

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE)	RESOLUTION NO. 17-4849
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO DEDICATE)	
RIGHT OF WAY TO THE CITY OF PORTLAND)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
AT WHITAKER PONDS NATURE PARK		Bennett in concurrence with Council
		President Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Metro Open Spaces, Parks and Streams 1995 Ballot Measure 26-26, Metro and the City of Portland jointly own approximately 13.78 acres of real property in the Columbia Slough area that, when combined with adjacent property the City of Portland owns outright, makes up the nature park known as “Whitaker Ponds Nature Park”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland manages Whitaker Ponds Nature Park pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement with Metro; and

WHEREAS, Whitaker Ponds Nature Park, master planned in 1995 and 2006, contains ponds, sloughs and associated natural areas that are used for educational purposes, birdwatching, access to the Columbia Slough for light watercraft, and other nature-based recreation; and

WHEREAS, Portland Parks & Recreation (“PP&R”), the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (“BES”) and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council (“CSWC”) actively invite school groups, volunteers, and other partners to the site for educational and volunteer programs, however, access to the site is difficult since there is no developed parking or sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the CSWC, partnering with BES, produced a concept design for improvements to the entry area off of NE 47th Avenue, and PP&R, partnering with the two groups, applied for and has received a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant to help fund the project; and

WHEREAS, the improvements planned include sidewalks, a parking lot, stormwater treatment facilities, accessible routes to the educational facilities, and a small natural gathering area, all of which will increase park user safety, accessibility, and aesthetics, while creating a more inviting public entry; and

WHEREAS, as part of this project, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation (“PBOT”) is installing street improvements, including sidewalks and bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the length of NE 47th in the public right of way;

WHEREAS, PBOT requests a 200 foot long, 3' wide Right of Way (“ROW”) dedication, which is on property jointly owned by PP&R and Metro in front of the Whitaker Ponds entrance; and

WHEREAS, this ROW dedication will support the park entry improvement project by allowing PBOT to construct a wider portion of the multi-modal path in this area to provide better access to the park, emphasize the park entrance, and create a safer space for ingress and egress for those arriving to/from the park by bike or foot; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Agreement and the Metro Code requires all requests for permanent rights of way and easements to be brought to the Metro Council for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Right of Way dedication is consistent with Metro's easement policy (Res. No. 97-2539B) because it is designed specifically for the benefit of a Metro natural area; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to grant a permanent right of way dedication to the City of Portland in the location described on the attached Exhibits A1 and B1, and depicted on Exhibits A2 and B2 to this Resolution, on terms approved by the Office of Metro Attorney.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 16th day of November, 2017.

Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney