



Parks and Nature Community Partnerships: Support to participate in Metro-led activities

Would you like to connect your community with nature through a Metro nature education or volunteer activity? Team up with Metro staff to explore Metro parks and natural areas, receive financial support for transportation and interpretation, and to enjoy culturally relevant programming for your community. Find out if Metro-led activities are right for you.

Who are funds for?

Community-based organizations and groups led by and for people of color¹ who want to join an activity led by Metro staff.

What are funds for?

Support covers transportation, language interpretation and snack and beverage needs for groups participating in an activity led by Metro staff.

What kind of Metro – led activities are available?

- Learn outdoors in a nature education program. Learn more about possible topics and locations at oregonmetro.gov/parks/nature-education.
- Work together on a group volunteer activity at a park or our Native Plant Center. You can find existing options at oregonmetro.gov/volunteer or contact the volunteer team at 503-813-7505 or volunteer@oregonmetro.gov.
- Coming soon! You can request a community activity in partnership with the Indigenous Community Liaison.

¹ Metro shares the Coalition for Communities of Color recognition of the following communities of color: African, African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latinx, Middle Eastern and North African, Native American and Slavic. Metro includes groups that serve a multi-cultural community comprised primarily of members of the groups listed above.

How much funding is available?

Groups can request up to \$1,100 per activity. Each year, there is a total budget of \$10,000 to support participation in activities led by Metro staff.

Minimum requirements

- Funding is available for groups led by and for people of color.
- Activities must take place at a Metro park or natural area.
- Activities must be led or co-led by a Metro staff member
- Activities must align with the 2013 Parks and Natural Areas levy goal to: *Increase opportunities for communities of color to experience nature at Metro parks and natural areas*

How do I get these funds?

Organizations and groups can request funding while registering for a program. Just let the program contact know you are interested in accessing these funds. You will need to answer a few questions to determine activity availability.

When are funds available?

Support for participation in activities led by Metro staff is available throughout the year. If a request is made early enough, partners will receive funds prior to the program date.

What do I need to report after the activity?

Nothing! Metro staff will record participation numbers and observations.

Where do the funds come from?

In 2013 and 2016, voters across the region approved a Parks and Natural Areas Levy to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and create opportunities to enjoy nature close to home. This levy includes funding for a Parks and Nature community partnerships program that supports communities of color in building capacity and connecting people with nature at Metro parks and natural areas. There are four community partnership program areas: co-created community partnerships, sponsorships for community-led activities, support to participate in activities led by Metro staff, and partnership innovation funds.

Who do I call if I have questions?

Sheilagh Diez, Community partnerships coordinator at 503-813-7533 or sheilagh.diez@oregonmetro.gov