

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING THE  
GABBERT BUTTE NATURE PARK MASTER  
PLAN

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RESOLUTION NO. 19-4989

Introduced by Interim Chief Operating Officer  
Andrew Scott 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 acquired over 1300 acres of natural area in the East Buttes and Johnson Creek 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 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, East Buttes which includes Gabbert Butte 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 Gabbert Butte Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Metro and the City of Gresham both own land within the Gabbert Butte Master Plan boundary and worked together over the course of 18 months to engage the community in developing the Gabbert Butte Nature Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, a stakeholder advisory committee was created and included representatives from Johnson Creek Watershed Council, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Connect with Nature community leaders, Portland Audubon, East County Windwalkers, Northwest Trails Alliance, Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association, and neighbors at large.

WHEREAS, in order to identify desired and appropriate visitor improvements, Metro and its partners conducted public outreach, including open houses, stakeholder meetings, Connect with Nature workshops, presentations, tours and surveys; and

WHEREAS, the Gabbert Butte Nature Park Master Plan was developed by and with the oversight, input and review of the Metro parks and nature and City of Gresham staff, project stakeholders, members of the community and Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, the Gabbert Butte 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, on June 4, 2019 the City of Gresham adopted the Gabbert Butte Nature Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council's approval of the Gabbert Butte 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; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby approves the Gabbert Butte Nature Park Master Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 11th day of July 2019.

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Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

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Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney