



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Butte Natural Area Acquisition

For Immediate Release
January 26th, 2018

Contact: Matt Shipkey, Matt@emswcd.org or (503) 935-5374
<http://emswcd.org/>

Grant Butte Natural Area Grows

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is pleased to have collaborated with Metro on the acquisition of 15 acres adjoining the existing Grant Butte Natural Area for wildlife habitat and public open space uses. This important acquisition of forested lands adds to and buffers the existing 88 acre natural area, which provides a significant expanse of natural open space for the residents of East Portland and the City of Gresham. Metro will engage the community in a public planning process to explore possibilities for expanding public access at the site when funding becomes available. The land will be owned and managed by Metro as part of their natural areas portfolio.

"We are excited to build upon our prior partnership with Metro to further enhance this community asset," said Board Chair Rick Till. "These types of collaborations are critical to protecting the important natural resources that make our area such a special place."

"Metro is proud to support the purchase of the property with \$210,000 from the natural areas bond measure voters approved in 2006," said Jonathan Blasher, Parks and Nature director. "The new acquisition at Grant Butte Wetlands will help protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and provide people with opportunities to enjoy nature close to home."

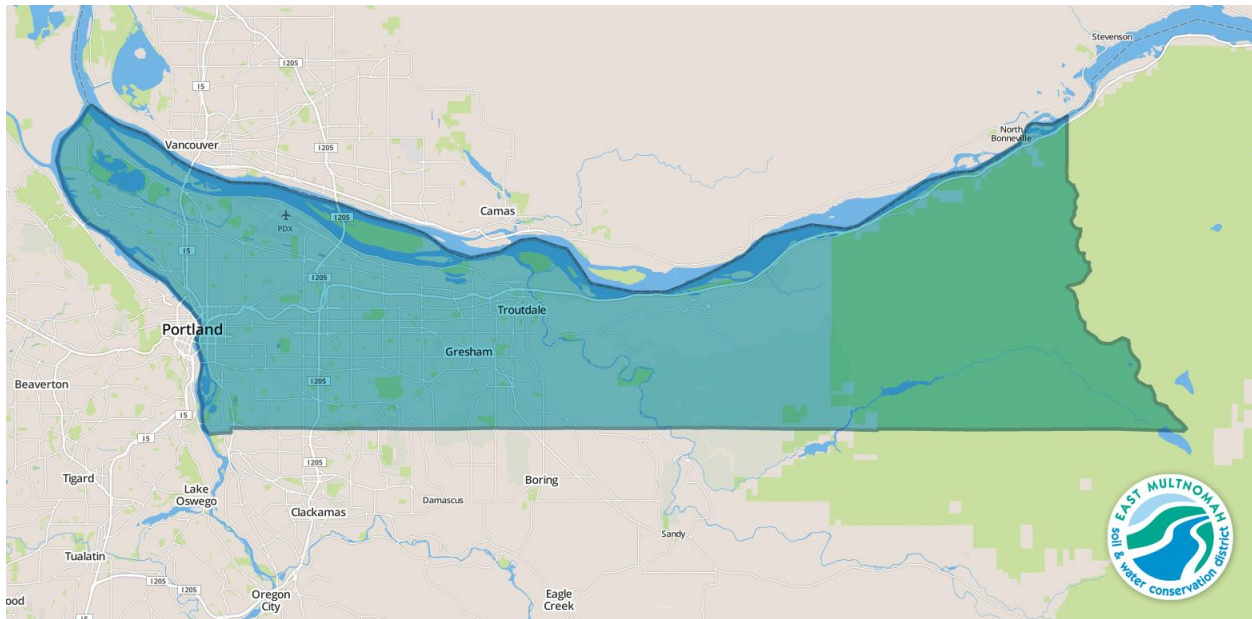
EMSWCD and Metro are grateful for the willingness of the property owner to convey the property and help enhance this important community asset. "We are glad to continue our history of public service in the area through ensuring the permanent conservation of this surplus land," said Brian R. Stahl, General Manager of Rockwood Water People's Utility District, the former owner of the property. "



EMSWCD managed and funded this transaction through its Land Legacy Program. The Land Legacy Program works to ensure the sustainability of the local agricultural economy by ensuring that high quality farmland remains available for use by current and future farmers. It also helps support conservation partners on projects that conserve significant natural resources and/or create access to open space for those areas that lack it.

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is a unit of local government whose mission is to help people care for land and water. The EMSWCD is led by an elected board of five directors and works entirely on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis with landowners, land managers, and other residents east of the Willamette River centerline in Multnomah County. All of the EMSWCD's work is geared toward keeping water clean, conserving water and keeping soil healthy.

Contact Matt Shipkey, our Land Legacy Program Manager, with any questions about the Grant Butte Acquisition or the Land Legacy Program at Matt@emswcd.org or (503) 935-5374. Learn more about us at <http://emswcd.org>



Map of EMSWCD District area, which is all Multnomah County East of the Willamette River.

###