



Investing in parks and nature

Help put the 2019 parks and nature bond to work

In November 2019, voters approved a \$475 million bond measure to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for people to connect with nature close to home.

Through the bond's investments, Metro is working to ensure that parks and nature across greater Portland benefit people of color, Indigenous people, people with low incomes, people with disabilities and others who have not benefited equitably from past investments.

The bond measure also funds climate resilience projects. Climate change is already affecting greater Portland, and it disproportionately harms people of color, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized groups. The bond measure will help prepare the region to face this crisis.

Community engagement is key to racial equity. This bond measure will help Metro work in partnership with community members, community organizations and government agencies to create greater racial equity and improve the region's resilience to climate change, with a focus on the communities most impacted.

The bond's six program areas

- Land investments and restoration, \$155 million
- Metro park improvements, \$98 million
- Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants, \$40 million
- Local parks and nature projects, \$92 million
- Walking and biking trails, \$40 million
- Complex community projects, \$50 million

Bond refinement

Now that the measure has passed, Metro is hiring staff, building teams, and connecting with community and regional partners to implement the bond. This process, called refinement, is when Metro and the community come together to take the big policy goals in the bond measure and turn them into specific actions, programs and criteria.

Each of the six bond program areas will have its own engagement and decision-making processes. Many of these processes will begin in the next few months.

Refinement is a key time for you to share your values and aspirations for the region with decision makers.

Refinement schedule

November 2019 to April 2020

Preparation

- Hire staff to manage refinement.
- Create a work plan that guides the refinement.
- Prepare for first bond sale (bond issuance).
- Reconnect with community and regional partners.

May to October 2020

Alignment

- Identify and make changes to existing programs to match the bond's principles.
- Collaborate with community and regional partners to ensure programs match their needs and expectations.
- Coordinate local share projects with regional park providers.
- Align priorities, processes, and direction of department programs with new bond criteria and principles.
- Review and prioritize capital projects.

November 2020 to March 2021

Launch

- Develop capital grants program.
- Establish inter-governmental agreements for local parks and nature projects.
- Begin land purchases of areas prioritized through inclusive community and regional partner engagement.

April 2021 and onward

Innovate

- Continue community and regional partner relationships and adjust programs based on feedback.
- Innovate programs based on input from Metro staff and Council.
- Develop community-led, racial-justice focused land acquisition project.
- Develop participatory grantmaking pilot program.
- Develop the program to advance complex community projects.

Learn more and sign up for bond updates

[oregonmetro.gov/
parksandnaturebond](https://oregonmetro.gov/parksandnaturebond)

Questions?

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