

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: September 20, 2011 Time: 1:30 pm Length: 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Mount Talbert Annexation Proposal

Department: North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD)

Presenters: Gary Barth, Director, and Michelle Healy, Deputy Director, NCPRD
Lori DeRemer, Mayor, and Jason Tuck, City Manager, City of Happy Valley
Fritz Paulus, Natural Areas Acquisition, Metro

POLICY QUESTION

NCPRD is seeking authorization from the BCC, acting as the Board of Directors of the NCPRD, to submit an application for annexation of Mount Talbert Nature Park (Mt. Talbert) to the City of Happy Valley.

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

Mt. Talbert, located in Clackamas County, is about 224 acres and is owned jointly by NCPRD and Metro. Please see the attached Exhibit A, "Mount Talbert Nature Park Ownership Map". The property was purchased pursuant to the 1995 Metro Open Spaces Bond Measure. NCPRD and Metro completed a management plan for Mt. Talbert, with the mission to "preserve and enhance the natural features and character of Mt. Talbert". NCPRD operates and maintains the park through an Intergovernmental Agreement with Metro.

Metro completed construction of capital improvements in Mt. Talbert, including a restroom, trails, two parking lots, a picnic shelter, and additional park facilities. Please see the attached Exhibit B, "Mount Talbert Nature Park". NCPRD manages the daily and ongoing management, maintenance and operation of Mt. Talbert consistent with the Management Plan. Metro continues to assist NCPRD with natural resources management and trail building within the park.

Enforcement of park rules at Mt. Talbert is provided by the Clackamas County Sheriff's office. NCPRD and Metro do not have code enforcement authority. The Sheriff's office is responsive and helps with issues at the Park. However, code enforcement of non-emergency issues proves to be difficult and ineffective. Specifically, the rule prohibiting dogs in the park is especially challenging to enforce. Mt. Talbert is the only park within NCPRD that does not permit dogs. Staff receives many complaints from visitors about dogs in the park. There is a need for regular code enforcement patrol, education, and some ticketing to encourage compliance with this rule.

Mt. Talbert connects with Happy Valley via Sunnyside Road. The City has offered to provide regular code enforcement at the park if the park is annexed to the City. Happy Valley will adopt Metro Title 10 park rules and be able to enforce those rules. The City Code Enforcement Officers can visit the park regularly, walk the trails, and perform public outreach about park

rules. Mt. Talbert annexation to the City would provide regular code enforcement, timely response to issues, positive outreach and education to visitors on site, and will free up the Sheriff's Office from responding to non-emergency park issues.

There is no cost to NCPRD for annexation, as Happy Valley is part of the park district and will submit the paperwork and pay the fees associated with the annexation. NCPRD has previously annexed other parks to the City as part of the original NCPRD-Happy Valley Annexation and Service Agreement. Mt. Talbert annexation does not change ownership, or any other aspects of the property. Mt. Talbert annexation to the City does not affect neighbors of the park. NCPRD discussed annexation of Mt. Talbert with the District Advisory Board in November, 2010, and Metro staff is prepared to sign the Mt. Talbert annexation application, pending approval from the NCPRD Board of Directors.

Annexation of Mt. Talbert will provide for consistent code enforcement between Mt. Talbert and recently acquired Metro nature park properties within the City of Happy Valley, including Scouter Mountain Nature Park. NCPRD will send a notice of proposed annexation to neighbors and the local Citizens Planning Organization prior to submitting annexation paperwork. The goal of the partnership between NCPRD, Happy Valley, and Metro is to provide an improved user experience. Through partnership we will be able to provide an increased level of service for rule enforcement to better meet the intent of the Natural Areas Bond Measure program and the mission of Mt. Talbert Nature Park.

QUESTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

Does the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, as the NCPRD Board of Directors, authorize the Director of NCPRD to submit an application to the City of Happy Valley for annexation of Mt. Talbert Nature Park to the City of Happy Valley?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Authorize the NCPRD Director to submit an application for annexation of Mt. Talbert Nature Park to the City of Happy Valley
2. Reject the proposal to submit an application for annexation of Mt. Talbert Nature Park to the City of Happy Valley

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff and the District Advisory Board respectfully recommend that the Board approve annexation of Mount Talbert Nature Park to the City of Happy Valley and authorize the District Director to sign appropriate annexation documents, and to annex additional future acquisitions for Mount Talbert Nature Park to the City of Happy Valley.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval Michelle Healy
Department Directory/Head Approval MH for Gory Barth
County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Michelle Healy at (503) 742-4356