

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE)	RESOLUTION NO. 16-4690
VOTERS OF THE METRO AREA RENEWAL)	
OF METRO'S LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR)	Introduced by Council President Tom
PROTECTING WATER QUALITY,)	Hughes
RESTORING FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT;)	
AND CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE)	
)	

WHEREAS, in May 1995, voters of the Metro region approved a \$135.6 million Open Spaces, Parks and Streams Bond Measure with a stated goal of acquiring land in 14 of the 57 regional natural areas identified in the 1992 Greenspaces Master Plan, and six of the 34 regional trails and greenways identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan;

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2005, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 05-3574A, "Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative Called Nature In Neighborhoods," enacting a regional conservation policy that promotes fish and wildlife habitat protection using a variety of means;

WHEREAS, in November 2006, voters in the Metro region approved a \$227.4 million Natural Areas, Parks and Streams Bond Measure with the goal of acquiring land in 27 target areas identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan;

WHEREAS, Metro's acquisition of more than 13,700 acres have exceeded the bond measures' goals, and combined with voluntary transfers of parks and natural areas from other local governments, brings the grand total of parks, trails and natural areas currently under Metro's care and stewardship to more than 17,000 acres, including more than 150 miles of stream and river frontage;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council is authorized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter to refer local option levies to regional voters to approve funding for natural area protection;

WHEREAS, in December 2012, the Metro Council referred a five-year levy to voters to restore Metro's natural areas, maintain and operate parks, engage the community and improve opportunities for people to safely use and enjoy more of the lands Metro has protected for the public and for future generations;

WHEREAS, in May 2013, voters of the Metro region approved the Parks and Natural Areas 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, which levy has a rate of 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value;

WHEREAS, after working with community members and partners for the past two years, on February 4, 2016, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 15-4670, approving a Parks and Nature System Plan that sets forth Metro's mission and role regarding its portfolio of land and priorities for the future;

WHEREAS, Metro's Parks and Natural Areas Levy, in accordance with the Parks and Nature System Plan, is making the most of voter-protected land by restoring habitat, removing invasive weeds, and improving and opening sites to connect people with nature, as promised to voters in 2013; and

WHEREAS, renewing the Parks and Natural Areas Levy in November 2016 would provide stability and security, allowing Metro to continue to fulfill its mission for Parks and Nature and make strategic decisions about multi-year projects, and clearing the way for conversations about long-term investments in land acquisition, park development and regional funding for parks and nature; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Metro Council that:

1. The Metro Council hereby refers to the qualified voters of the Metro region renewal of the current five-year local option levy of 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value, to be used for substantially the same purposes of the existing levy that was approved by voters in May 2013: improving water quality, protecting fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas and stream frontages, and the continued management of parks and natural areas to connect people to nature;
2. The estimated total outlay for the funds raised by the levy renewal is \$80.7 million.
3. The Metro Council hereby further defines the purposes, allowed uses and outcomes for funds collected via the renewed five-year local option levy according to the Levy Renewal Framework, attached as Exhibit A;
4. The Metro Council hereby certifies the Ballot Title attached as Exhibit B for placement of the renewal of the local option levy on the ballot for the November 2016 General Election;
5. The Metro Council authorizes and directs the Metro Chief Operating Officer to refer this Resolution, including the Ballot Title, to the County Elections Officers, the Secretary of State, and the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission in a timely manner as required by law;
6. The Metro Council authorizes and directs the Metro Chief Operating Officer to continue to seek long-term funding for parks and natural areas protection and maintenance; and
7. The Metro Council hereby directs program staff to continue producing an annual work plan approved by the Chief Operating Officer and an annual report detailing major accomplishments and program expenditures by program area. The report should be presented to the Metro Council at the end of each fiscal year, publicized and made available on the Metro website.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 30th day of June, 2016.

Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

LEVY RENEWAL FRAMEWORK

Metro Parks and Nature protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and creates opportunities to enjoy nature close to home through a connected system of parks, trails and natural areas.

No matter where you stand in the greater Portland area, nature is never far. With 17,000 acres, Metro manages parks and natural areas across every community in the region – from Chehalem Ridge in the west to the Sandy River Gorge in the east, from Blue Lake and Broughton Beach in the north to Graham Oaks in the south. This portfolio of land represents both a big opportunity and a big responsibility. Voters have trusted Metro to wisely spend the money they’ve invested to care for these special places, while also creating opportunities for people to enjoy them.

In 2013, the Metro Council asked voters to approve a local option levy that invests in maintaining and restoring habitat on land that has been acquired over the course of two decades and two voter-approved bond measures. With support from this levy, Metro has helped improve water quality, control invasive weeds and plant native trees and shrubs. Levy funding also has helped connect people with nature by improving Metro parks, planning for public access and opening new sites for visitors, expanding volunteer and education programming, and awarding grants to community nature projects. By extending the levy another five years, Metro can continue to make the most of the land that voters have protected for future generations.

The Metro Council adopted a framework for projects and programs that would be eligible for levy funding as follows:

Levy framework	Program areas	Spending allocations
1. Protect and conserve nature for wildlife, fish and water quality.	Natural areas restoration and land management	40-50%
2. Connect people with nature.	Regional parks operations	20-30%
	Improving natural areas for people	5-15%
	Nature education/volunteer engagement	5-15%
	Nature in Neighborhood grants and community partnerships	5-15%

If the levy is renewed, Metro would continue to make investments using this framework for the same general purposes for an additional five years, without raising taxes.

LEVY INVESTMENTS CONTINUE TO ADVANCE EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In addition to allocating funding to specific program areas, the Metro Council also included explicit language in the 2013 Parks and Natural Areas Levy to help fulfill its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Metro is committed to working with people, businesses, nonprofit organizations and public partners to create a region where all individuals and communities benefit, racial equity is recognized as the backbone of good governance, and our public structures, institutions and processes address social and economic disparities for people of color. Metro is also committed to ensuring that diversity is celebrated and all communities meaningfully participate in public decision-making. If voters approve a renewal of the 2013 levy, diversity, equity and inclusion will continue to be advanced through program investments designed to achieve the following:

1. Diversify the businesses and people who do contracted work for Metro Parks and Nature

- Meet or exceed Metro's goals for equitable contracting; remove barriers to participation.
- Continue efforts to expand pool of contractors in restoration and land management, including providing technical support and professional development.
- Continue to provide sheltered market for public improvement projects.

2. Ensure that Metro Parks and Nature programs and facilities support the needs of underserved communities, including communities of color, low-income communities and young people.

- Continue to be inclusive in community engagement activities.
- Continue to diversify nature education and other program participants.
- Create innovative approaches to ensuring Metro's Parks and Nature workforce reflects the region such as including workforce development goals and college and career pipelines for youth and communities of color.

More specifics about the types of investments that would be allowed and the outcomes that Metro area residents could expect are described below.

PROTECT AND CONSERVE NATURE

Restoration and Land Management

Improved stewardship enhances the ability of Metro's parks and natural areas to provide clean water, healthy wildlife habitat and high-quality opportunities for our community to experience nature. Projects on Metro's land generally are selected based on the best scientific information available and core ecological principles well accepted by restoration and conservation professionals. This includes both The Intertwine Alliance's Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area and the Oregon State Conservation Strategy, which document and offer guidance for the region's highest value habitat areas.

Three main types of activities are envisioned for levy investments during 2018-2023:

Habitat restoration projects

Restoration of fish and wildlife habitat at Metro's parks and natural areas can significantly improve quality and function, including resilience to climate change. Large-scale projects typically involve one or more complex actions such as reconnecting floodplains to rivers, constructing or removing structures that direct hydrology, and planting or thinning large tracts of forest to develop healthy, functional native plant communities. Metro also conducts many small-scale projects such as replacing noxious and invasive weeds with native trees and shrubs or strategically thinning Douglas-fir trees that compete for resources with slower-growing Oregon white oaks. Both project types may include activities such as replacing or removing failing culverts and modifying roads to prevent erosion from reaching streams and water sources.

Natural area maintenance

Maintenance of Metro natural areas includes caring for plantings and protecting infrastructure. Suppressing common weeds, reestablishing native vegetation and identifying and quickly treating threats from invasive species help protect ecological health and reduce the long-term costs of maintenance. In the same way that addressing weed problems early is efficient, timely action to protect roads, trails, fences and signage prevents sites from deteriorating and extends the useful life of infrastructure investments. Maintenance will occur at virtually all of Metro's parks and natural areas.

Regional conservation efforts

Metro will collaborate with partners to plan for and make strategic decisions related to conservation priorities across the region, including incorporating strategies for climate change adaptation and resilience. Metro funds and science staff can serve as anchors for complex projects involving multiple partners and funding sources in collaboration with local, state, federal and nonprofit partners. Levy funds also will be used to continue making investments in habitat restoration, water quality improvements and community stewardship efforts in local natural areas through the award of Nature in Neighborhoods grants.

Additionally, Metro will continue to seek opportunities to leverage outside resources for restoring natural areas – both financial and in partnerships. Potential partners include watershed councils, local governments, agencies and nonprofit organizations. Metro will seek diverse partners in planning and implementing restoration projects and continue to create opportunities for state-certified business enterprises including women and minority-owned businesses, to perform work on Metro lands.

RESTORATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

- Clearly contributes to the protection of water quality, and species or habitats identified in federal, state or regional conservation plans.
- Is in a regionally important location and contributes to distributing benefits across the region's 11 "naturehoods" – distinct geographic and ecologic areas defined in Metro's Parks and Nature System Plan.
- Engages diverse partners, creating larger and more sustainable projects, and increases awareness of the benefits to the community of Metro's investments in nature.
- Improves the ability of regional organizations, partners or agencies to prioritize conservation investments.
- Is integrated with other levy-funded projects and protects investments in water quality improvements and habitat restoration from impacts due to increased human access at Metro parks and natural areas.
- Takes a long-term approach by replacing weeds with native plants, improving site infrastructure, and making other investments that reduce future repairs or ongoing maintenance costs.

- Provides social and economic investments in or resources to low-income communities and communities of color or includes workforce development goals for partner organizations or programs.

SPECIFIC HABITAT RESTORATION – SAMPLE PROJECTS

These projects are representative of the work that can be accomplished with levy funding. The full project list will be developed based on opportunities for local and regional leverage and partnership, alignment with other Metro initiatives and ecological value to the region.

- ***Beaver Creek stream restoration:*** Improve water quality and enhance wetlands and salmon habitat in this important tributary to the Sandy River by placing large wood in the stream. The project builds on a multi-million dollar culvert replacement project being implemented by Multnomah County upstream of Metro's natural area, forest habitat restoration completed by Metro throughout Beaver Creek Natural Area, and a growing partnership of organizations, public and private landowners on Beaver Creek.
- ***Clear Creek forest and stream restoration:*** Improve habitat complexity and water quality to enhance salmon and wildlife habitat and ensure healthy forests for the future in this regionally important natural area on a critical tributary for salmon in the Clackamas River Watershed. Actions will include starting to implement a forest management plan, thinning young forests and adding complexity to Clear Creek.
- ***Cooper Mountain Nature Park oak and prairie restoration:*** Substantially complete strategic thinning of trees that compete with threatened Oregon white oaks throughout the park. Enhance oak and prairie habitat by using controlled fire, grazing and collecting seeds from plants that depend on oak and prairie.
- ***East Buttes forest restoration:*** Assess forest conditions, develop management plans and implement restoration projects to improve forest health, water quality and reduce wildfire risk on more than 1,000 acres throughout Metro's natural areas in the East Buttes.
- ***First foods partnership:*** Continue integrating Native American cultural knowledge of prairie management into Metro's restoration efforts, with a focus on Tualatin floodplain habitats.
- ***North Multnomah Channel Marsh restoration:*** Restore wetland habitat throughout portions of the 280-acre natural area, which was reconnected to the Willamette River during the 2013 parks and natural areas levy. The project will support a wide range of plants and animals that depend on wetlands, including red-legged frogs and juvenile salmon.
- ***Smith and Bybee Wetlands restoration:*** Three major projects will build on successful wetland and upland prairie restoration initiated during the 2013 levy. The projects fulfill commitments made in our community-based Comprehensive Natural Resources Plan and support a thriving local job training partnership.
- ***Tualatin Basin wetlands partnership:*** Working closely with partners in Washington County, implement restoration projects on several Metro natural areas in the Tualatin River Floodplain. The projects help protect water quality, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and provide substantial leverage for voter-approved funding.

- ***Natural areas maintenance:*** Maintenance projects, including vegetation management, will occur at some level at nearly all of Metro's parks and natural areas.

CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

Regional Parks Operations and Improving Metro Sites for People

Metro's parks and natural areas offer important access to nature for people and support regionally important natural habitats. More than 1.3 million visitors enjoy Metro's developed parks each year for walking, hiking, bird watching, canoeing, camping, boating, fishing, picnicking and weddings, in addition to family and community events. Levy funds have also provided an opportunity to develop low-impact access to new Metro sites, focusing on hiking and walking opportunities. These investments enable residents to experience some of the region's unique habitats, learn more about nature and become better stewards. Strong engagement efforts in planning for these sites ensure that community needs are built into project design, development and programming.

With funding from this levy, Metro will continue making capital improvements and investments in operations that help knit together Metro's parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries into an integrated system that is welcoming, safe and inclusive. Projects will enhance Metro's growing system, building amenities identified in master plans that are being carried out in phases at sites such as Newell Creek Canyon in Oregon City, Killin Wetlands in Washington County and the North Tualatin Mountains northwest of Forest Park. Other priorities include replacing aging facilities at existing destinations such as Blue Lake and Oxbow regional parks and Smith and Bybee Wetlands, and adding new visitor services and amenities to support programming at high-priority sites.

Metro will continue to prioritize projects that address safety and security for the public, reduce impacts on natural resources and make park infrastructure more sustainable. Improvements for visitors at Metro's parks and natural areas are integrated with Metro's nature education programs, volunteer engagement and restoration projects. Levy funds also provide support for enforcement of Metro's policies and make investments that create efficiencies in land management activities.

PARK MAINTENANCE AND ACCESS PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

- Enhances access to nature for people.
- Ensures welcoming and inclusive parks and natural areas.
- Supports continued focus on high-quality, professional customer service.
- Replaces or upgrades facilities or amenities that have reached the end of their life expectancy.
- Reduces maintenance costs, improves efficiency and facility longevity.
- Improves safety and security for both the public and Metro staff.
- Supports use of Metro's parks and natural areas as places for learning, exploration and engagement.
- Identifies and implements ways to make Metro parks, trails and natural areas accessible to people from a diverse range of backgrounds and abilities.

- Diversifies the businesses and people who design, build and maintain Metro's parks and natural areas.

Nature Education and Volunteer Engagement

Metro is committed to deepening people's relationship with nature, whether that means becoming a regular at a Metro nature park or learning about the importance of stewardship of a local natural area. Volunteer and education programming, communications efforts and partnerships all play essential roles. Metro prioritizes directly engaging people of color and other communities that have experienced barriers to connecting with nature.

Metro staff and partners will use levy funding to continue investing in efforts to engage both new and returning visitors to Metro's parks and natural areas and ensure that all visitors have the opportunity to learn about the site's natural and cultural history, restoration activities and regional significance. Levy proceeds will be used to ensure that interpretive programs and materials respond to the needs of historically underrepresented communities, including communities of color, low-income communities and young people, and address barriers to access and participation commonly experienced by these communities.

The levy allows Metro to provide school field trips, group programs and drop-in programming that connect people with nature and build stewardship. Offerings are designed to serve a range of audiences, including families and adults. One area of emphasis is developing culturally specific programming in partnership with communities. Levy funds will also allow volunteers to continue playing an important role in Metro's parks and natural areas including individual volunteers and a wide variety of volunteer groups, ranging from schools and scouts to faith-based groups and businesses.

CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZING EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING

- Provides a variety of programming, from drop-in opportunities to deep nature immersion.
- Engages diverse communities in parks and nature.
- Works with partners to connect priority audiences with nature.
- Engages park visitors and develops people's connections to Metro's parks and natural areas.
- Develops natural resource knowledge, skills and motivation in youth.
- Builds college and career pipelines in natural resources and conservation for youth from historically underrepresented communities.
- Increases the capacity of communities of color and other underserved communities to become conservation leaders, including supporting long-term relationships and mentorship opportunities.
- Creates opportunities for volunteers to complement, integrate and enhance programs in Metro's parks and natural areas.

Nature in Neighborhood Grants and Community Partnerships

Metro has long played a key role in providing resources to local communities to support parks, trails, natural areas and outdoor education opportunities close to home. Levy renewal provides funding to continue Metro's commitment to nurturing vibrant, resilient communities through Nature in Neighborhoods grants and the Partners in Nature program.

NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS GRANTS

Levy funds will continue to support Nature in Neighborhoods grants, a critical resource for conservation, stewardship, nature education and other programs and projects that connect people to nature and respond to community needs. Levy funding will continue Metro's investments in improving urban ecology, restoring habitat, diversifying the conservation movement and providing economic opportunities to communities of color. Metro will continue to provide technical assistance and support to grant applicants, with an emphasis on reaching historically underserved communities and their representatives. Eligibility criteria from the 2013 levy will continue with the levy renewal.

Grants will continue to be awarded for community projects including: restoration and community stewardship, nature education and developing outdoor and conservation leaders. Grants may also be provided to support design, development and improvements to the regional trails system, including funding for safety and enforcement of park rules on regional trails.

PARTNERS IN NATURE

Partners in Nature was created in collaboration with organizations representing communities of color, culturally specific, and cross-cultural community groups. Leaders identified common goals of accessing Metro-managed parks and natural areas, connecting their constituents to the land and working directly with Metro's Parks and Nature staff. These partnerships foster opportunities for culturally specific organizations to work in collaboration with Metro staff, integrating lessons learned into Metro's programs, staff training and services.

Partners in Nature programs will continue to focus on:

- Partnerships between Metro Parks and Nature and communities of color and culturally specific communities
- Collaborative program design
- Two-way learning between Metro and partners, mutually beneficial partnerships.

Funding from Metro's local option levy will also help Metro deliver on the Parks and Nature System Plan adopted by the Metro Council in 2016. The plan defines Metro's mission and describes Metro's unique role as a park provider: protecting water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and creating opportunities for people to enjoy nature close to home through a connected system of parks, trails and natural areas. It also describes the importance of Metro's work with partners, the agency's commitment to diversify the businesses and people who do business with Metro, and the steps Metro can take to ensure that programs and facilities support the needs of underserved communities, including communities of color, low-income communities and young people.

BALLOT TITLE

Caption

Renews local option levy; protects natural areas, water quality, fish

Question

Shall Metro protect water quality, fish, natural areas, parks; renew 5-year operating levy, 9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value, beginning 2018?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

Summary

This levy does not increase taxes. It continues the same rate previously approved by voters.

This levy protects water quality, restores fish and wildlife habitat and connects people with nature across 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas. About half the levy funding goes toward restoring natural areas acquired over two decades and two voter-approved bond measures. The other half of the money helps connect people with nature by improving Metro parks and natural areas, providing nature education programming and grants for community nature projects.

Result of a “yes” vote

- Maintain and improve water quality in local rivers and streams
- Restore habitat for salmon and other native fish on the Willamette, Clackamas, Sandy, Tualatin rivers; Johnson creek
- Restore wetlands, forests and floodplains that provide habitat for birds, wildlife
- Provide more parks and trails; construct or replace restrooms, picnic shelters, playgrounds
- Increase opportunities for children from low-income families and communities of color to connect with nature.

A home assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$20 per year for five years.

The proposed rate (9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value) will raise approximately \$14.8 million in 2018-19, \$15.5 million in 2019-20, \$16.1 million in 2020-21, \$16.7 million in 2021-22 and \$17.4 million in 2022-23.

STAFF REPORT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE VOTERS OF THE METRO AREA RENEWAL OF METRO'S LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR PROTECTING WATER QUALITY, RESTORING FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT AND CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

June 30, 2016

Prepared by: Kathleen Brennan-Hunter (503-797-1948)

Heather Nelson Kent (503-797-1739)

BACKGROUND

Just over two decades ago, Metro didn't own a single park or natural area. Today Metro is the largest owner of parks and natural areas in the Portland metropolitan region. When the Metro Council referred to voters a bond measure in 1995, acquisition was the imperative. It was noted then that funding for long-term maintenance must be identified and planned for, but the Metro Council and the region's voters prioritized land acquisition as a necessary first step.

Metro exceeded promises to voters with the 1995 bond measure, acquiring more than 8,000 acres of natural areas. Metro has similarly achieved the goals established in the 2006 bond measure, bringing the total to more than 13,700 acres with funds still remaining for additional land acquisition. Money approved by voters for land acquisition in 1995 and 2006 cannot be legally used for operating expenses. Once acquired, these lands require ongoing maintenance. To understand the magnitude of this need, in November 2011 staff completed a report for the Metro Council, titled "Metro's Portfolio of Natural Areas, Parks and Trails: Opportunities and Challenges" (the Portfolio Report). This report summarizes Metro's evolution as a landowner and park operator, and gives an overview of the current condition of property, along with the regional context and relationships that affect the portfolio.

In addition to the natural areas acquired with voter-approved bonds, Metro also has responsibility for a number of developed parks that serve some of the most diverse communities in the region. More than 1.3 million people visit these places each year to enjoy hiking, bird watching, canoeing, golfing, camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, weddings and special events. Some Metro properties are more than 50 years old. As restrooms, maintenance buildings, picnic and play areas in these parks reach the end of their useful life, they need to be replaced. Without additional capital investments, the cost of maintaining these aging facilities will continue to increase. The report highlighted the need for ongoing operations funding to fulfill the Council's commitment to steward the lands that had been acquired and protect the value of the public assets Metro manages on behalf of the region's residents.

In July 2012 an independent advisory panel of 15 business, conservation and community leaders from around the region considered Metro's work to acquire, restore and operate regional parks and natural areas, and the associated challenges of taking care of them. The panel recognized that Metro's general fund resources were not sufficient to support Metro's growing portfolio of land, parks and trails. After extensive study of a variety of funding options, the advisory panel recommended that the Metro Council refer to voters a five-year local option levy focused on restoring fish and wildlife habitat and taking care of public assets. The panel also urged the Metro Council to study other sources for stable, near- or long-term funding to restore, maintain and invite people to enjoy the places that voters and local governments have protected for the public.

The 2013 levy provided a critical influx of new revenue that support Metro's habitat restoration, vegetation management, infrastructure improvements and park maintenance and provide people with new

opportunities to connect with nature at Metro's parks, trails and natural areas. The levy also supports new and expanded education and volunteer programs and grant opportunities for local communities. Resources are being used wisely, and continued levy funding will be needed to sustain Metro's growing land portfolio over time.

In December 2015, the Metro Council directed staff to explore the potential of referring a renewal of the levy as early as November 2016. Local park providers, elected officials and partners of The Intertwine Alliance continue to express significant interest in pursuing a regional solution to long-term funding needs, particularly for natural area protection and maintenance, and regional trail acquisition, development and management. The Metro Council and staff have determined that effort will need to continue beyond the expiration of the current levy on June 30, 2018.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

TBD

2. Legal Antecedents

State law:

Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 250 ("Initiative and Referendum") and ORS Chapter 280, ("Financing of Local Public Projects and Improvements"): ORS 250.035 ("Form of ballot titles for state and local measures"); ORS 250.038 ("Form of ballot title for measure authorizing imposition or renewal of local option taxes or establishing permanent rate limitation"); ORS 280.060 ("Levy of local option taxes outside constitutional limitation; duration of levy; approval of levy as approval of bonds"); ORS 280.064 ("Period for use of revenues raised by local option tax"); ORS 280.070 ("Manner of holding elections for local option tax or permanent rate limit; additional statement in ballot title"); ORS 280.075 ("Ballot statements for local option tax measures"); and ORS 280.080 ("Contents of order, resolution or ordinance calling election").

Metro Council Legislative History:

Metro Council Resolution No. 92-1637, "For the Purpose of Considering the Adoption of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan," adopted July 23, 1992.

Metro Council Resolution No. 94-2049B, "For the Purpose of Modifying the Submission to the Voters of a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness to Proceed with the Acquisition of Land for a Regional System of Greenspaces."

Open Spaces, Parks and Streams Bond Measure No. 26-26, approved May 1995.

Metro Council Resolution No. 05-3574A, "Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative Called Nature In Neighborhoods," adopted May 12, 2005.

Natural Areas, Parks and Streams Bond Measure No. 26-80, approved November 2006.

Local Option Levy Measure No. 26-152, approved May 2013.

Metro Council Resolution No. 15-4670, "For the Purpose of Adopting the Parks and Nature System Plan," adopted February 4, 2016.

3. Anticipated Effects

The effect of this resolution would be the referral to voters of a local option levy measure in the November 8, 2016 General Election.

4. Budget Impacts

The referral of this measure to the voters will require Metro to pay for election expenses, estimated at approximately \$75,000. This amount can change based on the number of issues on the ballot, and the number of region-wide items on the ballot. The FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget includes \$75,000 for election expenses; however, additional appropriation may be needed to fully fund the election expenses.

The Metro Council will have the legal authority to establish appropriation authority related to the successful passage of the measure, once the election has been certified. It is anticipated that, upon passage of the measure, staff will work with the Metro Council to continue implementation of the levy program for an additional five years and the necessary budgetary appropriation would be approved by Resolution with the overall budget for the FY 2018-19 Adopted Budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 16-4690.