

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-4970, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING METRO TO APPLY FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT FROM THE OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE PARKS AND NATURE DIRECTOR TO SIGN THE APPLICATION

Date: March 21, 2019

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BACKGROUND

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Local Government Grant Program was created by initiative petition filed on March 11, 1998, adopted by the citizens of Oregon on November 3, 1998 and approved by the 1999 Legislature. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission adopted administrative rules for the distribution of state lottery funds to eligible local governments and the process for establishing the priority order in which projects are funded. The Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) and program budget are administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

In January 2008 the rules were amended and approved by the Oregon Parks Commission (OAR 736-006-0100-OAR 736-006-0150). The Oregon Lottery Funds for Natural Resources Amendment was adopted on November 2, 2010, which continued lottery funding for the Local Government Grant Program. A resolution is required authorizing an application for grant funds as a part of the program process.

The funds are to be awarded for outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities, acquisition of property for park purposes, trails, bicycle recreation opportunities and non-motorized water-based recreation.

The Chehalem Ridge Nature Park Access Master Plan was approved and adopted by Metro Council on October 19, 2017 through Resolution 17-4823, "For the Purpose of Council Approving the Chehalem Ridge Nature Park Access Master Plan." The goals of the master plan are to provide new facilities to support and enhance nature-based recreation and education opportunities consistent with resource protection goals of the natural area. Proposed improvements include the following facilities: a trailhead with parking, picnic opportunities, shelter, restrooms and a welcome kiosk. A system of trails and existing gravel roadway will offer family friendly opportunities to walk, hike, and ride an off-road bicycle or horse. One overlook will highlight views into a riparian habitat area, while a second will provide a welcome resting place at the top of Chehalem Ridge's highest peak, offering an expansive view of the Tualatin Valley, Wapato Lake and the Coast Range.

Funds from the 2005 bond and 2013 and 2015 levies are currently dedicated to a first phase of development at Chehalem Ridge. Additional funding via the LGGP would allow for a second phase of development to occur. The second phase is expected to substantially expand the number of trail miles available to visitors.

Metro Parks and Nature would apply for Local Government Grant funds to assist with implementation of facility improvements for Chehalem Ridge Nature Park.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

There is no known opposition to Metro's submittal to the Local Government Grant Program. During the project stakeholder meetings and public open houses, and subsequent land use process, concerns and issues were raised related to possible impacts to surrounding neighbors and agricultural practices, including increased traffic on area roadways. Community members also expressed concern about potential conflicts between user groups on shared trails.

Adjustments to address neighbor concerns include trails setback from adjacent neighbor properties, wayfinding signs to clearly direct visitors to the park and outreach information raising visitors' awareness of the need to respect our rural area neighbors including farming operations. Trail user conflicts are addressed via appropriately sized trails, active monitoring of trail use and adaptive management practices including retaining the ability to limit trail user groups by time or space if conflicts occur.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Chehalem Ridge is identified in the 2013 Natural Areas Levy as an access project. Completion of this project is in an effort to complete the legal obligation of the Levy.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Chehalem Ridge is poised to become a crowned jewel within Metro's system of parks and natural areas as it enables us to deliver on our commitment to protect fish and wildlife habitat and water quality while providing public access to nature.

With Council approval, a successful grant application would allow us to deliver, and more quickly provide, a more complete version of the master plan for Chehalem Ridge Nature Park as envisioned by project partners, stakeholders and community members. The next steps in the project are to complete the land-use approval process and secure a site development permit from Washington County. Paralleling this effort, Metro Parks and Nature Planning Staff are already working with a team of design and engineering consultants to produce construction documents. Improvements are expected to be implemented during the year 2020.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure and 2013 and 2015 Parks and Natural Areas Levy funded the access master plan, design and first phase of construction work. Preliminary cost exercises estimate that construction of all elements in this access master plan will cost approximately \$5.3 million. When design and construction documents are complete, a phase 1 construction plan will be developed to match available dollars. Parks and Nature has identified \$2,780,000 for land use approval, design and construction from the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure and \$700,000 from Levy 1 & 2. Alternative funding sources, such as available from Oregon State Parks' LGGP would help provide additional funding for a second phase of construction to fully build out the envisioned trail network.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the adoption of Resolution No. 19-4970.