

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-5509 FOR THE PURPOSE OF
AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY
CONTIGUOUS TO PROPERTY OWNED BY METRO

Date: June 20, 2025
Department: Parks and Nature
Meeting Date: June 26, 2025

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ISSUE STATEMENT

The Chief Operating Officer requests authorization from the Metro Council to acquire a particular property (the “Property”) as discussed at the June 24, 2025, executive session.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff requests Council authorize the Chief Operating Officer (or her designee) to acquire the Property in accordance with the general terms discussed at the June 24, 2025, executive session.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Acquisition of this Property will fulfill the overarching goals and objectives set by the Metro Council through Resolution 19-4988, the 2019 Parks and Nature bond measure.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

Should the Metro Council authorize the Chief Operating Officer to acquire the Property in accordance with the general terms discussed at the June 24, 2025, executive session?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Option 1: The Metro Council authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire the Property in accordance with the general terms discussed at the June 24, 2025 executive session. This enables the Property to be protected in perpetuity and is in alignment with previous Council legislation directing staff to achieve the goals and objectives of the 2019 Parks and Nature bond measure. Metro’s acquisition of the Property will be funded through the 2019 bond funds and funding is available in this fiscal year’s budget to acquire the Property.

Option 2: The Metro Council does not authorize the Chief Operating Officer to acquire the Property. This will prohibit Metro from implementing this portion of previous Council direction through the 2019 Parks and Nature bond measure.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Metro Council authorize the Chief Operating Officer to acquire the Property in accordance with the general terms discussed at the June 24, 2025, executive session.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Property, 0.97 acres in size, is immediately adjacent to Metro's 253-acre Mount Talbert Nature Park. This is within the greater East Buttes Target Area, which has been a priority for acquisition since the 1995 Open Spaces, Parks and Streams bond measure and was again identified as a priority for the 2006 Natural Areas bond measure and the 2019 Parks and Nature bond measure. The property includes a drainage to Mt. Scott Creek, which is a tributary to Kellogg Creek which flows into the Willamette River. Metro's ownership of the Property will enable effective, consistent natural areas management while also removing the risk of private ownership within Mount Talbert Nature Park.

Known Opposition/Support/Community Feedback

There is no known opposition to the Metro's acquisition of the Property.

Legal Antecedents

1995 Open Spaces bond measure; 2006 Natural Areas bond measure

Resolution No. 19-4988, "For the Purpose of Submitting the Voters of the Metro Area General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$475 Million to Fund Natural Area and Water Quality Protection and to Connect People to Nature Close to Home; and Setting Forth the Official Intent of the Metro Council to Reimburse Certain Expenditures Out of the Proceeds of Said Bonds Upon Issuance", adopted by Metro Council on June 6, 2019.

Resolution No. 19-5055, "For the Purpose of Accepting the November 5, 2019 General Election Abstract of Votes for Metro and Authorizing Continuation of the Parks and Nature Program During Refinement Planning", adopted by Metro Council on December 12, 2019.

Anticipated Effects

Should Metro Council authorize the COO to acquire this property, Metro staff will attempt to acquire the Property at auction on July 8, 2025.

Financial Implications

Purchase of the Property will occur with 2019 Parks and Nature bond funds and is within the budget allocation for fiscal year 2026.

BACKGROUND

This work builds on the 1995 and 2006 bond measures, which included funds for land acquisition for conservation and future trail development. The 2019 bond measure,

referred to the voters by the Metro Council in June of 2019, established principles and criteria to guide protecting and restoring greater Portland's special places and securing gaps in the regional trail system in geographically specific target areas and regional trail corridors. The bond measure also directed staff to further refine these priority areas if the voters supported the measure, which was completed, and refinement plans adopted by the Metro Council in April 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

None