

Include this assignment as an attachment to your application for the Newsroom Intern position. Applications received without this assignment will not be considered.

You are writing a story, between 400-600 words, about a natural area purchased by Metro. Below are some facts about the natural area, as well as some quotes you could choose to use in your story. You are free to use other sources for background material about the site, but you cannot use any other quotes than those provided.

Write a story telling the readers about this acquisition.

Facts:

- The property is 12 acres along the Clackamas River near Happy Valley.
- It previously was a farm, then was held by a developer who wanted to build 240 homes on it.
- Since farming stopped on the property, it's started to recover as an oak savanna, which was once dominant in the Willamette Valley.
- Money for the purchase came from Metro's Natural Areas Bond Measure, a \$227 million measure approved by voters across the region in 2006.
- Native species are expected to call the area home.
- The area would not immediately be opened to the public, but its shores are popular among recreational river users in the summer.

Quotes from your interviews:

Jane Nightengale, director of Metro's Natural Areas Program:

This is such an exciting purchase for our program. We've been looking for years to start building up our portfolio in the Clackamas River Greenway, and this is a foothold into the area. The voters have entrusted us to do this, and this is a big step forward.

The prior owner was a willing seller, and was great to work with. We bought the property for \$2.4 million. We have some early estimates that it'll cost another \$200,000 to restore.

We're doing this because we care about the environment. It's our nature. We need to protect this rare ecosystem as much as we can, so future generations can get a feel for how the Willamette Valley once looked.

Alex Jones, Metro Councilor, District 2 (includes site):

What a great thing for the people of my district, right? I can't tell you how long I've looked forward to this site being acquired. That area has a particular shortage of places for quiet – I think the way the site combines the natural environment and the more active use of the river in the summer is a good blend for our community.

I look forward to working with the community to raise the money to make this a flagship natural area in the south part of the region.

Ed Lindell, former property owner:

Mom and Dad would be happy to know that their land is being preserved. It's valuable property in terms of dollars, but it has sentimental value, too. I'll never forget camping out in the backyard when I was a kid, just listening to the river go by.

Sam Winterspoon, Clackamas County Commissioner:

I'm concerned about this as another encroachment on private property rights. This should have been developed into homes. Instead of paying property taxes to Clackamas County, we have another area that's off the tax rolls. I don't like it one bit.

Wilson Durham, Clackamas County Commissioner:

I've spent a lot of time on my boat on the Clackamas, wondering what was going to happen to that property. Now I know, and I'm glad to see it becoming part of the region's network of preserved sites. I'm happy my children will get to see an oak grassland rise up on the shores of the beautiful Clackamas River.