

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING) RESOLUTION NO. 14-4583
ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS FOR)
RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
NATURE) Bennett in concurrence with Council
) President Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, at the general election held on November 7, 2006, the voters of the Metro region approved Ballot Measure 26-80, authorizing Metro to issue \$227.4 million of general obligation bonds to fund natural area acquisitions and water quality protection (the "Natural Areas Program"); and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council dedicated \$168 million of those bonds to acquisition of land for protection of water quality, habitat restoration and public access to nature; and

WHEREAS, in May 2013, the voters of the Metro region approved a five-year local option measure for the purpose of preserving water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and maintaining Metro's parks and natural areas for the public; and

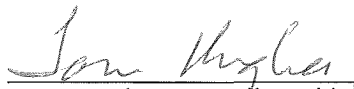
WHEREAS, as part of implementing the operating levy, Metro's Parks and Natural Areas' five-year work plan includes projects for natural area restoration, maintenance and improvements for visitors, and park maintenance and improvements, among other things; and

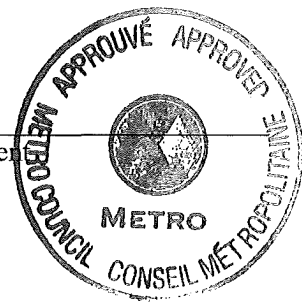
WHEREAS, regional acquisition efforts have resulted in acquisition of over 5,000 acres of land, far exceeding the original goal of 3,500 to 4,500 acres with land purchases still ongoing; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council now wishes to encourage investment of a small percentage of the Natural Areas Program bond funds, paired with grants received and levy funds, to provide improved and increased public access to natural areas and trails across the region, and to make habitat improvements ; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby recommends that Metro use Natural Areas Bond funds to take advantage of this opportunity to build out key regional trail gaps and to leverage grants and Parks and Natural Areas levy funds to develop projects including those set forth on the attached Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 13th day of November 2014.


Tom Hughes, Council President



Approved as to Form:


Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

Capital projects

PROJECT/TARGET AREA	REFINEMENT PLAN GUIDANCE		OTHER EXISTING POLICY GUIDANCE
	GOAL(S)	TIER I OBJECTIVE(S)	
Chehalem master plan (levy) and build phase I [<i>Chehalem Ridgeway to Refuge</i>]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect large, undeveloped tracts of forestland to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and connections, and to provide public access opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the upper elevation forestlands and oak woodlands on the Chehalem Ridge to enhance water quality and wildlife habitat and to provide potential public access opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013 Parks and Natural Areas Levy project identified for development of public access.
East Buttes master plan (levy) and build phase 1 [<i>East Buttes</i>]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect the substantial Butler Ridge natural area in public ownership to create a wildlife corridor and potential access to the Clackamas River via Sunshine Butte, Tower Butte, Zion Butte and the North Fork Deep Creek. Protect butte tops and slopes for wildlife habitat and corridors between these wooded slopes and create scenic vistas that provide visual relief to urban residents. Protect headwaters of healthy streams through acquisition of wooded hillsides on Scouters Mountain and Mount Talbert. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect wooded slopes on Sunshine Butte and along tributaries to Sunshine Creek to maintain wildlife corridors to the Clackamas River. Protect wooded slopes on Tower and Zion Buttes to secure wildlife corridors to the Clackamas River. Acquire land on Scouters Mountain in close proximity to other public landholdings to create a larger contiguous open space on the butte. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013 Parks and Natural Areas Levy project identified for development of public access.
River Island restoration to bond from levy [<i>Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway</i>]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect sensitive riparian areas, wetlands and side channels along the Clackamas River from Goose Creek west towards the confluence with the Willamette River for fish and wildlife habitat protection, enhancement and restoration. Protect water quality and improve fish and wildlife habitat in the lower Clackamas River by acquiring and restoring native plant communities and side channels. Protect unique geological features, habitat for rare species and lands that could provide a regionally significant nature park on the mostly undeveloped Clackamas River Bluffs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Barton Park to Clear Creek (Carver Boat Ramp) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat and maintaining water quality. Protect the undeveloped floodplain lands along both sides of the lower Clackamas River from Clear Creek to Beebe Island (Johnson Creek curves) with remnant side channels, gravel bars, intact forests and wetlands for improving fish habitat and maintaining water quality. Protect scenic views and provide future recreational opportunities by acquiring lands along the Clackamas River Bluffs to create a regionally significant nature park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified as high priority during levy development
Tualatin boat ramp [<i>Tualatin River Greenway</i>]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and restore riparian areas and floodplains to improve water quality and to support a diversity of plants and wildlife. Provide additional or enhanced access that will allow people to enjoy the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect natural areas adjacent to existing public lands to provide public access and improve wildlife habitat protection. Continue the work begun in 1995 to enhance the water trail by providing access point sites along the Tualatin River Greenway that meet the following criteria: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Metro Council adopted resolutions directing staff to pursue grant funds to support development of the boat launch.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations along the river at intervals of 5 to 10 river miles, allowing for day trips and shorter trips than is now practicable. 	
PROJECT/TARGET AREA	REFINEMENT PLAN GUIDANCE		OTHER EXISTING POLICY GUIDANCE
	GOAL(S)	TIER I OBJECTIVE(S)	
Tualatin boat ramp (<i>cont'd</i>)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe accessibility from a public roadway that can adequately accommodate additional traffic. Developable for boat ramps and/or docks by presence of existing shallow slopes and banks. Associated with sufficient uplands for such features as parking, restrooms, picnic areas and buffering from the river and adjacent uses. Associated with key locations where there is particular interest in additional boat access/pullouts including: south of Farmington Road, north side of the river in the vicinity of Rainbow Lane, and in the vicinity of Elsner Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Willamette Falls Riverwalk <i>[Willamette River Greenway]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, scenic resources and improve public access to the river along the greenway from Wilsonville to the Multnomah Channel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close key trail gaps in Portland, including those in North and Southeast Portland. Secure remaining unique and rare habitats. These include Multnomah Channel, the large forested area west of the Sellwood Bridge and lands near Elk Rock Island. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Metro Council considered this project during several deliberations and recently approved an MOU regarding this project.

Trails

PROJECT/TARGET AREA	REFINEMENT PLAN GUIDANCE		OTHER EXISTING POLICY GUIDANCE
	GOAL(S)	TIER I OBJECTIVE(S)	
Build trail gaps on Marine Drive from Bridgeton to Troutdale <i>[Columbia Slough]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance habitat and linkages along the Columbia Slough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand resource protection along the slough and at existing habitat areas, including Whitaker Ponds, Big Four Corners, Prison Pond, Little Four Corners, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Wapato Slough and Vanport Wetlands. Acquire property to create community connections between the St. Johns and Bridgeton neighborhoods and the Columbia Slough Trail and 40-Mile Loop Trail. Acquire property to close trail gaps in the Columbia Slough Trail and 40-Mile Loop Trail between NE 33rd Avenue and the future Gresham-Fairview Trail. Where strategic partnerships can contribute to acquisition and management, acquire other properties along the slough that with restoration will provide additional habitat connections and water quality benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Trails Plan Regional Transportation Plan
Build Fanno Creek gap through Fields <i>[Fanno Creek Linkages]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a continuous greenway trail from the Tualatin River into a highly urbanized, “walker-challenged” area of Portland, and further protect water quality along Fanno Creek and its tributaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect publicly-owned land along the main stem of Fanno Creek between Cook Park and Woodard Park to complete the corridor and enhance habitat and water quality protection in this area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Trails Plan Regional Transportation Plan
Bridge over Columbia Blvd. and the trail to the Slough <i>[Columbia Slough]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance habitat and linkages along the Columbia Slough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand resource protection along the slough and at existing habitat areas, including Whitaker Ponds, Big Four Corners, Prison Pond, Little Four Corners, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Wapato Slough and Vanport Wetlands. Acquire property to create community connections between the St. Johns and Bridgeton neighborhoods and the Columbia Slough Trail and 40-Mile Loop Trail. Acquire property to close trail gaps in the Columbia Slough Trail and 40-Mile Loop Trail between NE 33rd Avenue and the future Gresham-Fairview Trail. Where strategic partnerships can contribute to acquisition and management, acquire other properties along the slough that with restoration will provide additional habitat connections and water quality benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Trails Plan Regional Transportation Plan North Portland Enhancement grant committee committed \$850,000 to this project

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-4583 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS FOR RESOLUTION AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURE

Date: November 3, 2014

Prepared by: Kathleen Brennan-Hunter 503-797-1948

BACKGROUND

The acquisition of natural areas and trails has been in progress since the Natural Areas bond measure passed in November 2006. Acquisition has been very successful in most target areas, and the focus on the ongoing acquisition program is on closing important gaps in target areas. The success of the program in reaching overall acreage goals means that there is an opportunity to pair bond funds with grants received and with levy funds for natural area access projects. There is also a significant opportunity to build out some key regional trail gaps where the easement was acquired with 2006 Natural Areas bond funds. These investments will help achieve the goals of the refinement plans and further leverage the investment opportunities created by the passage of the Parks and Natural Areas Levy. Staff anticipates expending approximately \$15 to \$20 million on the projects identified. No additional appropriation is needed to fund these projects.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

There is no known opposition to this resolution.

2. Legal Antecedents

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 Acquisitions and Water Quality Protection," was adopted on March 9, 2006.

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," was adopted on December 18, 2012.

3. Anticipated Effects

Most of these projects are already slated for development of public access. This legislation will enable Metro to construct more phases and to accelerate trail construction and public access at sites where funding was limited or unavailable.

4. Budget Impacts

These funds are already appropriated in the Natural Areas bond fund.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Chief Operating Officer recommends that the Metro Council endorse these investments and the adoption of Resolution No. 14-4583.