

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING NINTH) RESOLUTION NO. 16- 4747
ROUND FUNDING FOR NATURE IN)
NEIGHBORHOODS CAPITAL GRANTS) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
) Bennett, with the concurrence of Council
) President Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, Metro 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," was approved by the Metro Council on March 9, 2006; and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Measure 26-80, the Natural Areas Bond Measure (the "Measure"); and

WHEREAS, the Measure provided for \$15 million to fund a Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program (the "Program") to provide: (a) opportunities for the community to actively protect fish and wildlife habitat and water quality near where people live and work, (b) funds to purchase lands or easements that increase the presence of natural features and their ecological functions in neighborhoods throughout the region, and (c) funding for projects that recover or create additional plant and animal habitats to help ensure that every community enjoys clean water and embraces nature as a fundamental element of its character and livability; and

WHEREAS, the Measure created a grant review committee composed of no fewer than seven members to review grant applications and make grant award recommendations to the Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, the Grants Review Committee reviewed grant proposals throughout the summer and fall of 2016 and is recommending eight new projects that meet the criteria for the Program to the Metro Council for funding and an amendment to increase funding for an existing project; and

WHEREAS, with this Resolution, the entire \$15 million allocated to the Program has been fully dedicated to projects; now therefore;

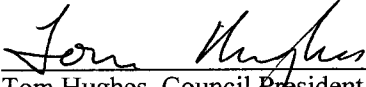
BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby:

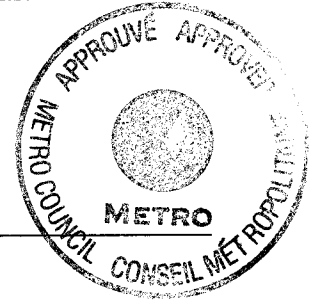
1. Awards Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants to the recipients and projects, and for the funding amounts, listed in Exhibit A to this resolution; and

2. Authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to enter into an intergovernmental agreements and/or grant agreements with each of the recipients, in the form approved by the Metro Attorney, to allow the projects to be completed on public property and in accordance with grant requirements.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this ~~8~~¹³th day of December 2016.

13


Tom Hughes, Council President



Approved as to Form:

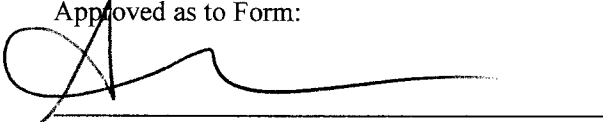

Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 16-4747

Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program
Ninth Round Grant Awards
Grant Review Committee Recommendations to the Metro Council

Total award amount recommended: \$1,828,602

Project: Bull Mountain Park Projects
Grant amount: Amends 2015 award with a \$ 60,000 increase
Recipient: Friends of Bull Mountain Park
Partners: Tualatin River Watershed Council, City of Tigard, local community-based organizations

The Friends of Bull Mountain Park and Tualatin River Watershed Council were awarded a \$125,943 Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant in 2015 to engage community members in constructing improvements to the Bull Mountain Nature Park. This amendment provides additional funding for the park including a nature play area, a picnic pavilion, a tool shed, soft surface trails, an ADA access trail, a bathroom shelter, a water fountain, benches and signs.

Project: Leach Botanical Garden Improvements
Grant amount: \$ 188,000
Recipient: City of Portland
Partners: Leach Garden Friends, Portland Development Commission

The Leach Botanical Garden project reflects the City of Portland’s commitment to providing safe natural places, bringing community residents together to enhance access to parks infrastructure and making investments that will help spur economic development in East Portland. This project focuses on the core area of the botanical garden as an attraction that has the potential to draw in new visitors and enhance educational opportunities. Metro’s funding would support the creation of the Pollinator Garden, a key component of investments envisioned in the garden’s master plan.

Project: North Fork Johnson Creek Fish Passage
Grant amount: \$ 79,746
Recipient: Johnson Creek Watershed Council
Partners: City of Portland, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Transportation, Multnomah County, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

This project will improve fish passage by replacing or retrofitting seven culverts on the North Fork of Johnson Creek, opening up two miles of off-channel habitat for salmon and other native fish.

Project: College Creek Confluence Clean Water Retrofit
Grant amount: \$ 486,833
Recipient: Sandy River Basin Council
Partners: Mt. Hood Community College, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, City of Gresham, Intel Laboratories, Salmon Safe

This project will launch a campus-wide stormwater retrofit of Mt. Hood Community College's 228 acres, which surrounds the confluence of fish-bearing Kelly and Beaver creeks. Partners will retrofit six acres of parking lots and a large courtyard to improve water quality, reduce temperature and pollutant runoff, and restore habitat for native fish and wildlife.

Project: Rock Creek Floodplain Enhancement at Portland Community College
Grant amount: \$ 257,073
Recipient: Clean Water Services
Partners: Portland Community College, Tualatin Riverkeepers

The vision for the Rock Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project integrates urban, agricultural and ecological communities across a natural and dynamic floodplain. The approach to this restoration effort is to encourage beaver activity in order to naturally create dams that will hold water and allow it to spread throughout the floodplain. This will be done by installing large woody debris and plantings that will create anchor points for beaver activity.

Project: Fanno Creek Floodplain Fix
Grant amount: \$ 245,700
Recipient: Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District
Partners: Clean Water Services, Vose Neighborhood, Friends of Trees

The project is located in the middle reach of Fanno Creek, an important urban tributary of the Tualatin River, adjacent to the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail. At this location the creek is channelized and constricted by a pair of undersized culverts causing seasonal closures of this well-used segment of an important regional trail. The proposed restoration project will improve fish and wildlife habitat and access to trail users by replacing the culverts with a bridge, allowing the creek to access to its historic floodplain, adding large wood, and replanting the area with native species.

Project: Southeast Oak Street
Grant amount: \$ 261,250
Recipient: Home Forward
Partners: St. Francis Parish, St. Francis Park Apartments, Oregon Tradeswomen

This project will renovate the vacated portion of SE Oak Street between SE 11th and SE 12th Avenues in Southeast Portland. The project will provide an open, park-like experience for the 106 affordable housing units being developed to the south and the 150-200 people served by the St. Francis Parish to the north. The project will also provide a green transition between the Buckman Neighborhood to the east and the business district to the west.

Project: Courtyard at Cornelius Place
Grant amount: \$ 100,000
Recipient: City of Cornelius
Partners: Bienestar, BRIDGE Housing, Blooming Nursery, Nielson Group, Scott Edwards Architecture

The Cornelius Place Courtyard will create a 5,000 square foot public space within the building being constructed to house the new Cornelius Library and affordable senior housing. Its central location within the heart of Cornelius, across from the elementary school and two blocks from Centro Cultural of Washington County, provides the community with excellent access to this new public open space, enhanced with native landscaping and vegetated stormwater treatment facilities.

Project: Building an Inclusive Playground at Couch Park
Grant amount: \$ 150,000
Recipient: Harper's Playground and City of Portland
Partners: Friends of Couch Park Playground

Portland Parks & Recreation is working in partnership with Harper's Playground to create an inclusive, nature-based playground for people with all abilities at Couch Park in Northwest Portland.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-4747, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING NINTH ROUND FUNDING FOR NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS CAPITAL GRANTS

Date: November 11, 2016

Prepared by: Heather Nelson Kent, 503-797-1739
Mary Rose Navarro, 503-797-1781

BACKGROUND

Funded by the voter-approved 2006 Natural Areas bond measure, Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants program complements the bond program's regional and local elements by supporting innovative ways to help nature thrive at a neighborhood scale. Grants are awarded based on their ability to meet the program criteria and deliver strong community benefits.

Program history & status

The Capital Grants program was first announced in September of 2007. The Metro Council has previously approved eight rounds of grants, awarding \$14,243,007 to the following projects:

Land Acquisition

- Nadaka Nature Park acquisition
- White Oak Savanna acquisition
- Baltimore Woods connectivity corridor
- Baltimore Woods phase II
- Summer Creek natural area acquisition
- Lilly K Johnson Woods expansion
- White Oak Savanna phase II
- Lilly K Johnson Woods expansion phase II
- Overlook Bluff Oak Savanna acquisition
- Boardman-Rinearson Wetland Complex

Restoration

- Crystal Springs Partnership
- Boardman Creek fish habitat restoration
- Klein Point overlook and habitat enhancement
- Mount Scott Creek restoration
- Wapato Marsh wetland restoration
- Trillium Creek restoration
- Stone Bridge restoration State Park
- Rock Creek confluence project
- Spring Park natural area enhancement
- Beaver Creek fish passage & habitat enhancement
- Oak Island March Restoration
- Mt. Scott Creek- Oak Bluff Reach

Urban Transformation

- Greening the Interstate 205 corridor
- Re-greening Park Avenue park and ride
- Green Alley at Virginia Garcia Clinic
- Hall Creek Restoration
- One North Community Courtyard
- Gateway Green
- John Inskeep Environmental Center
- Boones Ferry Fish, Wildlife and Trail

Neighborhood Livability

- Nature play at Westmorland Park
- Conservation Corner
- Hawthorne Grove Park
- Humboldt Learning Garden
- Wildside Boardwalk in Pleasant Valley
- Nadaka Nature Park and Garden
- Let Us Build Cully Park!
- April Hill Park Improvements
- Old Town Loop Trail
- Dirksen Nature Park improvements
- Zenger Farms
- Siskiyou Pathway
- Whitaker Ponds Nature Park
- Donald L Robertson Trail Extension
- Cully Park Play Area
- Bull Mountain Nature Park
- Hogan Butte Nature Park

Of these 47 projects:

- Twenty-one (21) are completed.
- Twenty (20) are in progress.
- Three (3) are in the process of drafting agreements.
- Three (3) projects were withdrawn.

Grant Evaluation Criteria

The Metro Council defined seven key criteria for evaluating capital grants in the 2006 Natural Areas bond:

- "Re-nature" neighborhoods by increasing the presence and function of ecological processes
- "Re-green" urban neighborhoods to enrich peoples' experience of nature and help strengthen a physical connection to the region's ecology
- Demonstrate multiple benefits for people and natural systems
- Demonstrate cost-efficient ecological design solutions
- Increase the region's fish and wildlife inventory
- Restore and/or improve habitats of concern
- Provide universal access to the public.

Application/Review Process

Potential applicants begin the process by submitting a Letter of Interest. Letters are reviewed by staff to evaluate how strongly a potential project meets the grant criteria. Staff provides applicants with technical support, feedback and suggestions about ways to strengthen a project before inviting full applications. The Grant Review Committee, appointed by Council, reviews all full applications based on the above evaluation criteria. The Grant Review Committee engages in a thoughtful review of each application that includes staff assessments, site visits and a minimum of two committee meetings to arrive at recommendations for funding. The committee works with staff to develop conditions of approval in order to reduce project risks and strengthen project outcomes. The Metro Council decides all final grant awards.

Current recommendation and program financial status

The Grant Review Committee recommends that the Metro Council award funding to the eight new projects and awards additional funding to an existing project as described in Attachment A for a total of \$1,828,602. With this recommendation all of the \$15 million will be expended or committed.

2016 Recommendation

Nine new projects were invited to submit full applications on Aug. 1, 2016 from the thirteen letters of interest received. Those, along with the request for additional funding from the one existing project, totaled \$2,483,529 requested in funding from Metro. The committee met two times and conducted site visits for each project in order to review and recommend these projects to the Metro Council. This thoughtful review process allowed the committee to identify the compelling qualities of each project in order to guide future applicants. The committee's feedback to applicants included conditions of approval that shaped the outcomes of the projects to better achieve the goals of the grant program.

This group of projects address the goals of the Natural Areas bond measure and meet the intent of the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants program because they:

- Invest in existing restoration efforts and build upon success
- Provide critical funding to that will allow project to achieve their full potential
- Protect and restore essential habitat features and functions
- Connect people with natural areas in their neighborhoods
- Engage diverse partners.

ANAYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

None.

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

Ordinance No. 07-1163, "Amending Metro Code Chapter 2.19 to Establish the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee, and Declaring an Emergency" was adopted November 1, 2007.

Metro Code Section 2.19.230, "Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee," establishing the committee and prescribing its authority to review capital grants applications and make grant funding recommendations to the Metro Council.

Resolution No. 07-3874, "Confirming the Appointment of the Chair of the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee" was adopted December 6, 2007.

Resolution No. 07-3879, "Confirming the Appointment of Members to the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee" was adopted November 1, 2007.

Resolution No. 08-3965, "Approving First Round Funding for Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants" was adopted August 7, 2008.

Resolution No. 09-4027, "Confirming the Reappointment of Members to the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee, Designating the Chair, and Appointing a New Metro Natural Resources Staff Representative" was adopted February 19, 2009.

Resolution No. 09-4050, "Approving Second Round Funding for Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants" was adopted on August 13, 2009.

Resolution No. 10-4134, "Approving Third Round Funding for Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants" was adopted on March 18, 2010.

Resolution No. 11-4256, "Approving Fourth Round Funding for Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants" was adopted on May 19, 2011.

Resolution No. 12-4318, "Confirming the Appointment of Members of the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee" was adopted on January 12, 2012.

Resolution No 12-4343, "Approving Fifth Round Funding for Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants" was adopted on May 17, 2012.

Resolutions - 13-4408, "For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Members of the nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee" was adopted on May 30, 2013.

Resolutions - 13-4434, "For the Purpose of Approving Sixth Round Funding For Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants" was adopted on December 19, 2013.

Resolutions - 13-4485, "For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Members of the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee" was adopted on December 19, 2013.

Resolutions - 14-4548, "For the Purpose of Approving Seventh Round Funding For Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants" was adopted on July 10, 2014.

Resolutions - 14-4575, “For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Members of the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee” was adopted on October 30, 2014.

Resolutions - 15-4636, “For the Purpose of Approving Eighth Round Funding For Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants” was adopted on July 9, 2015.

Resolutions - 16-4714, “For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Members of the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Review Committee” was adopted on July 21, 2016.

3. Anticipated Effects

This Resolution awards Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants and begins the individual contract award process for the selected grant applicants. Projects are from one to three years in length.

4. Budget Impacts

The resolution referring the 2006 Natural Areas bond measure to voters, approved by the Metro Council, authorized spending up to \$15 million toward this program. This is the ninth round of grants recommended for funding. The adopted FY 2016-17 budget includes the necessary appropriation authority for reimbursement of these grants.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Chief Operating Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 16-4747.