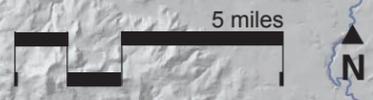
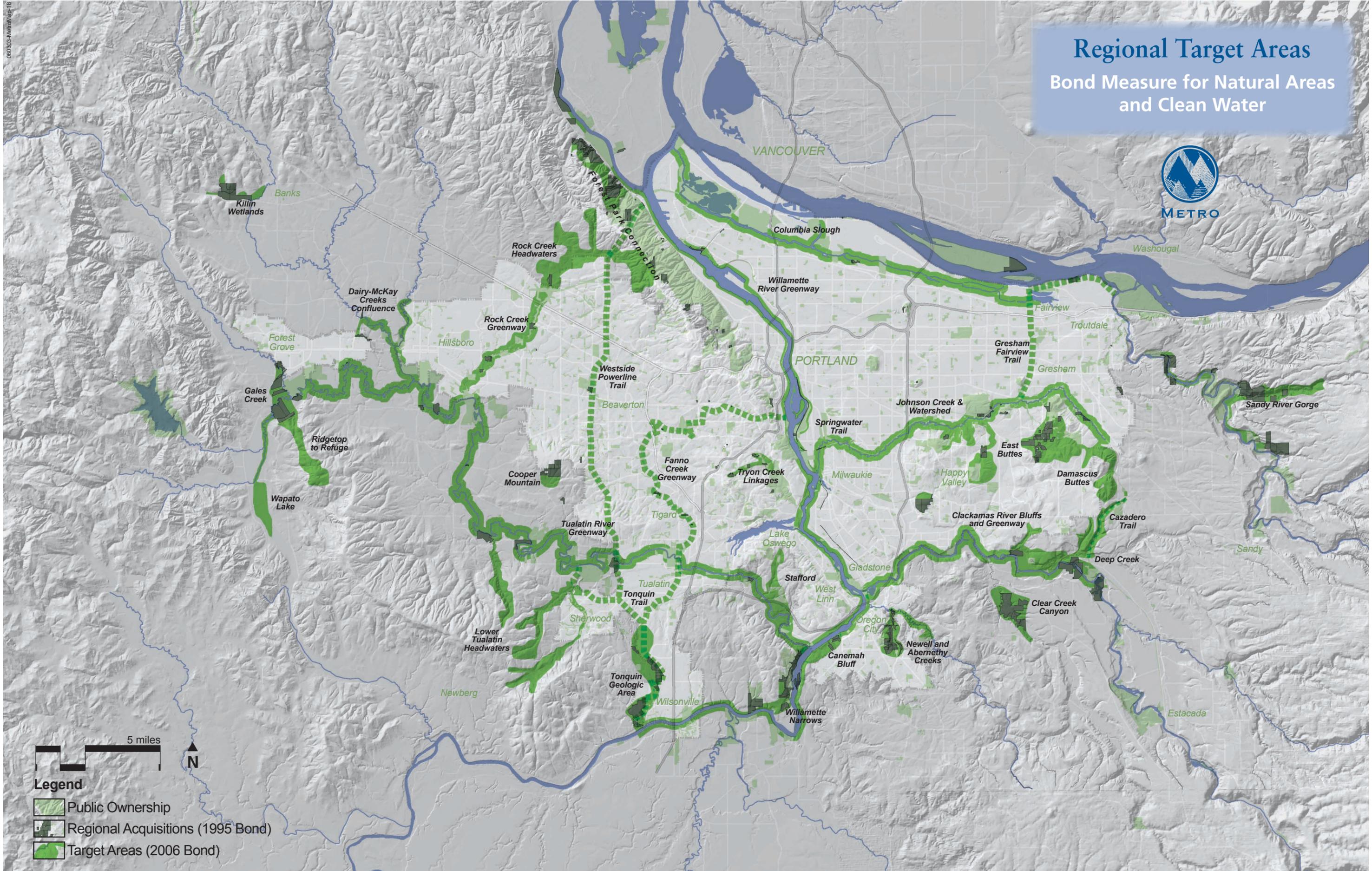


Regional Target Areas

Bond Measure for Natural Areas and Clean Water



- Legend**
-  Public Ownership
 -  Regional Acquisitions (1995 Bond)
 -  Target Areas (2006 Bond)

Bond Measure for Natural Areas and Clean Water

Voters of the metropolitan region will direct Metro on a bond measure to protect natural areas and clean water at the November 2006 election.

The Metro Council's proposed \$227.4 million package is designed to preserve natural areas and protect rivers, streams and creeks at the regional, local and neighborhood level:

- \$168.4 million would be used by Metro to purchase between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of land in identified **regional target areas** to protect lands around local rivers and streams, preserve significant fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and connect urban areas with nature;
- \$44 million would be distributed on a per capita basis to cities, counties and park districts within Metro's jurisdiction to fund identified **local projects** that are consistent with protecting natural areas and water quality, such as land acquisition for habitat protection or future parks, and
- \$15 million would fund a new Nature in Neighborhoods **capital grants program** to support neighborhood projects by schools, local neighborhood associations, community groups and other non-profit organizations, cities, counties and public parks providers. Grants will be awarded competitively to projects that increase natural features and their ecological functions on public lands in neighborhoods, and help ensure that every community enjoys clean water and nature as an element of its character and livability.

Regional target areas

More than 40 scientists and natural resource experts from around the region helped the Metro Council identify the proposed regional target areas. The criteria for selecting these areas are based on ecological principles established by decades of collaborative natural resource protection work in the region.

The 2006 natural areas bond measure is designed to conserve a regional system that protects the very best remaining fish

and wildlife habitats, lands around local rivers and streams that are important to water quality, and natural areas threatened by urban development. It establishes new priority areas for protection by incorporating some of the target areas established in the 1995 open spaces, parks and streams bond measure and adding new areas that have been recognized as priorities during the past decade.

East Buttes. The remaining undeveloped wooded slopes of extinct lava domes in our eastern metropolitan region provide opportunities to protect water quality and large areas for wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors from the outer reaches of the Cascades to the inner Portland urban area such as Scouter Mountain and buttes in the Damascus area. Panoramic vistas east and south from the butte tops provide stunning views of valleys, farmland and the Cascades. The forested buttes frame the valleys, create a unique geography for local residents and provide welcome visual relief from surrounding land uses. Expansion of the urban growth boundary in and around Damascus presents a sense of urgency to preserve these features.

Deep Creek and Tributaries. The intact, steeply wooded slopes of Deep Creek canyon in eastern Damascus hold some of the largest contiguous wildlife habitat remaining in the region. The creek's sweeping alignment serves as the principal corridor connecting the Clackamas River to habitat areas within the more urbanized portions of the county. The corridor includes the Cazadero Trail that will link Gresham, Barton and public lands in the area. It will also complete the Springwater Corridor from downtown Portland to Barton.

Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway. Clackamas River Bluffs represent the last remaining opportunity to protect a large regional park site within this rapidly developing portion of Clackamas County. Uncommon habitat types in this area, resulting from wet and dry conditions in close proximity, create a rich diversity of plant and animal habitats (e.g., oak, madrone, and fir mixed into side canyons of cedar). The site also abuts the Clackamas River North Bank Greenway from Barton Park to Clackamette Park and provides an important link to the lower river and the developing communities of Damascus and Happy Valley.

Clear Creek. Supporting the most abundant salmon populations in the lower Clackamas River, Clear Creek remains a premier large creek in the metropolitan

region. Completing key acquisitions in and surrounding Clear Creek public lands will protect the public investment made to date in establishing a significant regional natural area.

Abernethy and Newell Creeks. With successful protection of portions of Newell Creek, continued acquisition of undeveloped lands along its lower portion and along Abernethy Creek will expand fish and wildlife habitat critical to the area in and around Oregon City, especially threatened habitat for native steelhead and cutthroat populations.

Stafford Basin. Connecting existing public lands in the Lake Oswego/West Linn/Tualatin area along tributary creeks to the Tualatin River will enhance water quality protection and secure diverse natural areas for local residents.

Tryon Creek Linkages. Acquisition of key land parcels will build on the successful efforts to protect Tryon Creek State Natural Area and riparian areas of Tryon Creek's major tributaries.

Willamette Narrows and Canemah Bluff. Descending the Willamette River, this greenway forms the corridor gateway to Willamette Falls, Oregon City, and urbanizing areas of the lower Willamette River. Flowing through islands and past steep bluffs, this portion of the river retains a sense of wildness like no other reach of the lower river. The narrows provide high quality wildlife and important fish habitat.

Tonquin Geologic Area. Bearing visible marks left by the ancient floods that shaped our region, the area from Wilsonville to Sherwood and Tualatin is unique. Protection of the rocky outcrops that frame these former lake bottoms will provide wildlife habitat of considerable complexity and richness and preserve the area's rare geologic features. Within this area, a 12-mile trail corridor will connect nearby cities and the new town center of Villebois to regionally significant natural areas (e.g., Graham Oaks Natural Area, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Kolk Ponds, the Cedar Creek Greenway in Sherwood and the Willamette River Greenway). The corridor will also provide an important recreation and commuter connector from Wilsonville north to Tualatin.

Lower Tualatin Headwaters. Watersheds in the southwest Chehalem Mountains retain significant wildlife habitat value and include Chicken, Cedar and Baker creeks. Protection of riparian lands within these headwaters will safeguard water quality in the lower Tualatin River basin.

Tualatin River Greenway. Providing additional access points along the river and increasing floodplain protection through acquisition and restoration will allow people to use the river and see improvements in wildlife habitat and water quality.

Cooper Mountain. Acquiring remaining oak communities and streamside forests will build on the investment already made in protecting Oregon white oak and rare prairie habitat at Cooper Mountain near Beaverton.

Chehalem Ridgetop to Refuge. The northern end of the Chehalem Mountains provides opportunities for the protection of large, undeveloped tracts of forestland to protect water quality and wildlife connections from this mountain range to area river bottomlands.

Wapato Lake. This ancient lakebed historically supported large numbers of waterfowl, including tundra swans. This flood-prone bottomland of the Tualatin River is being considered as a future wildlife refuge that will connect to existing public lands to the north located near Forest Grove and Hillsboro and attract tourists to Washington County. The area has the highest potential for protecting wildlife habitat and water quality in this part of the region, and also offers significant restoration opportunities.

Dairy and McKay Creeks Confluence. The creeks converge at the interface of farmland and the urban growth boundary, forming broad wetlands accessible to a rapidly urbanizing area. Protecting the riparian areas and associated wetlands in the confluence area will contribute significantly to improved water quality in these major tributaries of the Tualatin River.

Killin Wetland. One of the largest peat soil wetlands remaining in the Willamette Valley, this wetland supports a rare assemblage of plants and animals. Although much of the wetland is currently in public ownership, acquisition of the remaining portions of the wetland and main tributaries is essential to the long-term protection of this highly valuable fish and wildlife habitat.

Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway. A major tributary of the Tualatin River, upper Rock Creek and its tributaries are under intense development pressure as urban growth expands throughout the watershed. Watershed managers have identified protection of the upper watershed as a high priority for meeting water quality protection goals in the lower watershed. Opportunities to improve and protect habitat also exist through the protection of key tributaries and their associated wetlands. In

addition, the protection of key undeveloped sites in the lower reaches of Rock Creek, particularly in Hillsboro, will buffer growth, protect water quality and provide nature in neighborhoods for local residents.

Forest Park Connections. Connecting Forest Park to Rock Creek and the Westside Trail will keep important wildlife corridors intact and provide trail connections between the region's largest urban park and Washington County. Acquiring key properties will capitalize on recent successful acquisitions of land adjacent to and beyond Forest Park, connecting the park with the larger Pacific Greenway.

Columbia Slough. The Columbia Slough is one of very few areas in North and Northeast Portland with the potential for restoring fish and wildlife habitat. Acquisition along the slough will improve water quality in its critical reaches, provide trail connections to existing recreation and wildlife corridors and help complete an important section of the 40-Mile Loop Trail.

Johnson Creek and Watershed. Johnson Creek remains the most densely urbanized creek in our region. Opportunities remain to acquire tracts within the remaining floodplain, upland habitat areas adjacent to the main stem, and along both Butler and Kelly creeks to protect water quality and connect public holdings with the Damascus Buttes.

Sandy River Gorge. Acquisitions along this wild and scenic waterway and its tributaries will provide important fish and wildlife habitat and water-quality benefits.

Willamette River Greenway. Acquisition and connections between existing public holdings along the greenway from Wilsonville to the Multnomah Channel will protect fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, scenic resources and improve public access to the river.

Fanno Creek Linkages. Additions to this existing west side greenway will extend the corridor from the Tualatin River into a highly urbanized, 'walker challenged' area of the city, and further protect water quality in one of our critical regional rivers.

Westside Trail. This 24-mile north/south alignment stretches from the Tualatin River in Tigard north through Beaverton, unincorporated Washington County and Multnomah Counties through Forest Park to the Willamette River. The corridor, located within one mile of over 120,000 residents, and near numerous parks, schools, regional centers and the MAX line, could become a primary westside recreation and commuter spine.

Springwater Corridor. Funding will complete the 1-mile corridor between the existing Springwater on the Willamette Trail and the Three Bridges project at Southeast 19th Avenue in Portland. This will provide the final connection of the Springwater Corridor between downtown Portland east through Milwaukie and Gresham to Boring.

Cazadero Trail. This forested 4-mile corridor located between Boring and Barton Park runs along the north fork of Deep Creek and follows an historic rail line used to ship timber from Cascade forests to the Portland riverfront. Enhancement of the corridor for trail use will connect campgrounds, future inter-urban trails, and Portland (via the Springwater Corridor) to Mt. Hood and the Pacific Crest Trail.

Gresham-Fairview Trail. This multi-use trail is a major north-south connection through the Gresham area. It connects the Springwater Corridor at Linneman Junction and crosses the eastside MAX light-rail line at Ruby Junction. Continuing north to Blue Lake Regional Park, the trail ends at the Columbia River and connects to the existing Lewis and Clark Discovery Greenway Trail (part of the 40-Mile Loop) along Marine Drive. Acquisition of the remaining corridor is needed to complete the trail and secure an important eastern spine of the regional trail system.

Refinement of target areas

The target areas identified in the proposed measure are conceptual. If the measure passes, Metro will work with citizens, scientists and similar experts, neighbors, and others from around the region to gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire. The Metro Council will set forth guidelines allowing staff to begin acquiring properties from willing sellers based on these publicly refined target area plans. Metro shall not exercise its powers of eminent domain in the implementation of this bond measure.



For more information, visit
www.metro-region.org/bondmeasure