

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING) RESOLUTION NO. 96 -2349
THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO PURCHASE) Mike Burton
PROPERTY AS AN ADDITION TO HOWELL) Executive Officer
TERRITORIAL PARK)

WHEREAS, In July 1992, Metro completed the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan which identified the Howell Marsh as an area of regional significance; and

WHEREAS, The entire Howell Marsh needs to be in public ownership in order to ensure its protection; and

WHEREAS, Acquisition of natural areas from willing sellers is a primary strategy for preservation of natural areas; and

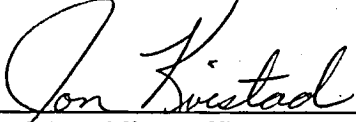
WHEREAS, Funds to purchase property are allocated via the Phase II Intergovernmental Agreement between Multnomah County and Metro, which designated this property to be purchased from the Multnomah County Natural Area fund ; and

WHEREAS, Purchase of this property will provide long term benefits to the public enjoyment and use of Howell Territorial Park; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

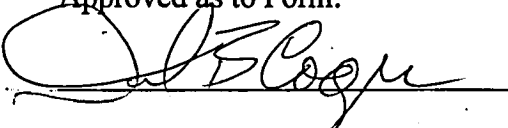
That Metro Council authorizes the Executive Officer to enter into an agreement with Marjorie Taber as attached in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by Metro Council this 13th day of June, 1996.



Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

Staff Report

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 96-2349 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY AS AN ADDITION TO HOWELL TERRITORIAL PARK

Date: May 31, 1996

Presented by: Charles Ciecko

PROPOSED ACTION

Resolution No. 96-2349 would authorize the Executive Officer to purchase property from Marjorie Taber as an addition to the Howell Territorial Park and the historic Bybee House.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Marjorie Taber owns approximately 39.16 acres of property adjacent to Howell Territorial Park. Howell Territorial Park is an 80 acre Multnomah County park, which is being transferred to Metro's ownership this summer. Mrs. Taber is willing to sell a 20.76 parcel (the legal description is attached as Exhibit A) and grant a right of first refusal to Metro on the remaining 18.39 acre parcel. The 20.76 acre parcel is located immediately east and south of the present park area. All of the land is zoned Exclusive Farm Use and is currently used for grazing cattle. The 20.76 acres has several mature oak trees scattered throughout the site; in addition, the property contains a portion of a wetland, which is the primary biological feature of the Park.

Acquisition of the property is critical to Howell Territorial Park for several reasons. First, the purchase will enable Metro Parks to control the entire wetland and especially the dam on the Taber property for wildlife management purposes. Second, the purchase agreement contains a provision to extinguish a 20' easement currently running through Howell Territorial Park so that no future neighboring owners can cause damage to the park. Third, the 20.76 acre property is needed to buffer Howell Territorial Park from incompatible agricultural uses, such as nursery, feed lots, etc. The Master Planning process, which is currently in progress, has identified this acquisition as critical to the future use and integrity of the Park. Phase II of the Intergovernmental Agreement between Multnomah County and Metro anticipated the purchase of the Taber property and stipulated a direct deduction for this purchase from the \$1.2 million Natural Areas Fund prior to its transfer to Metro.

BUDGET IMPACT

Funds for this 20.76 acre purchase will be provided by Multnomah County's Natural Areas Fund. The purchase price and associated costs will be deducted from the \$1.2 million to be transferred to Metro on or before July 1, 1996. The purchase and sale agreement allows the property to continue to be utilized by Mrs. Taber. In the future, maintenance costs will be budgeted by the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Dept., Operations and Maintenance Division.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Officer recommends passage of Resolution 96-2349.