

Proposed Measure 3-618 Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Chapter X?

A: Chapter X is part of the City of Lake Oswego Charter that regulates the type of development allowed on City-owned Natural Preserves (including parks and open spaces). Voters passed a measure that authorized changes to Chapter X in November 2021 and limited the type of development that is allowed on 15 properties owned by the City. As currently written, the City is not able to construct or develop (or allow anyone else to construct) athletic facilities, telecommunications facilities, or any parking lot, road, or trail for motorized vehicles on these properties.

Q: Why was Measure 3-618 referred to the ballot?

A: The City of Lake Oswego owns Stevens Meadows, a park of about 28 acres outside city limits in Clackamas County. The County is responsible for maintaining and improving Stafford and Childs Roads. Stevens Meadows borders Childs Road.

In 2018, Clackamas County conducted a Federal Highway Administration road safety audit that revealed problems with the Stafford/Childs intersection, including limited intersection visibility, rear-end crashes involving injuries, high-speed turning, and heavy traffic without many gaps.

Between 2020 and 2024, the County designed different alternatives for the intersection and involved the public and other stakeholders. After this public engagement process, the County finalized and funded a design requiring the construction of a roundabout at the Stafford/Childs intersection.

As part of the project, the County needs to use up to 0.4 acres of Stevens Meadows. 0.2 acres are needed for the construction project, and another 0.2 acres are needed to realign an existing gravel driveway used for park maintenance.

Measure 3-618 would amend the City Charter, allowing the City to authorize the County to use up to 0.4 acres of Stevens Meadows for the limited purposes of public safety road improvements and driveway realignment.

Q: Why is a vote of the people necessary to determine whether the City may allow construction on part of Stevens Meadows?

A: Stevens Meadows is protected under Chapter X. When the measure was passed in 2021, voters authorized the City to refer future measures to the ballot for the development of any portion of Stevens Meadows. By referring Measure 3-618 to the ballot, the City is using its authority under Chapter X of the City Charter as passed by voters.

Q: How much of Stevens Meadows would be used for the project?

A: The County requires about 0.4 acres, or about 2% of the 28-acre park. The 0.2 acres would be used to construct the proposed road improvements and about 0.2 acres would be used to realign an existing gravel driveway used for park maintenance.

Q: What would happen to the rest of Stevens Meadows?

A: The City Charter would continue prohibiting development on the rest of Stevens Meadows. The City would continue to manage the park in accordance with the City Charter.

Q: What happens if Measure 3-618 does not pass?

If Measure 3-618 does not pass, the Charter would continue to prohibit road construction and driveway realignment on all of Stevens Meadows. The construction project would not be completed as proposed.

Q: If passed, would any trees be removed?

A: Current County plans would remove up to five trees.

The project also includes plans to mitigate potential environmental impacts of the project through work on the land around Pecan Creek. Plans include reconnecting natural habitats, replacing an existing fish barrier with a more fish-friendly culvert, and replanting areas along Pecan Creek with native trees and shrubs.

Q: How will environmental impacts be addressed?

A: The road construction project includes plans to restore and mitigate environmental impacts by:

- Securing a new 36,000 square feet Restricted Development Easement to preserve natural habitat directly adjacent to Pecan Creek.
- Connecting habitat to nearby water and other habitat areas with a new fish-friendly culvert to replace an existing fish barrier.
- Replanting impacted areas along Pecan Creek with native trees and shrubs.
- Installing new stormwater management facilities to capture, detain, and treat runoff.

Q: How will the project address traffic safety and congestion?

A: County road engineers estimate that the proposed roundabout would reduce crashes by 80% compared to the current intersection. Additionally, the County estimates that road improvements could decrease fatal and injury crashes by 88%.

The proposed roundabout is estimated to reduce average wait times by 95% on eastbound Childs Road compared to today's wait times.

Q: Will any improvements be made for non-motorized traffic?

A: The project would include creating 6 ft bike lanes and safer pedestrian paths for multi-modal transportation and connection.

Q: What happens if Measure 3-618 passes?

- The City Charter would be amended, allowing the City to authorize the County to use up to 0.4 acres of Stevens Meadows for the limited purposes of public safety road improvements and driveway realignment.
- The City Charter would continue prohibiting development on the rest of Stevens Meadows.
- The City would continue to manage the park in accordance with the City Charter.
- The County would be responsible for funding and constructing the Stafford/Childs project with County funds.
- Measure 3-618 would not increase City taxes.

Q: What happens if Measure 3-618 doesn't pass?

- The City Charter would continue to prohibit road construction and driveway realignment on all of Stevens Meadows.
- The City would not authorize the County to use 0.4 acres at the corner of Stafford Road/ Childs Road for the road improvement project or driveway realignment and therefore the project would not be completed as proposed.
- The City would continue to manage the park in accordance with the City Charter.

Q: If passed, would this ballot measure increase my taxes?

A: No. Measure 3-618 would not increase City taxes.

Q: If passed, what is the timeline/expected completion date of the project construction?

A: A project timeline is available on Clackamas County's Stafford Road Improvements project website.

Q: Where can I learn more about the Stafford Rd/Childs Road road safety project?

A: You can learn more about the project by visiting Clackamas County's Stafford Road Improvements project website.

This information was reviewed by the Oregon Elections Division for compliance with ORS 260.432.