

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING)	RESOLUTION NO. 13-4416
METRO TO APPLY FOR TWO LOCAL)	
GOVERNMENT GRANTS FROM THE OREGON)	Introduced by Mary Anne Cassin
STATE PARKS AND RECREATION)	
DEPARTMENT AND DELEGATING)	
AUTHORITY TO THE SUSTAINABILITY)	
CENTER DIRECTOR TO SIGN THE)	
APPLICATIONS)	

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department is accepting applications for the Local Government Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Metro desires to participate in this grant program to the greatest extent possible as a means of providing needed Tualatin River access facility improvements at the Farmington Natural Area in unincorporated Washington County, and as a means of leveraging funds to provide public access improvements at the Scouters Mountain Natural Area in Happy Valley; and

WHEREAS, grant funds would be used to implement the following improvements at the Farmington Natural Area: an entry gate and signage, a 20-space parking lot, a restroom, picnic tables, benches, signage and an at-grade canoe/kayak launch; and the following improvements at the Scouters Mountain Natural Area: an entry gate and signage, a 14-space parking lot, two accessible parking spaces, a group picnic shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, ½ mile loop trail, signage and fire access pull-out; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council had, after conducting a required public hearing, authorized the FY 2012-13 through 2017-18 Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, Oregon State Parks requires the applicant to provide Council resolution approving the application; and

WHEREAS, both projects need to be added to the Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks & Environmental Services estimates that long term operations and maintenance at the Farmington Natural Area will be approximately \$20,000 annually, beginning in FY 2014-15; and

WHEREAS, grant funding will leverage existing appropriations for these two projects; and now therefore


BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council authorizes Metro’s Sustainability Center to apply for two local government grants from the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department; delegates authority to the department director to sign the applications; and approves the addition of the Tualatin River access facility improvements project at the Farmington Natural Area and the Scouters Mountain Natural Area improvements to the FY 2012-13 through 2017-18 Capital Improvement Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 4th day of April, 2013.


Tom Hughes, Council President



Approved as to Form:

By 
Alison Kean Campbell, Metro Attorney

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-4416, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING METRO TO APPLY FOR TWO LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS FROM THE OREGON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE SUSTAINABILITY CENTER DIRECTOR TO SIGN THE APPLICATIONS

Date: April 4, 2013

Prepared by: Mary Anne Cassin
503-797-1854

BACKGROUND

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation budget includes a Local Government Grant Program that was approved by the 1999 legislature. The grant program was created by initiative petition filed on March 11, 1998, and approved by voters on November 3, 1998. The adopted administrative rules for the distribution of funds require approval by resolution from the elected officials of the governing bodies for all applicants. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission adopted administrative rules for the distribution of state lottery funds to eligible local governments and the process for establishing the priority order in which projects are funded.

This money is to be distributed for public purposes of financing the protection, repair, operation and creation of parks, ocean shore and public beach access areas, historic sites and recreation areas. Projects eligible for funding assistance are acquisition, development, and rehabilitation projects consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and/or recreation elements of local comprehensive plans and local park master plans.

Sustainability Center staff has prepared two different applications for this funding:

- Farmington Natural Area site grant funding would be used to leverage bond funding that has been committed to building a canoe/kayak launching site on the Tualatin River.
- Scouters Mountain Natural Area funding would be used to leverage existing resources from public and private sources to build a picnic shelter and supporting public facilities.

Farmington Natural Area:

In 1992, the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan, Metro and other regional stakeholders supported the concept of a “water trail” on the Tualatin River. The Tualatin River is an outstanding regional natural resource for both wildlife and the public. The Tualatin River offers a regionally unique nature recreation experience. The Master Plan identified that “Metro and cooperators in the Greenspaces program will...promote access to river systems for recreation, education and enjoyment of these regional resources by the public in a manner consistent with protection of natural resource values.”

The 1995 and 2006 Natural Areas bond programs (Resolution 94-2011A and 07-3849) formally allowed Metro to make acquisitions for the Tualatin River Trail. Tier 1 objectives for the Tualatin River Greenway include “protect(ing) natural areas adjacent to existing public lands to provide public access and improve wildlife habitat protection.” Nearly 400 acres have been purchased in the Tualatin River target area to date.

In 2011 the Metro Council approved planning and design funds for an access launch on the Tualatin River. Council agreed that the proposed investment in the Tualatin River Trail would directly support two of the Metro Council’s six adopted desired outcomes/values (vibrant communities and clean air and water), and also support the vision of The Intertwine Alliance (a public-private partnership) to create an interconnected network of trails and parks across the Portland-Vancouver region. To date, the Metro

Council has funded \$160,000 from the general fund for the planning, design and land use permitting phases of the project.

Metro conducted a six month public involvement process led by a 15-member Project Advisory Committee (PAC) that had a charge to advise Metro staff on a priority launch site from among five existing Metro-owned natural areas. The PAC was made up of agency, municipality (Tualatin and Hillsboro), community and natural resource organizations, property owners, businesses and citizens. The PAC advised Metro staff on agency and community concerns and issues, as well as serving as a forum to review evaluation of the potential sites, consider public input, shape site plans and build a consensus recommendation among the various stakeholders for a priority launch site. The PAC and Metro worked closely to identify the two preferred locations which were then taken to the public in open house format meetings to secure direct input from concerned citizens. There was strong support for two sites, Farmington Natural Area and Munger Natural Area. Following the public feedback phase, the PAC ultimately recommended that Metro move forward with the Farmington Natural Area site.

The Farmington Natural Area site has a number of unique features compared to any other launch sites along the Tualatin River:

- It is located along a visible stretch of a well-traveled road, providing a high-profile focal point for the Tualatin River Water Trail.
- It is located in close proximity to under-served populations (Hispanic, Asian and African-American residents) that have identified current and future recreation needs.
- It will have multiple features (benches, parking, and picnic tables) that allow it to serve as an important day use area.
- It complements Hillsboro's Rood Bridge Park launch site, which is five miles upstream from this location. The two together will create an ideal length for a day on the river.

The proposed project elements and facilities include an at-grade watercraft launch, parking area, water quality treatment facilities, permanent restroom, benches, picnic tables, signage, and entry gates for controlled access.

Staff is proposing to apply for \$372,500 from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant program. The Local Share 50% Matching funds will be provided by the Metro Natural Areas Bond Program as well as contributions from regional partners. Clean Water Services has committed to a donation of plant material for restoration and procurement of the interpretive signage; currently valued at more than \$5,000. The Tualatin Riverkeepers have committed to a donation of \$1,000. The City of Hillsboro is also considering a donation of \$10,000.

Regional stakeholders are partnering with Metro on the long-term maintenance of the facility. Clean Water Services has committed to conduct ecological enhancement and stewardship activities on the property for 20 years. These activities include controlling invasive species, planting native vegetation, placing large woody debris, and monitoring and collecting data. The Tualatin Riverkeepers have committed to conducting two annual site clean-ups in conjunction with their organized events held at the site. Other maintenance activities, such as litter pick-up, restroom maintenance, dock and building facility care, etc. will be performed by Metro Parks and Environmental Services. The long-term operations and maintenance costs are anticipated to be \$20,000 per year starting in FY 2014/2015 when the facility is fully constructed.

Upon adoption of this Resolution, Metro's Sustainability Center will apply for funds to assist with implementation of facility improvements. Funding for long-term operations and maintenance costs for the Farmington Natural Area Canoe/Kayak Launch would be paid for the Metro parks and natural areas local

option levy being considered by the voters in May 2013. In the event the levy is not approved, staff will revisit the future operations funding of the full portfolio with the Metro Council.

Scouters Mountain Natural Area:

The 1995 and 2006 Natural Areas bond programs (Resolution 94-2011A and 07-3849) formally allowed Metro to make acquisitions for the East Buttes target area. Tier 1 objectives for the area include acquiring land on Scouters Mountain in close proximity to other public land holdings to create a larger contiguous open space on the butte.

This project enjoys the support of multiple partners. The Boy Scouts committed to donate towards the project. The City of Happy Valley is investing their Local Share funds and North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) will manage and operate Scouters Mountain Nature Park. NCPRD is also taking the lead on developing the grant application.

The project elements and facilities involve a new group picnic shelter, restrooms, picnic tables, signage, parking area, ½ mile loop trail and entry gates for controlled access. Total project cost is estimated to be \$749,000. Staff is proposing to apply for \$295,129 from the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant program. Matching funds will be provided by Happy Valley’s Local Share funding through the Natural Areas bond program (\$353,781) and the Boy Scouts donation (\$100,000).

Upon adoption of this Resolution, Metro’s Sustainability Center will apply for funds to assist with implementation of facility improvements for the Scouters Mountain Nature Park improvements at the Scouters Mountain Natural Area.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

None.

2. Legal Antecedents

OAR 736-006-0125(5) and (5)(k) require that applications “be consistent with the Local Government Grant Policies and Procedures Manual,” which manual requires in section 2.2(L) that the Metro Council approve, by resolution, Metro’s submission of an application for grant funding.

Resolution No. 94-2011A, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$138.8 Million to Proceed with the Acquisition of Land for a Regional System of Greenspaces,” adopted July 28th, 1994.

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted March 9, 2006, submitting to the voters at the November 7, 2006 General Election a \$227.4 bond measure to fund natural area acquisition and water quality protection (“2006 Natural Areas Acquisition and Water Quality Bond Measure” or “Bond Measure”).

3. Anticipated Effects

Farmington Natural Area

If Metro is awarded this grant, the funds will be used toward acquisition of one parcel, design, permitting and construction of facility improvements.

Scouters Mountain Natural Area

If Metro is awarded this grant, the funds will be used toward design, permitting and construction of facility improvements.

4. Budget Impacts

This action amends the FY 2012-13 through FY 2017-18 Capital Improvement Plan to include the Farmington Natural Area Canoe Launch project and Scouters Mountain Natural Area improvements.

Farmington Natural Area

The Natural Areas bond fund includes sufficient budget authority in FY 2012-13 for the requested matching funds. The FY 2013-14 proposed budget will also include sufficient budget authority for the matching funds. The FY 2014-15 budget will need to allow for a \$20,000 commitment to new responsibilities for Metro Parks and Environmental Services staff before the grant is accepted and work begins.

Scouters Mountain Natural Area

This action will allow Metro to apply for state funding to leverage other funds already made available through the Boy Scouts, the City of Happy Valley (through their Local Share) and bond funds previously dedicated towards this purpose. No additional local match is required. Metro will not have management responsibilities or ongoing operating costs for the site.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 13-4416.

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This project enjoys the support of multiple partners. The Boy Scouts ~~donated~~ committed to donate \$100,000 towards the project ~~as part of the property sale~~. The City of Happy Valley is investing their Local Share funds and North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) will manage and operate Scouters Mountain Nature Park. NCPRD is also taking the lead on developing the grant application.

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ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

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3. Anticipated Effects

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4. Budget Impacts

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RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 13-4416.