



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Working Farmland Protection Program Transaction

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<http://emswcd.org/>

Working Farmland Protection Program Makes Strides

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is pleased to announce that its Working Farmland Protection Program has closed on an important farmland transaction. This February, EMSWCD acquired a 14 acre farm property directly adjoining its Headwaters Incubator Farm property on the outskirts of Gresham.

Acquisition helps ensure a future for agriculture on the property, which had an approved but unbuilt homesite. With its proximity to EMSWCD's Headwaters Incubator Farm (a launching pad for aspiring farmers), there are exciting opportunities to extend programming for current and graduating participants of the Incubator Program onto this property. The property also enjoys nearly 400 feet of frontage along Johnson Creek, a stream which EMSWCD has invested heavily in through its StreamCare program (a voluntary program with private landowners that restores native vegetation along important waterways).

"We are excited to advance our Working Farmland Protection Program with this strategic acquisition," said Board Chair Rick Till. "This transaction fulfills so many outcomes – buffering neighboring farms from development that could limit their operations, creating exciting prospects for participants in EMSWCD's Headwaters Incubator Farm and providing an opportunity to further enhance water and habitat quality in Johnson Creek."

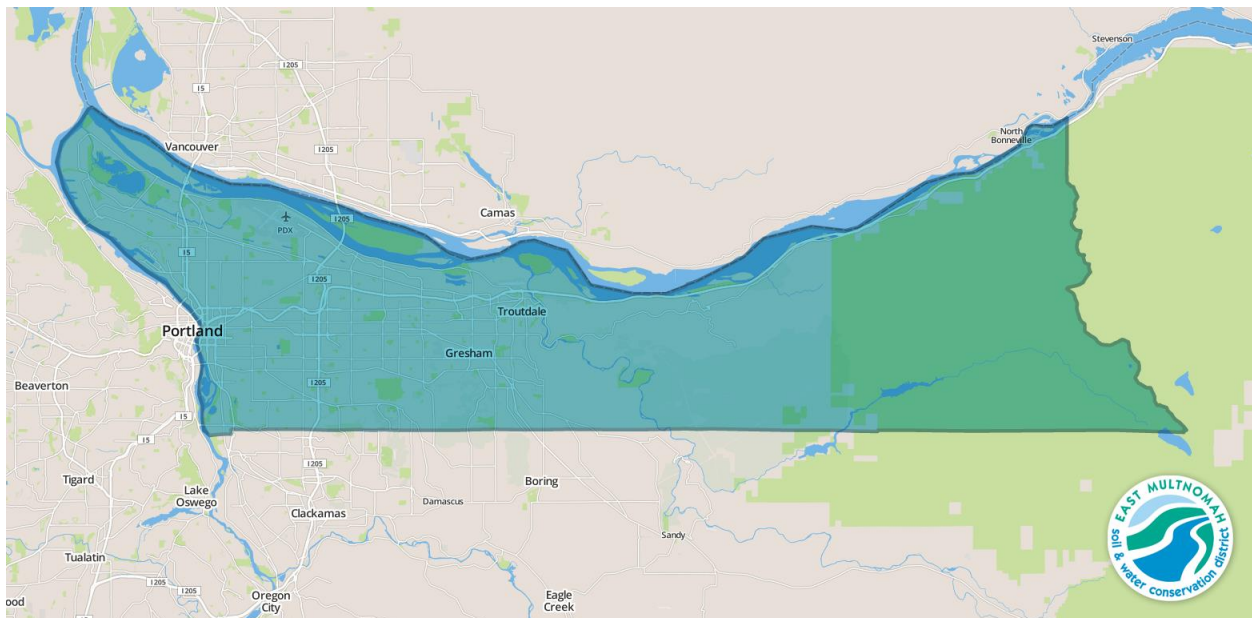
EMSWCD is grateful for the interest and willingness of the property owner, who made this voluntary transaction possible. "I was excited to have an opportunity to ensure farming would continue on the property, and that the transaction could help grow the next generation of farmers," said Hank Mishima, who created and nurtured this long-standing nursery operation.



EMSWCD managed and funded this transaction through the Working Farmland Protection component of its Land Legacy Program. The Working Farmland Protection Program works to secure the sustainability of the local agricultural economy by ensuring that high quality farmland remains available for use by current and future farmers. For farmers who wish to sell their property outright, EMSWCD can purchase those properties in order to avoid their conversion to other uses. And, for those farmers who want to stay on the farm but would like to realize some of the value of their property, EMSWCD can purchase a working farmland easement – a blueprint for the future of the property which ensures the property remains in agricultural use.

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 this specific transaction or the Working Farmland Protection 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.



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