

Application: 2019 Metro parks and nature bond oversight committee



Do you love parks and natural areas? Do you want to support conservation and racial equity by helping Metro fulfill its promises to the people of greater Portland? Metro is looking for individuals who are deeply committed to advancing racial equity and have experience in areas such as finance, conservation, tribal sovereignty, and other topics to serve on an independent community advisory committee to provide oversight of capital investments in parks and nature.

The committee will keep Metro accountable and transparent in its use of capital funds from the \$475 million 2019 parks and nature bond and the parks and natural areas levy, which raises about \$16 million a year. Voters overwhelmingly approved both measures. The committee will provide transparent oversight of the 2019 bond measure by reviewing implementation and confirming that it is in alignment with the voter approved bond goals and purpose to ensure that taxpayer funds are used responsibly.

Please visit this section on the metro webpage for more details:
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/parks-and-nature-bond-measure>

Bond and committee description

The bond measure supports projects that protect clean water, healthy habitat and access to nature. Any project funded by the bond must fulfill three criteria: advancing racial equity, climate resilience and community engagement. The measure was developed through engagement with a wide range of community members.

The 2019 parks and nature bond measure supports the following programs.
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/parks-and-nature-bond-measure/background>

- Protect and restore land (\$155 million)
- Local parks and nature projects (\$92 million)
- Nature in Neighborhood capital grants (\$40 million)
- Metro parks improvements (\$98 million)
- Walking and biking trails (\$40 million)
- Large scale community visions (\$50 million)

Independent community oversight has been essential to Metro's transparency, accountability and delivery on promises to voters in each of its funding measures. The oversight committee will:

- Review progress of the bond measure's goals and projects.
- Ensure that the implementation of the bond measure protects and restores clean water and habitat and connects people with nature.
- Ensure projects fulfill the criteria of racial equity, community engagement and climate resilience.
- Provide oversight on investments from the parks and natural areas local-option levy.
- Work with staff to develop a set of metrics that will evaluate bond measure performance.

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Membership

The Metro Council will appoint 13 to 17 committee members who reflect a broad range of personal and professional experience. The committee will also reflect the diversity of the region.

The Council seeks a mix of representatives who collectively demonstrate:

- A commitment to racial equity, social and environmental justice, diversity and inclusion
- Experience, skills and knowledge in finance, land acquisition, conservation, construction, environmental law, working lands and tribal sovereignty
- Personal, lived experience with how Metro decisions impact people of color, the disability community, and the urban Indigenous community
- The ability to work collaboratively with people of diverse perspectives and experiences
Connections with historically marginalized communities in greater Portland Understanding of the geographic and demographic diversity of the region

Committee member commitments

- Four times a year, attend two- to three-hour meetings online or in-person when it's safe to gather.
- Spend an additional one to two hours preparing for meetings.
- Serve a one- or two-year term.

Resources

Stipends, childcare, technical assistance, interpretation, accessibility assistance and other supports for participation will be provided for committee members upon request.

Questions about the application process or the oversight committee?

Please email melanie.reinert@oregonmetro.gov

Please mail your completed application to:

Metro Regional Center
Attn: Beth Cohen
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

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Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

*** 1. Please share your contact information:**

Name:

Address:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State/Province:

ZIP/Postal Code:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

*** 2. What county do you live in?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Clackamas
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multnomah
<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe _____)

3. If you are employed, what is your employer and title/role?

*** 4. Have you read the committee description?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

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*** 5. How did you hear about this opportunity?**

*** 6. In a paragraph, describe your interest in serving on the 2019 parks bond oversight committee.**

*** 7. What do you see as the opportunities and challenges of ensuring the parks bond is accountable to voters?**

*** 8. Please describe what you think it means to advance racial equity, and how it relates to the work of this committee and the parks bond in general?**

9. The committee will include individuals with identities, experience, and knowledge in the following areas. Please mark all that apply for you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am Black, Indigenous, or a person of color.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a low income.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am an immigrant or refugee.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a disability.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am LGBTQIA2S+.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have background/knowledge of financial management or auditing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have background/knowledge of conservation/ecology principles.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have background/knowledge of issues related to working lands.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a lawyer.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have experience providing culturally specific services.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I bring experience from the business perspective.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I bring experience from the philanthropic perspective.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have background/knowledge of issues related to provision and maintenance of parks and natural areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a member of another underserved or historically marginalized group. (please describe below, see next page for a definition)

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Historically marginalized - A limited term that refers to groups who have been denied access and/or suffered past institutional discrimination in the United States and, according to the Census and other federal measuring tools, includes African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans. This is revealed by an imbalance in the representation of different groups in common pursuits such as education, jobs, housing, etc., resulting in marginalization for some groups and individuals and not for others, relative to the number of individuals who are members of the population involved.

Other groups in the United States have been marginalized and are currently underrepresented. These groups may include but are not limited to other ethnicities, adult learners, veterans, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, different religious groups and different economic backgrounds.

University of California, Berkeley (2015). Berkeley Diversity – Glossary of Terms.

*** 10. Please describe in more detail how your background, knowledge and/or lived experience will help you to contribute to the committee.**

11. Please describe any previous or existing relationships with Metro including employment, and list any participation in an advisory committee, oversight committee, contracting work, etc.

Demographics

These next questions help decision-makers at Metro know if we are hearing from a representative group of people reflecting the region’s diverse communities and broad range of experiences.

*** 1. Which of the following ranges includes your age?**

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 and older
- Prefer not to answer

*** 2. Within the broad categories below, where would you place your racial or ethnic identity? (Select all that apply)**

- Native American, American Indian or Alaska Native Asian or Asian American
- Asian or Asian American
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Prefer not to answer
- An ethnicity not included above (please specify) _____

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*** 3. How do you identify your gender? (Select all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Man
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transgender
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic or Latino/a/x
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-binary, genderqueer or third gender
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to answer
<input type="checkbox"/>	A gender not listed above (please describe) _____

*** 4. Please share your gender pronouns.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	he/him/his
<input type="checkbox"/>	she/her/hers
<input type="checkbox"/>	they/them/theirs
<input type="checkbox"/>	other (please specify)

*** 5. What language or dialect is used most in your home? (Select one)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	American Sign Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	Korean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somali
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arabic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandarin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cantonese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon-Khmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tagalog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chuukese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nepali	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ukrainian
<input type="checkbox"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>	Persian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vietnamese
<input type="checkbox"/>	Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Romanian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to answer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Russian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Language or dialect not listed: _____

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*** 6. What is your education experience?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Less than high school
<input type="checkbox"/>	Some high school
<input type="checkbox"/>	High school diploma
<input type="checkbox"/>	Some college or an associate's or 2-year technical degree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bachelor's degree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Post-graduate degree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to answer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe _____)

*** 7. If you live with a disability, which of these best describes your disability or disabilities? (pick all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ambulatory difficulty (having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cognitive difficulty (because of a physical, mental or emotional challenge, having difficulty remembering, concentrating or making decisions)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing difficulty (deaf or having serious difficulty hearing)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Independent living difficulty (because of a physical, mental or emotional challenge, having difficulty doing errands alone)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Self-care difficulty (having difficulty bathing or dressing)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vision difficulty (blind or having serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to answer
<input type="checkbox"/>	No disability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe _____)

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*** If I'm not selected to be part of this group, I would like to receive email updates:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

*** Would you be interested in receiving information/updates on other opportunities to participate in Metro committee work?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

The resources below are available to support your ability to participate in online and in-person meetings, and will be made available to members as requested. These include but are not limited to:

- Childcare during in-person meetings
- Stipends for participation and to allow for full participation in virtual meetings (i.e. internet access, computer access)
- Travel expenses to Metro (when gatherings are safe)
- Interpretation/translation

Under Oregon law, a “public official” includes any person serving on a public body, including volunteers and regardless of whether the person is compensated. By serving on this committee, you would be considered a public official and are required to comply with Oregon Government Ethics Law and to disclose any conflicts of interest.

An actual or potential conflict of interest exists when an official action either will or could result in financial benefit (or detriment) to you, your close relatives or a business with which either you or your close relatives are associated.

By submitting this application, you confirm that you have read and agree to the committee description and commitments.

Please note that information provided in this document is public information, with the exception of the Optional Information section. Information in the optional section will only be disclosed as required by law.

Metro makes a commitment to provide reasonable accommodation for any disability that may interfere with a person’s ability to actively participate in this process. Call 503-797-1774 with such requests, or 503-797-1804 TDD