

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

**FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING
CITIES AND COUNTIES IMPLEMENTATION
OF FUNCTIONAL PLAN POLICIES TO
ACTIVELY PROTECT PARKS, OPEN SPACE,
RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND OTHER
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS**

) RESOLUTION NO. 97-2562B
)
)
) Introduced by Mike Burton,
) Executive Officer
) and the Metro Council

Whereas, the Region 2040 Growth Concept and the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan was adopted by the Metro Council after close consultation and collaboration with the 24 cities and three counties in the Metro region; and

Whereas, the Region 2040 Growth Concept was designed to maintain the character of existing neighborhoods, while providing the opportunity for additional new growth in appropriate locations and along transit corridors, main streets, and centers, and;

Whereas, the Region 2040 Growth Concept was designed to integrate development and the protection of Greenspaces, parks and open space within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), and;

Whereas, Metro, in consultation with local jurisdictions, has identified approximately 16,000 acres of land inside the UGB that are in steep slopes, flood plain, or are otherwise environmentally sensitive, and classified them as "unbuildable" and which should not be developed; and;

Whereas, the environmental risks of developing these "unbuildable lands" has been established and Metro has classified sufficient lands as "buildable", to meet the objectives of the Region 2040 Growth Concept including maintaining a compact urban form, and;

Whereas, Metro has also accounted for as many as 1,900 acres of "buildable" lands within the UGB to be set aside in the future for open space and parks, and;

Whereas, it is consistent with the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan for local jurisdictions to identify additional Goal 5 resource lands which should be protected partially or fully within the UGB and for Metro to include these in the "unbuildable lands" inventory, and;

Whereas, the existing 20,600 acres of park and open space lands currently within the UGB contributes to the region's water quality, flood protection, quality of life, and economic vitality of the entire region, now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT;


1. It is the policy of the Metro Council that lands identified as "unbuildable" in Metro's Urban Growth Report should be protected from development to the maximum extent possible by local jurisdictions and to the maximum extent of the law;

2. Metro encourages all local jurisdictions in the Metro region to actively protect in perpetuity parks, open space, recreational trails, and other sensitive natural areas, through acquisition of property rights including conservation easements, regulation, or other effective measures, even if they include what has been classified as "buildable" lands in Metro's inventory;

3. The protection of environmentally sensitive lands from development could result in a decline in net buildable acres in a local jurisdiction. Upon demonstration by a local jurisdiction that such protection results in an inability to meet jobs, housing and other targets established in the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, which includes a recommendation which identifies land that would provide for the unaccommodated capacity located inside or outside the urban growth boundary and near or adjacent to the city or county, the Metro Council will grant an exception consistent with Title 8 of the Functional Plan. The exception will be granted to the extent the local jurisdiction establishes that decline in net buildable acres is the result of lands being protected from development by locally adopted and implemented regulations.

Title 8 of the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan describes the process for exceptions to targets for housing or jobs, including an estimate of what cannot be accommodated and a recommendation which identifies land that would provide for the unaccommodated capacity to be located outside the urban growth boundary and near or adjacent to the city or county.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 25th day of September, 1997.



Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer



METRO

August 22, 1997

**TO: Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer
Metro Council**

FROM: Mike Burton, Executive Officer

RE: Green Infrastructure Resolution

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Burton", is written over a diagonal line that extends from the top right towards the center of the page.

Attached please find a resolution I would request the Metro Council consider for adoption. There is fundamentally nothing "new" in the resolution, but it is an important restatement of existing Metro policy as it relates to the green infrastructure in our region. I would be pleased to see this introduced as a joint measure from both the Executive Office and the Council.

It is clear from citizen comments and discussions in communities around the region that the 2040 Growth Concept vision is in danger of being lost in a debate about density. The 2040 Growth Concept the Metro Council adopted, and the subsequent Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, do not call for density at any cost. They both establish a balanced approach for accommodating growth while preserving and protecting the livability that we all cherish. Part of this balance includes finding ways to protect sensitive natural areas and water ways from the impacts of development and offsetting negative impacts of more concentrated growth with the addition of parks, greenspaces and natural areas for people and for wildlife.

Metro's Open Spaces bond measure is only one part of the effort to protect the region's green infrastructure. It can only go so far with the dollars the voters have approved. Title 3 standards will help the region do a better job of protecting water quality, streamsides and riparian areas. Local governments have embarked on their own efforts to add open space, park land and protection of water quality, floodplains and wetlands in their individual jurisdictions.

Somewhere along the way, however, emphasis on protection of green infrastructure has lost priority. This resolution is an effort to bring this issue back to the forefront of the debate about the regional planning process and Metro's vision for the region.

The resolution does three things:

- 1. Restates Metro's -- and the region's -- commitment to remove environmentally sensitive lands (steep slopes, flood plains, flood prone soils, etc.) from the "buildable lands" inventory.**
- 2. Urges local governments to protect park land and natural areas through local efforts.**
- 3. Allows the Metro Council to grant local governments an exception to their "livability targets" if they demonstrate that they cannot meet those targets due to unexpected increases in permanent protection of developable lands.**

While the third point may seem to be new policy, it is in keeping with the Council's adopted policy in the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, Title 8, Section 2.B. (1) (c) which states:

"As part of any request for exception under this subsection, a city or county shall also submit an estimate of the amount of dwelling units or jobs included in the capacity listed in Table 1 that cannot be accommodated; and a recommendation which identifies land that would provide for the unaccommodated capacity located outside the urban growth boundary and near or adjacent to the city or county."

Please take the time to read the attached resolution. I would be happy to discuss this with you in greater detail and I urge your support.

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

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CITIES AND COUNTIES IMPLEMENTATION
OF FUNCTIONAL PLAN POLITIES TO
ACTIVELY PROTECT PARKS, OPEN SPACE,
RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND OTHER
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS**

) **RESOLUTION NO. 97-2562A** *B*
)
)
) **Introduced by Mike Burton,**
) **Executive Officer**
) **and the Metro Council**

Whereas, the Region 2040 Growth Concept and the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan was adopted by the Metro Council after close consultation and collaboration with the 24 cities and three counties in the Metro region; and

Whereas, the Region 2040 Growth Concept was designed to maintain the character of existing neighborhoods, while providing the opportunity for additional new growth in appropriate locations and along transit corridors, main streets, and centers, and;

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Whereas, Metro, in consultation with local jurisdictions, has identified approximately 16,000 acres of land inside the UGB that are in steep slopes, flood plain, or are otherwise environmentally sensitive, and classified them as "unbuildable" and which should not be developed; and;

Whereas, the environmental risks of developing these "unbuildable lands" has been established and Metro has classified sufficient lands as "buildable", to meet the objectives of the Region 2040 Growth Concept including maintaining a compact urban form, and;

Whereas, Metro has also accounted for as many as 1,900 acres of "buildable" lands within the UGB to be set aside in the future for open space and parks, and;

Whereas, it is consistent with the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan for local jurisdictions to identify additional Goal 5 resource lands which should be protected partially or fully within the UGB and for Metro to include these in the "unbuildable lands" inventory, and;

Whereas, the existing 20,600 acres of park and open space lands currently within the UGB contributes to the region's water quality, flood protection, quality of life, and economic vitality of the entire region, now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT;

1. It is the policy of the Metro Council that lands identified as "unbuildable" in Metro's Urban Growth Report should be protected from development to the maximum extent possible by local jurisdictions and to the maximum extent of the law;

2. Metro encourages all local jurisdictions in the Metro region to actively protect in perpetuity parks, open space, recreational trails, and other sensitive natural areas, through acquisition of property rights including conservation easements, regulation, or other effective measures, even if they include what has been classified as "buildable" lands in Metro's inventory;

3. The protection of environmentally sensitive lands from development could result in a decline in net buildable acres in a local jurisdiction. Upon demonstration by a local jurisdiction that such protection results in an inability to meet jobs, housing and other targets established in the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, the Metro Council will grant an exception consistent with Title 8 of the Functional Plan. The exception will be granted to the extent the local jurisdiction establishes that decline in net buildable acres is the result of lands being protected from development by locally adopted and implemented regulations.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____, 1997.

Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 97-2562A FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING CITIES AND COUNTIES IMPLEMENTATION OF FUNCTIONAL PLAN POLICIES TO ACTIVELY PROTECT PARKS, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION TRAILS, STREAM CORRIDORS, AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS .

Date: September 17, 1997

Presented by: Mike Burton,
Metro Council

INTRODUCTION

In numerous policy's adopted by the Metro Council this region has chosen a balanced approach to accommodating growth while preserving and protecting livability. Part of this balance includes finding ways to protect sensitive natural areas and water ways from the impacts of development while offsetting negative impacts of more concentrated growth with the addition of parks, greenspaces and natural areas for people and for wildlife.

PROPOSED ACTION:

This resolution does three things:

1. Restates Metro's -- and the region's -- commitment to remove environmentally sensitive lands (steep slopes, flood plains, flood prone soils, etc.) from the "buildable lands" inventory.
2. Urges local governments to protect park land and natural areas through local efforts.
3. Allows the Metro Council to grant local governments an exception to their "livability targets" if they demonstrate that they cannot meet those targets due to unexpected increases in permanent protection of developable lands.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

Metro's Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, 2040 Growth Concept, Future Vision and RUGGO's have established a clear policy directive that calls for protection of environmentally sensitive natural areas inside the urban growth boundary as one of the region's priorities.

This resolution is consistent with established Metro policy.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Officer recommends approval of Resolution 97- 2562A.