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Clackamas County
www.clackamas.us



DAN JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BUILDING
150 BEAVERCREEK ROAD OREGON CITY, OR 97045

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dan Johnson, Director, Department of Transportation and Development

RE: Returning Fishermen's Bend Property Ownership to Metro

DATE: June 9, 2026

REQUEST: Consideration to allow "Fishermen's Bend" County Park property to revert to Metro ownership.

BACKGROUND: Clackamas County owns three (3) parcels totaling approximately 17 acres along Hwy 224 and the Clackamas River, managed by County Parks, collectively known as "Fishermen's Bend".

The property was originally acquired in 2008 from Metro at no cost, with the deed restriction that it be used "only for natural area open space" but that the county could use up to 2 acres of the property "for general park uses". The deed contained a reversionary clause if the county were to fail to use the property for purposes as described. Due to the deed restrictions, County Parks cannot sell the property, nor repurpose it for anything other than the allowed uses.

County Parks originally developed a gravel parking lot for people to access the river, and had, at times, provided a seasonal porta-potty for public use. The Oregon Department of Transportation later informed County Parks that they could no longer allow vehicle ingress/egress at that location, due to safety concerns related to the speed limit and sight lines along Hwy 224.

County Parks gated off the entrance to the property, and since that time, the property has not been used as an active recreation site. During the same timeframe, County Parks partnered with other organizations to complete a Clackamas River side-channel restoration project on the property for improved habitat and watershed health, and at that point officially closed access to the site to any public use to prevent damage to the restoration work.

This property provides no active recreational use, does not have public access due to the site constraints, and costs the county money as the result of cleanup needed for illegal camp sites, illegal dumping or highway litter. Other issues arise periodically requiring staff response and exposing the county to liability. The site no longer provides the public connection to nature, nor does it generate revenue for park operations. Allowing the property to revert back to Metro would allow it to continue in public ownership while eliminating costs, risk and exposure to Clackamas County. Metro Parks and Nature has a land preservation mandate which aligns with

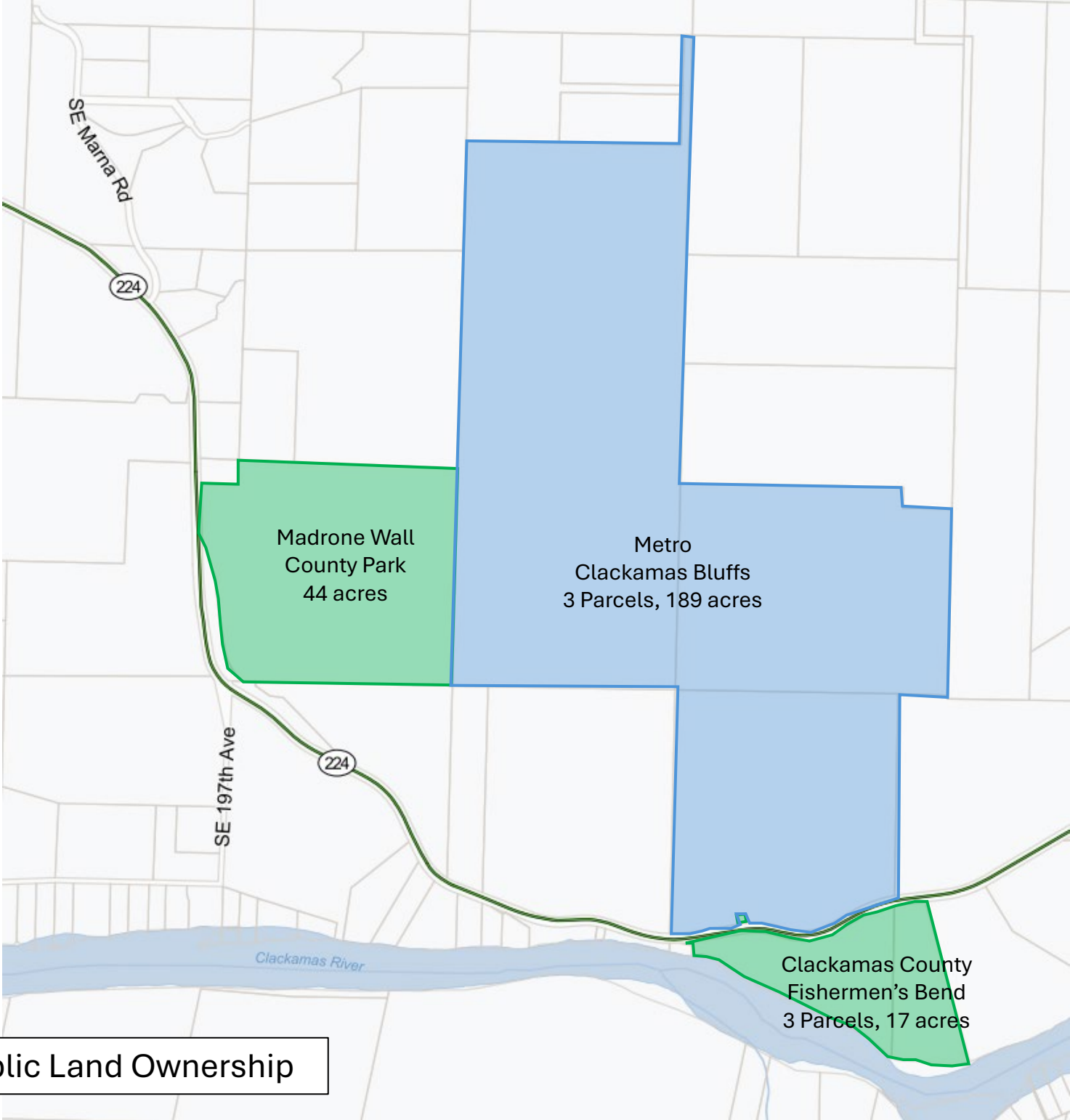
the passive recreation and resource protection goals for the property, and they are willing to accept a return of the property to their portfolio.

Staff ask the Board's consideration in authorizing a transfer of the property from the county to Metro.

PROPOSAL: Staff respectfully recommend that the Board of County Commissioners authorize a transfer of the Fishermen's Bend property back to Metro, and direct staff to work with Metro on completing the process.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Fishermen's Bend Property Info



Area Public Land Ownership

Fishermen's Bend Parcel Info



Results (Add to Selection):



X Taxlot 3

| Actions | Taxpayer Name | In Care Of | Primary Address | Jurisdiction | Map Number | Taxlot Number | Parcel Number | Document Number | Estimated Acres | Census Tract |
|---------|------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ▼ | CLACKAMAS COUNTY | | No S itus | Clackamas County | 23E21B | 23E21B 00490 | 05019546 | 2008-038583 | 0.06 | 023202 |
| ▼ | CLACKAMAS COUNTY | | No S itus | Clackamas County | 23E21B | 23E21B 00400 | 00632827 | 2008-038583 | 10.86 | 023202 |
| ▼ | CLACKAMAS COUNTY | | 21250 SE HWY 224, Damascus, 97089 | Clackamas County | 23E21A | 23E21A 00800 | 00632587 | 2008-038583 | 6.13 | 023202 |

Satellite Map with Contour Overlay

Side channel (area of previous restoration work)



Fishermen's Bend Uplands



Hwy 224

Gate to close
off parking

Previous
parking area

Trail to River

Clackamas
River