

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING THE ) RESOLUTION NO. 09-4039  
WEEK OF MAY 27 THROUGH JUNE 7, 2009 )  
AS GREAT BLUE HERON WEEK ) Introduced by Council President  
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, since 1986 the City of Portland has recognized the Great Blue Heron as the official symbol of the region's efforts to maintain the highest possible standard of livability for its wildlife as well as its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) as the largest heron in North America, standing four feet tall with a wingspan of six feet, gray in color and tinged with very distinctive blue markings, is a familiar and welcome sight in many natural areas throughout the Metro region; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 1991, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 91-1453A ("For the Purpose of Endorsing the Week of June 2 - 9, 1991 as Great Blue Heron Week"), initiating Metro's participation in the annual Great Blue Heron Week celebration; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2009, the Portland City Council will proclaim May 27 through June 7, 2009 as the 23rd Annual Great Blue Heron Week extending the celebration to 12 days; and

WHEREAS, the Audubon Society of Portland and Urban Greenspaces Institute's flyer of the 2009 Annual Great Blue Heron Week declares the theme of Great Blue Heron Week 2009 is "Connecting Green: Herons in the City" and adds that the bird is symbolic of our region's commitment to protecting and restoring the ecological health of our urban watersheds; and

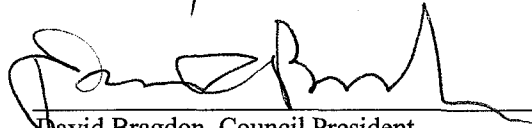
WHEREAS, Great Blue Heron Week invites residents and visitors to celebrate by enjoying our region's natural areas at many sites already in public ownership such as Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, the Columbia Slough, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Creekside Marsh, Heron Lakes Golf Course, Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve; and

WHEREAS, each year since the Portland City Council adopted the Great Blue Heron as the official city bird in 1986 the metropolitan region has celebrated the heron as an icon for access to nature. Creation of Portland Parks and Recreation's City Nature Program, Passage of Metro's \$227.4 million bond measure, adoption of progressive watershed and urban forest management plans, the city's Grey to Green initiative, and launching of the Connecting Green Alliance all represent successes toward integrating the built and natural environments and creating a more ecologically sustainable metropolitan region. During Great Blue Heron Week we celebrate these successes as well as future challenges. Metro urges residents to climb in to a kayak, hop on a bike, or take a walk to enjoy the region's greenspace heritage.

WHEREAS, participants of the Great Blue Heron Week celebration will learn about new natural areas that are important to the region's biological diversity and rich natural area heritage; now therefore,

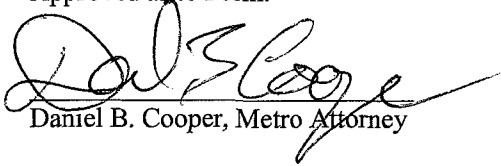
BE IT RESOLVED, that in honor of the Great Blue Heron, a fitting symbol of livability for the entire region's residents, both people and wildlife, the Metro Council proclaims the week of May 27 through June 7, 2009 as the 23rd Annual Great Blue Heron Week and encourages all citizens to participate in the walks, bike rides and paddles occurring that week in honor of the Great Blue Heron.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 28 day of May 2009.

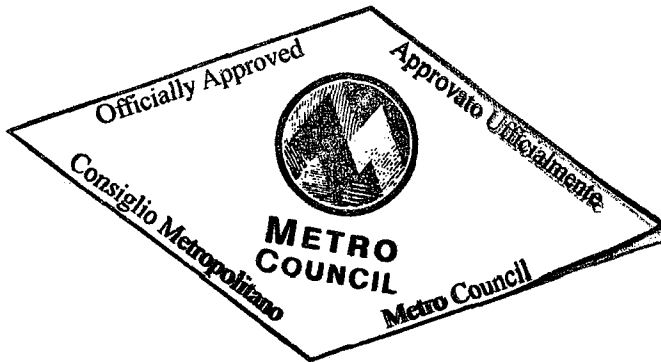


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



## STAFF REPORT

### IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-4039, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 27 THROUGH JUNE 7, 2007 AS GREAT BLUE HERON WEEK

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Date: May 21, 2009

Prepared by: Eileen Schill

## BACKGROUND

Great Blue Heron Week has been held the last week of May and first week of June each year in the Portland region since 1986, when the City of Portland recognized the Great Blue Heron as the official symbol of the region's efforts to maintain the highest possible standard of livability for its wildlife as well as its citizens. The Metro Council initiated its participation in the Great Blue Heron Week celebration when it adopted Resolution No. 91-1453A "For the Purpose of Endorsing the Week of June 29, 1991 as Great Blue Heron Week", and has continued to partner with the City of Portland, Portland Audubon Society, the Urban Greenspaces Institute, the Bureau of Environmental Services, River Renaissance and other organizations and agencies each year on the celebration.

Great Blue Heron Week celebrates the strides that have been made towards providing for access to nature in the heart of the city, integrating the built and natural environments, and creating a more ecologically sustainable metropolitan region. Prominent among these successes are two regional bond measures, one in 1995 and more recently in November 2006, the Parks, Trails and Streams \$227.4 million bond, has protected over 8,200 acres in public ownership and will add more than 5,000 additional acres to the public land base in the next decade. Additionally, over one-hundred miles of stream and river banks are now in public ownership.

Participants of the Great Blue Heron Week celebration will learn about new natural areas that are important to the region's biological diversity and rich natural area heritage.

## ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition:** None.
2. **Legal Antecedents**
3. **Anticipated Effects** Continued partnership with local governments, non-governmental entities, and communities to celebrate past success and define future challenges to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitats and open space in the Portland region.
4. **Budget Impacts:** None.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

David Bragdon, Metro Council President, recommends adoption of Resolution 09-4039.