

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING FOURTH) RESOLUTION NO. 09-4045
ROUND FUNDING FOR NATURE IN)
NEIGHBORHOODS GRANTS) Introduced by: Michael Jordan, Chief
Operating Officer, with the concurrence of
David Bragdon, Council President

WHEREAS, Metro has established a regional fish and wildlife protection, restoration and greenspaces initiative named "Nature in Neighborhoods", as provided in Resolution No. 05-3574A, "Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative called Nature in Neighborhoods," adopted May 12, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Metro has established a grants program funded by the Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve fund, as provided in Resolution No. 05-3580A, "Transferring \$1,250,000 from Balance of FY 2004-05 Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve to a General Fund Reserve for Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Projects," adopted June 9, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Metro adopted Ordinance 07-1160B on September 27, 2007, "Amending the FY 2007-08 Budget and Appropriations Schedule to Implement Various Projects Funded From Undesignated Reserves and Declaring an Emergency," transferring \$250,000 from the Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve fund for an additional round of Nature in Neighborhoods grants in Spring 2008; and

WHEREAS, Metro approved \$250,000 in the FY 2008-09 Budget And Appropriation Schedule for an additional round of Nature in Neighborhood Grants in Spring 2009; and

WHEREAS, Metro has solicited and received applications for this grants program and selected the projects which best meet the criteria for the grants program and the Nature in Neighborhoods initiative; and

WHEREAS, by protecting natural areas from illegal dumping and restoring and enhancing our natural areas, the region can thereby enjoy the benefits of nature in neighborhoods for years to come, protecting our region's clean water and the health and vitality of our watersheds; and

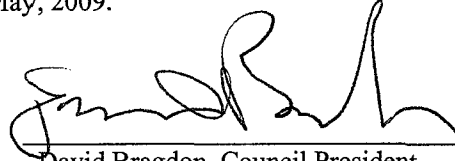
WHEREAS, illegal dumping frequently occurs in natural areas near or in streams and rivers, posing a particular threat to our region's clean water, to the health of our watersheds, and to healthy functioning fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, it will take concerted and sustained efforts to restore and protect the region's wildlife habitat areas and this challenge provides unique opportunities for the solid waste community, habitat restoration organizations, education community, building trades firms and organizations, industry groups, environmental groups, business people and property owners to create new partnerships to protect and restore the region's natural areas; and

WHEREAS, attached as Exhibits A and B to this resolution is the listing of grant award recipients and respective funding amounts and an example of the individual contract agreement; and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby approves the fourth round funding for the Nature in Neighborhoods grants to those recipients listed in Exhibit A and for the amounts listed for each individual award.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 21 day of May, 2009.



David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

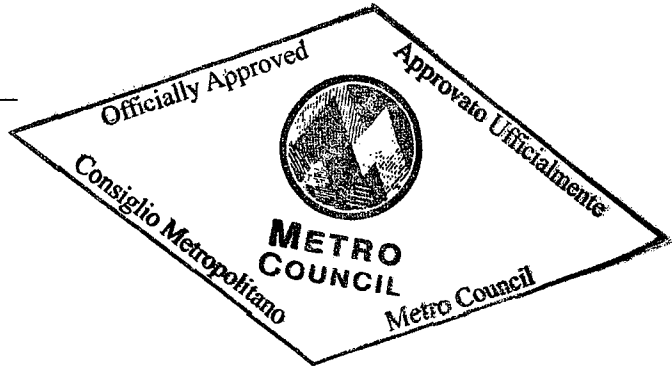


EXHIBIT A
RESOLUTION NO. 09-4045
NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS AND AMOUNTS

Audubon Society of Portland **\$24,942**
Backyard Bird Habitat Certification Program

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program will provide technical support, incentives and recognition to private property owners who remove invasive species, natuescape, manage stormwater, and integrate advanced wildlife management strategies. They will engage 500 property owners and certify 255 properties during the grant period.

West Willamette Restoration Partnership **\$39,379**
West Willamette Restoration Partnership - George Himes Park

The West Willamette Restoration Partnership will restore a total of 81 acres by removing invasive plant cover from 31-acres in George Himes Park and removing tree ivy and debris from the last remaining 50 acres in Marquam Nature Park. The project will engage over 1000 citizens contributing 4,000 volunteer hours in restoration activities.

Milwaukie Presbyterian Church **\$7,800**
Our Wild Space

Milwaukie Presbyterian Church will restore 3.5 acres of wetlands on Kellogg Lake by removing invasive plants and planting with native trees and shrubs. Additionally the grant will fund improved access to the space and the repair and rebuilding of the trail and bridge. The project will involve over 1,650 volunteer hours.

Reed College **\$30,000**
Upper Crystal Springs Enhancement Project

Reed College will improve fish passage and habitat along a vital stretch of Crystal Springs. Aspects of the restoration will include culvert replacement, restoration of original channel morphology, placement of woody debris, enhancement of riparian and upland vegetation and treatment of stormwater runoff in a bioswale. This project will give local residents the opportunity to become personally involved in on-the-ground restoration activities.

Forest Park Conservancy **\$10,000**
Days of Stewardship

Forest Park Conservancy will engage over 400 volunteers in hands-on restoration projects during two of their upcoming Day of Stewardship events. They expect to remove English Ivy from 1000 mature trees, plant over 1500 native trees and shrubs, maintain over four miles of trail, and prepare English Holly for treatment and removal.

City of Hillsboro **\$14,950**
Jackson Bottom Wetlands Restoration and Education

The City of Hillsboro and Jackson Bottoms Wetlands Preserve will restore 12 acres of degraded floodplain marsh that serve as critical wintering and rearing habitat for a number of native wetland species. As part of the restoration 12,000 native trees and shrubs and 10,000 native wetlands plants will be installed. An estimated 300 volunteers will participate.

Friends of Tryon Creek **\$12,160**
Tryon Creek Ecology Field Team

The Tryon Creek Ecology Field Team will incorporate service learning into a program that gives high school students ownership of significant restoration projects at Tryon Creek State Park. It is designed to reach out to non-traditional learners from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds and allow them to build meaningful relationships with the natural world.

The Nature Conservancy **\$39,893**
Sandy Basin Anchor Habitat Restoration Project

This project will focus on restoring a resilient riparian buffer in the Lower Sandy River Basin that will improve the quality of native vegetation and fish habitat. The achievement of this goal will be attained by working with volunteers and the community with a focus on education and stewardship.

Friends of Nadaka c/o Wilkes East Neighborhood Association **\$10,199**
Nadaka Nature Park

Wilkes East Neighborhood Association plans to restore habitat and make improvements within the 10 acre Nadaka Nature Park. Activities will include organizing cleanup events, removing non-native vegetation, planting native trees and shrubs, providing habitat enhancements for birds and bats and removing barriers to the public at the south end of the park. The project will involve over 400 volunteer hours.

SOLV **\$24,900**
Abernethy Creek restoration

The Abernethy Creek project will improve riparian and aquatic habitat along a reach that is incised, dominated by invasive plant species and suffers from a lack of large woody debris. This project will improve instream habitat, improve flood plain interaction, increase the riparian buffer, involve local community organizations and educate volunteers.

Friends of Trees
Greening the Eastside Greenspace Initiative

\$15,000

This project is an ongoing effort in Friends of Tree's *Greening the Eastside* program that engages people in planting trees in neighborhoods that lack adequate tree cover on the eastside of Portland. FOT will work with existing partners to plant, care for and maintain 150 trees over three years at two sites, Rigler Elementary and one mile of ODOT right of away adjacent to the bike path and I-205. The project will engage at least 225 volunteers including children from Rigler Elementary and volunteer Crew Leaders

Johnson Creek Watershed Council
Clatsop Butte Vegetation Enhancement

\$7,846

The Clatsop Butte Vegetation Enhancement project seeks to improve wildlife habitat and riparian conditions on 1.0 acres of land by replacing non-native species with native plants, and to maintain these plantings until they are able to survive on their own.

SOLV
Beaver Creek Canyon Restoration

\$12,930

The SOLV Beaver Creek Canyon Restoration aims to restore native vegetation where human activity and invasive plants have greatly altered the environment. This project will improve water quality; stabilize eroding banks; provide a functioning riparian area; restore channel share; and involve the community in an important stream restoration project.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-4045, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING FOURTH ROUND FUNDING FOR NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS GRANTS

Date: May 21, 2009

Prepared by: Mary Rose Navarro, 503-797-1781
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, 503-797-1948

BACKGROUND

This grant program is in its fourth year of funding grassroots, community-oriented projects that create new connections and improvements to neighborhoods, natural areas and beyond. In the first three years, this grant program has funded 63 projects including 26 restoration projects, 6 education projects, 31 projects that include both restoration and education, and 3 stormwater/infrastructure projects

The program was created in 2005 when the Metro Council passed Resolution No. 05-3580A transferring \$1,250,000 from the Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve to a General Fund Reserve for the program. Of this funding, \$1,000,000 was used to fund 52 projects over two funding cycles. The Metro Council continue the program in September 2007 with the approval of Ordinance 07-1160B, transferring an additional \$250,000 for another cycle of grants to be awarded in Spring 2008, and again in 2008 when the Metro Council approved \$250,000 in the FY 2008-09 Budget And Appropriation Schedule for an additional round of Nature in Neighborhood Grants in Spring 2009.

This program has been successful at achieving stated objectives regarding engaging citizens in watershed restoration. To date the funded projects have achieved the following results.

- Over \$2.80 has been spent for every \$1.00 invested by the Metro Council.
- Over 35,786 hours of volunteer time has been contributed to the successful implementation of these projects.

This fourth round of funding was announced in the Fall of 2008 and 41 pre-applications were received. Of these proposals, 20 were invited to participate in the final grant application process. In April 2009, 18 final applications were received by the Nature in Neighborhoods team. An interdisciplinary, interdepartmental team of six individuals reviewed these applications and recommended those projects which best met the criteria and intent of the Nature in Neighborhoods grant program.

The recommended projects represent innovative public-partnerships that include the education community, the solid waste community, non-profit organizations and individuals doing on-the-ground restoration work, hands-on education, curriculum development and community building.

The total for the fourth round of funding is \$249,999. These projects will begin after July 1, 2009. Projects are from one to three years in length.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

None.

2. Legal Antecedents

Resolution No. 05-3551, Metro Council Project Proposal titled “Nature in Neighborhoods”.

Resolution No. 05-3574A, Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative called Nature in Neighborhoods.

Resolution 05-3580A Transferring \$1,250,000 from the Balance of the FY 2004-05 Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve to a General Fund Reserve for Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Projects (2 year grant program 06-07; 07-08).

Ordinance No. 07-1160B, Transferring \$250,000 from the Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve for Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Projects (1 year grant program 08-09).

3. Anticipated Effects

This Resolution approves the fourth round funding and award for Nature in Neighborhood grants and begins the individual contract award process for the selected grant applicants with an anticipated start project date on or after July 1, 2009. Projects are from one to three years in length.

4. Budget Impacts

This resolution authorizes award of contracts in an amount previously identified by Council in the budget for this purpose. Sufficient appropriation authority has been included in the current fiscal year budget and in the Approved FY 2009-10 budget for these expenditures, including holding amounts in reserve for expenditures anticipated in future fiscal years.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Chief Operating Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 09-4045.