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MAKING A GREAT PLACE

Metro

Nature in Neighborhoods regional trails grants pre-application handbook

Due November 3, 2015

July 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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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: REGIONAL TRAILS 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 one grant cycle in 2015, funding for regional trails grants is set at $500,000. Regional trails grants may be small grants (maximum of $25,000) or larger grants (maximum of $100,000).

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.

Nature in Neighborhood 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.

Metro grants support partnerships. Successful applications 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 categories and all of the 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 (up to $25,000) or 36 months (up to $100,000).
- 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 the time of final application; funding match for additional years must be identified at the time of final application. Other Metro funding cannot be applied towards match. Federal funding may be used as match (e.g. RFFA, RTO, MTIP).

- 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.

Location

- Project must be part of, adjacent to, intersecting, connecting to or associated with a Regional Trail, including regional water trails. To determine eligibility, see the Regional Trails Plan. (www.oregonmetro.gov/regional-trails-and-greenways-system)
- 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 trails planning, design and construction, habitat 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 addresses the grant program's eligibility requirements, goals and evaluation criteria. 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: Nature in Neighborhood regional trails grants implement the Regional Trails Plan; support and create partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat; and improve the ability of all communities to learn about and connect with nature.

Categories and goals

The grant funding focuses on two general categories: *Increasing access to nature for Regional Trail users* and *increasing nature as part of our Regional Trails system.* The proposal must demonstrate how this project meets one of these two categories and all of the three goals described below.

Category 1: Increasing access to nature for Regional Trail users

These grants support projects that increase or enhance access to nature for Regional Trail users by planning, building or improving Regional Trails that connect people to parks and/or natural areas. Examples of eligible projects include planning (including concept and/or master planning), design and engineering, feasibility studies, permits, trail construction (e.g. nature or soft trails), or acquisition of trail easements.

Proposals may also include projects that link community and local trails to the Regional Trails system; fill gaps in active transportation networks connecting Regional Trails to communities; and ensure that the regional active transportation network equitably serves all people. These grants will support projects that meet local, regional, state or federal transportation and/or recreation goals.

For reference, please find links in the resource section to the Regional Trails Plan and other transportation and recreation trails initiatives such as the Active Transportation Plan, Green Trails Guidelines, and Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan.

Examples of Nature in Neighborhood grants increasing access to nature for Regional Trail users

Sandy River Access and Trail Design, $15,000 The City of Troutdale developed a concept plan identifying the best access to a portion of the lower Sandy River in downtown Troutdale along the Sandy River Greenway. The goal of the plan was to provide people access to enjoy the Sandy River for angling and other recreational activities while restoring and safeguarding riparian conditions along 1,700 lineal feet of riverfront. An ADA-accessible platform was included in the design to address access for all users.

Access Recreation, $25,000 Access Recreation is developing an online, regional trail map that provides people of all abilities – through detailed descriptions, photos and videos – the information they need to know whether a trail will meet their abilities and expectations even before they arrive at the trailhead.

Beaver Creek Trail Improvements, $37,152 Beaver Creek Canyon's trail had significantly eroded over the years to little more than a narrow, slippery slope that posed increasing dangers to users. The City of Troutdale installed a galvanized metal stairway connecting the upper and mid sections of the trail allowing washed out stretches in between to be abandoned. This project gave trail users a safer, more durable means of experiencing the beauty of Beaver Creek Canyon.

Durham City Park Trail, $43,900 The City of Durham constructed a 100-foot trail extension from the existing Fanno Creek Bridge in Durham City Park along the northern boundary of the playfield to the Clean Water Services access road, providing a future connection to the Fanno Creek Trail.

Category 2: Increasing nature as part of our Regional Trails system

These grants emphasize improving the trail users experience of nature or on enriching people's experience of nature when using Regional Trails. Additionally, they may increase the health and function of natural systems. Projects may include a range of ecological benefits including improving water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat by reducing trail impacts or restoring ecological features and functions associated with Regional Trails and/or local connections to Regional Trails. Additionally, projects can provide people with opportunities to learn about nature along Regional Trails. They protect or improve fish and wildlife habitat in local communities and support larger conservation initiatives. They will ensure that nature is a fundamental element of our Regional Trails system.

Projects may also actively involve the community in stewardship of the natural resources associated with Region Trails and/or their local trail connections to Regional Trails. Projects may support the implementation of the Regional Conservation Strategy by reducing hazards to wildlife; removing invasive species and enhancing native vegetation; improving regional habitat connectivity; and supporting climate change adaptation initiatives.

Examples of eligible projects include tree planting, habitat restoration, creation of pollinator habitat and fish or wildlife passage improvements. Projects might also include interpretive signs, outreach, communications and volunteer engagement. These grants also may support efforts to minimize environmental impacts or avoid sensitive habitat along Regional Trails.

For your reference, please find in the resources section links to the Regional Conservation Strategy, Watershed Action Plans or local community plans (see resources section).

Examples of Nature in Neighborhood grants increasing nature as part of our Regional Trails system

Stone Bridge Fish Passage on Nettle Creek, $47,000 At Tryon Creek State Park, erosion threatened a stone bridge across Nettle Creek – and, along with it, a regional trail connection. The Tryon Creek Watershed Council replaced the bridge, stabilizing stream banks and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

Greening Interstate 205, $410,000 Unlikely partners – Friends of Trees and the Oregon Department of Transportation – teamed up to plant native trees and shrubs in an unlikely place: along the I-205 pathway. While greening the 16-mile trail, they engaged volunteers, established a model for future roadside landscaping and generated jobs for diverse communities.

Friends of Baltimore Woods $539,000 The Friends of Baltimore Woods acquired, restored and preserved portions of a 30-acre natural corridor along the North Portland Greenway Trail in Portland's St. Johns neighborhood. The project improved storm water filtration, saved 30 Oregon white oaks and created a place to teach local residents about trail uses and the importance of one of Oregon's most diverse and imperiled habitats.

Goal: Community engagement

For both project categories, proposals must show how the grant meets Metro's goals for community engagement and improve the ability of all communities, including underserved communities (e.g. low-income, communities of color) to learn about, help restore, experience and connect with nature and the region's natural areas through Regional Trails.

Strategies for public engagement and activities 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; workforce development, jobs skills and mentorship).
- Outreach and/or marketing (e.g. social and mass media, group discussions, interpretive signs, mailings, project or site tours). Direct engagement with targeted communities, including underserved communities (particularly low-income and communities of color) to learn about, experience and connect with nature and the region's natural areas through Regional Trails.

- Support the capacity building of organizations or businesses that serve, engage or employ low-income people and people of color (e.g. technical assistance, non-profit leadership development or capacity building to participate in project design and/or implementation).
- Expanded community-based partnerships with local and/or regional community-based organizations to support increased access to local natural areas and parks.
- Intentionally involve the community and contribute to a community's sense of ownership and pride. Provide 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 September 4, 2015. People with backgrounds in trails project planning, design and construction, habitat restoration, philanthropy, evaluation and reporting, volunteer coordination, and community partnerships are needed to review grant applications and make funding recommendations. Grant applicants are eligible and may apply to serve on the review committee; reviewers must disclose any conflicts of interest.

What's the timeline?

July 2015	Availability of grant funds announced
5:30 - 7 p.m., September 22, 2015	Trails grant workshop
4 p.m., November 3, 2015	Trails pre-applications due to Metro
December 2015	Successful pre-applications invited to submit full applications
January 2016	Final applications due to Metro
March 2016	Grant awards announced
March 2016	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 Trails 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 use the form below to 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 and partnerships (two page maximum): The statement should detail the organization's and its partners' experience and capacity to conduct the project. If the organization or its partners do 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)**,** and supports the organization's strategic plan or mission. 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 Trails Map, Regional Conservation Strategy viewer, Regional Equity Atlas, and MetroMap. See mapping resources on page 20.

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. on November 3, 2015.**

A confirmation email will be sent the day 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.

Well-crafted project

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

Partnerships*:* Demonstrates strong and active partnerships.

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

Goals*:* Meets the overall purpose of the Regional Trails grant program; directly addresses one of the two grant program categories and the public engagement goals.

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 planning, designing, building and using Regional Trails.

SECTION 3: PRE-APPLICATION FORM

A. Organization, project and contact information (two pages maximum)

Please complete the organization, project and contact information below using no more than two pages.

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).	☐ Increasing access to nature for Regional Trail users ☐ Increasing nature as part of our Regional Trails system
Project length (Select only one)	☐ One year ☐ Up to two years ☐ Up to three years
Site Location(s) Please list the address or the closest intersection of the project(s).	Site address: City, zip code:

Estimated funding	Estimated amount requested: $ Estimated match funds: $ Estimated in-kind match: $ Estimated total project budget: $

B. Organizational preparedness (two pages 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 answers should be no more than two pages.

Organizational preparedness

- *Explain why and how your organization and/or your partners have the experience and capacity to conduct the project (e.g. planning, implementation, 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?*
- *Is diversity, equity and inclusion part of the organization's or its partners' mission, vision or strategic plan?*
- *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.*

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.*

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 and the timing right for your organization and community. If a community-based group is engaged (particularly communities that are low-income, culturally-specific or of color), describe how this project and their involvement meet their communities' need.*
- *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). Describe use of proven methods and best practices within your project . If applicable, describe trail or nature maintenance plans or efforts after the project is completed.*
- *How does this project aid in enhancing people's experience of nature and/or protecting the natural resources of the region? How does this trail connect more visitors to a park or natural area while also minimizing the impact on the surrounding ecosystem?*
- *How does this project promote healthier communities by creating opportunities for people to bike, walk and/or use transit to connect to Regional Trails?*
- *How does this project achieve economic outcomes or economic development (e.g. saving people money, increasing the efficiency of the economy, tourism, recreation-related spending or economic development)?*
- *Describe the proposed public outreach activities and products. Who is designing and delivering programming to communities? How is the community being served involved in program design and delivery? 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?*

Goals

- *Describe how the project addresses the Nature in Neighborhood trails grant's purpose, category and goals, including how the project supports regional and local initiatives, such as the Regional Trails Plan, local parks, trails or watershed plans; Active Transportation Plan; Regional Conservation Strategy; or other local plans or initiatives. (See page 19.)*
- *Explain how the project fits your organization's strategic plan or mission.*

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 trails, parks, and/or natural areas. See the mapping resources on pages 8 and 20.

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 regional trails grants?

   ___ Website
   ___ Email
   ___ Friend or colleague
   ___ Newspaper
   ___ Our Big backyard Newsletter
   ___ Metro Employee
   ___ Workshop, meeting or other event
   ___ 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 trails project outlined in your Nature in Neighborhoods trails grant proposal, do you expect to engage a majority (more than 51%) non-white population?

   ___ Yes

   ___ No

5. If yes, which population(s)?

   ___ Asian

   ___ Latino /Hispanic

   ___ African

   ___ Black/African American

   ___ Middle Eastern/North African

   ___ American Indian/Alaskan Native

   ___ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

   ___ Slavic

   ___ Other (Please specify):

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

   ___ English proficiency

   ___ Primary language

   ___ Geography/location

   ___ Income

   ___ Gender

   ___ Age

   ___ Special needs

   ___ Other (Please specify):

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

Regional Trails are defined by Metro as linear facilities for non-motorized users that are at least 75% off-street and are regionally significant. The term "non-motorized" is used instead of "multi-use" or "multi-modal" because some Regional Trails are pedestrian-only. Trails must meet two levels of criteria to be considered "regionally significant." The criteria are adopted by the Metro Council in the Regional Trails and Greenways Plan. Regional Trails are physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by open space or a barrier. Bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, skaters and other non-motorized travelers use these facilities. There are some pedestrian only trails or trails near sensitive habitat on the RTP network that would most likely not be paved. Regional bicycle connections are planned parallel to pedestrian only regional trails. Colloquially, terms like "bike path" and "multi-use path" are often used interchangeably with "regional trail", except when referring to pedestrian-only regional trails. (2014 Regional Active Transportation Plan, Glossary)

Regional Trails and Greenways Map is developed and maintained by Metro. The map was first developed as part of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan in 1992 and most recently updated in 2014. The map includes the existing and proposed trails and greenways in the regional system. Many of the Regional Trails are included in the Regional Transportation Plan. (2014 Regional Active Transportation Plan, Glossary)

Underserved communities are populations that have historically experienced a lack of consideration in the planning and decision making process. It describes communities of concern in addition to those that are defined in the federal definition of Environmental Justice. These populations are seniors, persons with disabilities, youth, communities of color, low-income communities, and any other population of people whose needs may not have been full met in the planning process. (2014 Regional Active Transportation Plan, Glossary)

Water trails are actually in the water body (including necessary portages). Canoes, kayaks, rafts and other non-motorized watercraft are used to traverse the trail. Public access points (e.g. boat or canoe launch sites) should be available. (2011 Regional Trails and Greenways Plan)

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 answerability to society (Intertwine Conservation Education Task Force).

Natural area maintenance (core stewardship) focuses 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).

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. **Riverine/ Instream** refers to areas below the ordinary high water mark. **Riparian Habitat** is above the ordinary high-water mark of the stream and within up to 200' of the waterline, depending on conditions. **Oregon white oak habitats** include savanna, woodland and mixed-oak conifer forest; typically involving oak release, oak planting or invasive species control and native species enhancement. **Prairie (wet and upland)** are non-wetland habitats dominated by grass-like plants and forbs. **Upland conifer/deciduous forests** are forests outside the floodplain or riparian zone. **Floodplain forests and wetlands (ponds)** include the full range of wetland habitat types, including floodplain bottom hardwood forests. (Federal Listings and Recovery Plans, the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Intertwine Alliance Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland Vancouver Metropolitan Area)

RESOURCES

Below are list of relevant plans:

Regional Trails Plan: http://www.oregonmetro.gov/regional-trails-and-greenways-system

Active Transportation Plan:
http://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2014_regional_active_transportation_plan_0.pdf

Green Trails: Guidelines for environmentally friendly trails:
http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/greentrailsintro.pdf

Westside Trail Master Plan: http://www.oregonmetro.gov/westside-trail-master-plan

Westside Trail Master Plan Design Framework:
http://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/06092014_westside_trail_appendix_C_report_3_design_framework.pdf

Portland Parks Trail Design Guidelines:
http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/DesignGuidelinesPortland09.pdf

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*

Watershed Action Plans: Many watershed councils have created Watershed Action Plans. Please research the individual Watershed Councils for more information.

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*

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: 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*

Regional Equity Atlas: 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: 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: 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*