

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING SIXTH ) RESOLUTION NO. 11-4257  
ROUND FUNDING FOR NATURE IN )  
NEIGHBORHOODS RESTORATION AND ) Introduced by Councilor Hosticka, with the  
ENHANCEMENT GRANTS ) concurrence of Council President Tom  
) Hughes.

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, the Metro Council established the Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement grant program and appropriated \$1,250,000 in the General Fund in 2005 for the initial grants (Resolution No. 05-3580A); and

WHEREAS, The Metro Council appropriated an additional \$250,000 in the General Fund in 2007 for additional grants (Ordinance 07-1160B); and

WHEREAS, Metro adopted Ordinance No. 09-1215B approving \$92,500 in the FY 2009-010 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for a fifth round of grants in Spring 2010; and

WHEREAS, Metro adopted Ordinance No. 10-1235B approving \$150,000 in the FY 2010-11 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for a sixth round of Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement Grants; and

WHEREAS, it takes sustained efforts to restore and protect the region’s wildlife habitat areas and preserve our natural systems as our region grows. This challenge provides unique opportunities for communities, organizations, governments, businesses, people and property owners to create new partnerships to protect and restore the region’s natural areas; and

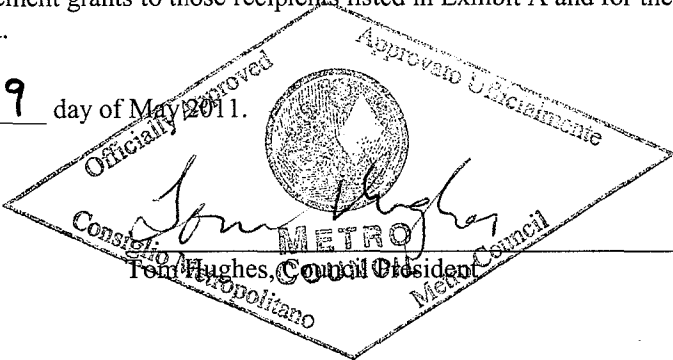
WHEREAS, Metro has solicited and received applications for this grant program and selected the projects which best meet the grant criteria and the Nature in Neighborhoods initiative; and

WHEREAS, by restoring and enhancing our natural areas, the region can protect our region’s clean water and the health of our watersheds and enjoy the benefits of nature in neighborhoods for years to come; and

WHEREAS, attached as Exhibit A to this resolution is the listing of grant award recipients and respective funding amounts; now therefore

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

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 19 day of May 2011.



Approved as to Form:

  
Alison Kean Campbell, Acting Metro Attorney

## Exhibit A to Resolution No. 11-4257

### Nature in Neighborhoods 2011 Restoration and Enhancement Grants

#### Planning Grants Recommended for Funding

**Clackamas Community College** **\$10,000**  
**Planning for Site Restoration at the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center**

Clackamas Community College will revive its work to redevelop a five-acre environmental learning center. This planning project will lay the groundwork for developing the center into a regional outdoor learning laboratory, demonstration site and natural area that showcases innovations in stormwater management, landscape design and sustainable living practices. Ultimately, the learning center will improve water quality in the Newell Creek watershed and create a network of partners committed to protecting its health. Partners include the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, the Clackamas County Office of Sustainability, the City of Oregon City and the Oregon State University Extension for Clackamas County.

**Friends of Gateway Green** **\$10,000**  
**Gateway Green Planning Project**

A 30-acre parcel of neglected public land wedged between Interstate 205 and Interstate 84 is being reinvented as a regional asset. The site is owned by the Oregon Department of Transportation but dozens of private and public partners are participating in developing this new vision for the area. This grant supports continued progress on this planning effort. By enhancing ecological conditions, the site will improve water quality and biodiversity and provide nature-based recreation opportunities. Hundreds of native trees and shrubs will be planted on the property, which might someday be linked to a larger natural area on nearby Rocky Butte. This transformation is part of the larger Gateway Green project, which aims to increase diversity, quality and accessibility of recreation opportunities in one of Portland's most park-deficient areas. Partners include ODOT, the City of Portland, the Northwest Trail Alliance, Groundworks Portland and Friends of Gateway Green.

**SOLV** **\$10,000**  
**Rinearson Creek Feasibility Study**

SOLV and its partners are exploring long-term restoration opportunities in the lower Rinearson Creek watershed. An independent scientific assessment will narrow five alternatives, including restoring a pond area and removing a dam, helping the Rinearson Creek Coalition pick one approach to move forward. Meanwhile, SOLV will restore the upper watershed near Rinearson Creek, engaging volunteers through community planting days. Students will help monitor water quality, wildlife and vegetation. Partners include Willamette Riverkeeper, Wilderness International, North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council, City of Gladstone, Rinearson Homeowners Association, Robinwood Riverie Homeowners Association, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

## Exhibit A to Resolution No. 11-4257

### Project and Program Grants Recommended for Funding

**Audubon Society of Portland** **\$20,000**  
**Balch Creek and Cornell Road Corridor Invasive Removal Project**

The Audubon Society of Portland and its partners will complete a restoration project in the Pittock Bird Sanctuary, a 22-acre parcel along Balch Creek where volunteers have helped control invasive species and plant native alternatives. Paid contractors will tackle the remaining infestation on steep and sensitive slopes. Volunteers can then replant, monitor and maintain the area – using human and financial resources efficiently. Project partners include the Forest Park Conservancy, the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and Audubon’s national “Together Green” Program, which engages a diverse array of volunteers groups.

**City of Gresham** **\$7,000**  
**Healthy Streams Program**

Gresham’s Healthy Streams Program creates awareness and momentum for managing stormwater and reducing non-point source pollution in local streams. Using time-tested community-based social marketing techniques, the program directly engages citizens in the stewardship of local resources. This grant will translate to 20 home visits, canvasses of three high-priority neighborhoods, safety assessments and downspout disconnect work at nearly 50 homes and outreach at five community forums and events. Partners include the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council, the Central City Neighborhood Association and the Northwest Neighborhood Association.

**East Columbia Neighborhood Association** **\$20,000**  
**Blue Heron Wetlands Restoration Project**

The East Columbia neighborhood in Northeast Portland is teaming up with local agency science staff and land managers in the Columbia Slough to oust a highly invasive weed from the ponds at the Blue Heron Wetlands. *Ludwigia peploides* is a highly aggressive invasive weed that has only recently been detected in the Willamette Valley. This project will help to prevent its spread into new areas and help local land managers how best to control it in our region. This project also will launch a community education program, create a sustainable management plan and spread the word about the restoration effort. Outreach tools may include a journal article, printed materials to hand out at professional events, email updates, posters and websites. Wetland restoration will engage many partners, including 50 neighborhood volunteers. Ultimately, they will work together to control or eliminate the invasive weed and improve watershed health.

**Lake Oswego United Church of Christ** **\$12,129**  
**LOUCC Stormwater Management Phase II - Parking Lot Rain Garden**

Lake Oswego United Church of Christ is taking on the second phase of a three-part project to manage stormwater – and, in the process, creating a model for private landowners to improve watershed health. The congregation plans to collect, filter and slow runoff from its parking lot, with a goal of eventually managing all water before it reaches Nettle Creek and the Tryon Creek watershed. By removing part of the parking lot, replacing it with a native plant garden and making other improvements, project leaders expect to clean 430,000 gallons of rain water every year. They also aim to educate the community at large, other faith communities and their own congregation.

## **Exhibit A to Resolution No. 11-4257**

**Lent Elementary School** **\$24,700**  
**Springwater Corridor Ecology Project**

Lent Elementary School will expand experiential learning opportunities for underserved students, while restoring habitat along the Springwater Corridor and nearby Johnson Creek. During the two-year project, some 300 students will get hands-on ecology lessons in the classroom. They will apply their new knowledge during restoration field trips, with 150 high school students serving as mentors. Community work days will give adult volunteers a chance to help out, too. All told, the school will plant 6,000 native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers along more than one-third mile of the region's signature trail.

**Nature Conservancy** **\$25,000**  
**Camassia and Wilderness Park Restoration Project**

This project spans three landowners, 138 acres and multiple habitats. The Nature Conservancy is expanding restoration efforts at part of its Camassia Natural Area, along with neighboring property owned by the City of West Linn and West Linn High School. With the leadership of the Conservancy's science staff and land managers, the other partners will develop a commitment to better stewardship of rare and historic oak habitat. During the first year, partners will control invasive species and prepare for replanting and reseedling. During the second year, they will plant local willow cuttings and other trees and shrubs along 200 feet of degraded stream and sow more than five pounds of native forbs in oak woodland and herbaceous bald habitats, which have declined dramatically in the Willamette Valley. All activities will engage high school students and volunteers.

**Tualatin Riverkeepers** **\$24,606**  
**Diverse Partners for Nature Awareness**

Diverse Partners for Nature Awareness will engage low-income Latino families and youth in hands-on nature experiences, growing a new generation of watershed stewards. Building strong relationships with diverse communities will help meet the Tualatin Riverkeepers' goal of clean water and a healthy environment. Immediate plans call for engaging 350 participants in hands-on experiences such as school field trips, summer day camp and Rumba al Rio, an event targeted at Spanish language speakers. The Riverkeepers also will build capacity to continue this outreach by training volunteers, expanding programs and identifying sustainable funding. Partners include Vose Elementary School in Beaverton, West Washington County Family Literacy Collective, City of Tigard, Adelante Mujeres, The Wetlands Conservancy, Clean Water Services, Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District and the Center for Diversity and the Environment.

**Exhibit A to Resolution No. 11-4257**

**Xerces Society**

**\$11,500**

**Community Based Freshwater Mussel study**

Freshwater mussels are some of the most at-risk animals in the United States, but their decline has received little attention in the Pacific Northwest. A better understanding is needed to guide future projects and management decisions. Xerces Society will partner with watershed groups such as the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and the Clackamas Basin River Council, training volunteers to survey mussels in area waterways. The information recorded will allow local watershed advocates to begin protecting the declining mussel population – which also tends to help amphibians, birds and native fish. This project will build on the lessons learned from a pilot project conducted by in the Johnson Creek watershed that effectively engaged community volunteers and attracted attention to this important but often overlooked indicator species.

## STAFF REPORT

### FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING SIXTH ROUND FUNDING FOR NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

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Date: May 19, 2011

Prepared by: Heather Nelson Kent, 503-797-1739

## BACKGROUND

This grant program is in its sixth year of funding hands-on, community-based projects that connect people to their local natural areas, increase watershed health and provide increased access to nature in our region's neighborhoods and beyond. In its first five years the Restoration and Enhancement Grant Program has funded 85 projects. Metro's \$1.75 million in grants have leveraged more than \$7.6 million in in-kind and financial contributions from partners to support activities on the ground, in the community and in the classroom.

The program was created in 2005 when the Metro Council passed Resolution No. 05-3580A appropriating \$1,250,000 in the General Fund. The initial source of funding came from the Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve. The Metro Council continued the program in September 2007 with the approval of Ordinance 07-1160B, transferring an additional \$250,000 from this fund for a third cycle of grants. The Metro Council approved \$250,000 in the FY 2008-09 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for the fourth round of Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement grants. In 2009 the Metro Council included \$92,500 in the FY 2009-2010 Budget and Appropriation Schedule to fund a fifth round of Nature in Neighborhoods grants. In 2010 the Metro Council included \$150,000 in the FY 2010-2011 Budget and Appropriation Schedule to fund a sixth round of grants. Additional funding for this program is not included in the Metro Council's FY 2011-12 budget.

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

- Leveraged \$4.70 for every \$1.00 invested by the Metro Council
- Generated an estimated 76,000 hours of volunteer-donated time and talent
- Engaged more than 300 private, public, non-profit and community partners
- Supported dozens of classrooms and thousands of students every year – many from low-income neighborhoods. These students are engaged in environmental education programs and service-learning projects in their local watersheds.

Metro announced a sixth round of available funding in the fall of 2010. This year's program included a new planning grant category. These grants will support new partners and underserved communities interested in developing projects that might be candidates for, among other things, Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants. Metro received 48 pre-applications in January 2011 requesting a total of \$721,826 in grant funding, including 11 planning pre-applications. A committee made up of Metro staff and local experts in restoration, environmental education, community organizing, park planning and grant administration invited 18 full applications, including 13 project/program grants and five planning grants. The review committee met in April and recommended 11 grants to the Metro Council for funding.

The recommended projects represent innovative community-based investments that:

- restore and enhance some of the region's rarest habitats such as oak woodlands and key river confluence areas

- engage thousands of residents in improving nature in their own neighborhoods
- reach low-income and underserved students
- include hands-on environmental education opportunities.

The total recommended award for the sixth round of funding is \$175,000. This includes \$150,000 in new funding approved by Metro Council in the FY 2010-11 Budget and Appropriation Schedule as well as a total of \$25,000 in previously committed but unused Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement Grant Program funds from previous granting cycles. These projects will begin after July 1, 2011. Projects are two 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 No. 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.

Ordinance No. 07-1160B, Transferring \$250,000 from the Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund for Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Projects.

Ordinance No. 09-1215B, Approving \$92,500 in the FY 2009-010 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for an additional round of Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement grants.

Ordinance No. 10-1235B, Approving \$150,000 in the FY 2010-11 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for an additional round of Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement grants.

### **3. Anticipated Effects**

This Resolution approves the sixth 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 start date on or after July 1, 2011. Projects are for two 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 2011-12 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. 11-4257.