

**MAKING A
GREAT
PLACE**



Nature in Neighborhoods restoration & community stewardship grants pre-application handbook

Revised February 2015

About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy, and sustainable transportation and living choices for people and businesses in the region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges and opportunities that affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to providing services, operating venues and making decisions about how the region grows. Metro works with communities to support a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Together we're making a great place, now and for generations to come.

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Metro respects civil rights

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Public Information

All applications are subject to the Oregon Public Records Law.

Translation Services

Translation and interpretive services are available upon request at no cost to you. For more information, contact Crista Gardner at 503-797-1627 or crista.gardner@oregonmetro.gov.

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SECTION 1: RESTORATION & COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP GRANTS

For nearly two decades, Metro has provided grants for habitat restoration, conservation education and other projects that connect people to nature close to home. Funding for Nature in Neighborhoods community grants has more than doubled thanks to voter approval of Metro's 5-year local option levy in 2013. The levy includes approximately \$3.7 million in grants for conservation education (\$1.6 million), restoration (\$1.6 million), and regional trails (\$500,000).

During the 2015 grant cycle, funding for restoration grants is set at \$200,000 for small grants and \$400,000 for larger grants. Small grants have a maximum of \$25,000 and larger grants have a maximum of \$100,000. One additional round of restoration grants will be awarded in 2016.

Who may apply?

Individuals, community groups, businesses, neighborhoods, nonprofits, schools and school groups, government agencies, faith groups and service groups with nonprofit or other tax-exempt status may apply. Metro is not eligible to apply for or receive grant funds.

Restoration grants are intended to serve people of all ages and abilities from all backgrounds. Organizations are encouraged to submit applications for projects that engage underserved, low-income populations and/or communities of color in project planning, implementation, and outreach activities.

Nature in Neighborhood grants support partnerships. Successful applications typically feature multiple partners actively engaged in leveraging financial or in-kind services in order to make the program a success. Partnerships can maximize inclusiveness and lead to creative approaches that address multiple social, economic and ecological needs of the community.

Minimum qualifications

Project

- *Projects must address at least one of the program goals.*
- *Projects require at least three partners. Applicants may partner in multiple grant applications.*
- *After being awarded the grant, projects must be completed within 24 months for small grants (up to \$25,000) and within 36 months for larger grants (up to \$100,000). Grant agreements may be extended for up to 24 months for post project maintenance.*
- *Metro allows the use of fiscal agents for groups that don't have 501(c)(3) status.*

Financial

- *Projects require a 1:1 match. The match should come from other funds and/or in-kind contribution(s) of materials, services or volunteer assistance.*

- *First year funding match must be secured at time of final application; funding match for additional years must be identified at time of final application. Other Metro funding cannot be applied towards match.*
- *Overhead costs are reimbursable up to 10 percent of the total grant award and as match up to 10 percent of the total project cost.*
- *Maintenance costs may be up to 10 percent of the total grant award.*

Location

Projects must occur on publicly-owned or permanently protected lands within the metropolitan-area urban growth boundary or Metro's jurisdictional boundary, with a few exceptions.

- *Projects may occur on Metro-owned property; however, Metro may not receive grant funding.*
- *All projects must benefit Metro-area residents.*
- *Projects on private land must be able to show a clear public and environmental benefit.*
- *Projects cannot take the place of required mitigation or penalty payments or result in direct profit or proprietary resources.*
- *All projects must have written landowner permission at the time of full application.*

Application process

Application review and selection

Metro staff recruits individuals with backgrounds in restoration, conservation education, grant management, finance, volunteer coordination, project planning and community partnerships to review applications and make funding recommendations. The Metro Council makes all grant awards. Applications and pre-applications will be evaluated based on the information submitted, responsiveness to the grant program's purpose, categories and goals, the application evaluation criteria, and the review committee's professional and collective judgment.

Nature in Neighborhood grant review follows a two-step process including a pre-application phase and an application phase. Potential applicants must submit a pre-application describing the proposed project and how it meets the eligibility requirements. Full applications will only be accepted from applicants who have been invited to apply. Following the review of pre-applications by the grant review committee, Metro will invite selected projects to submit a full application. The Metro Council will review and approve the final list of projects recommended for funding.

Grants purpose, categories and goals

All applications must clearly meet the grant program's purpose, fit one of the grant program's categories and achieve its goals. See the glossary and resources section of this document for more information on the below referenced documents and terminology.

Purpose: Restoration grants support and create partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature.

Categories and goals

The grant focuses on two general categories according to the land uses outlined in the Regional Conservation Strategy: *Community Stewardship in Developed Areas* and *Restoration in Natural Areas*. The project proposal must demonstrate how it meets the one of these two categories and the goals described below.

Community Stewardship in Developed Areas

Community Stewardship in Developed Areas grants will fund community stewardship and restoration in developed areas (urban or suburban) in the Portland metro area. These grants are designed to empower communities, creating capacity for and strengthening stewardship of local natural areas. They typically have the greatest reach into communities and provide the broadest, deepest public engagement. Community Stewardship in Developed Areas grants may be small grants (maximum of \$25,000) or larger grants (maximum of \$100,000).

Restoration in Natural Areas

Restoration in Natural Areas grants intend to fund restoration in protected and/or larger intact natural areas in the Portland metro area. These grants will support restoration projects that meet local, regional, state and/or federal conservation, water quality and habitat restoration goals. Based on the location and habitat types, these projects will include a range of community engagement activities, which may or may not provide individual or hands-on restoration activities involving community members or volunteers. Restoration in Natural Areas grants may be small grants (maximum of \$25,000) or larger grants (maximum of \$100,000).

Goals

For both project categories, proposals must show how the grant meets the following two goals.

Goal 1. Preserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat in local communities and support larger conservation initiatives such as the Oregon State Conservation Strategy, Regional Conservation Strategy, Watershed Action Plans or local community plans (see resources section).

These might include implementing strategies from the Oregon State Conservation Strategy and Regional Conservation Strategy, such as:

- *Increase the value of the overall urban landscape for native species.*
- *Promote stewardship of wildlife on urban landscapes and reduce human-wildlife conflicts.*

- *Reduce hazards to wildlife.*
- *Remove invasive species and enhance native vegetation.*
- *Support climate change adaptation initiatives.*
- *Improve regional habitat connectivity.*
- *Restore ecological processes and functions in natural areas.*
- *Engage and support local multi-purpose approaches.*
- *Focus on multiple key habitats and species.*

Goal 2. Increase people’s awareness of the need for – and benefits of – protecting and managing natural areas. Engage people in learning about, protecting and managing natural areas at the community level.

Strategies for public engagement and activities that increase people’s awareness fall on a spectrum from deep, personal engagement to outreach via mass media. A wide variety of activities and levels of engagement with targeted audiences will effectively meet this goal. One size does not fit all and project managers should determine what level and type of activities best fit the site, community and intended outcomes.

To meet this goal, project activities could include any of the following:

- *One-on-one personal contact (e.g. involve volunteers in project design, implementation or outreach, community participation in hands-on restoration projects, workforce development and mentoring).*
- *Outreach and/or marketing (e.g. social and mass media, group discussions, interpretive signs, mailings, project and/or site tours). Direct engagement with targeted communities, including underserved communities (particularly low-income and communities of color) to learn about, help restore, experience and connect with nature and the region’s natural areas.*
- *Develop expertise and increase the capacity of organizations or businesses that serve, engage or employ low-income people and people of color in habitat restoration or local park and natural area land management activities (e.g. technical assistance, non-profit leadership development or capacity building to participate in project design and/or implementation).*
- *Expanded partnerships with local and/or regional community-based organizations to support increased stewardship of local natural areas, fish and wildlife habitat.*
- *Intentionally involve the community in restoration and stewardship efforts, contributing to a community’s sense of ownership and pride, providing opportunities to educate and engage local users, residents and nearby school populations.*

Equal Opportunity Contracting

*Metro's policy is to provide equal opportunity to everyone to access and participate in locally-funded projects, programs, and services by removing barriers to participation and promoting economic opportunities for certified minority-owned enterprises (MBE), women-owned enterprises (WBE) and emerging small businesses (ESB). **Local government applicants** are asked to describe the applicability of their own MWESB policy to the grant project and how contracting for this project will help meet the goals of these local policies, if applicable.*

All applicants are encouraged to consider how:

- *Projects can provide social and economic benefits to low-income and communities of color beyond the specific project scope.*
- *Projects can include workforce development goals for partner organizations or programs.*

Interested in reviewing grants?

Submit a resume and cover letter by March 27, 2015. People with backgrounds in restoration, conservation education, grant management, finance, volunteer coordination, project planning and community partnerships are needed to review grant applications and make funding recommendations. Grant applicants are eligible to serve on the review committee; reviewers must disclose any conflicts of interest.

What's the timeline?

February 2, 2015	Availability of grant funds announced
April 1, 2015	Restoration grant workshop
4 p.m., April 21, 2015	Restoration pre-applications due to Metro
May 2015	Successful pre-applications invited to submit full applications
July 2015	Final applications due to Metro
August 2015	Grant awards announced
September 2015	Metro funds available

Contacts

For more information, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/grants or **contact:**

Heather Nelson Kent, Grants Program Manager, heathernelson.kent@oregonmetro.gov or 503-797-1739

Crista Gardner, Grants Coordinator, crista.gardner@oregonmetro.gov or 503-797-1627

SECTION 2: PRE-APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Potential applicants must submit a pre-application describing the proposed project. The grant review committee will use the pre-application as the primary basis to determine funding eligibility and to provide feedback on how the grant can best meet the Restoration grant program purpose, categories, and goals. Pre-application review may include follow-up communication with the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their project is sufficiently defined according to the guidelines so that the review committee can efficiently review the pre-application.

Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Applicants who do not receive an invitation to submit a full application will be notified by Metro. Feedback from the grant review committee about how well the pre-application meets the project eligibility criteria, purpose, categories and goals may be provided. Upon request, information about other funding sources or suggestions for strengthening an application for a subsequent funding cycle may be provided.

Full applications will be accepted only from applicants who have been invited to apply following the pre-application process.

Pre-application Instructions

The pre-application shall be written on 8 ½ x 11" paper, one inch margins, double-sided and with a font size no smaller than 11 point.

Organization, project, and contact information (two page maximum). Please provide organizational and contact information. Provide a preliminary budget estimate, including the total project cost, the requested funding and match. A 1:1 funding match is required. In-kind services, donations of materials and volunteer time can all be counted as match. The 20-45 word project summary serves as a short, stand-alone description of the project to be used to inform people who will not be reading the full application.

Statement of organizational preparedness (one page maximum). The statement should detail the organization's experience and capacity to conduct the project. If the organization does not have the appropriate internal experience and capacity to successfully fulfill the project, please describe how the organization plans to obtain it. It should also demonstrate approval from the governing body or management of the organization and/or permission by the landowner.

Project description (two pages maximum). The project description should make a convincing case that the application meets the Nature in Neighborhoods grants purpose, categories and goals (**see page 3-4**), supports the organization's strategic plan or mission, and includes active partnerships. Information should be presented in a manner that is clear and concise, in no more than two pages.

Location and project reach (two pages maximum). Provide a location/vicinity map that shows where the project and/or participating communities are located within the region. Mapping resources are available to assist you, including the [Regional Conservation Strategy viewer](#), [Oregon Explorer](#), Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN) [Conservation Registry](#), [Regional Equity Atlas](#), and [MetroMap](#). See mapping resources on page 18.

Submitting the pre-application. Digital submission is preferred. Please package the pre-application into one form. Please submit one Word version and one PDF version. Please email the two documents to: NaturalAreasGrants@oregonmetro.gov by **4 p.m., April 21, 2015**.

A confirmation email will be sent when the application is received. If you do not receive a confirmation, please let Crista Gardner know.

Pre-application evaluation criteria

Pre-applications will be evaluated based on the information submitted, the stated evaluation criteria, and the review committee's professional and collective judgment. The pre-application should make a convincing case that the project meets the purpose of the grant program and is achievable.

Grant applications will be ranked according to how well they meet the following evaluation criteria:

Qualified project

Organization, project and contact information: *Meets the minimum qualifications of three partnerships, 1:1 match and project location.*

Organizational preparedness: *Demonstrates leadership interest, organizational capability and experience, and landowner permission to implement the project.*

Well-crafted project

Project narrative: *Describes clearly and concisely a well-crafted project and scope of work (e.g. project planning, implementation, maintenance, reporting and outreach).*

Goals: *Meets the overall project purpose and directly addresses one of the grant program categories and one or more of its associated goals.*

Partnerships: *Demonstrates strong and active partnerships.*

Location: *The full slate of awarded programs reaches communities from around the region.*

Program reach: *The full slate of awarded programs helps diversify participation in the region's conservation and restoration efforts.*

Applying the evaluation criteria to the 2015 grant cycle

In 2014, Metro received many strong restoration and community stewardship grant proposals. In making a recommendation to the Metro Council, the review committee considered the quality of individual proposals and how the proposals fit together as a whole package of grants as well as the importance of the habitat type(s) and location(s).

Generally the committee found most compelling well-crafted applications that clearly stated what would be done, how the work would be maintained and included all of the elements requested in the application. They appreciated a plan that detailed the roles of partners, what tasks would be

performed by the various professionals, project staff or volunteers and when. They found projects that effectively leveraged other funding sources in a thoughtful and efficient way most compelling.

The committee also considered how well applicants described their capacity and experience with similar efforts in determining the best projects. They considered all aspects of project implementation including how the need for a project was identified, what planning for restoration had been done, funding, project management, implementation and maintenance. For organizations without restoration expertise on staff, they appreciated the thoughtful coordination and identification of expertise needed (e.g. contracted services, project management, volunteer coordination) to successfully execute the project.

During the review process, the review committee noted the cost per acre, cost of staff time per volunteer hour, the targeted species or habitat, and project locations, including watershed, habitat type, and habitat connectivity. Projects were most compelling when it was clear that they were building on past efforts, or supporting the other work being done in an area, and tied into plans such as the regional conservation strategy or local watershed plans.

SECTION 3: PRE-APPLICATION FORM

A. Organization, project and contact information (one page maximum)

Please complete the organization, project and contact information below using no more than one page.

Date of application	
Organization name	
Organization address	
Organization website	
Project contact Name	
Title	
Phone	
Email	
Fiscal agent If different than the lead organization.	
Project partners Committed partner organizations.	
Potential partners Potential partner organizations.	
Project title	
Project summary Provide a 20-45-word summary that describes your project.	
Category Under which program category does your project best fit? (Select one only).	<input type="checkbox"/> Community stewardship in developed areas (urban or suburban) <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration in natural areas (protected or larger, intact natural areas)
Project length (Select only one)	<input type="checkbox"/> One year <input type="checkbox"/> Up to two years <input type="checkbox"/> Up to three years
Post project maintenance length (Select only one)	<input type="checkbox"/> One year <input type="checkbox"/> Up to two years

<p>Habitat type(s) (Select one or more)</p>	<p>The following priority habitat types are drawn from Federal Listings and Recovery Plans, the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Intertwine Alliance Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland Vancouver Metropolitan Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Riverine/ Instream projects: Projects that are designed to improve habitat conditions below the ordinary high water mark, such as large wood or boulder placement, side-channel reconnection and alcove enhancement. <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Habitat: Projects above the ordinary high-water mark of the stream and within up to 200' of the waterline, depending on conditions. <input type="checkbox"/> Oak habitat: Projects that address Oregon white oak habitats including savanna, woodland and mixed-oak conifer forest; typically involving oak release, oak planting or invasive species control and native species enhancement. <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie (wet and upland): Projects designed to enhance structure or native component of non-wetland habitats dominated by grass-like plants and forbs. <input type="checkbox"/> Upland conifer/deciduous forest: Enhancement projects implemented in forests outside the floodplain or riparian zone. <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain forests and wetlands (ponds): Projects addressing any of the full range of wetland habitat types, including floodplain bottom hardwood forests.
<p>Acres</p>	<p>Number of acres the project will restore or protect:</p>
<p>Site Location(s) Please list the address or the closest intersection of the project(s).</p>	<p>Site address: City, zip code:</p>
<p>Estimated funding</p>	<p>Estimated amount requested: \$ Estimated match funds: \$ Estimated in-kind match: \$ Estimated total project budget: \$</p>

B. Organizational preparedness (one page maximum)

Please review the information below and use this guidance to address your organization's preparedness and approval from the governing body and/or landowner. Delete the *italicized* text once you've reviewed it, and use the space below. Your answer should be no more than one page.

Organizational preparedness

- *Explain why your organization has the experience and capacity to conduct the project (e.g. planning, implementation, maintenance, reporting and outreach), including identification of key personnel, their roles in the project and their qualifications. If the organization does not have the appropriate internal experience and capacity to successfully fulfill the project, please describe how the organization plans to obtain it.*
- *Will the work be primarily completed by staff, contractors or volunteers? If applicable, will the project meet workforce development goals for partner organizations or programs?*
- *If applicable, a brief statement should indicate that the organization has received approval to submit the pre-application from their governing body (e.g. board, council) or management.*
- *If applicable, state whether the project has permission to use the intended property. All projects must have landowner permission at the time of full application.*
- *If applicable, state whether the required permits have been obtained for the project. If permits have not yet been attained, briefly describe the process and timeline to do so.*

C. Project description (two pages maximum)

Please review the information below and use this guidance to describe your proposed project narrative, goals and partnerships. Delete the *italicized* text once you've reviewed it, and use the space below. Your answer should be no more than two pages.

Project narrative

- *Describe the need, problem or issue that this project seeks to address. How has the need been identified? Explain why the project is important for your organization and community.*
- *Please describe the targeted species or priority habitat. (See above priority habitat types from the Federal Listings and Recovery Plans, the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Intertwine Alliance Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland Vancouver Metropolitan Area).*
- *Provide a narrative that describes the project). If this is a phased project, please explain which of the phases is included in this application (e.g. project planning, implementation, maintenance, reporting. Describe maintenance plans or efforts after the project is completed.*
- *Describe the proposed public outreach activities and products. If applicable, please state how your project plans to engage underserved communities (i.e. low-income and communities of color).*
- *If applicable, describe how your project will help build capacity for organizations or businesses that engage, serve or employ members of underserved communities (i.e. low-income and communities of color). Will the project provide social and economic benefits to low-income and communities of color beyond the specific project scope?*
- *Describe use of proven methods and best practices within your project.*

Goals

- Describe how the project addresses the Nature in Neighborhood restoration grant's purpose, category and goals. **(See page 3-4.)**
- Explain how the project fits your organization's strategic plan or mission.
- Describe how the project supports the Oregon Conservation Strategy, Regional Conservation Strategy, watershed action plan, watershed assessment or other local plans or initiatives.

Partnerships

- Show how partnerships and collaboration with other individuals, organizations and groups in your community will be formed, strengthened and extended through this project.
- Describe partners that are currently committed and those you anticipate approaching and the roles of the key partners.
- Describe how partners will work together to sustain the project after the grant period.

D. Location and project reach (two pages maximum)

Provide a location/vicinity map that shows where the project and/or participating communities are located within the region. Please include existing stream and wildlife corridors, parks, trails and/or natural areas. See the mapping resources on page 14.

SECTION 4: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

In order to serve the region's communities as broadly as possible, Metro is conducting a survey to learn whom our grants currently serve and to help improve community access. The demographic information you provide will not be used for the review of your grant application.

1. How did you find out about the Nature in Neighborhoods restoration and community stewardship grants?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Our Big backyard Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro Employee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend or colleague | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop, meeting or other event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify): |

2. Does your organization consider itself to be a culturally-specific community based organization?¹

Primary Applicant Yes No please specify: _____

3. Please indicate, to the best of your ability, whether your project partners consider themselves to be a culturally-specific community based organization:

Co-Applicant Yes No please specify: _____

Partner 1 Yes No please specify: _____

Partner 2 Yes No please specify: _____

Partner 3 Yes No please specify: _____

¹ Definition: A culturally-specific community based organization meets the all of the following criteria:

- The majority of members and/or clients are from a particular (or multiple) community (or communities) of color, such as: African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Latino, African Immigrant and Refugee, and Slavic.
- The staff, board and leadership reflects the community that is served.
- The organizational or programmatic environment is culturally focused and identified as such by members.
- The organization or program has a track record of successful community engagement and involvement with the community being served.
- The community being served recognizes the organization or program as a culturally-specific organization or program.

Source: Philanthropy and Communities of Color in Oregon: from strategic investments to assessable impacts amidst growing racial and ethnic diversity. PSU (2010).

4. For the restoration project outlined in your Nature in Neighborhoods restoration grant proposal, do you expect to engage a majority (more than 51%) non-white population?

Yes

No

5. If yes, which population(s)?

Asian

American Indian/Alaskan Native

Latino /Hispanic

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

African

Slavic

Black/African American

Other (Please specify):

Middle Eastern/North African

6. Please tell us what you based your answer(s) on (e.g. staff input, staff observation, census data, school demographic data, previous project).

7. To inform our evaluation outcomes reporting, Metro would like to learn what demographic information our grant applicants already collect. What demographic data does your organization collect about the population you serve?

Race and ethnicity

Gender

English proficiency

Age

Primary language

Special needs

Geography/location

Other (Please specify):

Income

8. Please tell us about how you collect and use demographic data in your program.

9. We understand that demographic data can be highly personal both for individuals and organizations. Please describe any concerns you would have about sharing your demographic data about participants in programming related to this grant application.

10. Do you have any comments about this survey?

GLOSSARY

Developed areas include industrial, commercial, and residential properties, developed parks, schoolyards, golf courses, cemeteries, airports, and the streetscape. The intensity of development ranges from skyscrapers in urban areas, like downtown Portland, to suburban neighborhoods in surrounding communities. Developed lands are situated such that remnant natural areas are highly fragmented, the tree canopy is only a fraction of historical levels, and many of the region's historical streams, wetlands, and floodplains have been degraded, filled in, or covered over. Nonetheless, these developed areas contain habitat value and biodiversity; a huge diversity of wild animals share even the most developed portions of our landscape. (Regional Conservation Strategy).

Natural areas are defined as protected or unprotected lands that are not developed and that are composed primarily of native habitat components. Most protected natural areas in the region are managed with the primary goal of conserving, enhancing, or restoring native species, the ecological processes that create and maintain habitat, and the ecosystem services that result, such as water quality protection. Examples of protected natural areas include wildlife refuges and wildlife areas, nature preserves, nature parks, and publicly owned parks that retain patches of habitat characteristic of the region. Unprotected privately owned lands may also be considered natural areas if they still maintain their conservation values. These lands may or may not be actively managed, but they are not considered natural lands if they are managed specifically for agricultural or forest production (such lands are considered working lands). (Regional Conservation Strategy).

Sustainability means using, developing and protecting resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs and provides that future generations can also meet future needs, from the joint perspective of environmental, economic and community objectives. (Oregon Conservation Strategy).

Stewardship is the responsible use (including conservation) of natural resources in a way that takes full and balanced account of the interests of society, future generations and other species, as well as of private needs, and accepts significant responsibility to society (Intertwine Conservation Education Task Force).

Natural area maintenance (core stewardship) focusing primarily on vegetation management and weed suppression. Natural areas maintenance or core stewardship addresses basic stewardship to emphasize reducing future maintenance costs through early detection and rapid response to invasive weeds. Work primarily focuses on vegetation management and weed suppression, but may include fences, gates and other basic infrastructure. (Metro Levy Framework).

Restoration projects improve ecological function and create significant improvements in the quality and function of the highest priority sites and habitats. Emphasis is placed on hydrologic restoration focused on water quality and salmon, wetland restoration focused on water quality and wildlife habitat, and prairie and oak restoration addressing priority habitats and species. Projects typically include vegetation management such as treating noxious and invasive weeds and planting native trees and shrubs. They may also include activities such as replacing or removing failing culverts and modifying roads to prevent erosion from reaching streams and water sources. (Metro Levy Framework).

RESOURCES

Below are list of plans to assist in project development.

[Oregon Conservation Strategy](#): *The Oregon Conservation Strategy is the first overarching state strategy for conserving fish and wildlife. The Conservation Strategy is an effort to use the best available science to create a broad vision and conceptual framework for long-term conservation of Oregon's native fish and wildlife, as well as various invertebrates and native plants. As a guide to conserving the species and habitats that have defined the nature of Oregon, this strategy can help ensure that Oregon's natural treasures are passed on to future generations. The Conservation Strategy emphasizes proactively conserving declining species and habitats to reduce the possibility of future federal or state listings. It is not a regulatory document, but instead presents issues and opportunities, and recommends voluntary actions that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation in Oregon.* http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp

[Regional Conservation Strategy](#): *The Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy describes how we can protect our region's biodiversity for the long term. It defines the challenges facing local wildlife and ecosystems and offers a vision, framework, and tools for moving forward collaboratively to protect and restore our natural systems. This document organizes conservation strategies for the Portland metropolitan region by landscape types – natural area, working lands and developed areas – as well as strategies for biodiversity corridors and for species of special concern.* www.theintertwine.org/RegionalConservationStrategy

[Regional Biodiversity Guide](#): *The Intertwine Biodiversity Guide for the Greater Portland-Vancouver Region, together with mapping and GIS modeling completed specifically for the RCS, provides important tools for conservation practitioners and decision makers: a narrative that describes the composition and patterns of biodiversity across the region, a land cover map at a scale suitable for analysis of urban and near-urban areas, and a data-driven GIS model of conservation priority areas.* www.theintertwine.org/RegionalConservationStrategy

[Watershed Action Plans](#): *Many watershed councils have created Watershed Action Plans. Please research the individual Watershed Councils for more information.*

[Restoring Rare Native Habitats in the Willamette Valley](#): *This landowner's guide describes methods for restoring Oak Woodlands, Wetlands, Prairies, and Bottomland Hardwood and Riparian Forests.* <http://willamettepartnership.org/publications/other-publications/Landownerguide.pdf>

[Oregon Early Detection and Rapid Response targets](#): *Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) are primary activities of the Weed Control Program. Weeds are listed and targeted for early detection and rapid response activities. The goal is to prevent introduction or find them through early detection efforts and implement control measures to prevent widespread occurrence in Oregon.* <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/pages/edrr.aspx>

[Willamette Basin Restoration Priorities Watershed Summaries](#): *The Watershed Restoration Summaries were developed by local watershed councils and other stakeholders to help identify priorities for restoring fish and wildlife habitat and water quality throughout the Willamette Basin. There are a number of comprehensive planning efforts in the Willamette Basin, including the Willamette Sub basin Plan, the Willamette River Basin Planning Atlas, and other regional habitat restoration prioritization frameworks. This document is not intended to replace these efforts. The intent is to work within the context of these basin-scale studies to produce a locally derived and accepted set of watershed restoration priorities.* http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/rest_priorities/willamette_watershed_council_summaries_dec05.pdf

Oregon Plan Streamflow Restoration Priorities: *The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds is Oregon's cooperative effort to restore salmon runs, improve water quality, and achieve healthy watersheds and strong communities throughout the state.* http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/mgmt_opsw.aspx

OWEB's Watershed Assessment Library: *Here is a list of watershed assessments sorted by the Oregon Plan Reporting Basins.* http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/MONITOR/pages/watershedassessments_linked.aspx

ODFW's Data Clearinghouse: *It provides a centralized accumulation and distribution service for Oregon's natural resource data. The Data Clearinghouse website houses reports, data files, databases, GIS maps and other natural resource information.* <https://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/DataClearinghouse/default.aspx?p=1>

The Intertwine: *The Intertwine outlines efforts to broaden regional collaboration and system building, tools to more effectively reach new and diverse audiences and address gaps in program delivery, and establish a clearinghouse of opportunities, research and resources for conservation education providers and users.*
www.theintertwine.org

Limiting Factors Matrix: *This report contains an anchor habitat-based, aquatic habitat restoration strategy for salmon and steelhead populations in the Sandy River basin. The Sandy River basin lies within close proximity to Portland, Oregon. Originating on Mt. Hood, the Sandy River flows west and then north, entering the Columbia River near the City of Troutdale. The Sandy River contains several species of native salmon and steelhead, all of which are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act. This aquatic habitat restoration strategy focuses on spring Chinook, fall Chinook, Coho, and winter steelhead. Benefits to other fish and aquatic species and improvements to water quality are also anticipated from the restoration actions identified in this strategy.*

<http://www.sandyriverpartners.org/pdfs/SandRestStrategWEB.pdf> and

http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/rest_priorities/willamette_limiting_factors_summary_12-15-05.pdf

Diversifying the American Environmental Movement: *As the nation continues to diversify, the environmental movement is left with one of the greatest challenges it will face this century. In order to become an influential and sustainable movement for generations to come, it needs to successfully address its diversity crisis. In this essay, the authors, Marcelo Bonta and Charles Jordan, analyze the problem, acknowledge past and current diversity efforts, provide a comprehensive and strategic approach to diversifying, and stress the importance of diversifying in the right way. They provide action-oriented solutions at the movement, organizational and individual levels.* www.environmentaldiversity.org

MAPPING RESOURCES

Below are list of mapping resources to assist in project development.

[Regional Conservation Strategy viewer](http://www.regionalconservationstrategy.org/site/viewer): *The viewer provides easy access to the data for those without GIS capacity to view and obtain some quick summary statistics about land cover, high value habitat, and protected areas. The full Regional Conservation Strategy documents, GIS data, and modeled outputs are available for download and are an incredibly rich information resource.*

<http://www.regionalconservationstrategy.org/site/viewer>

[Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory](http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/RestorationTool/) and **[Oregon Explorer](http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/RestorationTool/)**: *The Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI) tracks Oregonians' voluntary efforts to restore habitats for salmon and wildlife. With over 14,000 records of projects completed since 1995, OWRI is the single largest restoration information database in the Western United States. The Oregon Watershed Restoration Tool on Oregon Explorer was created to show the locations and information about OWRI projects.*

<http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/RestorationTool/> and <http://www.oregon.gov/oweb/monitor/pages/owri.aspx>

[Regional Environmental Information Network \(REIN\) Conservation Registry](http://rein.conservationregistry.org/): *The Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN) is a virtual gathering place in the Portland / Vancouver region for information sharing and networking among the people, community groups, government agencies and nonprofit organizations that are working to protect, restore and monitor the region's natural resources.*

<http://rein.conservationregistry.org/> and <http://www.conservationregistry.org/>

[Regional Equity Atlas](https://gis.oregonmetro.gov/equityAtlas/): *Using maps, policy analysis, community-based research and other tools, the Equity Atlas project assesses how well different populations across the four-county Portland-Vancouver metro region can access key resources necessary for meeting their basic needs and advancing their health and well-being. By illuminating the region's geography of opportunity, the Equity Atlas is a powerful tool for promoting greater [regional equity](#). It can be used to inform a wide range of planning, policy and investment decisions, such as where to locate new housing, transit, parks, services, infrastructure and other amenities, and where to most effectively target public and private investments.*

<https://gis.oregonmetro.gov/equityAtlas/>

[MetroMap](https://gis.oregonmetro.gov/metromap/): *This is Metro's web mapping service where you can view and print maps or data specific to your area of interest. MetroMap allows you to view map-based information about a location of your choice. View information on the urban growth boundary, parcel and tax assessment, zoning, political boundaries, planning, flood plain and special districts. The results can be displayed in text-only format or on a map.*

<https://gis.oregonmetro.gov/metromap/>

[School districts](http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/index.asp): *One source of local demographic data is the neighborhood schools. Each public school maintains data on the percentage of students eligible for the free and reduced lunch program and students participating in English as a Second Language programs. Demographic statistics on schools can be found in the National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD):*

<http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/index.asp>