



Partners in Nature program

Program Goals and Selection Guidelines

SUMMARY

Partners in Nature was created in collaboration with organizations representing communities of color. Leaders identified a common goal of connecting their constituents to the land, accessing Metro-managed parks and natural areas, and working with Metro's Parks and Nature team. Approximately \$250,000 is available for this cycle. Funding is made possible thanks to the voter-approved 2013 Natural Areas levy.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Potential partners should fulfill the following minimum requirements to be considered:

- Be a culturally-specific group or organization
Definition: Organizations that are staffed and led primarily by those who share the racial and ethnic characteristics of the community they serve. (Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile)
- Serve Communities of Color
Metro shares the Coalition for Communities of Color recognition of the following communities of color: African, African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American and Slavic communities. Metro includes groups that serve a multi-cultural community comprised primarily of members of the above mentioned groups.
- Demonstrate a desire to connect their community with nature

LETTER OF INTEREST PROCESS & TIMELINE

Interested groups and organizations can submit a letter of interest at any time. Priority will be given to letters received before November 30, 2015.

Community Open House: Listen to stories from current partnerships and ask questions

- Tuesday, November 10, 2015 from 6:00 – 8:00pm
- Co-hosted with The Center for Intercultural Organizing at their offices
- Address: 700 N. Killingsworth Street

Letters of Interest will begin being reviewed on November 30, 2015

Advisory committee recommendations by December 2015

Staff recommendations by late January 2016

Formal Partnership notice to proceed by February 2016

Funded collaborative planning period beginning February 2016

PROGRAM GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Proposed partnerships need to support the program's Levy-based goals to:

- Increase community engagement at Metro's parks and natural areas through community partnerships.
- Increase opportunities for communities of color and children from low income families to experience the region's parks and natural areas.

GUIDELINES

Formal partners will be recommended by a team of community members and Metro staff. Potential partners will be reviewed with the following goals and guidelines.

Does the proposed partnership idea achieve the following common goals?

- Explore youth, family and/or community connections with nature
- Offer new or increased opportunities for communities of color to experience nature
- Discuss increasing capacity (the ability or power to do, experience, or understand) of partner organizations to continue this work into the future
- Create space for both Metro and the CBO to learn/grow through this partnership

Does the proposed partnership include the following elements?

- Complement Metro staff capacity in identified **core service areas**: conservation education, outreach, volunteerism, science, restoration, park maintenance and/or cemeteries
- Propose a **culturally specific approach** to program and activity development
- Have the potential to take place at **Metro parks and natural areas**

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

The administration of this partnership program is designed to be responsive to the needs of potential partners and flexible enough to assist with the evolving nature of community partnerships.

Letter of interest review

Metro staff will review the letter of interest to ensure the potential partner meets the eligibility requirements. This review may include follow-up communication with the potential partner.

Eligibility. If staff determines that the potential partner meets the eligibility requirements, the letter will be shared with an advisory committee made up of Metro staff and community members. This committee will work together to review how well the potential partner and their community connection interest match the program goals and guidelines and recommend select groups or organizations for further conversations.

Selection. Metro staff will hold conversations with potential partners during the letter review period. These conversations are intended to begin to build relationships with potential partners and give the opportunity for both Metro and partners to assess their capacity to create a mutually beneficial partnership. Formal partnership recommendations will be submitted to Parks and Nature leadership for approval.

AGREEMENTS

Metro staff will work with the groups and/or organizations selected as formal partners to enter into the necessary agreements for the partnership between Metro and the applicant. There will be two sets of agreements: a planning agreement setting aside up to 6 months to co-create goals, scope of work, time line, and evaluation measures for the partnerships followed by a partnership agreement to implement this co-created scope.

For information and assistance about this program, please visit: www.oregonmetro.gov/partnersinnature or contact Sheilagh Diez, Project Manager at Sheilagh.Diez@oregonmetro.gov or (503) 813-7533.