 **Metro** | *Agenda*

Meeting: Metro Council
Date: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012
Time: 2 p.m.
Place: Metro, Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.1 Consideration of the Minutes for Dec. 13, 2012

3.2 **Resolution No. 12-4401**, For the Purpose of Amending the Resolution No. 12-4383 Setting the Policy Direction on the Regional Flexible Funding Allocation (RFFA) Process for Federal Fiscal Years 2016-18.

4. RESOLUTIONS

4.1 **Resolution No. 12-4399**, For the Purpose of Amending the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan and Oregon Zoo 20-Year Comprehensive Capital Master Plan. **Craddick**

4.2 **Resolution No. 12-4400**, For the Purpose of Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Execute an Option to Purchase and Acquire Real Property for a Remote Elephant Center. **Collette**

4.3 **Resolution No. 12-4398**, For the Purpose of Referring to the Voters of the Metro Area a Local Option Levy for the Purpose of Preserving Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Maintaining Metro's Parks and Natural Areas for the Public. **Roberts**

5. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

ADJOURN

Television schedule for Dec. 18, 2012 Metro Council meeting

<p>Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, and Vancouver, WA Channel 30 – Community Access Network <i>Web site:</i> www.tvctv.org <i>Ph:</i> 503-629-8534 <i>Date:</i> Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Portland Channel 30 – Portland Community Media <i>Web site:</i> www.pcmtv.org <i>Ph:</i> 503-288-1515 <i>Date:</i> Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m. <i>Date:</i> Thursday, Dec. 20, 2 p.m. <i>Date:</i> Sunday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Gresham Channel 30 - MCTV <i>Web site:</i> www.metroeast.org <i>Ph:</i> 503-491-7636 Call or visit web site for program times.</p>	<p>Washington County Channel 30– TVC TV <i>Web site:</i> www.tvctv.org <i>Ph:</i> 503-629-8534 <i>Date:</i> Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m.</p>
<p>Oregon City, Gladstone Channel 28 – Willamette Falls Television <i>Web site:</i> http://www.wftvmedia.org/ <i>Ph:</i> 503-650-0275 Call or visit web site for program times.</p>	<p>West Linn Channel 30 – Willamette Falls Television <i>Web site:</i> http://www.wftvmedia.org/ <i>Ph:</i> 503-650-0275 Call or visit web site for program times.</p>

PLEASE NOTE: Show times are tentative and in some cases the entire meeting may not be shown due to length. Call or check your community access station web site to confirm program times.

Agenda items may not be considered in the exact order. For questions about the agenda, call the Metro Council Office at 503-797-1540. Public hearings are held on all ordinances second read. Documents for the record must be submitted to the Regional Engagement Coordinator to be included in the decision record. Documents can be submitted by e-mail, fax or mail or in person to the Regional Engagement Coordinator. For additional information about testifying before the Metro Council please go to the Metro web site www.oregonmetro.gov and click on public comment opportunities. For assistance per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), dial TDD 503-797-1804 or 503-797-1540 (Council Office).

Agenda Item No. 3.1

Consideration of the Minutes for Dec. 13, 2012

Consent Agenda

Metro Council Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012
Metro, Council Chamber

Agenda Item No. 3.2

Resolution No. 12-4401, For the Purpose of Amending the
Resolution No. 12-4383 Setting the Policy Direction on the
Regional Flexible Funding Allocation (RFFA) Process for
Federal Fiscal Years 2016-18.

Consent Agenda

Metro Council Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012
Metro, Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING) RESOLUTION NO: 12-4401
RESOLUTION 12-4383 SETTING THE POLICY)
DIRECTION TO THE REGIONAL FLEXIBLE)
FUNDING ALLOCATION (RFFA) PROCESS)
FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2016-18)

WHEREAS, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council will be awarding regional flexible funds to transportation projects and programs in the region through the Regional Flexible Fund Allocation (RFFA) process; and

WHEREAS, these funding awards, as well as all other federal transportation spending in the region, will be programmed in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP); and

WHEREAS, JPACT recommended and on November 15, 2012 the Metro Council approved Resolution 12-4383, which established policies and processes regarding the allocation of regional flexible funding for Federal Fiscal Years 2016-2018; and

WHEREAS, JPACT has proposed amendments to the policies and processes set forth in Resolution 12-4383 regarding the Regional Economic Opportunity Fund; and

WHEREAS, JPACT and the Metro Council wish to facilitate the process and provide more specific focus for public comment regarding the Regional Economic Opportunity Fund; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby adopts the recommendation of JPACT amending the policy direction for allocating the Regional Economic Opportunity Fund as part of the RFFA process for federal fiscal years 2016-18 as described in Exhibit A attached hereto.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this day of _____ December, 2012.

Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to form:

Alison Kean-Campbell, Metro Attorney

EXHIBIT A

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 12-4383 Entitled "2016-18 Regional Flexible Funds Allocation (RFFA) Policy Report" Section 5 is hereby deleted and replaced in full to read as follows

STEP 3 – REGIONAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FUND

After funding Step 1 and Step 2 there is a remaining \$33.8 million to allocate as part of the 2016-18 RFFA. These monies have been set aside to fund transportation investments that:

- Address economic opportunity and job creation
- Take a systemwide approach
- Leverage private sector investments
- Consider corridor safety
- Reflect criteria from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program
- Implement corridor planning work
- Improve access to industrial areas
- Consider the transportation needs of the Environmental Justice and underserved communities

The Regional Economic Opportunity Fund was created to meet these needs. Subject to the stakeholder engagement and decision processes described in Section 6, the following investments are proposed for the Regional Economic Opportunity Fund:

Jurisdiction	Project	Amount
Clackamas County	Sunrise System: Industrial Area Freight Access and Multimodal Improvement	\$8.267 million
Washington County	US 26/Brookwood Interchange– Industrial Access	\$8.267 million
Port of Portland	Troutdale Industrial Access	\$8.00 million
Multnomah County	NE 238th Drive: NE Halsey Street to NE Glisan Street Freight and Multimodal Improvements	\$1.00 million
City of Portland/TriMet	East Portland Access to Employment and Education Multi-Modal Improvements	\$8.267 million
TOTAL		\$33.801 million

APPLICATION FOR REOF ALLOCATION

Each of the jurisdictions listed above shall by March 15, 2013 submit to Metro an application for REOF funding for the applicable project consisting of the following:

- Description of the Project
- Description of Preliminary Finance Plan, including a timeline of major milestones for the project

- Description of How the Project:
 - Contributes to long-term productivity of the US and Metro Region economy
 - Furthers Partnership for Sustainable Communities principles
 - Promotes an environmentally sustainable transportation system
 - Improves safety of the transportation system
 - Creates or preserves jobs
 - Uses innovative technology, system management, or project delivery techniques
 - Fosters multi-jurisdictional and stakeholder collaboration

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

At the conclusion of the stakeholder engagement and decision process described in Section 6, when REOF funds are allocated to a project, actual disbursement of such funds for the project are subject to the following:

- The project is eligible for federal funds
- Sufficient matching funds are available for the project;
- Required environmental approvals have been or are reasonably likely to be received to allow the project to proceed to construction on the specified timeline;
- The project is consistent with all applicable state, regional, and local plans; and
- The recipient jurisdiction has cooperated to facilitate the efficient implementation of regional projects receiving funding from Metro's MTIP program.

If one or more of these conditions have not been met by the intended time of REOF funds disbursement, JPACT and Metro Council may defer such disbursement or may reallocate the funds to another project.

STAFF REPORT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING RESOLUTION 12-4383 SETTING THE POLICY DIRECTION TO THE REGIONAL FLEXIBLE FUNDING ALLOCATION (RFFA) PROCESS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2016-18

Date: December 5, 2012

Prepared by: Josh Naramore

BACKGROUND

Regional flexible funds are an element of the funds programmed within the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). The Metropolitan region is preparing to prioritize transportation projects and program activities to receive regional flexible funds available in the federal fiscal years 2016 through 2018. The Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council's adopted the policy direction for the allocation of these funds with Resolution No. 12-4383 on November 15, 2012.

In the previous two allocation processes, regional flexible funds have been allocated in two steps. The first step was to allocate funds to existing regional transportation programs: metropolitan transportation planning, transit oriented development, regional travel options, transportation system management & operations, and high capacity transit development and capital construction. Step two was an allocation to local agencies for a variety of transportation projects. The 2016-18 process will add a third step of allocating \$33.8 million to projects as part of a Regional Economic Opportunity Fund (REOF).

This resolution amends the policy report adopted with Resolution No. 12-4383 to clarify the process and identify the priority projects for the \$33.8 million for the REOF.

Subject to the stakeholder engagement and decision processes described in Section 6, the following investments are proposed for the Regional Economic Opportunity Fund:

Jurisdiction	Project	Amount
Clackamas County	Sunrise System: Industrial Area Freight Access and Multimodal Improvement	\$8.267 million
Washington County	US 26/Brookwood Interchange– Industrial Access	\$8.267 million
Port of Portland	Troutdale Industrial Access	\$8.00 million
Multnomah County	NE 238th Drive: NE Halsey Street to NE Glisan Street Freight and Multimodal Improvements	\$1.00 million
City of Portland/TriMet	East Portland Access to Employment and Education Multi-Modal Improvements	\$8.267 million
TOTAL		\$33.801 million

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition** None known at this time.
2. **Legal Antecedents** Updates the 2016-18 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation Policy Report, adopted by Metro Council Resolution 12-4383 on November 15, 2012 (FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE POLICY DIRECTION AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2016-18 REGIONAL FLEXIBLE FUNDING ALLOCATION PROCESS AND 2015-18 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (MTIP)).
3. **Anticipated Effects** Adoption of this resolution will add Exhibit A to the policy report for the 2016-18 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation process to nominate, evaluate and select projects to receive federal transportation funds that was adopted with Resolution 12-4383.
4. **Budget Impacts** There are no impacts for Metro's current budget. This resolution proposes policy for determining future allocations. The amounts are illustrative and rely on a continuation of funding at historic levels with modest inflationary increases of three percent. The proposal maintains Step One funding for MPO functions in the same proportion and requires the same 10.27 percent match from local participants. Final allocations will depend on available federal finding.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Metro staff recommends the approval of Resolution No. 12-4401.

Agenda Item No. 4.1

Resolution No. 12-4399, For the Purpose of Amending the
Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan and Oregon Zoo 20-Year
Comprehensive Capital Master Plan.

Metro Council Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012
Metro, Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE) RESOLUTION NO. 12-4399
OREGON ZOO BOND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN)
AND OREGON ZOO 20-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
CAPITAL MASTER PLAN) Bennett with the concurrence of Council
) President Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, at the General Election held on November 4, 2008, the Metro Area voters approved Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-96, entitled “Bonds to Protect Animal Health And Safety; Conserve and Recycle Water”; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Zoo launched the Oregon Zoo Comprehensive Capital Master Plan process, to ensure that the Oregon Zoo Bond Measure is implemented within budget, in a fashion that effectively integrates bond projects with existing exhibits, preserves opportunities for future non-bond funded projects and makes the maximum use of existing and proposed infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in addition to planning for and governing the implementation of the Oregon Zoo Bond projects (the “Zoo Bond Implementation Plan”), the Oregon Zoo Comprehensive Capital Master Plan will provide a 20-year plan for future non-bond funded development at the Oregon Zoo; and

WHEREAS, in September 2011, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 11-4290 (“For the Purpose of Approving the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan”) approving and adopting the Zoo Bond Implementation Plan portion of the Oregon Zoo Comprehensive Capital Master Plan which included budgets for the Elephant Lands Habitat and associated infrastructure (the “Elephant Lands Project”); and

WHEREAS, in November 2011, the Metro Council adopted Metro Council Resolution No. 11-4304 (“For the Purpose of Approving the Oregon Zoo 20-Year Comprehensive Capital Master Plan (CCMP)”), approving and adopting the Oregon Zoo’s Comprehensive Capital Master Plan, which includes the Zoo Bond Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, during the design phase of the Elephant Lands Habitat, unforeseen geotechnical site conditions were discovered that significantly increased the cost of the Elephant Lands Project over estimates approved by the Metro Council in the Zoo Bond Implementation Plan, which now require design changes, scope reductions and budgetary adjustments; and

WHEREAS, Metro staff has proposed design changes and scope reductions as detailed in the Staff Report, netting an estimated reduction in project cost of \$9.2 million, and the Metro Council wishes to approve and adopt said changes and reductions as amendments to the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan and Oregon Zoo 20-Year Comprehensive Capital Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, further design changes and scope reductions would unacceptably diminish the Elephant Lands Project’s long-term quality, visitor experience, and make an appropriate sustainability certification more difficult to achieve; and

WHEREAS, additional funds to forestall further design changes and scope reductions are available from the unanticipated receipt of an additional \$10.4 million premium paid by buyers of the Metro bonds sold to fund the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan (the “Bond Premium”); and

WHEREAS, combined with design changes and scope reductions, an allocation of \$3.9 million in Bond Premium funds by the Metro Council to the Elephant Lands Project will maintain the Metro

Council's "first-tier" vision for the project, its sustainability components, and the quality of the visitor experience; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby:

Amends the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan and Oregon Zoo 20-Year Comprehensive Capital Master Plan to approve and adopt the design changes and project scope reductions to the Elephant Lands Project and add \$3.9 million of additional funding to increase the Elephant Lands Project budget from \$39.5 million to \$43.4 million, as more particularly set forth in the Staff Report.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 18th day of December 2012.

Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Alison Kean Campbell, Metro Attorney

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 12- 4399, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE OREGON ZOO BOND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND OREGON ZOO 20-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL MASTER PLAN

Date: December 18, 2012

Prepared by: Craig Stroud
(503) 220-2451

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Zoo has been designing a new elephant habitat as part of implementing the 2008 capital improvements bond. The project includes the elephant habitats and buildings, as well as associated infrastructure work; a new perimeter service road, relocating the zoo train route, relocating birds of prey mews and upgrading utilities. Over the past two months, project consultants have quantified bid results for the infrastructure and revised estimates for the elephant habitats and building components. The revised project plan costs exceed identified budget.

As previously discussed with the Metro Council, the zoo campus has inherent geotechnical challenges. For the western half of the zoo campus, a series of improvements since the zoo opened in 1959 has mitigated and addressed geotechnical conditions. Master planning located the new expanded elephant habitat along the eastern edge of the campus. This location was the only option to meet the six acre size condition and has the least impact to existing animal habitats and other major existing improvements. This area of the campus has the least historic geotechnical condition information due to lack of construction over the past fifty years.

Throughout project design, Metro has contracted with geotechnical engineering firms to analyze site conditions through testing and analyses. This work informed the design and in response to findings the zoo modified pre-schematic designs to avoid problem areas and expensive mitigations.

As one would expect, the geotechnical mitigations for minor surface improvements are much less expensive than improvements that require deep footings, retaining walls, dewatering, and robust structural components adequate to safely house elephants and the other infrastructure work. Some improvements were more easily modified than others and current estimates reflect those realities. For example, the train track design to avoid visitor crossings by constructing an elevated trestle proved extremely costly. The original design of structural concrete footings was deemed inadequate to safely support the trestles and the revised designs include anchoring the trestle supports to soil and rock 70 feet below the surface. In addition, each trestle support requires 30 or more days of settling time before the support can be finished. These types of challenges increased the plan costs significantly more than the design team expected.

The estimated construction costs were estimated by the design team to be \$13.1 million greater than the \$39.5 million construction budget.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Zoo staff and consultants immediately began identifying opportunities to reduce plan costs and balance the budget. Two primary options have been identified: 1) reducing project costs through scope reductions, and 2) adding resources to the project.

Reducing Project Costs

To frame the option of reducing project scopes, it is helpful to review the 2008 Bond Measure Explanatory Statement and Metro Council Resolution 08-0945 language pertinent to the elephant habitat project. The language states:

Measure 26-96 Explanatory Statement for the elephant habitat project

“Outdoor space will increase from 1.5 to 6 acres, adding watering holes, shade structures, large trees, and boulders, providing more outside exercise and offering a more natural environment.”

Metro Council Resolution 08-0945 elephant habitat excerpts

- Space increase from 1.5 to 6 acres
- Naturalized with watering holes, shade structures, large trees and boulders, with a thicket of bamboo as a backdrop
- Barn will be replaced with a larger building

All options presented comply with the explanatory statement and resolution commitments.

Zoo staff and consultants have identified \$9.2 million of scope reductions for relocating the train route and elephant habitats and buildings. Reductions were identified and considered for the planned perimeter service road. Staff believes the savings that would be achieved do not outweigh the value the service road provides to visitor safety during construction of the elephant habitat and future bond projects. The road also provides long-term value to future campus operations and services. Therefore, no changes to the road are recommended. The relocated birds of prey mews required scope reductions; however, the revised cost estimates have been balanced to the target budget and this report will not address that associated project.

The major changes proposed to the train route design include:

- Modifying the design to eliminate the overhead trestle. The means the track will remain at existing grade with a major visitor path crossing. To ensure guest safety for this crossing, the design has been modified to include robust safety barriers so that guests, particularly young children, are safely separated from the tracks. The trestle elimination will modify and possibly eliminate views from the train into the future polar bear habitat, but the views in the forthcoming Elephant Meadow remain. This change also requires the trains to ascend a steep slope to return to the visitor station. Each of the zoo trains is uniquely constructed and has differing limitations for maximum slope. Solutions to assist the trains on this climb are being reviewed and have not been decided.
- Reducing the train storage and maintenance building scopes and size. This change will likely require a strategic change to the train maintenance and repair operations. Currently, train staff fabricates some parts on-site in a maintenance building that will be displaced by the new elephant habitat. Historically, this work has been procured from professional fabrication shops. Reducing the building scope and size may preclude the equipment and fabrication areas necessary to fabricate parts.

These changes allow the campus return loop trestle to remain in scope. This element is important to running the train during the winter ZooLights festival. In addition, the route to Washington Park remains in place. These routes are important and allow the train to continue to operate as a zoo revenue generating activity.

The major changes proposed to the elephant habitats and buildings include:

- Reducing the size of the elephant plunge pool and associated water filtration. The smaller pool is still significantly larger than the existing habitat's pool and will provide a great experience for the elephants and guests.
- Reducing the Forest Hall building square footage. The reduction is primarily in storage, amenity, and visitor spaces, although the hall will still have excellent visitor viewing. The large sand space for elephants remains at the target size.
- Modifying the demonstration yard through scope reductions and simplifications.
- Simplifying the visitor bridge that transects the habitat. The bridge maintains all functional requirements, but in a simpler, less costly manner.
- Numerous changes to design elements and finishes, most of which would be unnoticeable to all but the closest project stakeholders.

These changes maintain the elephant project vision and bond measure commitments. The project still includes multiple spaces for elephants, sand substrates, elephant activity and choice components, sustainability features (LEED Silver achievable), and extensive visitor experience opportunities.

Modifying the project design for the changes to the train and elephant habitats and buildings eliminates \$9.2 million of cost, leaving the estimated project construction costs \$3.9 million over the resources allocated in the Bond Implementation Plan adopted by Metro Council in 2011.

It is important to note that the construction contingency funds set aside for the project remain intact and have not been used to help balance the budget. Staff recommends maintaining those funds to address unforeseen conditions that could arise during construction.

Further Reductions

Zoo staff discussed further scope reductions that had been identified with the Metro Council at the Dec. 11, 2012 Metro Council work session. Councilors expressed concerns about the project's long-term quality and visitor experiences if the scope reductions and cost savings were too impactful and asked staff to return with options for using unanticipated bond sale premium funds to add resources to the project.

Adding Resources to the Project

In May 2012, Metro issued \$65 million of bonds of the zoo's remaining \$105 million of bond authority. Given market conditions and Metro's excellent credit ratings, the bonds sold at considerable unanticipated premium. A premium is a condition where bonds sell for an amount greater than the published value of debt issued and required to be repaid. In this instance, Metro sold \$65 million of bonds and received a \$10.4 million premium, with proceeds totaling \$75.4 million. These unanticipated funds are not allocated to any specific bond projects and are being held as general program resources. A portion of these funds could be allocated to the elephant habitat and related infrastructure project.

Option 1 – Allocate \$3.9 million of bond sale premium funds to the project. This recommendation maintains the elephant habitat project vision, sustainability components, and visitor experiences. The Forest Hall would be maintained as an indoor visitor viewing area at a slightly smaller size than prior

designs, allowing guests to see the elephants on cold, rainy days. For the train, the ZooLights loop and Washington Park routes could be maintained for visitors.

Option 2 – Allocate \$4.9 million of bond sale premium funds to the project. This recommendation incorporates the scopes discussed in option 1, and adds \$1 million of resources for the following three primary purposes:

- Add additional square footage to Forest Hall visitor and amenity spaces
- Increase elephant management options that include transfer chute flexibility and outdoor shelter options
- Additional scopes targeted to elephant activity and choice components

IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Allocating a portion of the \$10.4 million bond sale premium funds to the project reduces the amount available for future projects. With the completion of this project, the program will have completed more than half the dollar value of the bond measure projects. Each of the remaining projects has design, construction, and escalation contingency amounts budgeted and set aside. Using either \$3.9 million or \$4.9 million of the unanticipated bond sale premium funds for the elephant habitat project does not put future projects at risk and maintains more than half of the unanticipated premium for remaining projects.

QUESTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

Staff seeks Metro Council direction via resolution to balance the project budget to resources. Council members can direct staff to implement the recommended action or suggest a different mix of options.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition** – none

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Ballot Measure No. 26-96: Bonds to Protect Animal Health and Safety; Conserve, Recycle Water;

Resolution No. 11-4277, Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Begin Procuring the Design and Construction of the New Zoo Elephant Habitat and Associated Infrastructure Prior to Completion and Adoption of the Oregon Zoo Comprehensive Capital Master Plan;

Resolution No. 11-4292, Approving the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan;

Resolution No. 11-4304 Approving the Oregon Zoo 20-Year Comprehensive Capital Master Plan (CCMP”);

3. **Anticipated Effects**

The resolution provides staff direction to reduce elephant and train project scopes by the \$9.2 million previously discussed and to allocate unanticipated bond premium sale resources to the project totaling either \$3.9 million or \$4.9 million, at the Council’s discretion.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The resolution increases the elephant and related infrastructure project construction budget of \$39.5 million by either \$3.9 million or \$4.9 million.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends reducing the project costs by the \$9.2 million previously discussed and allocating unanticipated bond sale premium funds to balance the project budget to resources. The Metro Council can choose between options 1 or 2, at its discretion.

Agenda Item No. 4.2

Resolution No. 12-4400, For the Purpose of Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Execute an Option to Purchase and Acquire Real Property for a Remote Elephant Center.

Metro Council Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012
Metro, Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING) RESOLUTION NO. 12-4400
THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO)
EXECUTE AN OPTION TO PURCHASE) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
AND ACQUIRE REAL PROPERTY FOR A) Martha J. Bennett with the concurrence of
REMOTE ELEPHANT CENTER) Council President Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2008, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 08-3945, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Metro Area Voters a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$125 Million to Fund Oregon Zoo Capital Projects to Protect Animal Health and Safety, Conserve and Recycle Water, and Improve Access to Conservation Education; and Setting Forth the Official Intent of the Metro Council to Reimburse Certain Expenditures Out of the Proceeds of Said Bonds Upon Issuance,” approving, certifying and referring to the Metro Area voters at the General Election held on November 4, 2008, Ballot Measure 26-96 (the “Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-96”); and

WHEREAS, at the General Election held on November 4, 2008, the voters of the Metro Area approved Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-96; and

WHEREAS, Exhibit A to Resolution No. 08-3945 generally set forth the details of Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-96, stating that “the zoo is exploring the feasibility of providing an off-site area for elephants,” and “funds are set aside for potential capital needs of off-site space”; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2011, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 11-4230, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Enter into Options to Purchase Real Property for the Purpose of Providing an Elephant Reserve Under the 2008 Oregon Zoo Bond Measure,” authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to enter into options to secure site-control for a “Remote Elephant Center”; and

WHEREAS, using selection criteria established by the Zoo’s November 2009 Oregon Zoo Off-Site Elephant Facility Workshop, the Zoo evaluated several available sites within the three county area that are 200+ acres in size and are located within an hour’s travel distance of the Zoo; and

WHEREAS, in October, 2011, the Chief Operating Officer entered into an Option Agreement and Agreement of Purchase and Sale on one such property, a portion of the former Roslyn Lake Park site (the “Roslyn Lake Property”) owned by Portland General Electric (“PGE”) in Clackamas County; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo has concluded that no other available site evaluated by the Zoo satisfies the Selection Criteria as well as the Roslyn Lake Property;

WHEREAS, Metro Code Section 2.04.026(a)(2) requires that the Chief Operating Officer obtain the authorization of the Metro Council to acquire real property for Metro; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to execute the Option Agreement and Agreement of Purchase and Sale for the Roslyn Lake Property, and acquire said real property from PGE for a Remote Elephant Center, on terms set forth in the Option, in accord with Metro's usual and customary acquisition parameters and due diligence preconditions.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of December, 2012.

Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Alison Kean Campbell, Metro Attorney

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-4400 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO EXECUTE AN OPTION TO PURCHASE AND ACQUIRE REAL PROPERTY FOR A REMOTE ELEPHANT CENTER

Date: December 18, 2012

Prepared by: Kim Smith, 503 220-2450
Mike Keele, 503 220-2445

BACKGROUND

In May of 2008, voters approved Ballot Measure 26-96 (the “Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-96”) to effect several improvements to the physical environment and operation of the Oregon Zoo. The measure specifically listed projects that Metro would pursue. The project titled “More Humane Conditions for Elephants” explicitly set forth the needs of the zoo herd at the Zoo and the concept of an off-site facility to further improve the health and well-being of the animals and to expand the elephant program.

In 2009, a panel of elephant experts took part in a workshop to identify the requirements for an off-site breeding, training and management facility and develop criteria for the selection of an appropriate site. The workshop facilitators, CLR Design Inc. and Shultz & Williams, created a report to guide site assessment titled, “Oregon Zoo Off-Site Elephant Facility Workshop–November 9 and 10, 2009”. Subsequently, Zoo staff prepared a business plan for the potential off-site facility that included infrastructure needs, staffing and other related services. Collectively, these studies have guided Metro in looking for a location that would fit certain selection criteria identified in the studies.

Staff evaluated several sites of at least 200 acres within the three county area that satisfied the selection criteria to meet animal care needs and were located within an hour’s travel distance. Additional considerations included the availability of the property, price, zoning and land use restrictions, adequate roadways to the site, the character of adjacent properties, topography, soil classifications needed for optimal elephant foot health, and availability of needed infrastructure.

In February, 2011 via Metro Council Resolution No. 11-4230, the Metro Council authorized the Chief Operating Officer to secure site control of properties meeting the criteria and considerations set forth above by entering into multi-year option to purchase agreements on promising properties with acquisition contingent upon Metro Council approval.

In October 2011, Metro entered into an Option Agreement and Agreement of Purchase and Sale (the “Roslyn Lake Option”) on one such site owned by Portland General Electric in Clackamas County. Known as the Roslyn Lake Property, the site consists of a 240 acre portion of the former Roslyn Lake Park, including all of the former lake bed and some of the nearby uplands. Under the Roslyn Lake Option, Metro’s acquisition of the site is contingent upon, among other things, Metro Council approval, Oregon Public Utility Commission approval, and Metro’s due diligence requirements.

Since 2011, staff has continued to evaluate potential sites, but Metro has concluded that no other available site evaluated by staff satisfies the selection criteria and considerations set forth above as well as the Roslyn Lake Property.

In accord with Metro Council Resolution No. 11-4230 and Metro Code Section 2.04.026(a)(2), the Chief Operating Officer now requests that the Metro Council authorize the execution of the Roslyn Lake Option and the acquisition of the Roslyn Lake Property from PGE for use as a Remote Elephant Center.

In accordance with Metro Council direction, Staff will develop a detailed operations and capital improvement funding plan prior to commencing Zoo Bond funded site improvements for the Remote Elephant Center. Should such planning result in a determination that the development of a Remote Elephant Center on the Roslyn Lake Property is infeasible, staff will prepare recommendations for dispensation of the Property, and present them to the Metro Council for resolution.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

There is no known opposition to this resolution.

2. Legal Antecedents

On February 10, 2012, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 11-4230, "Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Enter into Options to Purchase Real Property for the Purpose of Providing an Elephant Reserve under the 2008 Oregon Zoo Bond Measure," approving the Chief Operating Officer to secure multi-year options from willing sellers for Metro to Purchase real property for an off-site elephant area.

On May 8, 2008, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 08-3945, "For the Purpose of Submitting to the Metro Area Voters a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness In the Amount of \$125 Million to Fund Oregon Zoo Capital Projects to Protect Animal Health and Safety, Conserve and Recycle Water, and Improve Access to Conservation Education; and Setting Forth the Official Intent of the Metro Council to Reimburse Certain Expenditures Out of the Proceeds of Said Bonds Upon Issuance," approving, certifying and referring to the Metro Area voters at the General Election held on November 4, 2008 Ballot Measure 26-96 (the "Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-96"). On November 4, 2008, the voters of the Metro Area approved Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-96.

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 08-3945 generally set forth the details of Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-96, stating that "the zoo is exploring the feasibility of providing an off-site area for elephants, and "funds are set aside for potential capital needs of off-site space."

State statutory authority: Under Oregon Revised Statute 268.310, Metro may acquire, construct, alter, maintain, administer and operate metropolitan zoo facilities.

Metro Code Section 2.04.026(a)(2) requires that the Chief Operating Officer obtain the authorization of the Metro Council to acquire real property for Metro.

3. Anticipated Effects

The acquired property will be used for the Oregon Zoo's off-site elephant facility.

4. Budget Impacts

The Zoo anticipates funding the option using existing Oregon Zoo operating funds.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Chief Operating Officer recommends passage of Resolution No. 12-4400.

Agenda Item No. 4.3

Resolution No. 12-4398, For the Purpose of Referring to the Voters of the Metro Area a Local Option Levy for the Purpose of Preserving Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Maintaining Metro's Parks and Natural Areas for the Public.

Metro Council Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012
Metro, Council Chamber

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE) RESOLUTION NO. 12-4398
VOTERS OF THE METRO AREA A LOCAL)
OPTION LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF) Introduced by Councilor Barbara Roberts
PRESERVING WATER QUALITY, FISH AND)
WILDLIFE HABITAT AND MAINTAINING)
METRO’S PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS)
FOR THE PUBLIC)

WHEREAS, in May 1995 voters in the Metro region approved a \$135.6 million Open Spaces, Parks and Streams Bond Measure with a stated goal of acquiring land in 14 of the 57 regional natural areas identified in the 1992 Greenspaces Master Plan and six of the 34 regional trails and greenways identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2005, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 05-3574A “Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative Called Nature In Neighborhoods,” enacting a regional conservation policy that promotes fish and wildlife habitat protection using a variety of means; and

WHEREAS, in November 2006 voters in the Metro region approved a \$227.4 million Natural Areas, Parks and Streams Bond Measure with a stated goal of acquiring land in 27 target areas identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the two bond measures, land acquisitions exceeded goals and currently total 12,400 acres. In addition, Metro has acquired other parks and natural areas from voluntary transfers from local governments. The grand total of parks, trails and natural areas currently under Metro’s care and stewardship is more than 16,000 acres, including more than 75 miles of stream and river frontage; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2012 the Metro Council directed the Chief Operating Officer to establish a Natural Areas Funding Advisory Panel to consider a new funding source for ongoing care and maintenance of Metro’s parks and natural areas, considering the public’s previous investments in land acquisition, level of funding, timing and a long-term solution; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Areas Funding Advisory Panel returned its report to the Metro Council on August 16, 2012, recommending that the Metro Council refer a five-year levy to voters to restore natural areas, maintain and operate parks, engage the community and improve opportunities for people to safely use and enjoy more of the lands Metro has protected for the public and future generations long term; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council is authorized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter to impose local option levies to fund natural area protection; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council finds and determines that it is in the public interest to refer a five-year local option measure to the voters of the Metro region for the purpose of preserving water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and maintaining Metro’s parks and natural areas for the public, with a rate of 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value for an estimated total outlay of \$10 million per year; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Metro Council that:

1. The Metro Council hereby refers to the qualified voters of the Metro region a five-year local option levy of 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value with an estimated total outlay of \$10 million per year for the purposes of maintaining and improving water quality, protection of fish and wildlife habitat, preserving regional parks, natural areas and stream frontages, and through continued management, restoration and enhancement of parks and natural areas; and
2. The Metro Council hereby further defines the purpose, allowed uses and outcomes for funds collected via a five-year local option levy according to the Levy Framework, attached as Exhibit A; and
3. The Metro Council hereby certifies the Ballot Title attached as Exhibit B for placement of the Local Option Levy on the ballot for the May 2013 General Election; and
4. The Metro Council authorizes and directs the Metro Chief Operating Officer to refer this Resolution, including the Ballot Title, to the County Elections Officers, the Secretary of State, and the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission in a timely manner as required by law; and
5. The Metro Council authorizes and directs the Metro Chief Operating Officer to continue to seek long-term funding for natural areas protection.
6. The Metro Council hereby directs program staff to produce an annual report and work plan to be approved by the Chief Operating Officer and presented to the Metro Council at the end of each fiscal year, such report detailing program expenditures by area as well as major accomplishments and made available on the Metro website and featured in other public outreach channels.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this ____ day of December, 2012.

Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Alison Kean Campbell, Metro Attorney

LEVY FRAMEWORK

TAKING CARE OF NATURAL AREAS FOR WILDLIFE, WATER QUALITY, PEOPLE

During the last 20 years, a vast constellation of public land has quietly taken shape across the Portland metropolitan area. Starting with the closure of the St. Johns Landfill and transfer of Multnomah County's parks and cemeteries, Metro has evolved into a major landowner and manager. Twice, the region's voters have directed Metro to acquire additional natural areas for the benefit of the public to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and opportunities for people to connect with nature. Metro's portfolio has grown to nearly 16,000 acres, and that number may reach 17,000 by the time the proceeds of the most recent bond measure have been fully invested.

Top priority was given to buying sensitive habitat before it was developed or rose dramatically in price. As a result of Metro's bond programs, the region's publicly owned natural areas and parkland have grown by some 40 percent to a grand total of roughly 44,000 acres – enough to cover the entire cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Gresham. Today, Metro has the great responsibility of caring for more than a third of all those lands.

This flourishing network of natural areas and outdoor recreation demonstrates Metro's broader mission: making a great place. As Metro invests in livable communities, connections with nature are as critical as vibrant communities, economic prosperity and safe and reliable transportation. As this portfolio of land grows, the Metro Council has been considering important questions: What is the condition of these properties? Which land offers the best opportunities for restoring valuable habitat? Which natural areas could be opened for the public to use and enjoy? Is now the time for additional investments? The Metro Council sought the answers to these questions from the public and our partners, which have laid the groundwork for decisions about Metro's role as a major landowner and steward of these precious lands.

A treasure chest of opportunities

For good reason, Metro has concentrated for nearly two decades on land acquisition. Public sentiment centered squarely on securing land before it was lost to development, and voters approved two measures in a relatively short period to ensure that these lands were protected for the future. Investments have focused on "target areas" designed to protect streams and rivers, rare habitat, trail corridors and iconic landscapes. Although voter-approved funds have allowed Metro to assemble a growing number of natural areas and trail corridors and tackle basic, initial restoration work, no new funding has been secured for long-term stewardship. If natural areas are not actively managed and restored, they degrade significantly over time. Invasive plants can take over; erosion can damage water quality; threatened wildlife can disappear. Putting off key restoration work can make the same project more expensive – or even impossible – in the future. Without more resources, the future of the region's natural areas and parkland is in question. Metro's limited general fund dollars are not sufficient to protect the public's initial investment in its growing portfolio of land, let alone support restoration that can maximize the benefits for fish, water quality and people.

Many of Metro's natural area acquisitions also offer opportunities for people to enjoy the land they've helped protect and connect with nature. Since 2006, Metro has used the money approved by voters to open three new nature parks: Mount Talbert Nature Park near Happy Valley, Cooper Mountain Nature Park near Beaverton and Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville. Each has proven popular, and each has raised the bar for providing beautiful outdoor destinations. Opening these sites has also increased Metro's operating costs. And, as more people discover these places, maintenance and restoration costs

will continue to increase. As the region strives to create a world-class network of natural areas, parks and trails and expected population growth creates more demand, the need for more of these places is heightened – particularly in areas and communities that today are underserved. Inviting people to experience nature goes hand in hand with caring for the land and making the most of the public’s investment.

Funding for parks and natural areas not sustainable on status quo track

In addition to the natural areas acquired with voter-approved bonds, Metro has responsibility for a number of developed park sites that serve some of the most diverse populations of people in the region. More than 1.3 million people visit these places each year to enjoy hiking, bird watching, canoeing, golfing, camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, weddings and special events. Some Metro properties are more than 50 years old. As restrooms, maintenance buildings, picnic and play areas in these parks reach the end of their useful life, they need to be replaced. Without additional capital investments, the cost of maintaining these aging facilities will continue to increase. Without additional funding, basic services will need to be reduced.

Just over two decades ago, Metro didn’t own a single park or natural area. Today the agency is the largest owner of parks and natural areas in the Portland metropolitan region. Money approved by voters for land acquisition in 1995 and 2006 cannot be legally used for operating expenses. Once acquired, these lands require ongoing maintenance. To understand the magnitude of this need, in November 2011 staff completed a report for the Metro Council, titled “*Metro’s Portfolio of Natural Areas, Parks and Trails: Opportunities and Challenges*” (the Portfolio report). This report summarizes Metro’s evolution as a landowner and park operator, and gives an overview of the current condition of property, along with the regional context and relationships that affect the portfolio. The report highlights the need for ongoing operations funding to fulfill the Council’s commitment to meet the public’s expectation that Metro steward these lands and protect their value and benefit to the region. Metro has gone more than 20 years without new operating revenues while its land portfolio has grown from zero to 16,000 acres and counting. Resources are being used wisely, but caring for this much land without new funding is not sustainable over time.

Advisory panel recommends 5-year levy to Metro Council

In July 2012 an independent advisory panel of 15 business, conservation and community leaders from around the region considered Metro's work to acquire, restore and operate regional parks and natural areas, and the associated challenges of taking care of them. The panel recommended that the Metro Council refer to voters a five-year local option levy focused on the following key themes:

Taking care of public assets

The investment supports regional parks and takes care of these assets as a legacy for future generations. Taking care of what we have needs to be a high priority.

Restoring fish and wildlife habitat

Restoration work needs to continue on properties that have been acquired and improved, and extend to as much of the portfolio as possible. Funding should focus on habitat restoration work that protects resources and reduces future funding needs.

Addressing equity for underserved communities

Levy funding provides an opportunity to help meet the needs of underserved communities. Be intentional in designing the levy projects and programs to address barriers that prevent underserved communities from using and benefitting from Metro’s natural areas.

Improving natural areas for people

With a five-year levy, capital-intensive projects with significant new ongoing costs should be minimized. However, investments that provide opportunities for people to enjoy more of these special places while minimizing safety hazards and impacts to habitat should be a higher priority.

The panel’s recommendation for a five-year local option levy offers an incremental approach to fulfill the Metro Council’s commitment to meet the public expectation of good land stewardship and fully realize the potential of the bond program. The panel noted that, although a local option levy does not create a long-term solution, it will provide an important and timely first step while taking into account the reality of the region’s struggling economy, the challenges of our current tax structure and the cost of waiting. Funding from the levy is dedicated exclusively to natural areas, parks and trails and not to other programs or services, based on the panel’s recommendation. The panel understands that Metro will face budget challenges in the next five years but asked that cuts in natural areas, parks and trail program areas are not disproportionate just because new levy funding is available. This is based on keeping faith with the voters.

In an effort to understand and reflect the broader public’s priorities for funding, Metro reached out to stakeholders and sought input through opinion research and community engagement. Activities included holding meetings, giving presentations and having conversations with many of The Intertwine Alliance’s public and nonprofit partners, local government elected officials and staff, park directors, community-based organizations, organizations representing minority groups and communities of color, conservation education providers and others. These organizations and individuals were contacted and asked to help define the purpose and need for a local option levy for Metro’s parks and natural areas. Direct mail, advertising, social media, online surveys and other outreach efforts have been used to engage the broader public.

Wildlife AND people – the framework for investing

Based on the panel’s guidance and the input gathered from stakeholders and the public, staff has developed a framework for projects and programs that would be eligible for levy funding, focusing on two fundamental principles:

Fundamental principles	Program areas	Spending allocations over course of levy
1. Restoring natural areas for wildlife, fish and water quality.	Natural areas	40-50%
2. Improving parks and natural areas for people.	Regional parks operations	20-30%
	Improving natural areas for people	5-15%
	Conservation education/volunteer engagement	5-15%
	Nature in Neighborhood community grants	5-15%

A Natural Areas Local Option Levy of 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value will generate approximately \$10 million per year. Priority projects are outlined in Attachments 1-4 for further refinement in a detailed annual work plan – with the vision of an integrated approach. For example, planned restoration activities will also include opportunities to engage community volunteers and offer workforce development and mentoring for youth and conservation education programs for people of all ages and backgrounds. In this way we can marry environmental with economic and social aspirations.

Site improvements will highlight habitat restoration, provide cultural and natural history interpretation and improve experiences for a wide range of visitors. Because a five-year operating levy is limited in scale and scope, careful consideration has been given to ensure that projects can be completed within an appropriate timeframe and either reduce long-term operating costs or at least not increase them substantially. Funds would be divided among the various program elements in the percentages set forth in the chart above. All of the areas across Metro’s 16,000-acre land portfolio would receive some level of increased maintenance and investment, should the levy be passed by the voters.

Through levy-funded work, Metro can also increase and improve opportunities for underserved communities, specifically low-income and communities of color. By engaging all of our region’s residents we can create conditions that foster the future stewards of our public lands. Levy-funded activities will engage diverse communities in becoming active stewards of the region’s natural areas and better connect people with nature throughout the region, while also delivering better results for the ecological health and water quality of our region. Intentional goals contained in this program include:

- Continued engagement with diverse communities for all of the program areas, using input to shape efforts moving forward.
- Meeting or exceeding Metro’s goals for MWESB contracting; annual review as part of the program reporting, with areas for potential improvement identified.
- Specific outreach and involvement in college/career development pipelines through youth programs.
- Mentoring and volunteering opportunities.

More specifics about each program area follow.

RESTORING NATURAL AREAS FOR WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER QUALITY

Project selection

Natural areas restoration and maintenance projects are generally selected based on core ecological principles well accepted by restoration and conservation professionals and the best scientific information available. This includes The Intertwine Alliance’s recently published *Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area*, which documents and offers guidance for the region’s highest value habitat areas. Additionally, Metro will seek opportunities to leverage outside resources for restoring these lands – both financial and in partnerships. Potential partners include watershed councils, local governments and nonprofit organizations. Metro will seek diverse partners in planning and implementing restoration projects and strive to expand opportunities for MWESB-certified contractors to perform work on Metro lands.

In general, three types of restoration projects and activities are envisioned:

1. **Large scale, intensive restoration projects** to create significant improvements in the quality and function of the highest priority sites and habitats. These typically involve actions such as reconnecting floodplains to rivers, constructing or removing structures that direct hydrology and planting or thinning tree stands to develop healthy native plant communities.

2. **Smaller restoration projects** that improve ecological function. These projects are similar to larger restoration projects in purpose but smaller in scope and scale. Projects typically include vegetation management such as treating noxious and invasive weeds and planting native trees and shrubs. May also include activities such as replacing or removing failing culverts and modifying roads to prevent erosion from reaching streams and water sources.
3. **Natural area maintenance** focusing primarily on vegetation management and weed suppression. Maintenance will occur on virtually all of Metro's natural areas.

Criteria for priority setting

Projects to be funded are assessed according to the following criteria. Although they reflect a general priority order, all criteria will not apply to every project.

- **Water quality:** Clearly contributes to the protection of watershed health and water quality.
- **Habitat value:** Supports species or habitats identified in federal, state or regional conservation strategies or recovery plans.
- **Restoration potential:** Provides significant opportunity for successful ecological improvement within the time constraints of the levy.
- **Location:** In a regionally important location, including potential for enhancing connectivity between existing stream and wildlife corridors, parks, trails and natural areas.
- **Leverage:** Potential to engage diverse partners, increase funding, reduce long-term costs and create larger, more sustainable projects.
- **Community engagement:** Engages diverse communities through volunteer, workforce development and mentoring or other activities; provides historical, cultural and/or natural history education and interpretation opportunities.

Project refinement

The restoration and stewardship projects identified for investment with levy funds described in Attachment 1 will meet these criteria, including the ability to be substantially completed within the timeframe of the levy, a reduction in long-term operating and maintenance costs and significant ecological improvement. In addition, projects are prioritized based on existing species-specific plans, the Oregon State Conservation Strategy and the Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland-Vancouver Region. They are described and further prioritized based on Metro's conservation and maintenance plan for each site. Invasive weeds identified as Early Detection and Rapid Response targets by state and regional organizations offer great return on investment by avoiding habitat degradation and higher future control costs. While refining the project priority list and approach, Metro will assess additional factors, including opportunities for collaboration with diverse partners, community engagement and ability to leverage outside resources.

See Attachment 1 for Restoring Natural Areas initial project list.

IMPROVING PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS FOR PEOPLE

The advisory panel, stakeholders and the public agree that levy funds should be used to maintain existing parks and expand opportunities for all people to enjoy Metro's parks and natural areas, learn about and connect with nature. This is achieved through better park maintenance, conservation education, volunteer opportunities and improvements to natural areas for people.

Regional parks operations

Project selection

Metro's parks offer important access to nature for the region's citizens and support regionally important natural habitats. More than 1.3 million visitors enjoy Metro's developed parks each year for walking, hiking, bird watching, canoeing, camping, boating, fishing, picnicking and weddings, in addition to family and community events. As facilities such as restrooms and picnic shelters age, they reach the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. Funding from this levy will be used to make capital improvements, including upgrades to all of Metro's developed parks, with two exceptions: Metro's 14 historic pioneer cemeteries, and the golf courses and support facilities at Glendoveer Golf Course.

Projects are identified based on visitor safety, facility age and condition. Projects designated for funding include those identified in Metro's existing capital improvement program and the renewal and replacement plan. These were supplemented by information from field staff, safety records and park user feedback.

Criteria for priority setting

Projects to be funded are assessed according to the following criteria. Although they reflect a general priority order, all criteria will not apply to every project.

- Improve sustainability features that increase resource efficiency and facility longevity.
- Replace or upgrade facilities or amenities that have reached the end of their life expectancy.
- Reduce maintenance costs.
- Improve safety and security.
- Support continued high quality customer service.
- Respond to regulatory requirements such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

Project refinement

Projects outlined in Attachment 2 reflect completed plans and previous public input and have been generally studied in terms of scope and costs. However, permits have not been secured and public input on projects in some locations may affect scope or alter priorities. Adjustments to this initial list may be made based on changing conditions and public input. Grants, partnerships, use of volunteers and other opportunities to leverage levy funds will be explored and factored in as appropriate during project development. Levy projects will be organized to leverage MWESB and sheltered-market contractor utilization.

See Attachment 2 for Regional Parks Operations project list.

Improving natural areas for people

Project selection

As the region strives to create a world-class network of natural areas, parks and trails, the need is heightened to improve some of these places so people can use them – particularly in areas and communities that today are underserved – and goes hand in hand with caring for them and making the most of the public's investment.

Levy funds provide an opportunity to develop low-impact, low-cost access to Metro's natural areas, focusing on providing hiking and walking opportunities for visitors. This will enable residents of the

region to experience the range of habitat types represented at these natural areas, learn more about them and become better stewards of these important regional resources. Improvements for visitors will be closely coordinated with conservation education, volunteer engagement and restoration projects to ensure that community needs are integrated into project design and development. Careful consideration will be given to the limitations of a five-year levy and the desire to avoid increasing long-term maintenance costs. In addition, safety and security are ongoing challenges for protecting the natural resources at these locations. Modest investments that direct public use of select natural areas will create significant gains in water quality and ecological health.

Criteria for priority setting

Projects to be funded are assessed according to the following criteria. Although they reflect a general priority order, all criteria will not apply to every project.

- **Habitat protection:** The project reduces or eliminates visitors' negative impact on sensitive habitats.
- **Safety:** The project addresses a safety concern with current or future site access.
- **Light touch:** The project includes basic improvements such as trails and signage. The project is not capital intensive and avoids a significant increase to ongoing operating costs.
- **Enhanced stewardship:** The project provides access for volunteer and environmental education groups that will promote learning and stewardship.
- **Outdoor experience:** The project improves access to a natural area with a high quality outdoor experience. Activities beyond hiking and walking, such as boating and fishing, might be accommodated.
- **Equity:** The project improves opportunities to connect with nature in areas with a high concentration of low-income people and people of color who currently have poor access.

Project refinement

Final project selection and sequencing will need to be determined. Project lists may be modified with the help of stakeholders and the public. Metro's Chief Operating Officer will review and approve staff recommendations for projects that are designed to improve and expand opportunities for the public to use and enjoy Metro's natural areas.

See Attachment 3 for Improving Natural Areas initial project list.

Conservation education and volunteer engagement

Volunteer engagement

Stewardship of public land requires involving people in caring for the natural areas that have been protected on their behalf and for future generations. Today, volunteers donate more than 20,000 hours of service per year to Metro's parks and natural areas across the region. More than 2,500 people volunteer at Metro sites every year, often participating through their business or nonprofit group. Currently, demand for volunteer opportunities exceeds staff capacity to support their work. Volunteers supplement the work of agency staff members, increasing the quality and quantity of Metro's work.

Volunteers will play a key role across levy-enhanced programs. Volunteer coordination will be expanded to support opportunities for meaningful community engagement across all programs funded by the levy. For example, levy funds will support recruitment and coordination of regular work parties in restoration and maintenance projects, including some organized by nonprofit partners. Levy proceeds will also support specialty and volunteer opportunities such as site stewards, wildlife monitoring and trail counting. Outreach to volunteers will be intentional in efforts to include diverse populations and communities.

Conservation education

The primary goal of levy-supported conservation education activities is to increase stewardship and volunteerism at the region's natural areas and increase the role of natural areas as places of learning, exploration and engagement for people of all ages and backgrounds.

There are two main components to the levy's conservation education programs. The first is enhancement of interpretive opportunities in Metro's parks and natural areas. The second is conservation education for youth, including the potential for skill-building programs focused on underserved communities.

Interpretive opportunities for all visitors

Visitors to Metro's parks and natural areas should have the opportunity to learn about the site's natural and cultural history, natural resources, restoration activities and regional significance. Levy proceeds will increase the diversity and amount of public programming, as well as interpretive signage.

Education and skill-building for youth

Community stakeholders identified college/career development pipelines for youth as a high priority. In response, conservation education's youth programming will focus on developing partnerships and programs that provide conservation-related mentorship and skill-building opportunities. Working with these stakeholders and others in the community, Metro will establish partnerships to create paid, multi-year opportunities for teens to develop high-level, diverse skills that prepare them for conservation-related college study and professional careers. One key goal is improvement in academic, social and career outcomes. Success can be seen in the longer term through program graduates returning as paid staff, either at Metro or in other similar organizations.

Criteria for priority setting

Conservation education programs and projects to be funded are assessed according to the following criteria. Although they reflect a general priority order, all criteria will not apply to every project.

- Develop conservation-related knowledge, skills and motivation in youth.
- Use Metro's parks and natural areas as places for learning, exploration and engagement.
- Involve both conservation education and conservation action – the service learning model.
- Emphasize the role of mentors and expose participants to professionals in natural resources, science, conservation education and community development.
- Engage diverse and underserved communities.
- Partner with community organizations to provide personal and professional skills development.
- Engage participants over several years – a pipeline to college- and career-readiness.

Program refinement

Metro's volunteer and conservation education programs can build on past experiences with partnerships that contain elements of the education and skill-building for youth programming outlined above. In addition, there are valuable models for youth conservation corps to draw upon locally and nationally, including the Oregon Zoo's own award-winning Zoo Animal Presenters (ZAP) program. Conservation education staff will engage internal and external stakeholders in a discussion to determine the most effective programming to achieve desired outcomes.

Volunteer and conservation education program planning will be integrated into planning for restoration, park maintenance and natural area investments, considering current and anticipated visitor traffic, site attributes, geographic location and equity outcomes. Evaluation is a challenging, yet critical component of this type of conservation education work and will be considered as programs are refined.

Nature in Neighborhoods community grants

Program development

The advisory panel and stakeholders recommended that Metro continue providing opportunities to connect people with nature by funding Nature in Neighborhoods restoration and enhancement grants. These grants have been a critical source of funding to support community partnerships that achieve regional goals of improving water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. The grant program also supports Metro's commitment to addressing barriers that prevent underserved communities from using and enjoying the benefits of Metro's natural areas.

See Attachment 4 for Nature in Neighborhoods community grants funding objectives, eligibility, application review and selection details.

LEVY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The Natural Areas Local Option Levy performance will be measured over the life of the levy. To ensure accountability for the funds, program staff will produce an annual work plan to be approved by the Chief Operating Officer. At the end of each fiscal year, a report to the Metro Council will detail program expenditures by area as well as major accomplishments. The work plan and annual report will be presented at a Metro Council meeting, made available on the Metro website and featured in other public outreach channels.

The following outcomes will be addressed each year, as well as a list of projects completed and total expenditures to date:

1. Restoring natural areas for wildlife, fish and water quality.

- Increase management and invasive species control for improved water quality and for wildlife habitat values on 10,000 to 12,000 acres.
- Complete targeted major restoration projects on 2,000 acres.
- Continue strong utilization of MWESB contractors that meets or exceeds performance standards identified in Metro's Diversity Action Plan.

2. Site improvements and community engagement programs that expand opportunities for all people to enjoy Metro's parks and natural areas, learn about and connect with nature.

- Improve quality and service for more than 1.3 million people visiting Metro's developed parks through identified improved or replaced park amenities.
- Increase opportunities to experience nature at priority locations.
- Increase community engagement at Metro's parks and natural areas through expanded education and volunteer programs, community partnerships and a community-based grant program.
- Increase opportunities for communities of color and children from low income families to experience the region's parks and natural areas.
- Continue strong utilization of MWESB contractors that meets or exceeds performance standards identified in Metro's Diversity Action Plan.

Eligible expenses

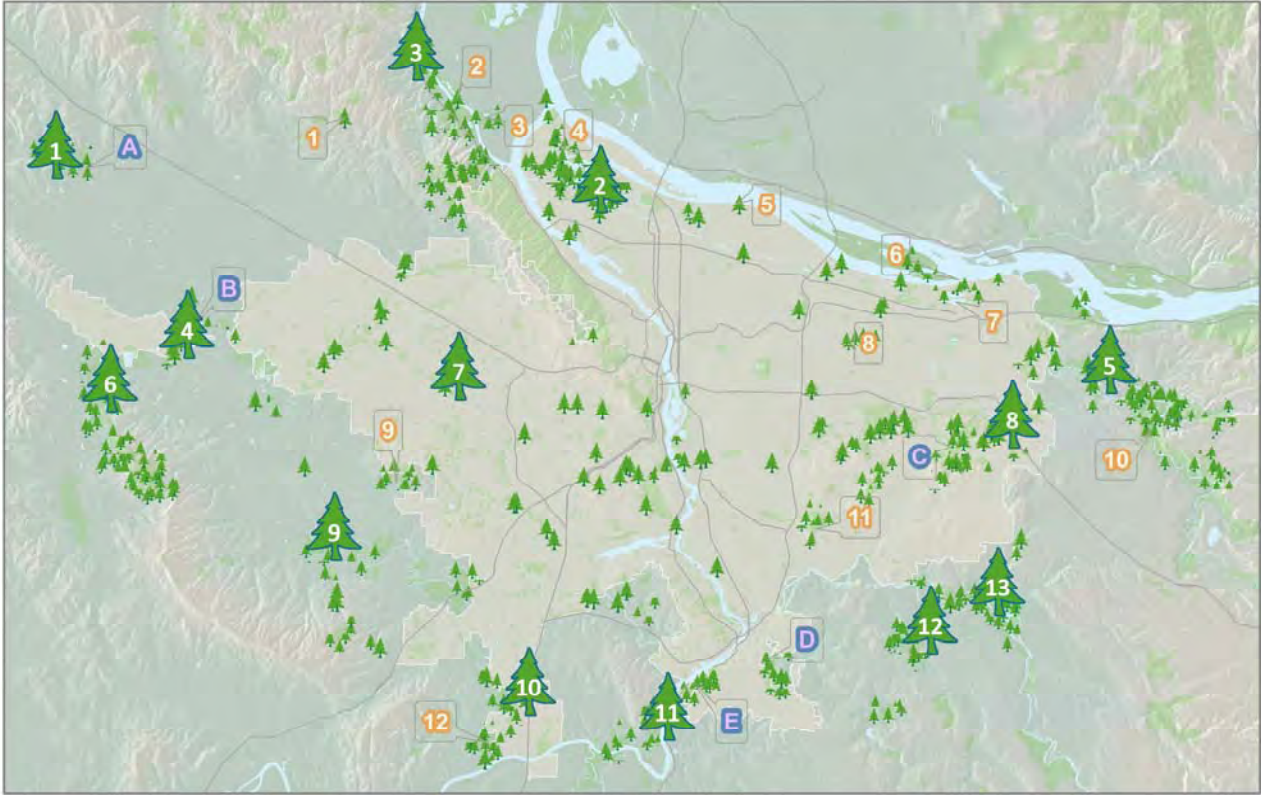
Revenues from the levy will fund program administration, restoration and maintenance of natural areas and parks, capital improvements in parks, and engagement of the community through grant, volunteer and educational programs.

Eligible locations

Natural areas restoration and maintenance, park facility improvements and natural area improvements for people projects may be funded only for the following sites:

- Properties owned and managed by Metro.
- Properties managed by Metro, regardless of ownership.
- Properties for which Metro holds a conservation easement or another agreement when failure to take action would adversely impact Metro property.
- Properties owned by Metro, but managed by a partner through contract or Intergovernmental Agreement.
- Properties where Nature in Neighborhood community grants are awarded.

DISTRIBUTION OF LEVY PROJECTS MAP



The unnumbered small trees identify Metro-owned properties that will receive weed control and other small-scale restoration as warranted. Each tree represents a specific property, with clusters of trees indicating larger properties, in 40-acre increments (for example, an 80-acre site has two trees; a 200-acre site has five).



The numbered larger trees indicate the sites of large-scale, intensive restoration projects. See Attachment 1 for the initial project list.



The numbers indicate locations for regional park projects. See Attachment 2 for detailed project descriptions.



The letters show a handful of the locations where people’s experience with nature will be improved. NOTE: This is an initial list. It will expand to include additional sites as they are determined. See Attachment 3 for the initial project list.

This map shows the projects that can be mapped. Conservation education, volunteer engagement and Nature in Neighborhoods community grants will occur at an abundance of sites throughout the region, Metro-owned and not. Exact locations are undetermined at this time.

Attachment 1**RESTORING NATURAL AREAS INITIAL PROJECT LIST**

The projects and sites below are indicative of major restoration projects on Metro's natural areas.

Target area/site	Acres	Focal habitat(s)/species	Key project elements
Clackamas River/North Logan Natural Area	40	Forest	Control invasive species, replant failed forest planting for habitat and reduced maintenance.
Clear Creek/Clear Creek Canyon middle bench	20	Prairie, wetland	Restore natural water flow, improve water quality by closing ditches; treat invasives.
Dairy/McKay creeks – Dairy/McKay confluence	100	Floodplain prairie, wetland	Enhance floodplain connectivity; restore prairie and wetlands for habitat and water quality.
Gales Creek/ Penstemon Prairie	120	Prairie, wetland, horned lark	Continue restoration of floodplain prairie and wetland habitats .
Johnson Creek (various)	50	Riverine, riparian/ salmon	Improve floodplain connectivity, restore native vegetation for fish and water quality.
Killin Wetlands	250	Wetland, riparian	Control invasive species; wetland and riparian planting to improve habitat and water quality.
Sandy River (various)	N/A	Riverine/salmon	Construct two side channels to enhance fish habitat and water quality.
Tonquin Geologic Area/ Coffee Lake Creek	120	Wetland	Replace invasive monoculture with native shrubs for habitat and water quality.
Tualatin River/Gotter Prairie	350	Prairie, oak, floodplain	Continue habitat improvement and restoration of newly acquired property.
Westside Trail corridor	30	Pollinator	Demonstration project as part of Westside Trail and habitat corridor.
Willamette Narrows (multiple sites)	500	Prairie, oak	Treat invasives and plant native wildflowers to solidify habitat gains made from oak release.
Willamette River Greenway/ Multnomah Channel	100	Wetland, floodplain, salmon	Improve connection of floodplain to river to improve water quality and salmon habitat.

Attachment 2

REGIONAL PARKS PROJECT LIST

The projects and sites below are indicative of improvements to upgrade Metro's regional parks.

Mason Hill Park

Projects include site furnishings, restroom building, parking improvements, ADA improvements and signage.

Blue Lake Regional Park

Projects at Blue Lake Park include property fencing, entry drive/booth renovation, park communications system, boat concession renovation, native landscaping upgrades, sports and pathway renovations, traffic and parking improvements, utility and drainage improvements, playground, swim beach and restroom renovations, office and maintenance building renovation and addition of permanent shelters.

Oxbow Regional Park

Projects include maintenance area reconfiguration, office/residence renovation, restroom construction, septic improvements, communication upgrades, fire road repairs, site furnishings, ADA improvements, specialized trail equipment, cabins and additional group camp construction, play area renovations, equestrian area improvements and utility renovations.

Chinook Landing Marine Park

At this boat ramp the projects include pathway replacement, ADA improvements, bank stabilization, native landscaping upgrades, playground and picnic area improvements, signage replacement, boat ramp area dredging, parking improvements, boat wash station and fish cleaning station development.

Howell Territorial Park

The projects at Howell Territorial Park include a master plan update, signage, shelter construction, parking and access renovation and utility replacement.

M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp

Beach, entrance booth/gate and ramp improvements are the projects for the Gleason Boat Ramp.

Sauvie Island Boat Ramp

The Sauvie Island Boat Ramp dock will be replaced, banks stabilized and the restrooms renovated. A new security gate will be installed.

Cooper Mountain Nature Park

Overflow parking will be developed.

Graham Oaks Nature Park

Recycling and garbage collection improvements will be made.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Signage and security improvements will be made along with ramp and pathway renovations.

Mount Talbert Nature Park

Pathway renovations will be made at Mount Talbert Nature Park.

Glendoveer Fitness Trail

Project includes drainage, surfacing and other needed improvements to the soft surface trail surrounding the Glendoveer Golf Course.

Attachment 3

IMPROVING NATURAL AREAS FOR PEOPLE INITIAL PROJECT LIST

The projects and sites described below represent the initial list of improvements for the benefit of people visiting Metro's natural areas.

Canemah Bluff North

Projects include construction of a viewpoint wall for safety at a bluff cliff, signage and trail improvements. Projects address current use of the site, closing trails for habitat preservation and opening new segments for a good walking experience.

Abernethy and Newell Creeks

This project addresses both safety and preservation issues, replacing transient camps with positive use. Project anticipates a trailhead, parking and trail work. The site has been regularly accessed for many years by local residents who enjoy walking through the natural area. However, there are issues with transient individuals using the site for camping and other unpermitted uses.

Chehalem Ridge Natural Area

Although the natural area is currently closed to the public, this project would take advantage of the opportunities at Chehalem Ridge for low-cost, low-maintenance access. In discussion with partners, early access projects would be identified and put in place potentially including signage and trails.

Agency Creek/McCarthy Creek

Various parcels near to but outside of Forest Park are currently or could be used by walkers or cyclists to access nature close to Portland. Access to the site is challenging and there may be opportunities to enhance use. Over the past decade the demand for single track mountain biking trails has increased. This project would explore the potential to provide quality cycling and hiking experiences for formal single track cycling and walking trails, and as appropriate, construct the facilities.

Council Creek

This property provides habitat to amphibians, turtles and other wildlife. It is also an area where youth and adults create demand trails to access nature and the creek, and build tree houses, forts and rope swings. An analysis of the potential that this property may or may not have for formalized access and what uses the property can sustain while protecting the natural resources is necessary. The desired outcome of the plan would be a sustainable, formal trail with orientation and directional signage that would direct access to parts of the property that can sustain it and discourage access in sensitive habitats.

East Buttes

A network of informal trails currently exist on Gabbert Hill and Towle Butte in the City of Gresham, north of Butler Road. These trails are used by residents in a number of adjacent neighborhoods. A trailhead or multiple trailheads with orientation and directional signage that lead to a formalized soft surface trail system through Gabbert Hill and Towle Butte will be developed to allow for maintainable and safe access to nature while protecting sensitive habitat in these natural areas.

Attachment 4

NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Grant program purpose

The Nature in Neighborhoods grant program supports and creates partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature.

Grant program goals (grant proposals can address only one or many of these to be successful)

- Connect people to their watershed and/or teach people about watershed health.
- Preserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat in local communities.
- Support larger conservation initiatives such as the Regional Conservation Strategy or climate change adaptation.
- Support nature education and programs for school-aged children.
- Improve the ability of underserved communities – particularly low-income and communities of color – to learn about, help restore, experience and connect with nature and the region’s natural areas.
- Implement the Regional Trails Plan.

Requirements and eligibility information

Individuals, citizen groups, businesses, neighborhoods, nonprofits, schools and school groups, government agencies, faith groups and service groups with nonprofit or other tax-exempt status may apply. Metro is not eligible to apply for grant funds.

Grants must serve Metro-area residents. Projects must occur on publicly-owned or permanently protected lands within the metropolitan-area urban growth boundary or Metro’s jurisdictional boundary, unless the project is on Metro-owned property or demonstrates a significant public benefit through increased community stewardship of sensitive habitats of regional importance and/or provides significant public benefit through a regional approach to increasing habitat in urban areas. Projects cannot take the place of required mitigation or penalty payments or result in direct profit or proprietary resources. Grants may be awarded to projects on Metro-owned property only if Metro is not receiving grant funding.

All grant proposals require a minimum of three partners and a 1:1 dollar match of outside funding for every dollar awarded by Metro. The match should come from other funds and/or in-kind contribution(s) of materials, services or volunteer assistance. Match must be secured at time of final application. Funding from other grants managed through Metro cannot be applied towards match. Overhead costs are reimbursable up to 10 percent of the total grant award and as match up to 10 percent of total project cost. Overhead costs must be detailed and justified.

Grant evaluation criteria

- Applicants may address only one or many of the grant program goals to be successful.
- Proposals must meet all program requirements: e.g. three partnerships, 1:1 match, location.
- Proposal scope and timeline is detailed; partner roles and responsibilities are clear.
- Proposals have clear deliverables and measurable outcomes.

Grant application review and awards

The Metro Council will make all grant awards. A team of Metro staff and other professionals with backgrounds in restoration, conservation education, grant management, finance, volunteer coordination, project planning and community partnerships will review applications and make funding recommendations. Proposals will be evaluated based on the information submitted, responsiveness to program goals, stated criteria, and the review committee’s professional and collective judgment.

BALLOT TITLE

Caption

Local option levy: improve natural areas, water quality for fish

Question

Shall Metro improve natural areas, water quality for fish: five-year operating levy, \$.096 per \$1,000 assessed value, beginning 2013?

This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary

Twice in two decades, Metro voters approved measures to acquire thousands of acres of natural areas throughout the tri-county region. Past measures could not include money for maintenance and restoration.

This levy creates a dedicated fund to improve water quality for salmon and native fish, remove invasive weeds that threaten the health of these natural areas, restore wetlands and provide opportunities for people from around the region to experience nature close to home.

Cost

The estimated cost for the typical household is \$20 per year for five years.

Result of a “yes” vote

- Improve water quality in local rivers and streams for salmon and other native fish including the Clackamas, Sandy, Tualatin rivers; Fanno, Johnson creeks.
- Restore wildlife habitat and remove weeds that choke plants wildlife need for food and shelter.
- Restore wetlands and floodplains to control flooding, provide habitat for birds and amphibians.
- Construct or replace capital projects in parks, such as restrooms, picnic shelters, playgrounds.
- Provide nature education programs in natural areas to visitors and school-aged children.

The proposed rate (at \$.096/\$1,000) will raise approximately \$10.2 million in 2013-14, \$10.4 million in 2014-15, \$10.6 million in 2015-16, \$ 10.9 million in 2016-17 and \$11.2 million in 2017-18. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessors at the time of estimate.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-4398 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE VOTERS OF THE METRO AREA A LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING WATER QUALITY, FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT AND MAINTAINING METRO'S PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS FOR THE PUBLIC

December 18, 2012

Prepared by: Jim Desmond (503-797-1914)
Heather Nelson Kent (503-797-1739)

BACKGROUND

This region is admired across the nation for its innovative approach to planning for the future. Our enviable quality of life can be attributed in no small measure to our stubborn belief in the importance of thinking ahead. One example of this foresight was the Metro Council's adoption of the 2040 Growth Concept, a long-range plan designed with the participation of thousands of Oregonians in the 1990s. This innovative blueprint for the future, intended to guide growth and development over 50 years, is based on a set of shared values that continue to resonate throughout the region: thriving neighborhoods and communities, abundant economic opportunity, clean air and water, protecting streams and rivers, preserving farms and forestland, access to nature, and a sense of place. These are the reasons people love to live here. At the heart of the 2040 Growth Concept was the vision, laid out in the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan, of an interconnected system of parks, trails and natural areas for fish, wildlife and people.

Current status and challenge

The Portland metropolitan area is well on its way toward realizing this vision of preserving water quality, protecting the region's most important natural resources and allowing people to explore them. Over the course of two voter-approved bond measures, Metro has strategically acquired more than 12,000 acres, adding to the 4,000+ acres of regional parks Metro has been asked to manage by local governments. Metro has committed the resources necessary to care for these lands and begun the work of restoring habitats, improving water quality and enhancing people's opportunities to enjoy and explore nature. Given that Metro's portfolio of land continues to grow, while the general fund resources needed to support it are decreasing, the existing financial model is not sustainable. The region has no stable, near- or long-term funding source to restore, maintain and invite people to enjoy the places that voters and local governments have protected for the public.

Without active stewardship, wildlife habitat in our natural areas will decline. A recent City Club report identifies invasive weeds as a primary threat to the health of Forest Park. In Metro's natural areas, similar threats from invasive weeds threaten the health of native species and water quality. Left unattended, this trend will mean a more daunting task and higher costs in the future. Similarly, park facilities that provide people with walking, boating, picnicking and other opportunities to enjoy nature require sufficient funding and reinvestment. Additional, dedicated funding is needed to protect our region's assets in both the near and long term, maximize their value to the public and enhance the ecological benefits of the public's park and natural area investments.

It was clear from the time the Metro Council referred the first bond measure in 1995 that acquisition was the imperative. It was noted then that funding for long-term maintenance must be identified and planned

for, but the Metro Council and the region's voters prioritized land acquisition. With the first bond measure, Metro exceeded promises to voters, acquiring more than 8,000 acres of natural areas. Already Metro has achieved its goal of protecting about 4,000 acres through the 2006 bond measure. Metro's success in acquiring these natural areas brings urgency to the discussion of their long-term care.

For several years the Metro Council has discussed a regional solution to long-term funding needs with local park providers, elected officials and partners in the Intertwine Alliance. In 2010 the Metro Council directed staff to produce a report on Metro's portfolio of parks and natural areas. The Council used the portfolio report to better understand the scope of Metro's responsibilities as well as the challenges and opportunities they present today and in the future.

During the past year, Metro has examined a wide range of funding sources that potentially could provide either a long-term or short-term solution to the ongoing management of Metro's regional parks and natural areas. Consideration was given to a service district, solid waste excise tax, a niche tax, utility fee and local option levy. Of these alternatives, a five-year local option levy emerged as the most feasible to pursue in the near-term. In February 2012 the Metro Council directed staff to test voter interest in such a measure.

Public engagement and process

The effort to determine whether the Metro Council should move forward with seeking voter approval of a local option levy has included extensive public and stakeholder engagement. This began with public opinion research conducted by Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall, Inc. (DHM Research) in March 2012 and continued with the use of Metro's online engagement tool, Opt In, in May 2012. A total of 3,492 people participated in the Opt In survey, and their opinions were consistent with the results of the statistically valid research. The input gathered from Opt In members provided additional information about the relative importance of Metro's natural area restoration efforts and programs to residents throughout the region, confirming priorities and the benefits of additional funding.

Outreach to key stakeholders also began early in 2012. Metro Council members, the Metro Council President and Metro staff shared the idea of a local option levy with elected officials, park directors, the Intertwine Alliance members and others. Early engagement gave the project team insight into the concerns a funding proposal might raise.

With public support and voter interest established, Metro Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett convened an independent advisory panel made up of 15 representatives from the public and private sectors in July 2012. The Natural Areas Advisory Panel provided an opportunity to test support for a funding proposal with an independent group of community leaders representing different personal and professional perspectives and expertise.

Natural Areas Advisory Panel

The advisory panel included business, conservation and community leaders Josh Alpert, Marcelo Bonta, Tom Brian, Craig Dirksen, Stacey Dycus, Donita Fry, John Griffiths, Lori Luchak, Fred Miller (chair), Mike Miller, Wilda Parks, David Pollock, Jazzmin Reece, Stephanie Routh and Pam Wiley. The panel met in June and July 2012 and addressed these key questions:

1. What are the key results related to preservation and maintenance of parks and natural areas and access to nature that Metro should fund?
2. What level of funding is necessary to meet these objectives?

3. Is now the right time for a funding measure?
4. What is the long-term funding solution for natural areas?

The advisory panel's recommendations form the core of the proposed measure as described in this resolution, and an excerpted summary is below.

...The panel met three times and discussed the work to date in acquiring and restoring land and providing regional parks. We looked at the funding challenges facing Metro. We reviewed the spring 2012 voter opinion survey, which gauged public support for protection of natural areas in general as well as a specific scenario for a five-year levy.

Based on these meetings, we have reached consensus that a long-term solution is needed to ensure ongoing maintenance and operations of these regional assets. Given the challenges in finding a long-term solution, we recommend that the Metro Council refer a five-year levy to voters to restore natural areas, maintain and operate parks, engage the community and improve access so people can safely use more of Metro's properties.

...As you further define the projects to be funded, be as specific as possible and use geographic equity as a guiding principle.

Further, we support using the following criteria to evaluate potential investments:

Resource protection

Funding protects natural resources, helping ensure a healthy future for people, fish, and wildlife. Ensuring water quality in regional streams, restoring and protecting wildlife habitat, and removing weeds that threaten the health of natural areas are high priorities with voters. Restoration work needs to continue on properties that have been acquired and improved, and extend to as much of the portfolio as possible. Funding should focus on habitat restoration work that protects resources and reduces future funding needs.

Taking care of assets

The investment supports regional parks and takes care of these assets as a legacy for future generations. As indicated in the opinion survey, seven in 10 voters rated preserving the quality of the region's natural areas as a high or medium priority. In the related Opt-In survey in May 2012, the top priority for investment went to general maintenance to keep parks safe and enjoyable for visitors. Taking care of what we have needs to be a high priority.

Equity

Levy funding is an opportunity for underserved communities to benefit. Be intentional in designing the levy projects to address barriers that affect historically disadvantaged communities in the use and benefits of Metro's natural areas.

- *Provide access to natural areas that are near underserved communities. Access relates to physical facilities as well as consideration of cultural barriers and barriers that prevent people from enjoying the resources.*
- *Be inclusive by way of contracting and jobs, environmental education and stewardship opportunities, partnerships and collaboration in public decisions.*

Access and public safety

The opinion survey highlighted the importance of public use. Access to parks and natural areas close to home and across the region are both important, supporting the interconnected network of The Intertwine. With a five-year levy, capital-intensive projects with significant, new ongoing costs should be minimized. However, investments that improve access and remove safety hazards should be a higher priority.

The panel went on to recommend limiting levy expenditures to natural areas, parks and trail purposes in order to keep faith with the voters.

The Metro Council directed staff to conduct broader and more formal public engagement activities starting in September 2012, including one-on-one meetings and presentations to targeted groups and general outreach to the public. More than 100 elected officials, local governments, nonprofits, community-based organizations, business leaders and individuals were contacted and provided opportunities to offer advice and input. Organizations were urged to alert their members to weigh in on the levy proposal through an online survey on Metro’s website or by communicating directly with the Metro Council. The levy proposal was highlighted and promoted through Metro’s websites, online advertising, direct mail, social media tools and more. Online advertising generated more than 3 million impressions. Metro’s website launched a page about the project (www.oregonmetro.gov/nature) Sept. 12, 2012, offering details of the levy funding proposal, decision-making process and timeline.

Starting Sept. 12 and ending Nov. 19, 2012, Metro hosted an online survey via Opt In about the local option levy proposal. More than 5,000 people completed the survey, including more than 1,500 people from outside the regular panel. Overall, the online survey results showed 68 percent support for the levy. Successful engagement about the purpose and need for a Metro levy is evidenced by strong participation in the survey, by the diversity of people and organizations contacted that provided input and advice to Metro.

Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall, Inc. (DHM Research) conducted a second telephone survey of likely voters in the Metro service territory in November 2012 to re-assess support for a five-year local option operating levy for Metro’s natural areas. This research again confirmed support for the measure once the amount and purpose of the levy was described.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

The Metro Council has received several comments online from citizens opposing any type of tax increase at this time.

Nineteen of the region’s mayors have submitted a letter to the Metro Council expressing concern that Metro’s five-year local option levy will contribute to compression in cities within Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah counties. The mayors’ letter explained that some Metro area cities are more impacted by compression than others and, as a result, the financial burden for the levy would not fall evenly on households and communities across the region. Some cities have concerns that this will reduce their future ability to raise local revenue for other important local services.

2. Legal Antecedents

State law:

Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 250 (“Initiative and Referendum”) and ORS Chapter 280, (“Financing of Local Public Projects and Improvements”): ORS 250.035 (“Form of ballot titles for state and local measures”); ORS 250.038 (“Form of ballot title for measure authorizing imposition or renewal of local option taxes or establishing permanent rate limitation”); ORS 280.060 (“Levy of local option taxes outside constitutional limitation; duration of levy; approval of levy as approval of bonds”); ORS 280.064 (“Period for use of revenues raised by local option tax”); ORS 280.070 (“Manner of holding elections for local option tax or permanent rate limit; additional statement in ballot title”); ORS 280.075 (“Ballot statements for local option tax measures”); and ORS 280.080 (“Contents of order, resolution or ordinance calling election”).

Metro Council Legislative History:

Metro Council Resolution No. 92-1637, “For the Purpose of Considering the Adoption of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan,” adopted July 23, 1992.

Metro Council Resolution No. 94-2049B, “For the Purpose of Modifying the Submission to the Voters of a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness to Proceed with the Acquisition of Land for a Regional System of Greenspaces.”

Metro Council Resolution No. 04-3506A, “For the Purpose of Revising Metro’s Preliminary Goal 5 Allow, Limit, or Prohibit Decision; and Directing the Chief Operating Officer to Develop a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection and Restoration Program That Relies on a Balanced Regulatory and Incentive Based Approach,” adopted December 9, 2004.

Metro Council Resolution No. 05-3574A, “For the Purpose of Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative Called Nature In Neighborhoods,” adopted May 12, 2005.

Metro Council Resolution No. 05-3612, “For the Purpose of Stating An Intent to Submit to the Voters the Question of the Establishment of a Funding Measure to Support Natural Area Protection and Establishing a Blue Ribbon Committee; and Setting Forth the Official Intent of Metro to Reimburse Certain Expenditures Out of the Proceeds of Obligations to be Issued in Connection with the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Program,” adopted September 29, 2005.

3. Anticipated Effects

The effect of this resolution would be the referral to voters of a local option levy measure in the May 21, 2013 General Election.

4. Budget Impacts

The referral of this measure to the voters will require Metro to pay for election expenses, estimated at approximately \$167,000. This amount can change based on the number of issues on the ballot, and the number of region-wide items on the ballot. The FY 2012-13 Adopted Budget includes \$75,000 for election expenses; however, additional appropriation will likely be needed to fully fund the election expenses.

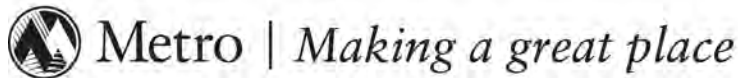
Due to the timing of the May election and the Metro budget process, budget authority for program expenses prior to voter approval of the measure may be included in the FY 13-14 adopted budget. The

Metro Council will have the legal authority to establish appropriation authority related to the successful passage of the measure, once the election has been certified. It is anticipated that, upon passage of the measure, staff will work with the Metro Council on the development of the levy program and the necessary budgetary appropriation to be approved by Ordinance at a later date.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 12-4398.

Materials following this page were distributed at the meeting.



METRO COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Summary

Dec. 13, 2012

Metro, Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes and Councilors Barbara Roberts, Carl Hosticka, Kathryn Harrington, Rex Burkholder and Shirley Craddick

Councilors Excused: Councilor Carlotta Collette

Council President Tom Hughes called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

There were none.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

3. AUDITOR'S OFFICE REPORT: SPAN OF CONTROL

Metro Auditor Suzanne Flynn, with assistance from Mr. Brian Evans, provided a presentation on the Span of Control audit released in November 2012. The audit was conducted to determine the Sustainable Metro Initiative's impact on the ratio of employees per manager and the number of layers of management. The objective of the audit was to: (1) review the span of control – the ratio of employees to management, and layers of management in Metro pre and post SMI, (2) review the drivers or personal expenditures within the past 10 years, and (3) to review the reorganization itself and if it followed best practices. Auditor Flynn provided a brief overview of the audit's findings and recommendations for Metro going forward. The audit recommended that to help maintain an effective and efficient organizational structure and manage personnel costs, Metro should:

- Improve the quality of human resource data to ensure the span of control analysis is based on the actual structure of the agency's departments;
- Build on previous efforts to use span of control analysis as a tool to monitor the agency's structure; and
- Increase transparency by documenting the methodology used to evaluate span of control and communicate how that information would be used in the budget process.

She also noted that there is not one optimum number of staffing to increase efficiency and effectiveness of an agency, and emphasized the complexity of span of control measures. That said, she did state that it can be a valuable analysis because it allows management to reflect on the organization's structure. (Complete audit included as part of the meeting record.)

Ms. Mary Rowe of Metro provided HR and management's response to the audit. Ms. Rowe thanked the Auditor and her staff for their report and stated that management agreed with the recommendations. She overviewed how management is working to address each of the recommendations. (Management's response included as part of the full audit report.)

Council thanked Auditor Flynn and Ms. Rowe for their reports, and stated that their presentations help illustrate how Metro continues learn and how management is able to help the agency deliver its services to the public in an efficient manner despite continuing to be faced with resource challenges. Councilors emphasized the importance and complexity of span of control audits. Councilors asked clarifying questions regarding the complexity of the audit especially given Metro's diverse missions and small departments. Additional comments addressed the SMI; councilors were glad to hear SMI was a smart, worthwhile decision.

4. **RECOMMENDED SLATE OF AWARDS FOR 2013 METRO CENTRAL STATION COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GRANT CYCLE**

Councilor Rex Burkholder provided a brief overview of the Metro Central Station Community Enhancement Program. The program was established in 1985 by the Oregon Legislature to compensate people affected by solid waste disposal facilities. After the opening of the regional transfer station in northwest Portland, Metro entered into a partnership with the citizens in the surrounding local neighborhoods closest to the facility. Councilor Burkholder reminded the Council that a \$0.50 surcharge was collected on each ton of waste processed at the facility, and that the monies generated were earmarked for projects or programs that benefited local residents. He stated that grants are awarded through a competitive process and that local residents from the target area solicit, review and award the grant monies. Additionally, Councilor Burkholder very briefly spoke about the committee composition and read the names of the committee's members.

Councilor Burkholder welcomed Mr. Greg Madden of the enhancement committee to briefly present the 2013 grant process and recommended slate of awards. Mr. Madden stated that Metro's common sense approach as a funder helps local residents reclaim their place as change-makers in their community for multiple reasons including encouraging residents to think and act locally. Mr. Madden stated that the applications were designed to maximize local resources and culture, and to encourage the local economy. He overviewed how the grant applications were evaluated and screened, and the criteria used by the committee to rank and rate each application. Mr. Madden stated that committee reviewed 23 applications and selected 16 projects to fund. The total allocation was \$79,000 in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$15,000. (Slate of grant awards included as part of the meeting packet.)

Councilors thanked the enhancement committee for its service.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion:	Councilor Shirley Craddick moved to approve the Dec. 13, 2012 consent agenda which consisted of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of the minutes for Dec. 6, 2012; and• Resolution No. 12-4395, For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Members to the Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee.
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Vote:	Council President Hughes and Councilors Roberts, Hosticka, Craddick, Burkholder and Harrington voted in support of the motion. The vote was 6 ayes, the motion <u>passed</u> .
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6. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Ms. Martha Bennett's update included:

- The Community Investment Initiative Regional Infrastructure Enterprise group distributed a survey to local jurisdictions seeking infrastructure projects that could help develop their centers or employment areas. She stated that 20 responses were received.
- Two resolutions have been added to the Dec. 18, 2012 council meeting agenda regarding costs related to the geotechnical work at the Oregon Zoo and exercising the purchase of land for a remote elephant center.

Mr. Jim Desmond, director of Metro's Sustainability Center, presented Councilors Roberts, Hosticka and Burkholder certificates of recognition and appreciation for their support for natural areas, parks and trails programs throughout the region.

7. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilor updates included the following recent meetings: Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), SW Corridor Steering Committee, and Basalt Transportation Refinement Plan policy group. Additionally, councilors thanked the Oregon Zoo Bond Oversight Committee for their service.

8. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the regular meeting at 2:45 p.m. Council will convene the next regular council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Metro Council Chamber.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD PURSUANT WITH ORS 192.660 (2) (i). TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE THE EMPLOYMENT-RELATED PERFORMANCE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF ANY PUBLIC BODY, A PUBLIC OFFICER, EMPLOYEE OR STAFF MEMBER WHO DOES NOT REQUEST AN OPEN HEARING.

The Metro Council reconvened in the Council Annex for an executive session held pursuant with ORS 190.660 (2) (i).

Respectfully submitted,



Kelsey Newell, Regional Engagement and Legislative Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DEC. 13, 2012

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
	Agenda	12/13/12	Revised Council agenda for 12/13/12	121312c-01
5.1	Minutes	12/6/12	Council summary for 12/6/12	121312c-02

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE) RESOLUTION NO. 12-4399A
OREGON ZOO BOND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN)
AND OREGON ZOO 20-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
CAPITAL MASTER PLAN) Bennett with the concurrence of Council
) President Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, at the General Election held on November 4, 2008, the Metro Area voters approved Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-96, entitled “Bonds to Protect Animal Health And Safety; Conserve and Recycle Water”; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Zoo launched the Oregon Zoo Comprehensive Capital Master Plan process, to ensure that the Oregon Zoo Bond Measure is implemented within budget, in a fashion that effectively integrates bond projects with existing exhibits, preserves opportunities for future non-bond funded projects and makes the maximum use of existing and proposed infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in addition to planning for and governing the implementation of the Oregon Zoo Bond projects (the “Zoo Bond Implementation Plan”), the Oregon Zoo Comprehensive Capital Master Plan will provide a 20-year plan for future non-bond funded development at the Oregon Zoo; and

WHEREAS, in September 2011, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 11-4290 (“For the Purpose of Approving the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan”) approving and adopting the Zoo Bond Implementation Plan portion of the Oregon Zoo Comprehensive Capital Master Plan which included budgets for the Elephant Lands Habitat and associated infrastructure (the “Elephant Lands Project”); and

WHEREAS, in November 2011, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 11-4304 (“For the Purpose of Approving the Oregon Zoo 20-Year Comprehensive Capital Master Plan (CCMP)”), approving and adopting the Oregon Zoo’s Comprehensive Capital Master Plan, which includes the Zoo Bond Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, during the design phase of the Elephant Lands Project, unforeseen geotechnical site conditions were discovered that significantly increased the cost of the Elephant Lands Project over estimates approved by the Metro Council in the Zoo Bond Implementation Plan, which now require design changes, scope reductions and budgetary adjustments; and

WHEREAS, Metro staff has proposed design changes and scope reductions as detailed in the Staff Report, netting an estimated reduction in project cost of \$9.2 million, and the Metro Council wishes to approve and adopt said changes and reductions as amendments to the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan and Oregon Zoo 20-Year Comprehensive Capital Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, further design changes and scope reductions would unacceptably diminish the Elephant Lands Project’s long-term quality, visitor experience, and make an appropriate sustainability certification more difficult to achieve; and

WHEREAS, additional funds to forestall further design changes and scope reductions are available from the unanticipated receipt of an additional \$10.4 million premium paid by buyers of the Metro bonds sold to fund the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan (the “Bond Premium”); and

WHEREAS, combined with design changes and scope reductions, the allocation of \$3.9 million in Bond Premium funds by the Metro Council to the Elephant Lands Project will maintain the Metro project vision, its sustainability components, and the quality of the visitor experience; and

WHEREAS, the allocation of a further \$1 million in Bond Premium funds by the Metro Council to the Elephant Lands Project will restore certain specified project elements as set forth in the Staff Report, maintaining the Metro Council's "first-tier" vision for the Elephant Lands Project, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby:

Amends the Oregon Zoo Bond Implementation Plan and Oregon Zoo 20-Year Comprehensive Capital Master Plan to approve and adopt design changes and project scope reductions to the Elephant Lands Project and add \$4.9 million of additional funding to increase the Elephant Lands Project budget from \$39.5 million to \$44.4 million, as more particularly set forth in the Staff Report.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 18th day of December 2012.

Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Alison Kean Campbell, Metro Attorney

Oregon Zoo

Elephant Habitat and Related Infrastructure

Budget Discussion and Recommendations

Projects Discussed



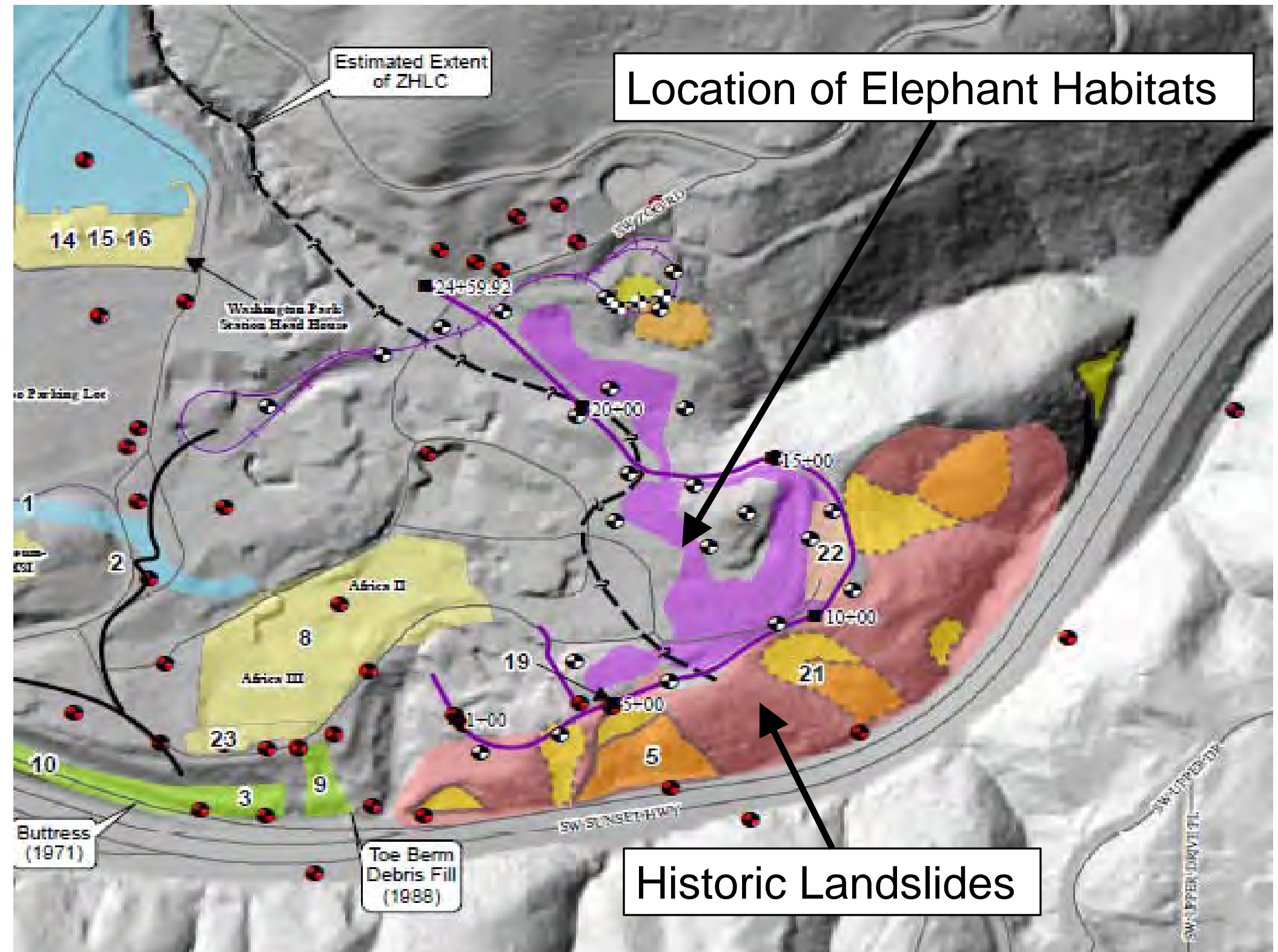
Situation assessment

Each project was allocated a budget from the total \$125 million bond.

After completing design development on the elephant habitat and receiving hard bids on all other related projects, costs exceed the budget identified for this project by \$13.1 million.

Geotechnical Conditions

- Areas in yellow, red, and orange are historic landslide areas.
- Land area is least explored
- Continued testing concludes that geotechnical conditions and seismic risks exists.
- Requires extensive mitigation.



Choices:

- **Shift existing bond resources to the project**
- **Reduce project scopes and related costs**

Both choices deliver the bond commitment

What is the bond commitment?

- **Measure 26-96 Explanatory Statement for the elephant habitat**
 - “Outdoor space will increase from 1.5 to 6 acres, adding watering holes, shade structures, large trees, and boulders, providing more outside exercise and offering a more natural environment.”
- **Metro Council Resolution 08-0945 elephant habitat excerpts**
 - Space increase from 1.5 to 6 acres
 - Naturalized with watering holes, shade structures, large trees and boulders, with a thicket of bamboo as a backdrop
 - Barn will be replaced with a larger building

Zoo Train

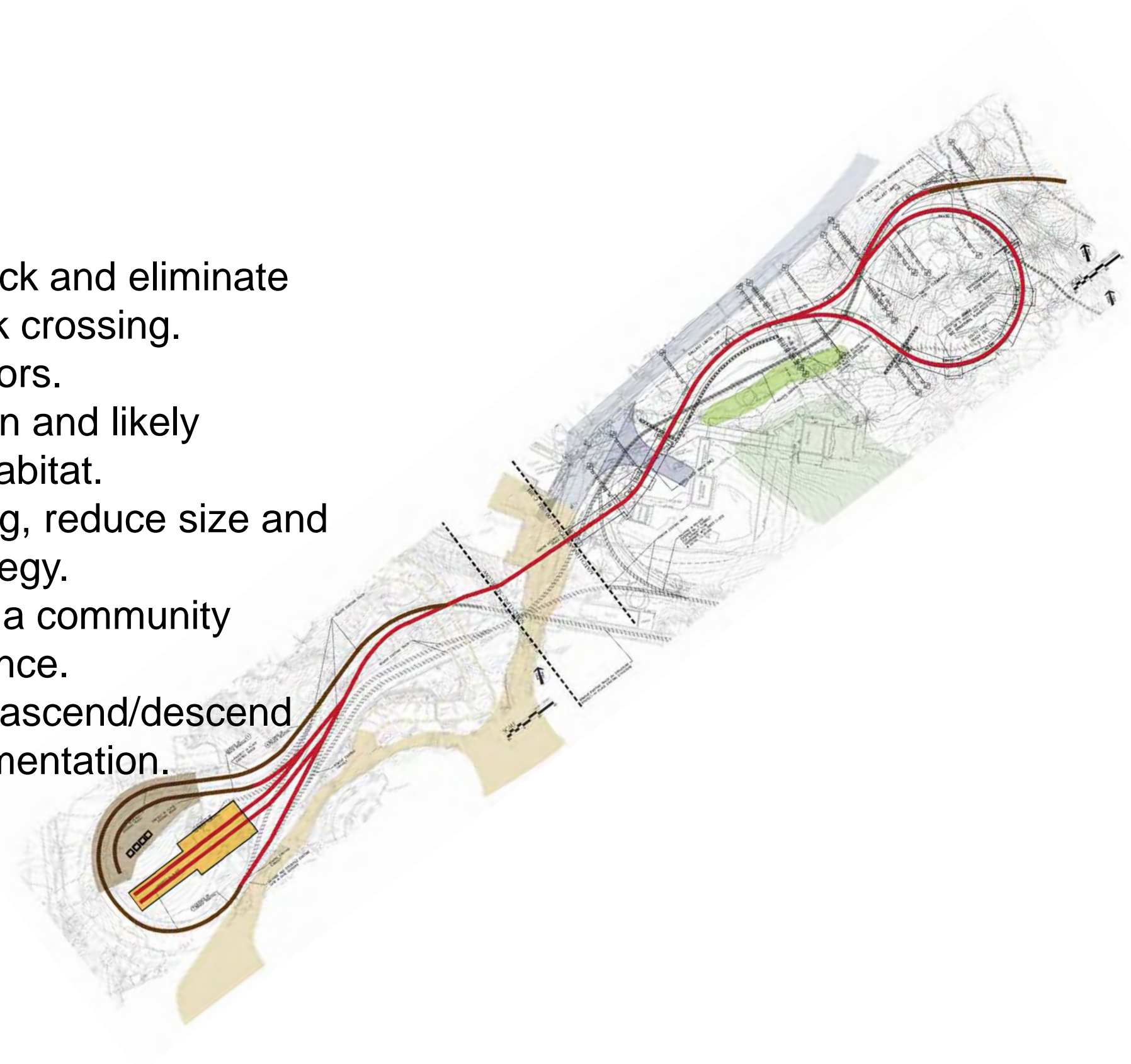
Cost Summary

<i>Project Budget:</i>	<i>\$4,000,000</i>
<i>Construction Bid:</i>	<i><u>\$7,300,000</u></i>
<i>Variance:</i>	<i>(\$3,300,000)</i>

Scope Modifications Recommended

- Modify track design to use existing track and eliminate elevated trestle – maintain visitor track crossing.
- Improve safety barriers to protect visitors.
- Keep elephant meadow view from train and likely eliminate view into future polar bear habitat.
- Relocate maintenance/storage building, reduce size and consider change to maintenance strategy.
- Keep campus loop trestle to preserve a community tradition and ZooLights visitor experience.
- Trains will need mechanical assist to ascend/descend slopes. Research continues on implementation.

<i>Revised cost with reductions:</i>	<i><u>\$3,300,000</u></i>
<i>Variance to budget:</i>	<i>\$700,000</i>



Elephant Habitats and Buildings

Cost Estimate Summary:

Project budget: \$30,850,000
Design estimate : \$39,150,000

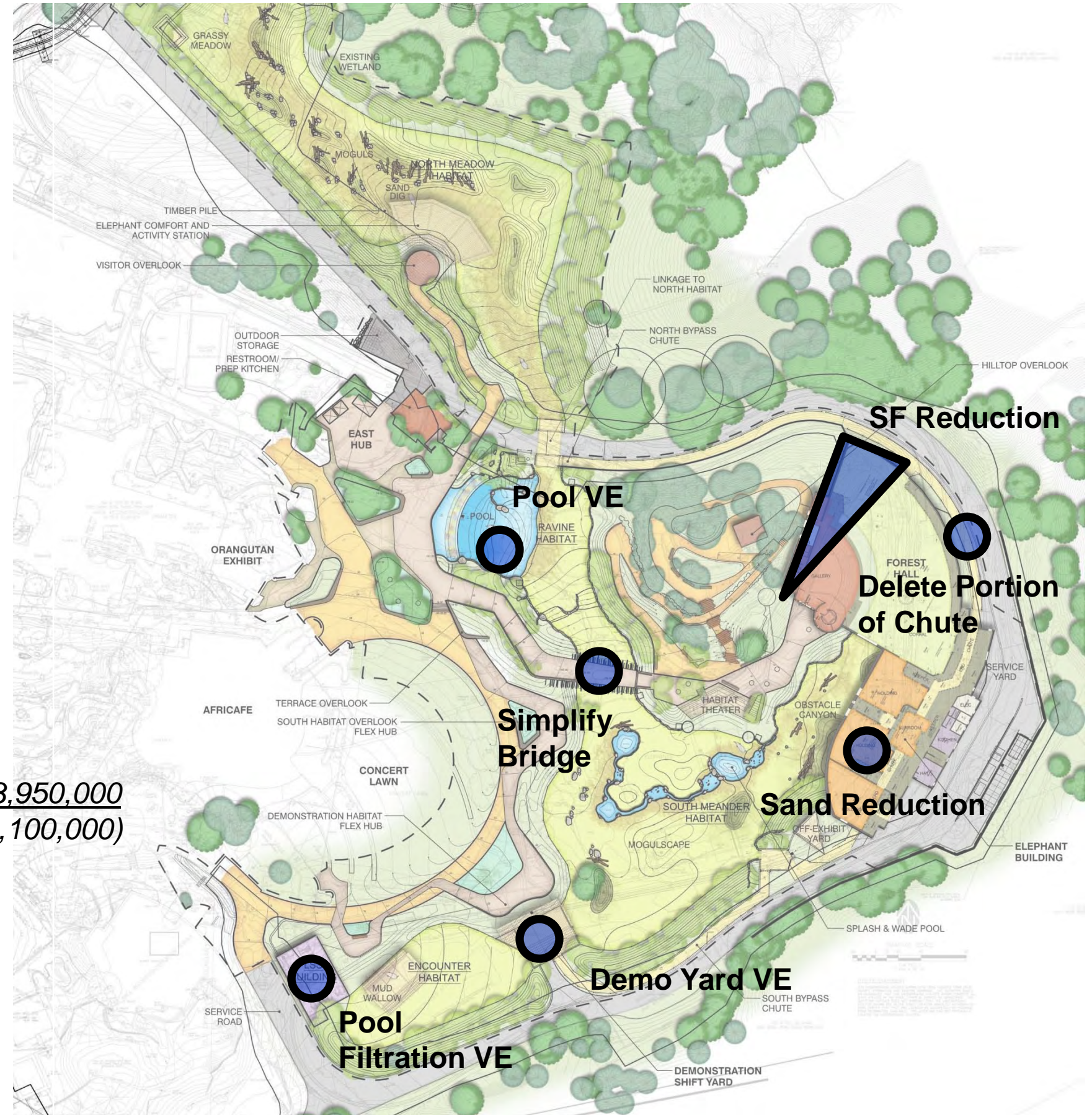
Recommended scope changes:

- Value engineering (VE)
- Avoidance of geotechnical risks where possible (see diagram)

Scope changes maintain project vision:

- Fulfills the bond measure commitments
- Habitat has multiple spaces for elephants
- Sand substrates
- Elephant activity and choice
- Sustainability features (LEED Silver achievable)
- Extensive visitor experience opportunities

Revised cost estimate with recommended changes: \$33,950,000
Variance to budget: (\$3,100,000)



Adding additional resources of \$ 1 million

- Add additional square footage to Forest Hall
- Increase elephant management options
- Elephant activity and choice

Revised Budget Summary

	BUDGET	COST ESTIMATES	VARIANCE
Wild Life Live	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$0
Zoo Train	\$4 Million	\$3.3 Million	\$700,000
Service Road	\$4 Million	\$5.5 Million	(\$1.5 Million)
On-site Elephants	\$30.85 Million	\$33.95 Million	(\$3.1 Million)
Additional resource		\$1 Million	(\$1 Million)
Totals	\$39.5 Million	\$44.4 Million	(\$4.9 Million)

Project construction contingencies remain intact and have not been used

Zoo recommendation

- Reduce project scopes as outlined by staff for the train and the elephant habitats and buildings.
- Add recommended \$1M for Forest Hall visitor space, etc.
- Use \$4.9M of the \$10.4M available premium funds to add resources to project.

Oregon Zoo

Remote Elephant Center Property acquisition and timeline

Why does the zoo need an offsite facility for elephants?

Vision:

Establish and maintain matriarchal herds of Asian elephants that will be sustainable for exhibit and program purposes for generations to come. The zoo will continue to manage a herd at the zoo's new six-acre facility and expand into an additional herd at a Remote Elephant Facility (REC).

- Advance the zoo's world class elephant program
- Provide a home that offers social networking opportunities, choice and activity for bull elephants
- Continue as a research center
- Establish partnerships

Remote Elephant Center

- **Family Groups**
- **Bulls socializing with herds**
- **Choices**



Property Options

- Roslyn Lake – owned by PGE
- Located in Clackamas County
- Former lake bed = 240 acres



Purchase

- Currently have an option to purchase
- Option expires October , 2013
- Estimated purchase price approximately \$1 million
- Price increases to over 1million after December 31, 2012

Future Plan

- Develop partnerships
- Learn from National Elephant Center
- Continue to refine operations plan.
- Work with OZF on fund-raising plan for capital outlay and endowment for operations

Thank You



Natural areas local option levy

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

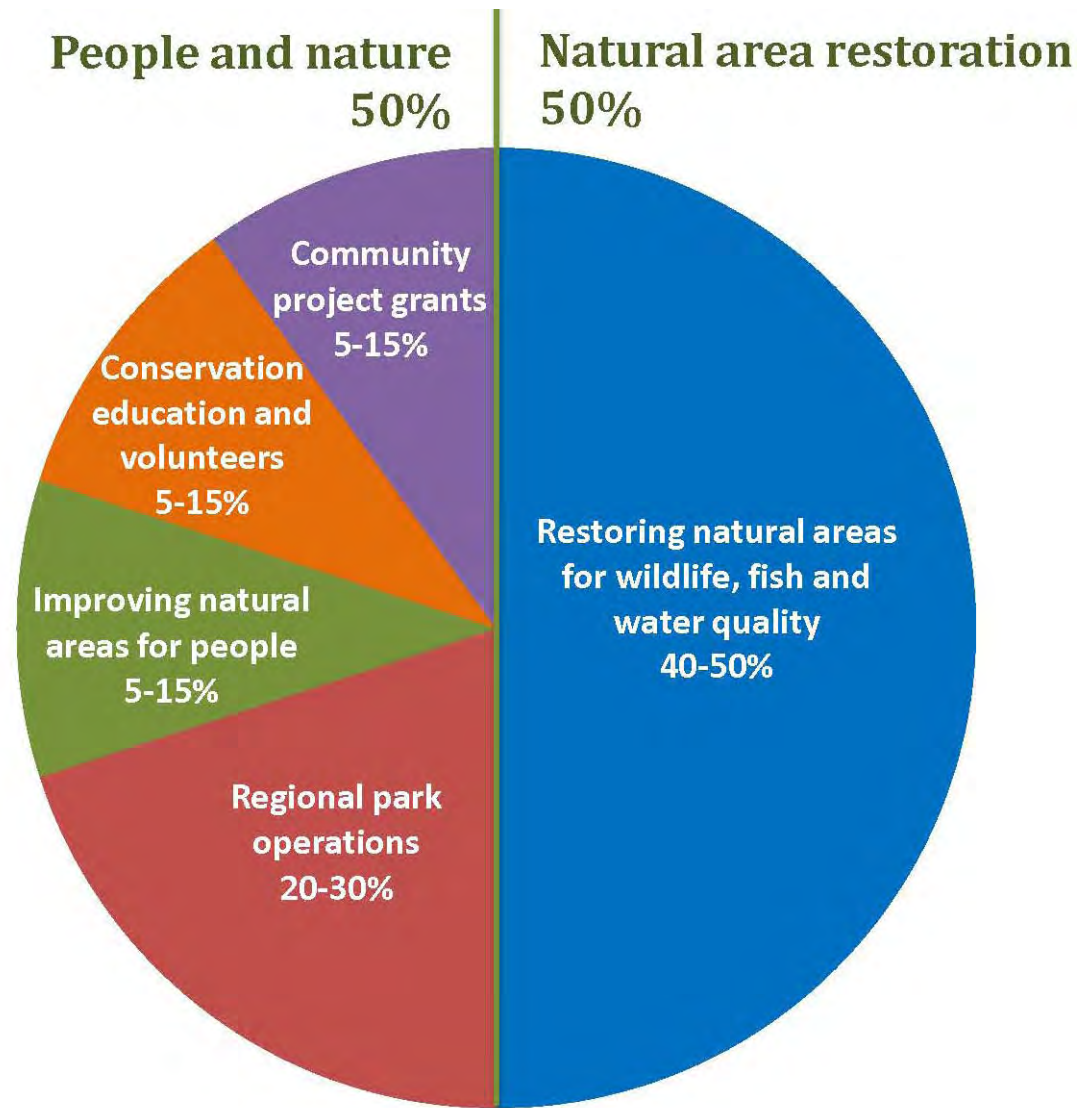


Metro Council

December 18, 2012



Metro | *Making a great place*



Restore

10,000 to 12,000 acres through increased maintenance and weed abatement



Improve

facilities and customer experience at 11 parks



Expand

volunteer opportunities
and double the number
of site stewards



Reach

3,000 additional people
through conservation
education



Empower

direct community action
by tripling Nature in
Neighborhoods grants



Engage

communities
throughout the region
in natural area
stewardship



RESTORATION

CHALLENGE



Former agricultural field
Killen Wetlands Natural Area

OPPORTUNITY



Restored prairie habitat, free to grow
Clear Creek Natural Area



RESTORATION

CHALLENGE



Disconnected side-channel habitat
Sandy River side channel

OPPORTUNITY



Improved connectivity/fish habitat
Clear Creek side channel



PARK MAINTENANCE

CHALLENGE



Aging park facilities
Blue Lake Regional Park

OPPORTUNITY



Sustainable, user-friendly buildings
Graham Oaks Nature Park



Metro | *Making a great place*

PARK MAINTENANCE

CHALLENGE



Degraded storage facilities
Oxbow Regional Park

OPPORTUNITY



Safe and appropriate storage
Graham Oaks Nature Park



IMPROVING NATURAL AREAS

CHALLENGE



Hazardous conditions at viewpoint
Canemah Bluff Natural Area

OPPORTUNITY



Safe and improved visitor experience
I-205 viewpoint looking toward Canemah



IMPROVING NATURAL AREAS

CHALLENGE



Natural area inaccessible to visitors
Chehalem Ridge Natural Area

OPPORTUNITY



Safe access for people
Chehalem Ridge Natural Area



CONSERVATION EDUCATION



Number of people served by conservation education programs would increase by >20%.



Metro | *Making a great place*

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT



Opportunities for site stewards and community partnerships at Metro properties would double.



Metro | *Making a great place*

COMMUNITY GRANTS



Grant program would triple to \$750,000 per year; outside dollars leveraged by 4:1 match.



Metro | *Making a great place*

5,074 people completed an online survey, including more than 1,500 people NOT already Opt In members.

More than **80,000** households received a postcard inviting input.

3 million impressions were generated from online advertising.

100+ elected officials, local governments, nonprofits, business leaders and individuals were contacted directly.

More than **300,000** emails were sent to various groups ranging from Friends of Trees to PCPA subscribers.

Comments on Resolution No. 12-4398, For the Purpose of Referring to the Voters of the Metro Area a Local Option Levy for the Purpose of Preserving Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Maintaining Metro's Parks and Natural Areas for the Public

Dec 18, 2012



December 17, 2012

Tom Hughes, Metro President
Metro Councilors
Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear President Hughes and Councilors:

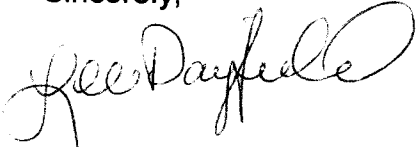
I am a resident of Gresham and coordinator of the Nadaka Nature Park & Garden Project and am writing to support referral of a 5-year local option levy to provide funds to Metro for operation and maintenance of its regional park and natural area system.

Because of my involvement with Nadaka for almost 5 years I am well aware of the need for funding the operation and maintenance of our parks and natural areas. Gresham, like Metro and most other cities have a backlog of maintenance with no foreseeable funding. The Nadaka project has been fortunate to receive Metro Nature in Neighborhood grant funds for acquisition as well as restoration and enhancement over the years. I would urge the Metro Council to allocate at least 15% of the levy funds to the proposed grant program. The grant funds will be returned by our communities many times over with conservation education, volunteer involvement and workforce development opportunities.

At less than ten cents per \$1,000, costing the average homeowner around \$1.60 per month, it should not be a burden for other government entities. This is just the first step I have heard about in trying to solve the enormous funding challenges of creating revenues for operations and maintenance for our parks. We must also work with the State legislature to address the issue of compression and fix our State tax system.

Because voters have consistently supported the Metro bond measures to acquire natural areas they must also realize and therefore should support the enhancement, maintenance and operation of these areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Dayfield". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first and last letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lee Dayfield
Friends of Nadaka
16820 NE Hassalo St.
Gresham, OR 97230
503.998.1044



December 18, 2012

Tom Hughes, Metro President
Metro Councilors
Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Staff

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Officers

M J Cody, Chair

Goody Cable, Vice-chair

Bob Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer

Board

Mike Faha

Steffeni Mendoza Gray

Mel Huie

Tom Liptan

Janet Oliver

Kelly Puntaney

Jim Rapp

Ruth Roth

Judy BlueHorse Skelton

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Bill Blosser Consulting

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California Oak Foundation

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University of British Columbia

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Fregonese Associates, Inc.

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Spaces Magazine,

Dan Heagerty, Sr. VP/Strategic
Officer, David Evans Enterprises

Steve Johnson, Public
Involvement Consultant

Charles Jordan,
The Conservation Fund

Jon Kusler, Association of
Wetland Managers

Peg Malloy, Director,
Portland Housing Center

Dr. Rud Platt, Ecological Cities
Project

Dr. Joseph Poracsky
PSU Geography

Rodolpho Ramina, Sustainability
Consultant, Curitiba, Brazil

Ann Riley, California Department
of Water Resources

Geoff Roach, Oregon Field
Director, Trust For Public Land

Jennifer Thompson,
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Paddy Tillett, Architect, ZGF,
Portland

Ethan Seltzer, Director, PSU
School of Urban Studies and
Planning

David Yamashita,
Senior Planner, Long Range Planning,
Maui, Hawaii

Dr. Alan Yeakley, PSU
Environmental Sciences and
Resources

Lynn Youngbar, Organizational
Development Consultant

Dear President Hughes and Councilors:

My name is Tom Liptan and I am representing the Urban Greenspaces Institute in supporting Metro's Council's referral of a local option levy. The levy will provide Metro with funds as a first step in addressing lack of operation and maintenance funds for the 16,000 acres Metro now owns, thanks to transfer of several thousand acres of land from Multnomah County and acquisition of more than 12,000 acres of natural areas with the 1995 and 2006 regional natural areas bond measures.

While some have expressed concern over potential impacts to local jurisdictions, the Institute's board and staff, after reviewing the data, feel that the levy, at less than ten cents per \$1,000 and costing the average homeowner less than \$1.60 per month, would not be a burden to the region's residents or local governments.

The levy will allow on-the-ground restoration and management of the region's most significant natural areas. It would also put people to work performing restoration, create demand for local nursery stock that will be used in restoration projects, and create citizen stewardship programs. The Institute supports all of these programs. We believe voters gave Metro a clear mandate to acquire and manage natural areas by overwhelmingly approving two bond measures totaling \$363 million.

We want to emphasize that we consider the levy as a very small first step in solving much larger funding challenges, specifically creating O & M revenues for all park providers and working with the state legislature to address the issue of compression and to fix the state tax system. These issues, however, should not hold hostage this modest request to ask voters whether they value protecting their investment in natural area acquisition. Metro Council should give citizens the opportunity to put their money where their values are—protecting the region's water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and ensuring access to nature where they live, work, and play.

Respectfully,

Tom Liptan,
Board Member

From: Annette Mattson <annettemattson@yahoo.com>
To: "shirley.craddick@oregonmetro.gov" <shirley.craddick@oregonmetro.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 8:29 PM
Subject: It's not the time for a levy

Councilor Craddick -

I implore you to vote "no" on pursuing a Metro levy on the May ballot.

This is not the time to approach the tax payers, who have yet to recover from this recession, for additional funds. Neither is it time to move forward with a measure that faces opposition from almost all of the region's mayors. With the problem of compression and local government financial challenges, it is more important than ever that Metro be a partner and a team player with all of the region's jurisdictions. There is much discontent, and a move perceived as "we know better" may tip a delicate political balance in some of our communities in a very negative way.

Yes, the measure is needed and the cause is worthy. But for the sake of all of the cities, the burdened tax payers, and the fragile politics of some communities - please vote no and to not place this measure on the ballot. Wait till recovery is stronger and compression has been dealt with by the legislature.

Respectfully,

Annette Mattson
12045 SE Foster Place
Portland OR 97266
503-761-2585



President Hughes and Metro Council
600 NE Grand
Portland, OR 97232

December 16, 2012

Dear Metro President Hughes and Council,

The Audubon Society of Portland strongly supports a Metro Council decision to refer a proposed 5-year regional natural areas levy to the May 13, 2013 ballot. We laud the Metro Council for its leadership in considering the levy. It can be a first step in addressing the backlog stewardship and maintenance in the regional park and natural area system and perhaps towards addressing these needs across the entire regional system of local, state, and federal conservation lands.

The proposed 5-year levy specifically presents a chance enhance and restore natural areas acquired under the 1995 and 2006 bond measures and to appropriately improve access in key areas. Metro's publically-owned natural areas contain some of the best available opportunities for improving water quality and habitat to the benefit region's native biodiversity and present and future generations. The levy can help halt degradation associated with human impacts and invasive species while establishing conditions for long-term ecosystem recovery and thus reduced long-term maintenance costs.

The levy also represents an opportunity to continue build the conservation movement by supporting conservation education and leveraging community-driven park, natural area, or neighborhood greening projects through a renewed community grant program.

A growing interest and desire to develop regional policies that advance regional equity and environmental justice have naturally raised questions about how this proposed levy supports and addresses these goals. While Metro needs to examine how all of its regional authorities and responsibilities address regional equity- not just the regional parks and natural areas system- we urge the Metro Council to embrace regional equity in regional policy, starting with the levy. Ensuring that investments benefit all the region's residents equitably will help diversify and expand the constituency for parks and natural areas. The urban greenspaces movement that played a critical role in establishing Metro's regional authority over regional parks and natural areas some 20+ years ago is evolving as the regional population itself continues to grow more

Audubon Society of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 292-6855

diverse. Metro needs to be ahead of these trends in helping fostering the more diverse conservation constituency of tomorrow.

Audubon Society of Portland continues to support Metro's science-based prioritization of natural area restoration and access projects. However we also support the integrated approach in implementing those projects suggested by the Natural Areas Levy Advisory Panel. Metro can help expand and diversify the constituency for regional parks and natural areas by combining planned restoration and access improvements with conservation education, employment and workforce development opportunities, especially for low income people and people of color.

We believe increased funding for a revised and renewed Nature in Neighborhood Restoration and Enhancement Grant program is an important component of the proposed levy, particularly for addressing equitable access and engaging diverse communities. A competitive merit-based grant program available to non-profits, community organizations, and local governments allows Metro to fund the best, most innovative projects in the region. The proposed community grant program will also bring needed non-capital funding for these community driven projects and thereby complement the Nature in Neighborhood Capital Grant Program. We urge the Metro Council to allocate at least 15% of levy funds to the proposed grant program. We support grant funding criteria that more fully integrate ecological and equity goals for conservation. Specifically we support the criteria outlined in a joint-letter from Metro-area conservation and environmental justice advocates to the Metro Council last April (see attached).

Thank you again for your leadership developing the proposed Natural Areas Levy and for the opportunity to help shape this vital investment in our region's natural areas and the future of the region's conservation ethic.



Bob Sallinger
Conservation Director
Audubon Society of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Rd.
Portland, OR 97210



Jim Labbe
Urban Conservationist
Audubon Society of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Rd.

Audubon Society of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 292-6855

President Hughes and Metro Council
600 NE Grand
Portland, OR 97232

April 10, 2012

Dear President Hughes and Metro Council,

We, the undersigned individuals representing over 40 organizations from across the Portland-Metro region, urge the Metro Council to renew and establish permanent funding for the Nature in Neighborhood Restoration and Enhancement (NIN R&E) Grant Program. The grant program was established in 2006 as part of Metro's commitment to achieve the vision and goals of Title 13, Nature in Neighborhoods. Between 2006 and 2011 the grant program funded over \$1.7 million in urban natural resource projects implemented by non-profits, community groups, or local governments across the region.

By any measure the NIN R&E grant program has produced a remarkable return on investment. Projects have enhanced wetlands and riparian areas across the region, helped restore scarce oak woodlands; improved fish passage; created learning and work experience opportunities for youth, people of color, and low-income residents; planted trees in nature-deficient neighborhoods; and provided environmental education opportunities for elementary and high school children. The grant program has leveraged over \$4.3 million in cash match and another \$4 million of in-kind match. In the process the grant program has catalyzed community capacity to implement on-the-ground restoration projects, make other green infrastructure improvements, and extend environmental education and work-force training to new constituencies.

Over the 5 years of the program, grant proposals regularly exceeded available funds. The NIN R&E grant program began with \$600K in 2006-2007 FY and declined to \$150K in 2011-12 FY. Last year, Metro's budget included no funding for the program. We urge the Metro Council to restore funding, update the grant program's criteria, and make NIN R&E grants a permanent program.

In the future, we believe the renewed grant program should more explicitly integrate goals for ecological sustainability and social equity. We recommend the grant program prioritize funding to projects most likely to succeed in:

1. Improving, enhancing or restoring ecological health of all the region's urban and urbanizing watersheds.
2. Expanding and diversifying the constituency for conservation through education and hands-on opportunities to improve ecological health of urban and urbanizing watersheds.
3. Improving access to nature for low-income people and people of color.
4. Including workforce development opportunities for low-income people and people of color and thereby diversify the individuals and communities that benefit from the process of making environmental improvements.

In addition, we believe the grant program should continue to include a category of community planning grants that support development of Nature in Neighborhood Capital Grant proposals in park- and nature-deficient neighborhoods.

Finally, we recommend that Metro review the accessibility of the grant program to small volunteer-based groups. Even organizations with paid staff have found the grant application and reporting process to be complex and time-consuming enough to create a significant barrier in the past. While it is important that funded projects best meet the ecological and equity criteria of the grant program, it is also important that the application process not be a barrier to reaching diverse communities and expanding the constituency for conservation in our region.

Thank you for your leadership in sustaining the region's commitment to ecological stewardship and conservation education.

Sincerely,

Jim Labbe,
Bob Sallinger,
& Tom Costello
Audubon Society of Portland

Alan Hipolito
Verde

Mike Houck
Urban Greenspaces Institute

Mike Faha
GreenWorks, PC

Monica Smiley
Tualatin Riverkeepers

Matt Clark
Executive Director
Johnson Creek Watershed
Council

Jane Van Dyke
Executive Director
Columbia Slough Watershed
Council

Linda Robinson
Friends of Gateway Green

Lee Dayfield
Friends of Nadaka

Ed Kerns
Lents Springwater Habitat
Restoration Project

Scott Fogarty
Executive Director
Friends of Trees

Russ Hall
Executive Director
Wilderness International Inc.

Tina Skiles
Administrator Swallowtail
School
Hillsboro

Roberta Schwarz,
Co-founder of Neighbors for a
Livable West Linn
West Linn

Shirley Stageberg
Milwaukie Presbyterian
Milwaukie

Chips Janger
Clackamas County Urban
Green,

Eric Lindstrom, EdD
Watershed Events
Fans of Fanno Creek

Cynthia Ellison, Green Team
Lake Oswego United Church
of Christ, Lake Oswego

Lisa Jo Frech,
Executive Director
Raindrops to Refuge

Erik Mace
Washington County Urban
Forestry Advocate

Ron Carley
Executive Director
Coalition for a Livable Future

Emma Pletz
Blue Heron Wetlands
Restoration Project

Doug Menke
General Manager
Tualatin Hills Park and
Recreation District

Ramsay Weit,
Washington County Resident

Bethany Shetterly Thomas
Ecology in Classrooms and
Outdoors

Jill Kuehler
Executive Director
Zenger Farms

Eric Shawn, Chair
North Clackamas Urban
Watershed Council

Sara Vickerman
Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Kim Leval, Executive
Director, Northwest Center for
Alternatives to Pesticides.

Glenn Lamb
Executive Director
Columbia Land Trust

April Ann Fong,
Habitat Restoration Team
Coordinator
Portland Community College

Dolores Wood
Powellhurst-Gilbert
Neighborhood Association

Alesia Reese
Chair,
East Portland Parks Coalition

Tom Lewis
Friends of Parklane Park

David Scharfenberg
Teacher & Wildside Project

Terry Milner
Interim Executive Director
and Director of Development
The Forest Park Conservancy

Joyce Ley
Wilkes Community Group

Tom Wolf, Chair
Oregon Council Trout
Unlimited
Hillsboro

Corrina Chase,
Watershed Coordinator, Tryon
Creek Watershed Council.

Mark White
President
Powellhurst-Gilbert
Neighborhood Association

Dick Springer
District Manager
West Multnomah Soil &
Water Conservation District

Maia Nativ
Depave
Portland

Melisa J. McDonald,
Executive Director
SOLV

Byron McKinlay
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Gresham

Sue Marshall
Trillium Consulting
Lake Oswego