

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING THE
EAST COUNCIL CREEK NATURE PARK
MASTER PLAN

) RESOLUTION NO. 24-5390
)
) Introduced by Councilor Juan Carlos
González in concurrence with Council
President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, in May 1995, area voters approved ballot Measure 26-26, authorizing Metro to issue \$135.6 million for bonds for Open Spaces, Parks, and Streams to purchase land in regional target areas; and

WHEREAS, in November 2006, area voters approved Metro's Natural Areas Bond Measure, authorizing Metro to issue \$227.4 million for bonds to purchase land in regional target areas; and

WHEREAS, using bond measure funds, Metro has protected over 1,300 acres of natural area in the Dairy, McKay and Rock Creeks area, including riparian and upland forest habitat that wildlife depend on; and

WHEREAS, in May 2013, area voters approved a five-year local option levy, which was renewed in 2018 and 2023, for the purpose of preserving water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and maintaining Metro's parks and natural areas for the public; and

WHEREAS, in February 2016, the Metro Council adopted the Parks and Nature System Plan, outlining Metro's roles and responsibilities in protecting and managing a regional system of parks, trails, and natural areas for the benefit of people and nature; and

WHEREAS, in June 2016, the Metro Council adopted its Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, which, guided by input from many regional partners and informed by research, identified racial equity as the approach to ensure that all people who live, work, and recreate in the Portland region have the opportunity to share in and help define a thriving, livable, and prosperous place; and

WHEREAS, as part of implementing the operating levy, Metro Parks and Nature's five-year work plan includes projects for natural area restoration and maintenance, opening natural areas for visitors, park maintenance, volunteer programs, conservation education, and community grants; and

WHEREAS, Dairy, McKay and Rock Creeks, which includes East Council Creek natural area, was identified as one of the 2013 levy access improvement projects in the five-year work plan; and

WHEREAS, the operating levy identifies increased opportunities for communities of color and children from low income families to experience the region's parks and natural areas as a desired outcome; and

WHEREAS, the Connect with Nature initiative, a partnership between Metro and a team of community organizations serving people of color, led outreach to create the Connect with Nature resource guide, and as part of that work collaborated on the outreach and design for the East Council Creek Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the East Council Creek Nature Park Master Plan was developed with the oversight, input and review of Metro and City of Cornelius staff, project stakeholders, members of the community and Metro Council over 18 months of community outreach, including open houses, stakeholder meetings, Connect with Nature workshops, presentations, tours and surveys; and

WHEREAS, Metro is currently developing tribal consultation policy, and prior to design of the nature park, Metro will consult with tribes according to the tribal consultation policy; and

WHEREAS, the East Council Creek Nature Park Master Plan identifies improvements to protect and enhance the natural, scenic, and cultural resources while providing access for visitors to positively experience the natural area; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council's approval of the East Council Creek Nature Park Master Plan does not establish final design improvements, is not a final land use decision, and is not binding on local governments, but rather provides recommendations to guide Metro staff and partner jurisdictions as they continue design work;

WHEREAS, Chapter 2.16 of the Metro Code sets forth Metro's policy regarding the naming of Metro facilities; and

WHEREAS, according to the policy, the primary purpose of the name of a facility, such as a nature park, should be to identify the facility's function and purpose, and may also reflect other matters, such as the facility's location; and

WHEREAS, the site will be referred to as the East Council Creek Natural Area until public access is developed; and

WHEREAS, once the site is developed and is open to the public, it will be referred to as the East Council Creek Nature Park; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council approves the East Council Creek Nature Park Master Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 7th day of March 2024.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney