

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF STATING AN INTENT TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS THE QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUNDING MEASURE TO SUPPORT PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATIONS, AND AUTHORIZING AN OPEN SPACES OPTIONS PROCESS

RESOLUTION NO. 02-3188

Introduced by:  
Mike Burton, Executive Officer  
Carl Hosticka, Presiding Officer

WHEREAS, Metro adopted the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan on July 23, 1992 by Resolution No. 92-1637; and

WHEREAS, the Greenspaces Master Plan outlined evaluation factors and policies that led to mapping 57 regional natural areas and a regional trails system (part 2, section 1); and

WHEREAS, acquisition was identified as an essential strategy in developing the regional system of greenspaces envisioned in the Greenspaces Master Plan (page 67); and

WHEREAS, in May 1995 regional voters approved a \$135.6 million Open Spaces, Parks and Streams Bond Measure (Measure 26-26) with a stated goal of acquiring land in 14 of the 57 regional natural areas identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan and six of the 34 regional trails and greenways identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the bond measure has been extraordinarily successful and Metro has acquired, to date, over 7,700 acres of open spaces in the 14 target areas, and 6 trails and greenways, thus greatly surpassing the 6,000-acre minimum acquisition goal identified in the 1995 bond measure; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council on September 27, 2001 adopted Resolution No. 01-3106 ("For the purpose of modifying the Open Spaces Implementation Work Plan and Open Spaces Acquisition regional target area refinement plans to direct future acquisitions of properties that satisfy specific identified criteria") which directed the Executive Officer and Metro staff to utilize the limited remaining bond dollars to achieve the adopted goals and objectives to the greatest possible extent in established target areas in accordance with specific criteria set forth in that resolution; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 Open Spaces bond measure was never intended to acquire all or even most of the regional natural areas identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, remaining funds are not adequate to acquire additional regional natural areas and trail corridors identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan as desired by many citizens of the region; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of purchase options would allow some additional sites to remain available for future acquisition and long term protection while Metro has an opportunity to explore whether the citizens of the region would support a funding measure to allow for the acquisition of these specific parcels and other components of the Greenspaces Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the strategy of obtaining options to acquire a regionally balanced group of particular open space properties from willing sellers was successfully employed prior to the May 1995 election to

enhance the specificity and thus further the goals of the newly proposed Open Spaces, Parks and Streams Measure; and

WHEREAS, with growth continuing to occur in the region, there is a need to acquire additional open space to provide a growing population with opportunities for outdoor recreation, and to protect the region's air and water quality, and to preserve fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2001, the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) unanimously adopted the Final Report of its Parks Subcommittee, which, among other things, noted the need for additional land acquisition for parks and open spaces beyond the scope of the 1995 bond measure (see section D – "Need for Action"); and

WHEREAS, the MPAC Report in its general recommendations 1.3 calls for additional funding for land acquisition and related parks funding; and

WHEREAS, the MPAC Report in its specific recommendations 5.1-5.3 calls for additional funding for both regional and local park priorities; and

WHEREAS, in the summer and fall of 2001, a 16-member citizen "Green Ribbon Committee" met and deliberated as to whether Metro should seek additional funding to develop some of the areas acquired under the 1995 bond measure for public use and access; and

WHEREAS, the Green Ribbon Committee was directed to deliberate narrowly only on funding for development of Metro's current open space properties and not on acquisition of new property; and

WHEREAS, the Green Ribbon Committee recommended to the Metro Council in a report dated December 6, 2001, that Metro seek \$60 million in new public funding, primarily to develop and operate 15 specified publicly owned areas for improvement and public use; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2002, the Metro Council adopted Ordinance No. 02-939A ("For the purpose of amending Metro code Charter 7.01 to amend the Metro excise tax to provide revenue for Metro's regional parks and greenspaces programs") which imposed an additional fee on the use of solid waste facilities, to support existing Regional Parks and Greenspaces programs, effective only through June 30, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council intends that Metro will seek longer-term funding for the purpose of supporting existing Regional Parks and Greenspaces programs; development of new parks and trails, and also for the acquisition of strategic lands for park and environmental protection purposes; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to initiate appropriate planning and preparation activities for the referral of a funding measure to the voters of the region in a timely fashion; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That the Metro Council intends to refer to the voters of the region a funding measure to support parks, trails and open space acquisition, development and operations. This measure shall be included on either the primary or general election ballot no later than 2004.
2. That the Metro Council authorizes the Metro Executive Officer to spend up to \$75,000 of current open space funds (out of the \$1,500,000 previously reserved in Resolution No. 01-3106 for

stabilization and other future contingency items) and an additional \$25,000 of Metro general initial cap fund (for a total of up to \$100,000) to acquire options to purchase properties from willing sellers for a period through December 31, 2004 in any of the following regional natural areas and regional trails identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan:

- a) Beaverton Powerline Trail;
  - b) Bull Mountain;
  - c) Damascus area, including along Rock and Richardson Creeks;
  - d) Johnson Creek, (SE Portland and Gresham) and its major tributaries including Kelly Creek;
  - e) Mt. Scott;
  - f) Scouter Mountain;
  - g) Stafford Basin;
  - h) In target areas and regional trails and greenways identified in the 1995 bond measure to the extent that remaining funds do not allow for the acquisitions that would achieve goals set forth in the refinement plans adopted by the Metro Council for those specific target areas;
  - i) Other components of the Greenspaces Master Plan as may be specified in future actions of the Metro Council.
3. That the Metro Council authorizes the Metro Executive Officer to direct open spaces staff to work on obtaining these options and compile factual information that the Executive Officer or Council may request to prepare the funding proposal contemplated herein.
4. That Regional Parks and Greenspaces and Office of General Counsel staff shall work with appropriate individuals, local governments and interested nonprofit land conservation organizations that may be able to assist in obtaining options in areas identified herein.
5. That Regional Parks and Greenspaces staff shall develop and propose to Council a process for involving the citizens of the region in determining the appropriate components of the measure to be referred, the amount of the measure, the source of funds to be requested and the specific timing of the referral to voters. This proposal shall be presented to Council by December 31, 2002.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2002.

Withdrawn  
Carl Hosticka, Presiding Officer

Approved as to Form:

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Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel