has been impacted by rural residential development. It just seems like we should be looking more towards lands closer to the urban fringe that are going to be harder to protect in the future as Urban Reserves and Exception Lands are proposed for new development.
For some reason, my browser does not enable me to answer your first two questions in the above location, SO the most important in #1 is Map Area C and the most important in the second question is number 1. In addition, I think the designation of area C for natural area on existing plans should govern. At present, the City and developers are cooperating to develop property in the area for housing. This is against the wishes of the majority of the neighbors and probably violates Metro's own objectives.
Gales Creek is the federally designated critical habitat sub-basin for federally listed winter steelhead.
Have you approached Native American groups - casino \$ contacts to see if recreational and educational components could be blended into area use.
Do not hinder eco-tourism - Gaston is an economically depressed area.
Integrate goals and info sharing with "friends" groups of Jackson Bottom and Fern Hill Wetlands.
Acquisition of land for future trail links (Hagg Lake, Forest Grove loop & outward).
Protect and fund "Emerald Necklace" trail around Forest Grove

4. In what ways can Metro's Natural Areas Program be compatible with agricultural uses in the Wapato Lake target area?

Can BPA mitigation funds be used? Ducks Unlimited has money. Wetlands Conservancy.
Carefully transition the use from agricultural to a natural area. In other words, slow down the farming use gradually and let the land change itself into a more natural area.
Do not allow housing to progress any further to the south and west of Forest Grove than it does at present. There is a very important community effort by Adelante Mujeres, for example, in the area near the lakebed. It supplies locally grown produce to the Forest Grove Farmer's Market. This is only one example of the very important sources of local food for the area. We must not allow ourselves to be dependent on foreign nations for our food supply.
Allow farming no matter who owns it. Allow hunting.
Allow land to be farmed in summer when land is dry - lease to farmers.
Crop residue after harvest for winter waterfowl food source (types of crops to encourage farming).
Improve water quality and table. Improve flood control.

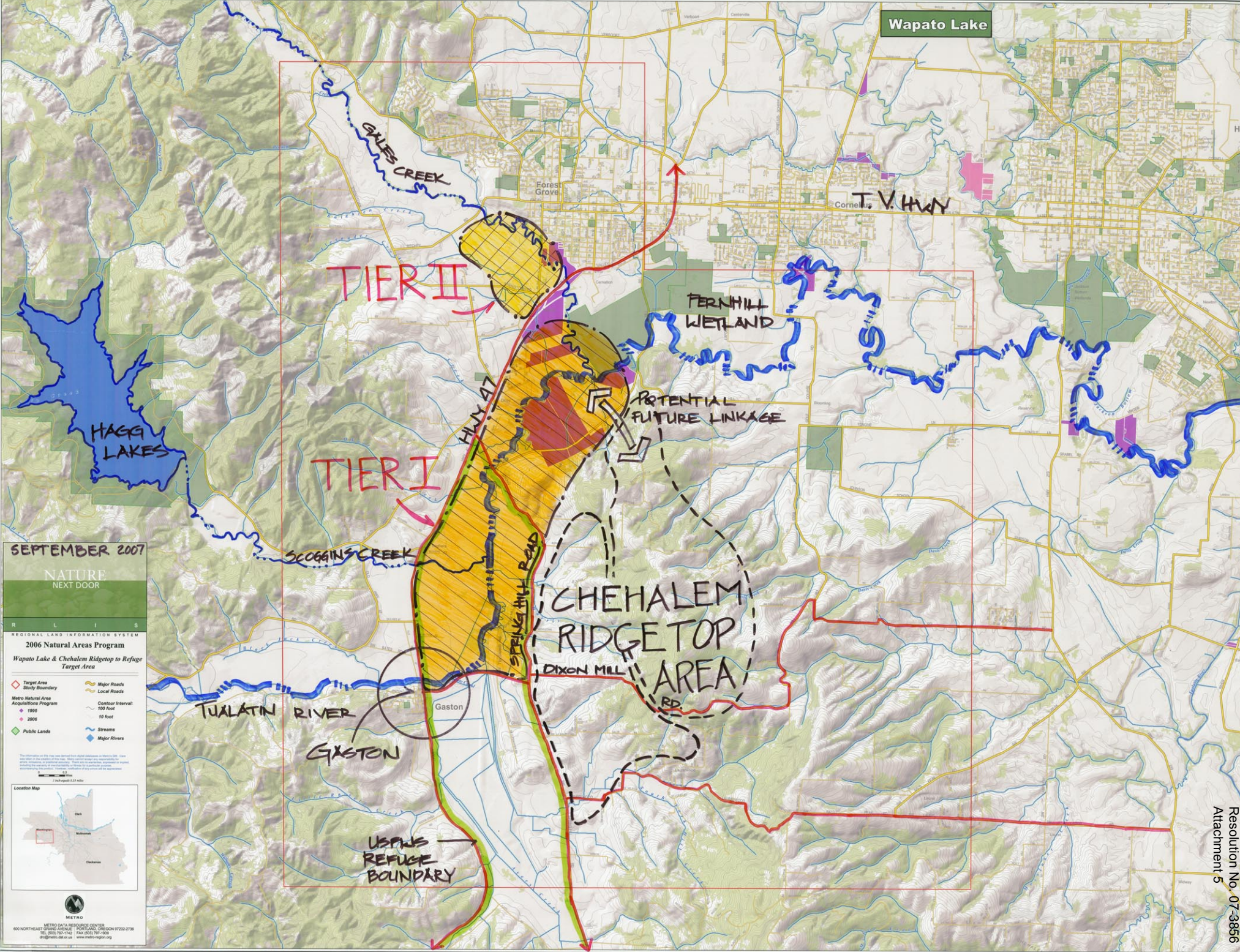
5. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

Metro should try to "partner" with cities such as Forest Grove to help them attain the objectives of the Natural Areas program. At present, only land developers are operating that way. That's why areas unsuitable for housing become targets for development. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.
Partnering with those working in the areas. Working group in the Gales Creek Area.
Talk to lumber mill at Scoggins Creek. This would be good PR for them.
Seek North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant and OWEB funding to match Metro funds for land acquisition. NAWCA requires 1:2 match and provides up to \$1 million per grant: \$1 million NAWCA / \$1 million Metro / \$1 million OWEB = \$3 million. Acquisitions could be phased to secure multiple NAWCA grants. NAWCA and OWEB can also provide funding for wetland restoration. Alternatively, but more complex, would be to use USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program. Existing landowners would need to apply for and enroll in WRP, which would purchase permanent conservation easement. Metro could then buy remaining fee title interest -- perhaps even through same escrow.

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

How will raising Hagg Lake impact this area?
I would do easement, but my property is not close. Glad to see willingness to work with USFW in property acquisition and expanding it with Metro owned land(s).
Acquisition of Gales Creek and Tualatin Link. Creation of loop trail around Forest Grove would serve as a critical hub for future links to Wapato, Hagg Lake, Council/Dairy Creek, Banks/Vernonia, Gales Creek, and eventually to Forest Park!
The area from B Street to Davids Hill Road is the Gales Creek Natural Area as defined by the Forest Grove Comprehensive plan. This calls for "minimum development" yet Metro overturned the FG Planning commission's recommendation for 4 units per acre to 10 units per acre. This area should be protected as stipulated in the Comp Plan for FG.
Gales Creek from B Street to David's Hill Road is the "Gales Creek Natural Area" as defined by the Forest Grove comprehensive plan. This calls for "minimum development", yet Metro overturned the recommendation of the Forest Grove Planning Commission for 4 units per acre to 10 units per acre. Is this the way Metro protects the environment?
From a habitat conservation standpoint and overall biological value, this is probably the most important acquisition target for Metro.

Wapato Lake



SEPTEMBER 2007

NATURE NEXT DOOR

REGIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
2006 Natural Areas Program

Wapato Lake & Chehalem Ridgeline to Refuge Target Area

- Target Area Study Boundary
- Metro Natural Area Acquisitions Program
- Public Lands
- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Contour Interval: 100 foot, 50 foot
- Streams
- Major Rivers
- 1995
- 2006



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TIER II

TIER I

CHEHALEM RIDGETOP AREA

USFWS REFUGE BOUNDARY

POTENTIAL FUTURE LINKAGE

FERNHILL WETLAND

GALES CREEK

SCOGGINS CREEK

TUALATIN RIVER

GASTON

HWY 47

STINKING HILL ROAD

DIXON MILL RD

J.V. HWY

Resolution No. 07-3856
Attachment 5