



Metro

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we do a lot of things better together – like creating a unique park system with nature at its heart. Voter investments allow Metro to protect 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas, from the Chehalem Mountains on the west to the Sandy River Gorge on the east.

Count on Metro for clean water, healthy fish and wildlife habitat, and opportunities to connect with nature close to home.

oregonmetro.gov



Parks and nature levy

Possible 2022 renewal

Metro's parks and natural areas local-option levy protects clean water, restores fish and wildlife habitat, and connects people with nature across 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas.

About half the levy funding maintains and restores habitat on land that has been acquired over the course of two decades and three voter-approved bond measures.

The other half of the money supports park operations, improves public access at Metro destinations, expands volunteer and education programming, and provides grants for community nature projects and partnerships.

The levy raises about \$16 million per year. It costs homeowners within Metro's boundaries in

Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value — approximately \$20 for a home with \$200,000 in assessed value.

The Metro Council is considering asking voters to renew the levy in 2022, which would make the funding available for five additional years.

In May 2021, the Metro Council asked staff to develop a potential levy renewal at the same rate, to build off the existing framework and categories, and to prioritize racial equity and climate resilience. Staff expects to deliver a potential levy renewal in early 2022 to the Metro Council to decide if and when to place it on the ballot.

What does the current levy support?

Examples below show how money from the current levy is used.



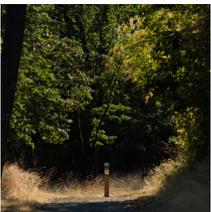
Restoration and maintenance

There are roughly a hundred active projects to protect clean water and restore fish and wildlife habitat across the region at places like Chehalem Ridge Nature Park, and Clear Creek and Smith and Bybee Wetlands natural areas. In addition to restoring forests, prairies and rivers, Metro works to maintain healthy habitat by planting native trees and shrubs, thinning overly dense forests, treating invasive weeds and more. There are often 20 to 50 maintenance projects at any given time.



Park operations

More than 1.7 million visitors enjoy Metro's developed parks each year for walking, hiking, paddling, canoeing, camping, bird watching, and fishing, in addition to family and community events. The levy allows Metro to operate, maintain, and upgrade Metro sites so that they are safe, welcoming and inclusive.



Public access improvements

Metro has worked with community members and partners on plans to guide improvements that connect people with nature close to home at current destinations and new places like Killin Wetlands Nature Park and the upcoming Chehalem Ridge and Newell Creek Canyon nature parks, which are both scheduled to open in late 2021.



Nature education and volunteer programs

Metro offers school field trips, drop-in nature activities and volunteer opportunities, with a focus on serving people of color, low-income communities, people with disabilities and other historically and continually marginalized groups.



Community grants and partnerships

Metro has awarded over 115 nature education, restoration and trails grants, as well as creating the Community Partnerships program to connect historically and continually marginalized communities with nature.

The work ahead

Over the next six months, Metro staff will build and deliver a levy renewal proposal to Metro Council for their consideration to place it on the ballot in 2022. This work will happen over three steps.

Summer – fall 2021

- Discuss proposed renewal with stakeholders.
- Begin ballot research.
- Gather information.

Fall – winter 2022

- Compile and review information.
- Draft potential renewal.
- Review, finalize renewal.

Early 2022

- Deliver potential levy renewal package to Metro Council for consideration.

For more information on voter investments, visit oregonmetro.gov/nature

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