



Metro

Metro protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and creates opportunities to enjoy nature through a connected network of parks, trails and natural areas. Metro manages 17,000 acres of land across the greater Portland region, as well as providing volunteer opportunities, education programs and community nature grants.



Parks and nature levy

Five-year renewal on November 2016 ballot

Metro's Parks and Natural Areas Local Option Levy protects clean water, restores fish and wildlife habitat, and connects people with nature across 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas. The Metro Council is asking voters to consider the Parks and Natural Areas levy in November 2016, which, if passed, would make the funding available for five additional years at the same rate to homeowners.

About half the current levy funding maintains and restores habitat on land that has been acquired over the course of two decades and previous voter-approved bond measures.

The other half of the money improves Metro parks, opens new sites for public access, expands volunteer and education programming, and funds grants to community nature projects.

The current levy costs homeowners within Metro's boundaries in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value - \$20 for a home assessed at \$200,000. If passed, levy funding would be extended through June 2023 at the same rate as the current levy. The proposed levy would bring in about \$16 million per year.

Source: Metro Council Resolution No. 16-4690

The information on this fact sheet was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office for compliance with ORS 260.432.

For details about the potential levy renewal, including project selection criteria, go to oregonmetro.gov/nature or call Metro's Parks and Nature team at 503-797-1545.

What the current levy does

If passed, the levy would continue funding for existing program areas. Legislation adopted by the Metro Council includes criteria for selecting projects in each program area and target funding levels as shown in the chart.

Source: Metro Council Resolution No. 16-4690

Examples below show how funds from the current levy have been used.



Restoration

Multnomah Channel Marsh: Metro and partners are restoring wetlands at Multnomah Channel Marsh to support native fish, including juvenile Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and Pacific and brook lamprey.



Land management and maintenance

Weed treatment: Metro is treating more than 10,700 acres of land to control invasive species and enhance wildlife habitat.



Park operations

Blue Lake Regional Park: A new entryway, native plant landscaping, bathrooms and wetland boardwalk have been installed at Metro's most-visited park, just south of the Columbia River in Fairview.



Public access improvements

Newell Creek Canyon: Metro worked with community members and partners in Oregon City on a plan to guide improvements for visitors while continuing restoration.



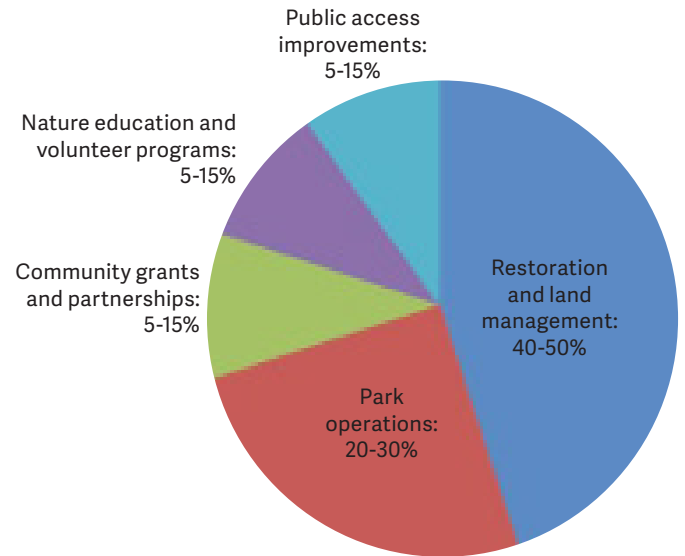
Nature education and volunteer programs

Programming: Metro offers school field trips, drop-in nature activities and volunteer opportunities, with a focus on serving people of color, low-income communities, people with disabilities and other underserved groups.



Community grants and partnerships

Levy connections: Metro has awarded nature education, restoration and trails grants, as well as creating the Partners in Nature program to develop opportunities to connect historically underserved communities with nature.



Source for program areas: Parks and Nature annual report, oregonmetro.gov/parksandnature2015