

## **Exhibit B**

### **Protect and Restore Land**

In this Metro program area, Metro will use bond funds to protect and connect greater Portland's special places, especially river and stream banks, headwaters, floodplains, wetlands, oak and prairie habitat, forests and culturally significant sites, by purchasing land from willing sellers and restoring it to support plants, animals and people. In addition to the criteria below, all projects must satisfy required bond program community engagement, racial equity and climate resilience criteria set forth in Exhibit A.

#### **Program activities**

- Acquisition of property, including but not limited to using fee simple purchases and easements
- Pilot project for community-led, racial justice focused land acquisition with an allocation of up to \$15 million from this Metro program area
- Stabilization of new land acquisitions
- Major capital restoration projects including, but not limited to, removal or replacement of culverts and dams on fish-bearing streams; restoration of native plant communities and opportunities to bring nature back into urban areas

#### **Program criteria**

Program investments must satisfy at least one of the following criteria.

- Protect clean water for people, fish and wildlife. Improve water quality and quantity. Protect headwaters, wetlands, floodplains, and riparian areas and help prevent flooding in urban areas.
- Protect and restore culturally significant plant communities. Prioritize culturally significant plants in partnership with greater Portland's Indigenous community.
- Protect, connect and improve habitat for native fish and wildlife. Increase focus on salmon, trout, steelhead and lamprey.
- Restore and enhance wildlife habitat prioritized in federal, state and regional conservation plans and/or identified through community engagement.
- Acquire land to provide future potential access to nature for people, scenic views, and community gathering spaces. Prioritize land acquisition with the potential to increase access to nature for communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities.
- Acquire and restore land in urban areas, prioritizing investments in nature closer to where people live.

- Demonstrate Metro’s commitment to protecting farm land, food security and the agricultural economy in the greater Portland region by supporting the protection of natural resources on working lands and increasing access to sustainably managed working lands.

## **METRO LAND ACQUISITION REFINEMENT**

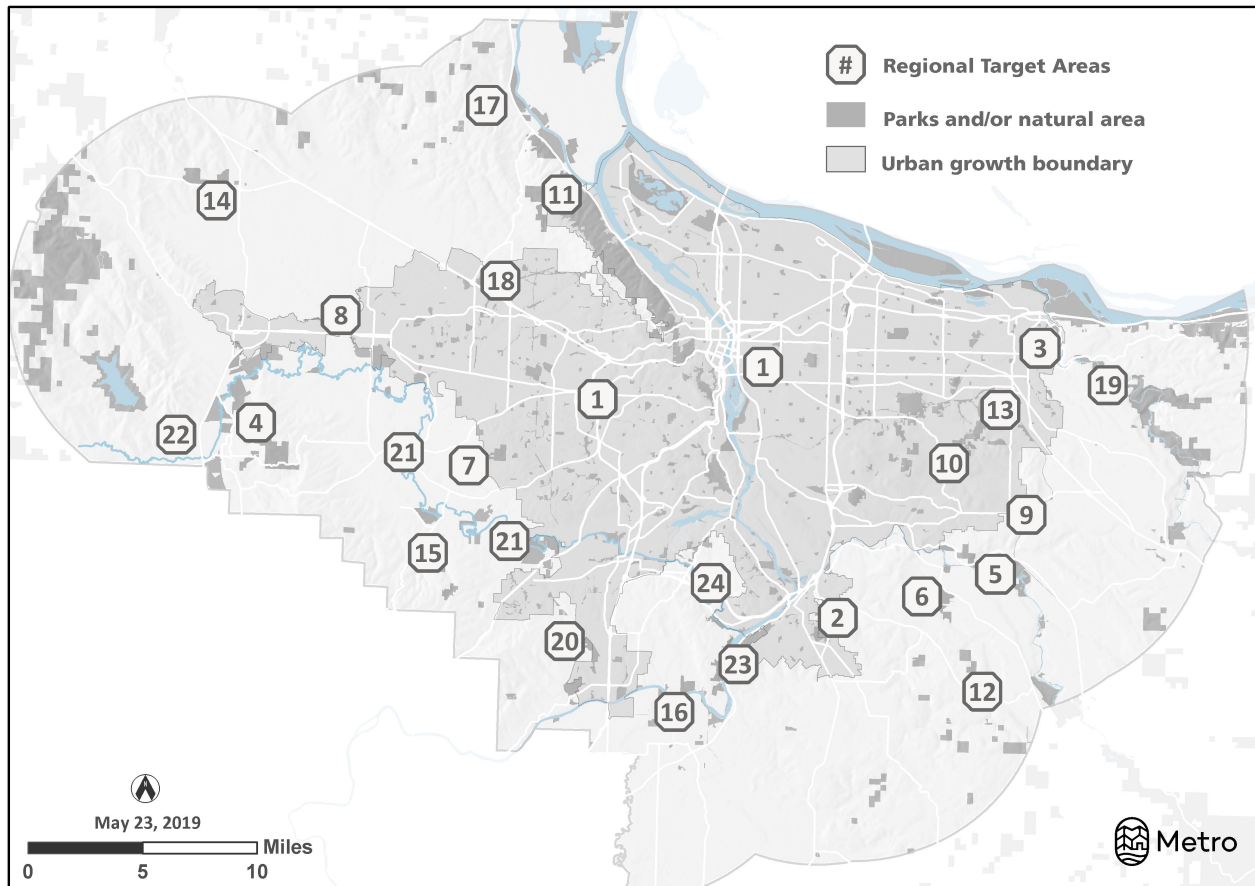
Target areas for land acquisition are conceptual only and contain more potential natural area land than Metro could ultimately purchase. Following approval of this bond measure, Metro will work with community members, local partners, governments, soil and water conservation districts, natural resource experts, members of greater Portland’s Indigenous community and others to gather additional information about each individual target area to begin refining acquisition priorities and identifying parcels that would be important to protect. Metro calls this process refinement.

Metro is committed to a meaningful community engagement process for refinement, consistent with programmatic goals for advancing racial equity. During refinement the Metro Council will define for each target area where Metro is authorized to buy land and may establish acreage goals or other metrics. As part of the refinement process, Metro will update the Natural Areas Work Plan consistent with this bond measure. The Natural Areas Work Plan provides acquisition parameters within which the Chief Operating Officer will have the authority to acquire property in this Metro program area.

As with previous bond measures, Metro may use bond funds to acquire property and property interests from “willing sellers” only, and must not exercise its power of eminent domain in the implementation of this measure.

## **REGIONAL TARGET AREAS**

The following target areas are eligible for land protection with Metro bond funding. See map for location information.



### 1. Urban Area

Investments within the urban growth boundary will target strategic opportunities for Metro to protect and enhance water quality and quantity, fish and wildlife habitat and access to nature. Priority projects enhance habitat connectivity and improve floodplain connectivity for water quality, flood protection and climate change resiliency. Sites with multiple benefits, financial leverage, strong partners, access from transit or trails, access to water and/or identified as a priority for communities of color and other historically marginalized communities will be emphasized.

### 2. Abernethy and Newell Creeks

Abernethy Creek and its lower tributary Newell Creek provide significant fish and wildlife habitat and habitat connectivity from the foothills of the Cascades to the Willamette River in Oregon City. Home to Metro's Newell Creek Canyon Nature Park, the integrity of the lower Abernethy watershed is threatened by nearby growth and development. Investment will focus on protecting local natural areas and improving the connectivity of existing public land to the Willamette River to benefit water quality and wildlife habitat, especially salmon and lamprey.

### 3. Beaver Creek (Lower Sandy River)

Beaver Creek's headwaters are located in urbanized or rapidly urbanizing areas of Portland and Gresham. The creek flows to Troutdale and Fairview, and supports native salmon and steelhead. Further investment will consolidate conservation gains made along Beaver Creek's floodplain to its

confluence with the Sandy River. Protecting adjacent upland parcels will improve habitat, wildlife connectivity, water quality and public access.

#### **4. Chehalem Ridge, Wapato Lake and Gales Creek**

Includes the Upper Tualatin River, Wapato Lake and the Wapato National Wildlife Refuge, Gales and Carpenter creeks and adjacent Chehalem Ridge. Investment in this target area builds on 20 years of partnership-based land conservation by connecting existing natural areas and expanding conservation of Chehalem Ridge Nature Park, and will protect water quality and wildlife habitat, increase climate change resilience and expand access to nature opportunities. Goals include protecting additional forest areas, headwater streams, oak woodlands and wetlands and culturally important native plants such as Wapato.

#### **5. Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway**

The Clackamas River is one of two priority watersheds for salmon and steelhead recovery in the Willamette Valley. The source of drinking water for 300,000 people, it also supports Pacific lamprey and offers some the region's best opportunities for wildlife habitat conservation and river access for people. Investment in this target area helps connect existing public lands and expand efforts to new priority areas of the lower Clackamas River, the confluence with Eagle Creek and the headwaters of Foster Creek.

#### **6. Clear Creek**

Clear Creek is home to one of the most important remaining runs of native coho and Chinook salmon in the region, and delivers cool, clean water to the Clackamas River. Investment in this target area will enhance Metro's Clear Creek Natural Area, conserving salmon, steelhead, lamprey, oak savanna, wetlands and large contiguous forest tracts.

#### **7. Cooper Mountain**

Once at the outer fringe of urban growth, Cooper Mountain Nature Park is now firmly located within the fast-growing city of Beaverton. Investment in this target area will continue efforts to protect the long-term health of this popular nature park including oak- and prairie-dependent plants and wildlife, through strategic park expansion and enhancing connections to the nearby Tualatin River.

#### **8. Dairy and McKay Creeks**

Protects floodplains, stream banks and associated wetlands of two major tributaries of the Tualatin River located between Hillsboro and Cornelius and Forest Grove. Investment in this target area will improve water quality and wildlife habitat by connecting or expanding habitat patches. New goals include protecting significant prairie plants needed for ceremony and first foods, such as camas, a need identified by greater Portland's Indigenous community members. . Offers opportunities for future public access.

#### **9. Deep Creek and Tributaries**

The steeply wooded slopes of the canyons of Deep Creek and its tributaries in eastern Clackamas County near Boring hold some of the region's most extensive contiguous wildlife habitat including salmon, steelhead and lamprey. The creek serves as the principal corridor connecting the Clackamas River to habitat areas within the more urbanized areas to the north. Land protection will

focus on connecting existing public land along the creeks and their associated uplands to improve fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and climate change resilience.

#### **10. East Buttes**

The remaining undeveloped wooded slopes of extinct lava domes the eastern part of the Portland metropolitan region provide special opportunities to protect water quality and connect natural areas for wildlife habitat and corridors from the edge of the Cascade foothills to developed areas such as Scouters Mountain and buttes in the Damascus area. Investment in this target area will serve dual goals of connecting gaps in existing public lands and connecting the network south to the Clackamas River to enhance habitat quality and climate resilience.

#### **11. Greater Forest Park Connections**

Builds on success protecting and connecting Forest Park to Rock Creek improving habitat and wildlife connectivity. Investments will focus on connecting Ennis Creek, Burlington Creek, McCarthy Creek and North Abbey Creek natural areas to each other and surrounding areas, and creating wildlife connections to the north and west.

#### **12. Highland Ridge**

Expansive forested ridges and canyons located between Oregon City and Estacada provide a new opportunity for a future regional destination and important wildlife connections to the Cascade foothills. Investment in this target area supports additional protection of lower portions of Willamette and Clackamas River headwaters including Abernathy and Clear creeks for improved water quality in these important salmon streams and large forest habitats.

#### **13. Johnson Creek Floodplain and Headwaters**

Johnson Creek remains one of the most densely urbanized creeks in the greater Portland area and is a regional conservation success story in the making, with reduced flooding, improving water quality and wildlife habitat and recovering salmon populations as a result of concerted conservation efforts by many partners. Investment in this target area will build on the achievements of the past 20 years by closing gaps in public stewardship in the floodplain and headwaters, creating additional flood protection opportunities and enhancing water quality, late season flow, wildlife habitat and climate resilience for people and nature.

#### **14. Killin Wetlands**

One of the largest peat soil wetlands remaining in the Willamette Valley, Killin Wetlands ranks among Oregon's greatest wetlands and provides regionally significant bird habitat. Investment in this target area will protect habitat for rare plants and animals, including native plants of special importance to greater Portland's Indigenous community. Additional protection will enhance habitat connections to the Coast Range.

#### **15. Lower Tualatin Headwaters**

Investment in this target area protects water quality and late season flow volume in the Lower Tualatin River, as well as an important habitat corridor connecting the Tualatin Floodplain with Chehalem Ridge. Continued efforts build on protection of land along Baker Creek and expand

conservation efforts to adjacent Heaton Creek, which offers regionally significant salmon and steelhead habitat protection opportunities.

#### **16. Molalla Oaks, Prairies and Floodplains**

This target area has been identified through working with members of greater Portland's Indigenous communities. Investment in this target areas will help sustain the area's vibrant and culturally important native plants and wildlife by protecting and connect oak, prairie and floodplain habitats in the middle Willamette Valley with Canemah Bluff, Willamette Narrows, and the Willamette Greenway to the north.

#### **17. Multnomah Channel Headwaters**

West of Highway 30 and north of Metro's Burlington Creek Forest Natural Area, this target area consists of large forested parcels that protect headwater streams flowing into Multnomah Channel and the Multnomah Channel Marsh Natural Area. Investment in this target area provides an opportunity to expand large forest preserves north of Forest Park, promotes creation of old-growth forests and protects water quality and wildlife habitat. This target area also provides opportunities to improve access to nature for people close to urbanized areas.

#### **18. Rock Creek (upper and middle forks)**

A major tributary of the Tualatin River, Rock Creek and its tributaries are under increased development pressure as urban growth expands throughout the watershed. Investment in this target area will help protect the areas around North Abbey Creek Natural Area in the upper Rock Creek watershed and build on efforts to protect land downstream inside the urban growth boundary. Expanding the target area to the west in the Rock Creek's lower reaches can protect additional floodplains and other Rock Creek tributaries, contributing to water quality.

#### **19. Sandy River**

The free-flowing, wild and scenic Sandy River originates on Mount Hood, joining the Columbia River in Troutdale, and is a regional anchor for salmon, steelhead and lamprey recovery. Investment in this target area will focus on connecting existing public lands for water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and protecting scenic values and access to nature for people.

#### **20. Tonquin Oak Woodlands**

Investment in this target area provides additional protection for Graham Oaks Nature Park and the Coffee Lake Creek Wetlands, protecting and connecting remaining wetlands, upland forests, headwaters and oak woodlands. Emphasis includes an important habitat corridor to Chehalem Ridge. Closing gaps in this target area will connect the Tualatin with the Willamette, link Metro lands to the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge, and preserve remnant landscapes created by the Ice Age Missoula Floods.

#### **21. Tualatin River Floodplain**

The Tualatin River is unique in our region for its broad and active floodplain, and helps supply drinking water to more than 300,000 people in Washington County. Investment in this target area will build on previous efforts by multiple organizations to protect and enhance water quality, flood control and late season flow while supporting the recovery of salmon and other wildlife and plant

populations, especially imperiled prairie and oak species, while creating opportunities for future public access to the Tualatin River.

## **22. Wapato Lake to the Coast Range Connection**

Investment in this target area will help connect the Chehalem-Wapato Lake area with the Coast Range to improve the long-term viability of wildlife corridors and provide climate change resilience.

## **23. Willamette Narrows and Canemah Bluff Connections**

This target area includes a regionally significant habitat corridor and gateway to Willamette Falls, Oregon City and urbanizing areas of the lower Willamette River. In this stretch, the Willamette River flows through rocky islands and past steep bluffs unlike any other area of the lower river. Investment in this target area can protect some of the region's highest-quality wildlife and fish habitat, as well as regionally rare native plant species.

## **24. Wilson, Pecan and Fields Creeks**

Wilson, Pecan and Fields creeks all flow into the Tualatin River. Investment in this target area will protect land along these tributary creeks to provide cool, clean water for fish and wildlife. Additional stream protection will also improve connections for wildlife from the river to protected public lands in Lake Oswego and West Linn.

The 24 target areas above will be the first priority for acquisitions from bond proceeds. Other critical natural areas and greenways identified in the 1992 Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan, the 2002 Regional Greenspaces Concept Map and the 2005 Nature in Neighborhoods Map (Fish & Wildlife Habitat Protection Program, Resources Classification Map) may be acquired if proposed regional target areas become degraded, cost prohibitive or otherwise infeasible as determined by the Metro Council following a public hearing. Additionally, the Metro Council may add new target areas if existing target area goals have been achieved, as determined by the Metro Council following a public hearing.

The Metro Council intends to use a variety of methods to protect water quality and the natural areas identified in this bond measure. These methods include, but are not limited to, buying fee title to land, acquisition of trail easements and conservation easements (such as over working agricultural lands or natural areas) and the purchase of development rights, either alone or in partnership with other public entities. Donations, bequests and grants will be sought to enable the program to protect and preserve additional land.

## **LAND MANAGEMENT**

Natural areas and trail corridors acquired by Metro will be maintained by Metro with the property interest owned by Metro, except where Metro and a local government partner may agree otherwise. Metro may operate and maintain these lands or enter into cooperative arrangements with other public agencies or appropriate community organizations to manage them. All lands acquired with Metro bond funds will be managed in a manner consistent with the purposes of the bond measure, restrictions on general obligation bond funding, and Metro's parks and nature mission.

## **STABILIZATION**

Stabilization is defined as tasks required to place land into its intended natural state after acquisition by Metro or another public agency. Those tasks include, but are not limited to, vegetation management, tree and shrub planting, replacement or installation of structures such as culverts, gates or fences, removal or demolition of structures, environmental remediation and riparian/wetland restoration activities. Stabilization activities are typically completed within five years after acquisition and must be guided by a stabilization plan.

## **RESTORATION**

Habitat restoration projects can create rapid and dramatic improvement in water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and the abundance of culturally important native plants and habitat on existing or new public land, greatly increasing the value of the property to the community. Restoration projects eligible for bond funding meet the rules for capital spending, such as enhancing wetland water cycles, enhancing or reconnecting salmon, steelhead and lamprey habitat, and improving or retiring old and failing road systems that threaten water quality.