

### INTRODUCTION

The parks and natural areas local option levy generates \$8-10 million per year over a five-year period. Funds collected will be spent in the following program areas: natural areas restoration and maintenance, regional parks operations, access to natural areas, volunteers, conservation education and Nature in Neighborhood grants. The following is the work plan for 2015-16, the third year of the levy.

All projects included in the Year 3 work plan are based on the criteria included in the levy resolution passed by the Metro Council in December 2012 (Resolution No. 12-4398). This resolution will continue to be the guiding document for programs and projects implemented with levy funds.

As part of the project work shown here, Metro staff will develop public engagement strategies, identify potential partners and include equity goals into approaches for each program area.

### RESTORING NATURAL AREAS FOR WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER QUALITY

Metro is engaging in three categories of restoration-related projects: large- and small-scale restoration projects at a subset of our portfolio, and natural areas maintenance, or core stewardship, at nearly every natural area. Natural area restoration and maintenance projects are selected and designed based on a combination of science and social factors. We use federal, state and regional conservation priorities, core ecological principles well accepted by restoration and conservation professionals and the best scientific information available to prioritize projects based on science and the opportunity to provide wildlife habitat and water quality benefits. We also acknowledge that we don't work in a social vacuum. Non-ecological reasons for advancing individual projects include regional leverage, motivated partners, the opportunity to address equity issues, distributing our work geographically across the portfolio, the effect of projects on neighbors and the local economy, and improving the visitor experience.

During Year 1, Metro had a dual focus of creating a solid foundation for work over the lifetime of the levy, and starting or continuing projects in progress at selected high priority sites. We launched or continued 25 large and seven small restoration projects, while laying the groundwork for future projects, including the natural areas maintenance/core stewardship project. We developed site conservation plans for our highest priority sites and explored partnerships with local community and stewardship groups such as local jurisdictions, agencies, watershed councils and conservation-oriented non-profit groups through various forms of agreements.

In Year 2, Metro started or continued implementing numerous restoration projects and several regional analyses, as well as conducting planning work for future projects. Non-site-based projects included continued development of a tool to assess habitat connectivity, beginning a seed-bank project for oak and prairie habitats, and developing a demonstration habitat project for the Westside Trail. We also continued to enhance integration of historically underserved communities through new requests for proposals for work on special projects, a special request for proposals limited to non-profits and careful implementation of the renewal process of our vegetation management master contract aimed at broadening the number and types of contractors we use. Lastly we completed hiring of new science and technical staff to support the levy work.

Year 3 will be similar in general direction to Year 2, but with a somewhat more ambitious project list because we are now fully staffed. Metro will continue to implement 51 established restoration projects managed directly by Metro or our partners, and launch six new projects. We will continue non-site-based projects to develop better regional habitat connectivity assessment tools, creation of a seed bank for oak and prairie species and a demonstration project for integrating trails and wildlife habitat. We will be integrating historically underserved communities through development of a training and fieldwork partnership with Verde, and through broad use of MWESB contractors via the habitat restoration services on-call contract. Lastly, we will continue to develop site conservation plans and project concept plans for priority sites to establish the basis for future projects.

### Large-scale restoration projects

Large-scale restoration projects create significant improvements in the quality and function of the highest priority sites and habitats. These typically involve actions such as reconnecting floodplains to rivers, constructing or removing structures that direct hydrology (water flow patterns), controlling invasive species and planting native vegetation or thinning tree stands to develop healthy native plant communities. Year 1 and 2 projects were a combination of selected new projects and continuation of active efforts on many sites, and staff devoted substantial planning and project development work to set up future projects and partnerships with agencies and non-profits. Year 3 will be much of the same with a moderate increase in number of projects reflecting the addition of two new science staff positions. Projects include hydrologic restoration focused on water quality and salmon habitat, wetland restoration focused on water quality and wildlife habitat, forest restoration with an emphasis on our largest forest holdings, and prairie and oak restoration addressing priority habitats and species.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
<b>Beaver Creek</b> Beaver Creek Complex aquatic					2020	\$0		\$300,000	Project delayed due to Multnomah County culvert projects; maintain contact with partners regarding potential project implementation late in levy; actual budget to be determined.
<b>Beaver Creek</b> Beaver Creek riparian restoration			●	●	2018	\$10,000		\$50,879	Seedling maintenance, conifer underplanting in gaps.
<b>Canemah Bluff</b> North forest restoration		●	●	●	2017	\$10,200		\$90,000	Conduct maintenance on plantings; interplant as needed.
<b>Canemah Bluff</b> Oak/prairie restoration	●	●	●	●	2018	\$45,000		\$200,000	Complete restoration plan with Institute for Applied Ecology; perform multiple invasive species treatments including mowing and spraying.
<b>Clackamas River</b> North Logan riparian restoration	●	●	●	●	2017	\$70,000		\$140,000	Perform multiple invasive species treatments including mowing and spraying; plant native trees and shrubs. Continue to work in partnership with Clackamas River Basin Council to implement project.
<b>Clackamas River</b> Richardson Creek restoration	●	●	●	●	2020	\$160,000		\$850,000	Determine future of house and barn; develop final restoration design; secure permits; select construction contractor.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
<b>Clackamas River</b> River Island restoration	●	●	●	●	2019	150,000		\$2,000,000	Continue stakeholder engagement; develop partnerships to support implementation; complete invasive species treatments; plant native trees and shrubs; complete ecological and archeological monitoring; final concept and final engineering designs for River Island north and Goose Creek opportunity areas; construct River Island south opportunity areas. Funding for implementation of this project has been transitioned to 2006 Natural Areas Bond. Some limited activities will be funded by the levy.
<b>Clear Creek</b> Forest restoration	●	●	●	●	2016	\$25,000		\$119,000	Perform multiple invasive species treatments including mowing and spraying; plant native trees and shrubs; monitor areas thinned in 2013 and 2014 to ensure success.
<b>Clear Creek</b> Middle bench restoration	●	●	●	●	2016	\$185,000		\$250,000	Complete baseline monitoring and construction under Phase I; additional \$136,000 requested for planting and management under Phase II.
<b>Clear Creek</b> Savanna restoration	●	●	●	●	2019	\$185,000		\$500,000	Complete restoration plan with Institute for Applied Ecology; perform multiple invasive species treatments including mowing and spraying; plant native seeds and bulbs.
<b>Cooper Mountain</b> Oak and prairie restoration	●	●	●	●	2018	\$180,000		\$300,000	Conduct botanical surveys (summer and fall); prairie herbicide spot sprays; winter mowing in prairie and woodlands; woodland broadleaf area sprays; bulb/plug planting; woodland/ prairie edge blackberry cut and spray; grazing.
<b>Deep Creek</b> North Fork stream restoration	●	●			2015	\$5,000		\$17,500	Monitor and maintain large wood structures and plantings completed in 2014 to ensure success.
<b>East Buttes</b> Multiple buttes forest health	●	●	●	●	2018	\$15,000		\$75,000	Develop prescriptions to improve wildlife habitat and forest health via snag creation, down wood placement, etc.
<b>East Buttes</b> West Bliss	●	●	●	●	2018	\$7,500		\$50,000	Maintenance treatments on plantings; interplant as needed; weed abatement may be needed.
<b>Forest Park</b> Burlington Creek/Ennis Creek	●	●	●	●	2019	\$140,000		\$410,000	Machine and hand crew thinning, snag creation and downed wood creation on approximately 372 acres (includes McCarthy Creek). Some weed abatement/underplanting depending on conditions.
<b>Gales Creek</b> Carpenter Creek	●	●	●	●	2020	\$64,230		\$117,900	Part of partnership with Clean Water Services. Invasive plant control; grading work to improve wetland function; install native plants.

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	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
<b>Gales Creek</b> Forest Grove	●	●	●	●	2020	\$12,100		\$76,950	Part of partnership with Clean Water Services. Finish site preparation; install seed and woody plants; conduct maintenance.
<b>Gales Creek</b> Forest Grove Aquatic	●	●	●	●	2020	TBD		\$432,000	Part of partnership with Clean Water Services. Submit grant to OWEB; continue design work. Budget will depend on final design and timeline decisions.
<b>Gales Creek</b> Maroon Ponds	●	●	●	●	2020	\$56,400		\$627,500	Part of partnership with Clean Water Services. Maintenance of newly planted areas; weed abatement; site preparation for floodplain planting; interplanting as needed.
<b>Gales Creek</b> Penstemon prairie restoration	●	●		●	2018	\$48,400		\$100,000	Final site prep prairie unit; seed purchase and seed prairie unit; monitor results and treat weeds as needed.
<b>Gales Creek</b> Penstemon wetlands	●	●	●	●	2020	\$61,750		\$463,600	Part of partnership with Clean Water Services. Forested and emergent mosaic vegetation enhancements; weed control in emergent and shrub wetlands.
<b>Johnson Creek</b> Ambleside aquatic	●	●	●	●	2020	\$140,000		\$100,000	Evaluate conceptual design options and establish plan for houses; develop project partnerships; develop final project design; submit permit applications.
<b>Johnson Creek</b> Upper Johnson Creek aquatic	●		●	●	2018	\$50,000		\$450,000	Competition control around seedlings planted in 2015 as part of aquatic restoration project. Begin limited design for Phase 2; acquire wood if available.
<b>Killin Wetlands</b> Killin Wetlands restoration	●	●	●	●	2019	\$115,000		\$200,000	Conduct botanic surveys of swamp and Geyer willow; collect Geyer willow seed and live stake material; prep and plant portions of the canarygrass-covered wetlands with live stakes of willows and other shrubs; weed abatement on slope south and west of barn; maintenance mow of higher portions of wetlands.
<b>Native Plant Center (Borland)</b> Oak and prairie herbaceous species conservation and banking project	●	●		●	2018	\$21,900		\$65,350	Develop internship program to support Metro's natural area vegetation surveys to track phenology of rare species targeted for amplification, short and long term seed banking. Develop partnership with IAE, Berry Seed Bank and professionals; provide vouchers to PSU herbarium. Amplify seed as identified by science staff, bulk up for commercial grow-out as identified.

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<b>Native Plant Center (Borland)</b> Understory species materials production research & development	●	●	●	●	2018	\$23,000		\$69,000	Work with partners and stakeholders in research and development of understory plant materials program. Goal to provide seed, plugs, root fragments to stakeholders to enhance diversity of understory restoration projects. Long term project; needs assessment in motion, connecting with commercial growers, developing seed collection protocols and initial grow out of seed at NPC. Co-funding from partners and stakeholders.
<b>Newell Creek Canyon</b> Forest restoration	●				2015	\$0		\$108,000	Monitor previously implemented activities to ensure success. Project maintenance has been transitioned to natural area maintenance.
<b>Sandy River</b> Camp Collins side channel	●		●		2016	\$10,000		\$250,000	Monitor and maintain large wood structures completed in 2014 to ensure success.
<b>Sandy River</b> Happy Creek side channel	●		●		2016	\$5,000		\$25,000	Monitor and maintain large wood structures completed in 2013 to ensure success.
<b>Sandy River</b> Oxbow stream restoration	●	●	●	●	2019	\$150,000		\$2,180,000	Continue stakeholder engagement; develop partnerships to support implementation; concept and final engineering designs; secure regulatory permits; hire construction contractor; gather and stockpile large wood.
<b>Sandy River</b> Oxbow-Spencer riparian restoration	●	●	●	●	2018	\$65,000		\$296,000	Perform multiple invasive species treatments including mowing and spraying; plant native trees and shrubs; monitor and maintain new plantings.
<b>Smith and Bybee Wetlands</b> Emergent wetland Phase I	●	●		●	2020	\$34,500		\$210,000	Continue site prep; hand spray; collect and clean seed of <i>Carex aperta</i> ; down payment plug grow-out. Some seeding and planting this FY. Co-funded with Smith and Bybee Lakes Fund.
<b>Smith and Bybee Wetlands</b> Emergent wetland Phase II	●	●		●	2021	\$10,500		\$185,000	Site prep; hand cut and hand spray.
<b>Smith and Bybee Wetlands</b> Forested wetland Phase I	●			●	2018	\$40,250		\$300,000	Spring and fall maintenance of planting units. Hand cut and spray as needed.
<b>Smith and Bybee Wetlands</b> Forested wetland Phase II	●		●	●	2019	\$91,000		\$209,000	Site prep; hand cut and spray; planting and plant protection; planting maintenance.
<b>Smith and Bybee Wetlands</b> St. Johns Prairie	●	●	●	●	2018	\$10,000		\$250,000	Weed control; planting and seeding as needed.
<b>Smith and Bybee Wetlands</b> St. Johns Prairie Phase II	●	●	●	●	2020	\$10,000		\$130,000	Delineate prairie unit; conduct initial site preparation; prepare seed list; possible seed collection as needed.
<b>Smith and Bybee Wetlands</b> Water management effectiveness	●	●	●	●	2018	\$13,000		\$55,000	Conduct first round of plant monitoring and other survey work to confirm ability of water management to control invasive plants and provide wildlife habitat in the wetlands.

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	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
<b>Smith and Bybee Wetlands</b> Water management	●	●	●	●	2018	TBD		TBD	Treat invasive species; open channel to protect water flow; mitigate risk to wildlife. Project scope and costs will be developed after initial scoping studies are completed.
<b>Smith and Bybee Wetlands/ Multnomah Channel</b> Water control structures upgrades	●	●	●	●	2017	\$81,000		TBD	Current year costs cover design, analysis, RFB development and construction oversight costs for Ducks Unlimited partnership. Total costs are TBD depending on design choices developed by Ducks Unlimited and chosen by team.
<b>Tonquin Geologic</b> Coffee Lake Creek wetland	●		●		2019	\$20,000		\$200,000	Spot spray and maintenance mows of recently planted revegetation units; fall and winter interplanting. May require additional \$15,000 for design and permits for the instream work.
<b>Tonquin Geologic</b> Corral Creek floodplain	●		●	●	2020	\$45,000		\$125,000	Riparian planting and maintenance; planning and design for instream work; macro invertebrate and fish monitoring.
<b>Tonquin Geologic</b> Graham Oaks Nature Park	●	●	●	●	2020	\$88,500		\$250,000	Hay savanna; spot sprays; plug, bulb and seed procurement; seeding and planting.
<b>Tualatin River Greenway</b> Quamash Prairie	●	●	●	●	2020	\$75,000		\$250,000	Hedgerow restoration; spot spray weed targets in wet prairies; boom spray disked fallow field on upper wet prairie; seed collection of uncommon natives; hay prairie; set up prescribed burn.
<b>Tualatin River Greenway</b> Rivers Bend prairie	●	●		●	2020	\$82,000		\$161,000	Spot spray weed targets in wet prairie; fill in sink hole; plug leaking ag tile line; identify areas to be disked and sprayed and implement; broadcast spray oak woodland; procure and spread seed; implement additional oak release.
<b>Willamette Narrows</b> Camas Cliffs restoration	●	●		●	2018	\$0		\$90,000	Weed treatments in oak release units; grass-specific herbicide trial. Approximately \$20,000 in weed control work will be funded through LR900.
<b>Willamette Narrows</b> Oak restoration	●	●	●	●	2020	\$80,000		\$30,000	Implement oak release and wildlife habitat improvements.
<b>Willamette Narrows</b> Peach Cove Fen Oak restoration	●	●		●	2018	\$0		\$60,000	Weed treatments in oak release units; weed treatments on Kahre. Approximately \$14,000 in weed control work will be funded through LR900.
<b>Willamette Narrows</b> Peach Cove Fen restoration	●	●	●	●	2018	\$8,500		TBD	Develop plan and collect water and sediment samples to establish baseline fen conditions. May also conduct invasive plant survey and weed control work. Overall project budget will be determined based on early findings.
<b>Willamette River Greenway</b> Howell savanna	●	●	●	●	2021	\$80,000		\$75,000	Maintain weed-free fallow savanna field with sprays and/or disking; construct gravel road as weed barrier along western edge of savanna unit.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
<b>Willamette River Greenway</b> Howell wetland	●	●	●	●	2019	\$40,000		\$75,000	Continue spot sprays for non-native iris, reed canarygrass, loosestrife and other weed targets; conduct botanic survey to assess condition of native community; collect seed of targeted natives for grow out and future replanting; install water control structure at outlet of wetland as it enters Gilbert River.
<b>Willamette River Greenway</b> Multnomah Channel	●	●	●	●	2017	\$85,000		\$750,000	Remove triad of 36" culverts on central access road and replace with prefab bridge crossing; create two 100' riparian dike breaches to provide high water connectivity between Multnomah Channel and wetlands; conduct Year 2 fish monitoring. OWEB grant will provide additional \$80,000 in each of FY15 and FY16.
<b>Regional Connectivity Analysis</b>	●	●	●	●	2018	\$25,000		\$125,000	Field test results of Year 1 project; refine model based on field test.
						<b>\$2,929,730</b>		<b>\$14,443,679</b>	

### Smaller-scale restoration projects

The line between large and smaller-scale restoration projects and between small restoration projects and natural areas maintenance is somewhat gray. While smaller-scale restoration projects also improve ecological function, these projects are generally smaller in size and narrower in scope than large restoration projects. They typically address lingering maintenance issues rather than fundamental or transformational changes in habitat. Projects typically focus on vegetation management such as replacing small to moderate patches dominated by invasive weeds within otherwise functional areas of native trees and shrubs, but may also include activities such as replacing or removing failing culverts, releasing small patches of oaks from competition and modifying roads to prevent erosion from reaching streams and water sources. For efficiency's sake most of these kinds of projects are now taking place under the umbrella of the Natural Areas Maintenance Project. Notable small restoration projects in Year 3 will include projects in Beaver Creek, Fanno Creek, Gales Creek, North Newell Creek Canyon, and Johnson Creek.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
<b>Beaver Creek</b> Sandy River-Beaver Creek restoration		●		●	2017	\$10,000		\$48,000	Identify and map restoration sites; initiate site prep; purchase and install native plants.
<b>Clackamas River</b> Invasive species control	●	●	●	●	2019	\$100,000		\$350,000	Adopt strategy developed with partners; seek additional implementation funding; initiate implementation. Total budget will likely be reduced.
<b>Fanno Creek</b> Bonita restoration	●	●	●	●	2018	\$30,000		TBD	Part of partnership with Clean Water Services. Riparian forest and wetland vegetation improvements via weed control and planting as needed. Overall project budget may shift to accommodate Gales Forest Grove aquatic work.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
<b>Fanno Creek</b> Woodard restoration	●	●	●	●	2018	\$6,000		TBD	Part of partnership with Clean Water Services. Riparian forest and wetland vegetation improvements via weed control and planting as needed. Overall project budget may shift to accommodate Gales Forest Grove acquit work.
<b>Gales Creek</b> Fern Hill Forest restoration	●	●	●	●	2019	\$18,000		\$40,000	Site preparation; madrone and conifer release and snag creation. Planting in FY17.
<b>Johnson Creek</b> Upper Johnson Creek forest				●	2017	\$3,000		\$75,000	Planting maintenance.
<b>Native Plant Center (Borland)</b> Infrastructure	●	●		●	2017	\$25,000		\$75,000	Construct pole structure with metal and fiber glass panels for materials storage, outdoor pot washing station and future home of seed storage cooler; design and costing to determine project costs.
<b>Native Plant Center</b> Herbaceous plant materials restoration	●	●	●	●	●	TBD		TBD	Work with underserved community crew to collect, clean, develop amplification beds to provide and produce seeds and propagules for levy restoration projects in multiple habitat types. Ongoing project with final cost to be determined by demand for products.
<b>Newell Creek Canyon</b> Newell North restoration	●	●	●	●	2018	\$65,000		\$120,000	Perform multiple invasive species treatments including mowing and spraying; plant native trees and shrubs; monitor and maintain new plantings. Continue to work in partnership with GOCWC to implement this project.
<b>Tonquin Geologic</b> Corral Creek upland restoration	●	●	●	●	2019	\$38,000		\$53,000	Planting/plant procurement/planting maintenance; ivy treatments; thinning snag creation.
<b>Tonquin Geologic</b> Graham Oaks Oak Triangle	●	●		●	2018	\$25,000		\$33,000	Oak release; shrub mastication; seed procurement and seeding; weed abatement.
<b>Tualatin River</b> Heritage Pine wet prairie					2020	TBD		TBD	Do basic invasive species treatment; develop project plan for future restoration through work with partners.
<b>Westside Trail</b> Habitat demonstration	●	●	●	●	2018	\$15,000		\$300,000	Establish demo plots; treat weeds in fall and spring; buy seed and grow in pots at Native Plant Center for planting next year.
<b>Willamette River Greenway</b> Belle Vue restoration	●		●		2017	\$3,600		\$15,000	Initial invasive species treatments.
						<b>\$338,600</b>		<b>\$1,109,000</b>	



## Natural areas maintenance

Natural areas maintenance (core stewardship) will address basic stewardship on virtually all of Metro’s natural areas. Work will emphasize reducing future maintenance costs through early detection and rapid response to invasive weeds. Although work will primarily focus on vegetation management and weed suppression, fences, gates and other basic infrastructure that support safe and healthy operation of natural areas may also be addressed. Efforts in Year 2 will focus on implementing our project approach and treatment strategy on priority sites, and refining the model and 5-year work plan as necessary.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
Natural areas maintenance Core stewardship	●	●	●	●	2018	\$800,000		\$4,000,000	Implementation and adaptive refinement of project work plan.
						<b>\$800,000</b>		<b>\$4,000,000</b>	

## IMPROVING PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS FOR PEOPLE

Levy funds are used to maintain existing parks and expand opportunities for all people to enjoy Metro’s parks and natural areas, learn about and connect with nature. This is achieved through better park maintenance, conservation education, volunteer opportunities and improvements to natural areas for people.

### Regional park operations

Metro’s parks offer important access to nature for the region’s residents and support regionally important natural habitats. More than 1.3 million visitors enjoy Metro’s developed parks each year. In Year 2, levy funds were used to make capital improvements, including upgrades to many of Metro’s developed parks. Additionally, pre-planning and design work was completed in anticipation of Year 3 projects. Year 2 projects at Blue Lake Regional Park included the completion of the park entry renovation project, initiation of a comprehensive planning process for the park, planning and construction of four restroom buildings, design and construction of the exterior yard of the Curry maintenance building, and renovation of numerous landscaped beds and picnic areas. Cooper Mountain Nature Park received a new information kiosk; new recycling containers, signage and pay stations were installed at the Gleason Boat Ramp. At Oxbow Regional Park construction documents for the renovation of the office and maintenance area were completed and ready for bid, but the project has been delayed by challenging land use permitting issues.

In Year 3, the construction of the Blue Lake Restrooms will be completed, work on the interior renovation of the curry maintenance building will begin, pre-planning and design work will begin on cabins for Oxbow Park, the boat docks at Sauvie Island Boat Ramp and Chinook Landing Marine park will be replaced, and the wetland trail and overlook platforms at Blue Lake Regional Park will be replaced. Additional pre-planning and construction will continue at many other locations as funding becomes available throughout the year.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
Blue Lake Wetland trail project	●	●			2016	\$250,000		\$750,000	Construction
Curry building interior renovations	●	●	●	●	2016	\$450,000		\$650,000	Final design and construction
Oxbow cabins	●	●	●	●	2016	\$200,000		\$200,000	Final design

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
Sauvie Island boat docks	●	●	●	●	2016	\$125,000		\$125,000	Construction
Blue Lake Restrooms	●					\$1,200,000		\$1,300,000	Construction
Chinook Landing boat docks	●	●				\$175,000		\$175,000	Construction
						<b>\$2,400,000</b>		<b>\$3,200,000</b>	

### Improving natural areas for people

Levy funds have provided an opportunity to develop innovative and sustainable facilities that leave a light touch on the ground at Metro’s natural areas, focusing on providing memorable experiences for visitors. As we endeavor in Year 3 to deliver quality visitor experiences, the ongoing challenges of ensuring safety and security as well as protecting natural resources is of paramount concern as we strive to fulfill our mission. The investments in access will ensure all communities can enjoy our parks and natural areas, especially in connecting youth with nature.

### Connecting with Nature

This effort is a two-year, action-oriented research project designed to increase understanding of what motivates youth to participate in activities outdoors and how they are currently prevented, identify challenges that exist in making our work relevant and appealing to youth and families, provide programs designed to “attract, engage and extend” underserved youth in transformative outdoor experiences, define relevant solutions by collaborating with the communities that we serve and incorporate the wisdom of community members and youth and collaboratively identify catalyst solutions where previous barriers existed.

### Community partnerships

In Year 1, a cross-departmental Metro team developed a program to achieve some of the levy’s desired equity outcomes. The program supports the formation of new partnerships with community organizations to provide expanded opportunities for children from low-income families and communities of color to experience nature. To help inform the program development, staff established partnerships with two community-based organizations to serve as “pilots.” In Year 3 we will launch a call for new partnerships, continue developing projects with existing partners, and look to extend these partnerships into a larger coalition.

### Parks and Natural Areas System Plan

This plan will guide the vision and strategic planning of regional parks, nature parks, natural areas, trails, visitor programs and grant programs. In Year 3, we will complete development of the plan. The plan will clearly define Metro’s role and services, setting a framework for decisions and investments going forward. We want to ensure that Metro’s parks, trails and natural areas work supports communities and complements partners’ efforts.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
Connecting to Nature	●	●	●	●	2016	\$120,000		\$150,000	Contract with consultant team; identify sites; host workshops; develop Phase 1.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
Partners in Nature	●	●	●	●	2018	\$250,000		\$750,000	Solicit partnership proposals; issue contracts; support partnership development; evaluate contract performance.
System plan	●	●	●	●	2016	\$200,000		\$350,000	Finalize values and strategies; draft final plan.
<b>Comprehensive planning</b> Chehalem Ridge			●	●	2018	\$120,000		\$3,600,000	Develop scope of work; begin plan; complete inventory; public outreach; develop concepts; produce comprehensive plan.
Newell Creek Canyon	●	●	●	●	2017	\$50,000		\$250,000	Finalize comprehensive plan; prepare construction documents; solicit bids for construction.
North Tualatin Mountain	●	●	●	●	2018	\$100,000		\$105,000	Finalize comprehensive plan; prepare construction documents; initiate bid process for construction services.
<b>Design and construction</b> 1% for Art program	●	●	●	●	2018	\$30,000		\$120,000	Finalize artist selection list, complete designs for one art installation.
Borland maintenance office	●	●	●		2016	\$400,000		\$400,000	Solicit bids for Phase 2 construction construct on-site improvements.
Canemah north	●	●			2015	\$225,000		\$300,000	Complete construction documents; construct on-site improvements for overlook and trails and open site.
Killin Wetlands	●	●	●	●	2016	\$515,000		\$1,032,000	Complete design and construction document phase; initiate construction.
Newell Creek Canyon	●	●	●	●	2016	\$270,000		\$1,435,000	Prepare construction documents; solicit bids for construction.
Oxbow Park playground	●	●	●	●	2016	\$200,000		\$300,000	Develop schematic design, complete construction documents, solicit construction bids, initiate construction.
Blue Lake Park Master Plan	●	●	●	●	2016	\$100,000		\$100,000	Develop comprehensive plan.
						<b>\$2,580,000</b>		<b>\$8,892,000</b>	

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Stewardship of public land requires involving people in caring for the natural areas that have been protected on their behalf. While more than 2,500 people volunteer at Metro sites every year, historically, demand for volunteer opportunities has exceeded staff capacity to support their work. Volunteers will play a key role across levy-enhanced programs. Expanded coordination supports meaningful volunteer engagement across all programs funded by the levy.

The Volunteer program completed hiring and launched a participatory accountability team in Year 1. The program data for decision making is gathered effectively from multiple sources as of Year 2. The team monitors results for shared responses to the internal and external value of

involvement opportunities: improve Metro properties and programs and increase regional equity through engaging historically underserved/under-represented communities as co-creators of meaningful volunteer opportunities as well as by participating in existing opportunities. The team monitors how volunteers' skills are developed in 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.

Professional facilitation of the accountability team has ensured cross-departmental collaboration. Year 3 will focus on building capacity and practices to lead more volunteers in new and existing involvement opportunities. As the program reporting has improved, comparisons are possible to secure strong outcomes for all program purposes.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
Protocol for reporting followed monthly, quarterly and annually	●	●	●	●	ongoing	\$18,000		TBD	Accountability team led by program analyst and program evaluation resources.
Incorporation of demographic survey results; lead team to additional outreach to co-create volunteer opportunities with underserved community members and organizations	●	●	●	●	2016	\$35,000		TBD	Volunteer coordinators pilot new involvement opportunities.
Accountability team, led by program analyst to produce annual program evaluation report	●	●	●	●	ongoing	\$6,000		TBD	Facilitator contract in place; team supported in oversight leading to six major questions to be answered each remaining year.
Staff leads receive documentation and intern support to increase outcomes to individual and group volunteers and participate in appreciation events	●	●	●	●	ongoing	\$10,800		TBD	Partnership with intern and program evaluation service; video production for program promotion and volunteer learning objectives.
						<b>\$69,800</b>		<b>TBD</b>	

## CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation education activities increase stewardship and volunteerism at the region's natural areas and increase the role of natural areas as places of learning, exploration and engagement for people of all ages and backgrounds. There are two main components to the levy's conservation education programs: interpretive opportunities for all visitors and education and skill building for youth.

### Interpretive opportunities for all visitors

Visitors to Metro's parks and natural areas will have the opportunity to learn about the site's natural and cultural history, natural resources, restoration activities and regional significance. Levy proceeds will increase the diversity and amount of public programming. In Year 1, special focus was paid to creating program plans that will lead to increased participation in public, group and school field trip programs by underserved communities. Increases in diversity and overall participation – including repeat participation – will continue in Year 3 as the conservation education team becomes fully staffed and new levy-funded programs are launched. For example, the site-based outreach and activation initiative, coordinated by the communications team, will begin in summer 2015 at Blue Lake Regional Park and Graham Oaks Nature Park.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
School programs	●				2016	\$500		TBD	Refine and update school program plan; recruit for Nature University and prep for fall programming.
		●			2016	\$3,500		TBD	Run field trips at three sites (up from two), including Scouters Mountain Nature Park; refine Nature University to ensure adequate volunteer naturalists for increased volume of field trips.
			●		2016	\$2,000		TBD	Run Nature University; prep for spring programming.
				●	2016	\$3,500		TBD	Run spring programming; evaluate and produce annual report.
Public and group programming	●	●	●	●	2016	\$4,000		TBD	Refine and update public and group program plans; run expanded public and group programming and evaluate.
						<b>\$13,500</b>		<b>TBD</b>	

### Education and skill-building for youth

In Year 3 we will build on the successful first year of Youth Ecology Corps implementation, adding more career-readiness training and college coursework opportunities for crew members. We will also receive and evaluate initial program evaluation data to determine where we are meeting our desired outcomes and where we need to make changes to the program. Further, we will continue to support the launch of a regional Youth Ecology Network of aligned basic and advanced crew opportunities as well as dedicated career opportunities for participants who successfully graduate from the advanced crew. Work Systems, Inc., the workforce development board for Washington and Multnomah counties, is coordinating this initiative and will provide substantial federal funding to support it.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
Youth Ecology Corps	●	●	●	●	2016	\$135,000		\$475,000	Run a crew of eight youth for 9 weeks each quarter; evaluate for outcomes; review contractor performance.
						<b>\$135,000</b>		<b>\$475,000</b>	

### NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY GRANTS

The grant program is a critical source of funding that supports community partnerships to achieve regional goals of improving water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and connecting people with nature close to home. Successful proposals typically feature multiple partners actively engaged in leveraging financial or in-kind services. These partnerships lead to creative approaches that address multiple social, economic and ecological needs of the community.

In Year 1, staff gathered input from community organizations and other funders in developing the grant application, criteria and evaluation measures to identify where Metro’s grant funds could be used most strategically and how they could help leverage other policy objectives for Metro’s

Natural Areas Program. Much of the time was spent reaching out to traditional and non-traditional partners to better understand the communities' needs and to raise awareness of the funding opportunity. In Year 2, staff gathered lessons learned and feedback from stakeholders about the grant application and review process, updated materials to reflect feedback and solicited another round of conservation education and restoration applications. Additionally, staff researched and gathered input from partners about how to leverage the limited funding available to best support the Council's goal of implementing the regional trails plan through community grants. Work by Metro's planning group on the Regional Trails Plan is helping inform this work.

In Year 3, staff will continue to gather lessons learned and feedback from stakeholders to continuously improve our grant making process and transparency. We will solicit a final round of conservation education and restoration applications and award the first, and only, round of trails grants.

PROJECT	TIMING					BUDGET			CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITIES
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Yr end	Current year	Cumulative	Total project	
Community outreach, in coordination with other levy public and partner engagement efforts.	●	●	●	●	2016	\$0		\$0	Stakeholder review and feedback about improvements to conservation education and restoration grants; update application, evaluation criteria and grant program materials.
Solicit, review and award third (and final) round of conservation education grants.		●	●	●	2016	\$200,000*		\$1,600,000	Advertise funding availability; appoint review committee, review and recommend grant proposals to Metro Council for approval.
Award second round and solicit and review third round of restoration grants.	●		●	●	2016	\$700,000		\$1,600,000	Advertise funding availability; appoint review committee, review and recommend grant proposals to Metro Council for approval.
Grant management and reporting.	●	●	●	●	2016	\$0		\$0	Write and administer contracts; provide training to new grant recipients about Metro's contracting requirements; develop program performance measures and reporting tools.
Finalize regional trails grant program details, advertise and solicit proposals. Grants to be awarded in FY 2016/17.	●	●	●		2016	\$0		\$500,000	Outreach to trails community and others with interest in the regional trails plan implementation aspect of the levy grant program.
						<b>\$900,000</b>		<b>\$3,700,000</b>	

\*Awarded. Grant recipients have up to three years to expend grant funds.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### Overview

Engaging people in Metro's natural areas, parks and trails is critical to the long-term success of the region's work to care for these special places – and the public's opportunities to enjoy them. As more levy projects ramp up, the nature communications team is reaching out to targeted communities through web and magazine content, media outreach, mailings, public meetings and other tactics. Public engagement goals and activities are scaled to the scope of each specific levy-funded project, as described below. In addition to project-level engagement, Metro is raising general awareness of the region's nature story through online and print content, an annual report, stakeholder engagement and an upcoming outreach initiative. Budget for communications and engagement work is contained within levy program and project budgets.

## **Our Big Backyard**

Metro launched Our Big Backyard magazine in January 2014 to replace the newsletter-style GreenScene, strategically telling the story of the levy and aligning with the agency's communications approach. The new magazine engages readers with journalism-style stories, bold photography and design, and more opportunities to get involved. Targeted mailings have consistently delivered the magazine to neighborhoods with a special interest in the featured content, such as a cover story about a particular project or a field guide for a park.

## **Place-based engagement**

A new place-based engagement initiative will launch in summer 2015, providing coordinated engagement opportunities at Blue Lake Regional Park in Fairview and Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville. A series of volunteer and conservation education offerings, along with special events, are designed to build awareness and relationships with the communities surrounding key sites. This project serves as an incubator for future engagement across Metro's portfolio of parks and natural areas.

## **Ramp-up to 2016 outreach initiative**

Metro is committed to elevating awareness of the region's investments in parks, trails and natural areas through a focused outreach initiative every few years. In 2011, an outreach initiative told the story of the region's natural areas bond measure through advertising, a short film, events and farmers market booths. The next outreach initiative will highlight both the bond and the levy.