

Washington, DC – Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today that the House of Representatives has approved legislation including \$300,000 for the Portland/Vancouver Metropolitan Greenspaces Program. Blumenauer led the effort in the House to provide the funding, after the Bush Administration refused to request funding in its proposed budget.

“The Greenspaces Program is a cost-effective way to make our communities more livable by protecting fish and wildlife and engaging citizens in the stewardship of our natural areas,” said Blumenauer. “I’m pleased the House agreed to restore funding for this valuable program.”

For more than a decade the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided \$300,000 annually to the Metro Greenspaces Program to restore fish and wildlife habitat and support citizen-based environmental education efforts in the metropolitan Portland region. This innovative, cost-effective, partnership-based program enjoys broad support among over 200 local governments, schools, businesses, natural resource agencies, and civic and non-profit organizations.

“By supporting educational projects and fostering grassroots efforts to restore wildlife habitat, the Greenspaces Program plays a key role in integrating our natural environment into the life of our urban region,” said Metro Council President David Bragdon.

Since 1991, grants have been awarded to over 160 organizations for more than 300 projects in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan region. The federal funds are matched locally, leveraging an additional \$9.1 million in non-federal funds. Funding for the program was in doubt earlier this year when the Bush Administration zeroed out the program in its proposed budget for fiscal year 2005.

Critical metropolitan area projects include Central Catholic High School's Environmental Education grant and the Gresham Woods Phase III Restoration Project. At Central Catholic, 125 students are conducting a three year environmental monitoring project of plants, wildlife, soil, and water at a 60 acre greenspace located along Johnson Creek in Portland, Oregon. The data will be used as baseline information for monitoring by future students. In Gresham Woods, the City of Gresham is working towards improving essential fish habitat and wildlife diversity by restoring native plants and wetlands in the 71 acres of public open space. The rehabilitation of this wetland will also be used as a runoff demonstration project.

Funding for the program was included in H.R.4568, the fiscal year 2005 Department of

## House Approves Funds for Metro Greenspaces Program

Wednesday, 16 June 2004 19:00

---

Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which passed the House yesterday evening. The legislation must now be approved by the U.S. Senate