



Investing in parks and nature

Apply for the 2019 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>

The bond's six program areas

- 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.

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.

Learn more and sign up for bond updates

oregonmetro.gov/parksandnaturebond

Questions?

Melanie Reinert
Strategic Funding Administrative Specialist
503-813-7557
melanie.reinert@oregonmetro.gov