

DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT  
GATEWAY GREEN'S APPLICATION TO METRO NIN CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM

Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant Program  
c/o Linda Robinson  
FoGG  
PO Box 16692  
Portland, OR 97292

The East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) enthusiastically supports the grant application being submitted to Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant Program.

The EPAP acknowledges community strengths and supports existing efforts, while looking strategically at opportunities to improve livability and address some of the challenges facing East Portland, one of the fastest growing area in the City of Portland, with nearly 40% of the city's school-age children. At the same time it's also the most park-deficient part of the city.

East Portland is also an area that is working hard to change its public image. In fact, the idea for the Gateway Green project came out of a brain-storming process, more than eight years ago, to think of ways to re-brand the image of East Portland.

The Gateway Green project addresses several Action Items in the East Portland Action Plan.

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**

**P.4 Develop new parks and community facilities in facility-deficient area throughout East Portland**

**P.4.4** Continue planning and promotion of "Gateway Green" open area.

**P.4.9** Prioritize acquisition and development of parks in existing underserved areas or where significant residential development is anticipated: Gateway, Powellhurse/Gilbert, MAX station areas.

**NATURAL AREAS AND ENVIRONMENT**

**NA.1 Improve environmental function of urbanized areas and mitigate impacts.**

**NA.1.1** Create and implement program to maximize native/low-maintenance/drought-tolerant landscaping of public spaces throughout East Portland: public buildings/properties, street medians, schools.

**COMMUNITY BUILDING**

**CB. 4 Create community gathering places in East Portland to increase community identity and pride.**

**EQUITY**

**EQ.1. – Foster and equitable distribution of public resources for East Portland**

**NATURAL AREAS AND ENVIRONMENT**

**NA.4 Attain environmental equity in East Portland**

We urge Metro to approve the grant funds being requested by Friends of Gateway Green.

Sincerely,

Arlene Kimura  
Co-Chair

Mike VanderVeen  
Co-Chair