



Parks and Nature Community Partnerships: Sponsorships for community-led activities

Would you like to build your community's capacity and connect with nature in the greater Portland region? These sponsorships provide funding and Metro staff support for community-based organizations and groups to explore Metro parks and natural areas and create culturally relevant activities, classes and events. Find out if sponsorships for community-led activities are right for you.

Who are sponsorship funds for?

These funds are intended to support community-led and community-driven activities. Community-based organizations and groups (including community groups, non-profits, neighborhood groups, individuals, faith groups and service groups) led by and for people of color¹ can request a sponsorship.

What are sponsorship funds for?

Sponsorships may cover staff time, transportation, participant stipends, insurance, language interpretation, refreshments, and other costs related to your activity. Examples of activities include: a group picnic, a cultural celebration, a healing gathering, a group star gazing.

How much funding is available?

Individual groups can request up to \$3,500 per request. There are two semi-annual awards cycles. This spring cycle will have \$50,000 total available. The fall cycle will have \$25,000 total available.

Where can I learn more about Metro parks and natural areas?

Explore more about Metro's Parks and Natural Areas on our website at oregonmetro.gov/parks.

Minimum requirements

- Activities must take place at a Metro park or natural area.
- Activities must be led by and for communities of color
- Activities must contribute to the 2013 Parks and Natural Areas Levy goal: *to increase opportunities for communities of color to experience nature at Metro parks and natural areas*
- Activities must have elements that can be tracked and reported (# of attendees, etc.)

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.

- If your group is not a 501(c) 3 nonprofit, you must have a fiscal sponsor that is one. The fiscal sponsor will submit the invoice and receive the funds on your behalf. They will be responsible for the proper use and accounting of the funds. If your sponsor charges a fee, you can include that fee in your request.
- Activities must start no earlier than July 1, 2020 and be completed by June 30, 2021.

What is the process to receive funds?

- Complete your request by March 25, 2020 by filling out the online form or using the paper form available at oregonmetro.gov/parkspartnerships.
- A group of Metro staff will review your idea and offer suggestions for ways to support your request.
- A community committee will review all the requests and recommend which ones should receive funding.
- The department director will make the final decision on who receives sponsorship funds.

What’s the timeline?

Dec. 2019	July 2020 to June 2021 sponsorship funds announced
Jan. 14, 2020, 6 -7:30 p.m.	Learn more about sponsorships at an optional workshop
Feb. 12, 2020, 6 -7:30 p.m.	Learn more about sponsorships at an optional workshop
March 25, 2020	Requests due to Metro
April 2020	Community committee review & recommendation
Early May 2020	Parks and Nature leadership review & funding decision
Mid-May 2020	Community-led activities sponsorships announced
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	Sponsored activities happen at Metro locations

The dates for the next sponsorships funding cycle will be announced in fall 2020.

What do I need to report?

Partners will complete a short on-line form to report activity numbers and key impressions or learnings. Partners will not need to include receipts or matching funds.

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