



Parks and Nature Community Partnerships Capacity-building sponsorships – open call*

Would you like to build your group or organization's capacity to connect Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) communities with nature in the greater Portland region? These sponsorships provide funding for activities that build capacity to connect BIPOC communities with nature. Find out if capacity-building sponsorships are right for you.

Who are sponsorships for?

These funds are for community-based organizations and groups (including community groups, nonprofits, neighborhood groups, faith groups, collaboratives and service groups) led by and for Black and Indigenous people, and people of color* (BIPOC).

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.

What are sponsorship funds for?

These funds are intended to support community-based organizations and groups and must be used to build capacity to connect communities of color with nature. Funds could be used for the following:

- Advancing the group's ability to connect communities of color with nature, including staff time, program outreach costs, and insurance for events.
- Training, professional and leadership development of staff or community members related to increasing capacity to connect communities of color with nature.
- Materials and supplies, such as gardening equipment, backpacking gear, food, etc.
- IT services, software, and hardware for activities such as online curriculum development, administration, and participation, nature education guides, or information sharing: multimedia support, network connections, or improved broadband.
- Transportation costs for community members, including bus passes, gas cards and rideshare credits.
- Stipends and incentives for program participants.
- Expansion or establishment of online programming that connects communities of color with nature.

- Expansion or establishment of in-person programming to connect people of color with nature, in accordance with relevant COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.
- Other activities that build capacity to connect communities of color with nature.

Some examples of possible, allowed activities include:

- Creation of documents summarizing recommendations or best practices for Metro to consider when connecting BIPOC communities with nature or more collaborative programming with Metro staff and/or Metro's parks and natural areas.
- Acquisition of equipment to facilitate connecting communities with nature.
- Hiring a graphic designer to create a nature education field guide or other materials to facilitate BIPOC communities' connection with nature.
- Leadership development training for staff or community members that supports their capacity to offer programming that facilitates BIPOC connection with nature.

How much funding is available?

Individual groups can request up to \$3,500 per request for the open call* program. This is a one-time program. Up to \$21,000 total is available.

Minimum requirements for by invitation program

- Applicant must not have received funding from Metro through either the Community Partnerships program (formerly Partners in Nature) or the Nature in Neighborhoods community grants program.
- Applicant organizations or groups must be led by and for communities of color.
- Capacity-building activities must contribute to the Parks and Natural Areas Levy goal of increasing opportunities for communities of color to experience nature.*
- Activities must include an element of shared learning between Metro and applicant.*
- Group must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor that is one.
- Activities must start no earlier than March 1, 2020 and be completed by June 30, 2022.

What is the process to receive funds?

- Complete your request by December 13, 2020 by filling out the online form or using the paper form available at oregonmetro.gov/parkspartnerships.
- A committee of Metro staff will review all the requests and recommend which ones should receive funding. If funds allow, Metro will provide sponsorships to all requests that meet the minimum requirements.
- The department director will make the final decision on who receives sponsorship funds.

What's the timeline?*

October 2020	Sponsorship funds announced.
Wednesday, October 21, 2020	Learn more about sponsorships at an optional workshop.
Thursday, November 12, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday, October 21, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.• Thursday, November 12, 5 to 6 p.m.
December 13, 2020	Requests due to Metro.
December 2020 and January 2021	Community committee review and recommendation.
February 2021	Parks and Nature leadership review and funding decision.
February 2021	Capacity-building sponsorships announced.
March 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022	Sponsored programming takes place.

What do I need to report?

Sponsored partners will complete a short online 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, 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, while also facilitating two-way learning between Metro and partners.

Metro recognizes that groups and organizations led by and for people of color tend to have the most established trust and capacity to build deep relationships with communities of color and that they are therefore best equipped to increase opportunities for communities of color to connect with nature. Resources for the Parks and Nature capacity-building sponsorships program are available thanks to the voters' renewal of Metro's parks and natural areas levy in 2016.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Tara Sonali Miller, community partnerships program manager at 503-813-7533 (voicemail only) or tara.miller@oregonmetro.gov.

***Open call** - this program is for organizations and groups who have not previously received funding from Parks and Nature's Community Partnerships program (formerly Partners in Nature) or the Nature in Neighborhoods community grants program. If you did not receive an invitation to apply to the program for previously funded groups and organizations, this fact sheet is for you!

If you received an invitation to apply, or if you believe you are eligible but did not receive an invitation, please contact Tara Sonali Miller at tara.miller@oregonmetro.gov.