

# Winter 2023 Parks and Nature quarterly update

Covering bond activities and investments from October-December 2022



## **BOND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMPLETED: JULY-DECEMBER 2022**

**From October-December 2022, staff have completed the following outreach across bond programs:**

- Conversations with 25 new landowners out of 60 total about opportunities for land acquisition
- Kick off conversations with 5 park providers about the capital grants pilot in western Washington County and one meeting of the [capital grants design and review committee](#)
- November 2 local share roundtable held for park providers on community engagement
- 10 conversations with park providers about submitting projects for the bond's local share program
- December 12 training for trail grant recipients on cultural resource assessments and developing inadvertent discovery plans (IDPs)

## **BOND REPORTING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES COMPLETED**

[A set of infographics](#) are posted on Metro's website to visualize bond progress over time to the public. These are meant to serve as a compliment to the [storytelling](#) that we have been doing to highlight specific projects and bond wide progress. [The Parks and Nature annual report](#) for FY 2022 is also posted on the website.

The bond evaluation outcomes data collection pilot has collected data on initial bond programs through 38 interviews and 34 online survey responses as part of efforts to evaluate the impact of early bond program activities and engagement. The findings from the pilot will be included as part of the year 2 staff report to the committee.

## **BOND ACTIVITIES AND INVESTMENTS COMPLETED: OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2022**

### **Protect and restore land activities from October-December 2022**

[oregonmetro.gov/protect-and-restore-land](https://oregonmetro.gov/protect-and-restore-land)

The team continues to ramp up outreach to land-owners across the region to create a pipeline of opportunities for acquisition in alignment with the targets and goals approved by the Metro Council this past spring.

Most recently, Metro purchased a small but significant parcel that includes 115 feet of Beaver Creek

and is surrounded by Metro's South Beaver Creek Greenway Natural Area and [40 acres in Washington County](#), creating the new Fir Clearing Creek Canyon Natural Area including springs and forested headwaters that help provide cold, clean water and increased summer base flow downstream to the Tualatin River. The property contains over 3,000 feet of fish habitat in the main stem, tributaries and headwater areas of Heaton Creek, which is important spawning and rearing habitat for culturally-important native fish such as Coho Salmon, Steelhead and Pacific Lamprey (important species identified by tribal nations and Indigenous community stakeholders). This property will provide a meaningful anchor for future conservation investment in this part of the Lower Tualatin Headwaters target area.

This takes the total parcels acquired as of December 2022 to 11 for 385 acres and 1,900 feet of trail gaps. See more specific information about acquisitions in the appendix of this report.

### **Local share activities completed from October-December 2022**

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

The local share team is working with the region's park providers to identify, submit and approve priority projects for bond local share funding and will continue to report on projects submitted for

approval and finalized agreements with park providers.

During this period, the team received a submission from Portland Parks and Recreation for three projects totaling \$7.5 million and one from the City of Forest Grove for a project at Stites Park for \$1.5 million.

As of December 2022, this makes 5 total projects approved for \$10.3 million with these four projects in active review.

**Walking and biking trails activities completed from October-December 2022**

Since Council approved [12 trail grant awards for \\$19.5 million](#) across the region from the Clackamas River trail to the Gresham Fairview trail to the Westside trail to Marine Drive trail, the Parks and Nature team is working with grant recipients execute intergovernmental agreements with park providers by spring 2023 so that project work can move forward.

**Take care of Metro parks activities completed from October-December 2022**

Progress continues on health, safety and accessibility improvements at Blue Lake and Oxbow.

[At Blue Lake Park](#), investments are underway to update the health, safety and accessibility. Initial phase of construction for the new water line is complete as is the work to remove defunct buildings. The park remains open.

Work continues on developing the long-term framework to support Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements across the Metro portfolio. Improvements will kick off with a pilot at Graham Oaks Nature Park to address barriers to access. The intent of the pilot is to inform next steps with a focus on scaling up the work and determining the applicable accessibility standards at one site and apply to the entire portfolio.

[At Oxbow Park](#), two ADA parking spaces are being permitted with construction expected in spring 2023. The location of the parking spaces allows for easier access at the boat launch. In addition to the parking spaces, an accessible seating area with a view of the river is also planned.

**Nature in Neighborhoods Community Choice grants activities completed from October-December 2022,**

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/nature-grants/capital-grants/capital-grants-pilot>

The Community Choice grants, which utilize a novel participatory approach that gives community members a direct voice in choosing which projects in their communities to recommend for funding to the Metro Council, is launching this winter in Western Washington County to solicit project ideas based on the [solicitation guidebook](#).

**Large scale community visions activities completed from October-December 2022**

In response to a notice of funding availability for an initial \$10 million pilot grant cycle has been open based on the Council approved [pilot program handbook](#) to fund larger-scale projects that uplift communities by improving access to nature and/or climate resilience in urban areas with minimum budget of \$6 million minimum including a \$2 million investment in habitat uplift, staff have received four letters of intent.

Staff are currently working to review the letters of intent in order to develop a recommendation on next steps for consideration by the Metro this spring.

**BOND SPENDING: OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2022**

As January 2023, Metro has spent \$35 million of bond proceeds available and allocated an additional \$24.8 million in local share and trail grant awards. The full bond spend report as of January 10, 2023 can be found in the appendix. As with other voter investments, administrative expenses tend to be highest in the first few years as new programs are being built. Once the programs are up and running, the administrative expenses as a percentage of total spending decrease significantly, before a small uptick in the last few years of the life of a bond measure.

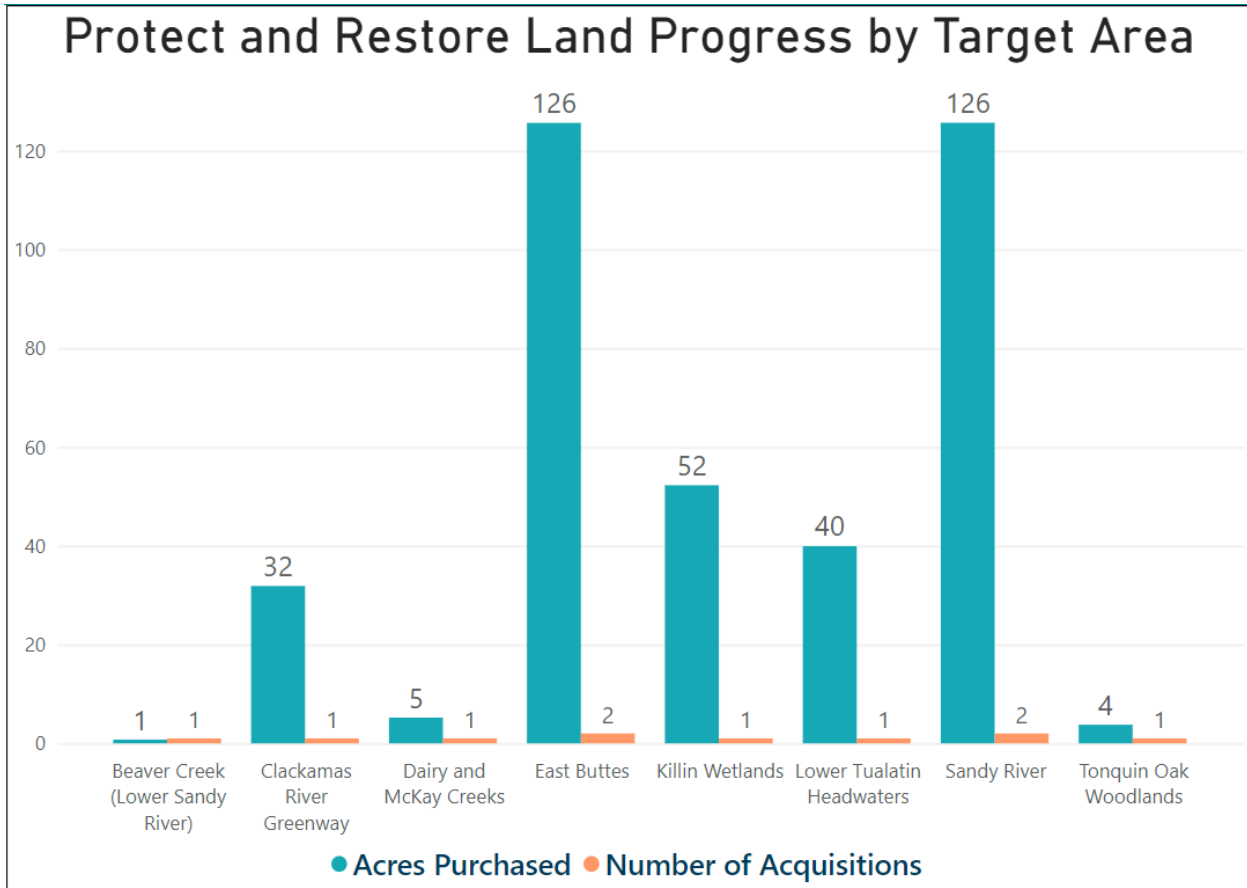


**BOND SPEND AS OF JANUARY 10, 2022**

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23YTD	Total Spend
<b>Protect/Restore</b>					
Personnel	\$ 8,897	\$ 1,027,574	\$ 1,318,586	\$ 804,807	\$ 3,159,864
M&S or Capital	\$ 120,063	\$ 843,385	\$ 5,104,935	\$ 1,899,051	\$ 7,967,434
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 128,960</b>	<b>\$ 1,870,959</b>	<b>\$ 6,423,521</b>	<b>\$ 2,703,859</b>	<b>\$ 11,127,299</b>
<b>Take Care of Metro Parks</b>					
Personnel	\$ 8,897	\$ 642,133	\$ 1,334,500	\$ 571,916	\$ 2,557,446
M&S or Capital	\$ 221,847	\$ 3,051,112	\$ 2,279,728	\$ 1,336,116	\$ 6,888,804
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 230,744</b>	<b>\$ 3,693,245</b>	<b>\$ 3,614,228</b>	<b>\$ 1,908,032</b>	<b>\$ 9,446,249</b>
<b>Local Share</b>					
Personnel	\$ 29,397	\$ 213,678	\$ 240,033	\$ 107,547	\$ 590,655
M&S or Capital		\$ 2,464	\$ 2,492,200	\$ 1,581,824	\$ 4,076,488
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,397</b>	<b>\$ 216,142</b>	<b>\$ 2,732,233</b>	<b>\$ 1,689,371</b>	<b>\$ 4,667,143</b>
<b>Grants</b>					
Personnel	\$ 12,847	\$ 184,414	\$ 240,528	\$ 171,355	\$ 609,144
M&S or Capital		\$ 2,061	\$ 85,755	\$ 10,353	\$ 98,169
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,847</b>	<b>\$ 186,475</b>	<b>\$ 326,283</b>	<b>\$ 181,707</b>	<b>\$ 707,312</b>
<b>Trails</b>					
Personnel	\$ 8,489	\$ 243,278	\$ 233,358	\$ 147,734	\$ 632,859
M&S or Capital	\$ 3,825	\$ 818	\$ 148,071	\$ 9,548	\$ 162,262
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,314</b>	<b>\$ 244,096</b>	<b>\$ 381,429</b>	<b>\$ 157,282</b>	<b>\$ 795,121</b>
<b>Community Visions</b>					
Personnel	\$ -	\$ 3,480	\$ 121,359	\$ -	\$ 124,839
M&S or Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,480</b>	<b>\$ 121,359</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 124,839</b>
<b>Total Program Spend</b>	<b>\$ 414,262</b>	<b>\$ 6,214,397</b>	<b>\$ 13,599,053</b>	<b>\$ 6,640,251</b>	<b>\$ 26,867,964</b>
<b>Admin</b>					
Personnel	\$ 100,692	\$ 555,696	\$ 591,933	\$ 312,631	\$ 1,560,952
M&S or Capital or Transfer	\$ 402,467	\$ 990,481	\$ 2,934,472	\$ 1,570,836	\$ 5,898,256
Personnel	\$ 10	\$ 330	\$ 395	\$ -	\$ 735
M&S or Capital or Transfer	\$ 309,359	\$ 27,344	\$ 544,812	\$ 281,551	\$ 1,163,066
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 812,528</b>	<b>\$ 1,573,851</b>	<b>\$ 4,071,612</b>	<b>\$ 2,165,018</b>	<b>\$ 8,623,009</b>
<b>Total Bond Spend</b>	<b>\$ 1,226,790</b>	<b>\$ 7,788,248</b>	<b>\$ 17,670,665</b>	<b>\$ 8,805,269</b>	<b>\$ 35,490,973</b>
Administrative spend as a total of bond spend	66.23%	20.21%	23.04%	24.59%	24%

BOND COBID PARTICIPATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

Acquisitions to date by target area

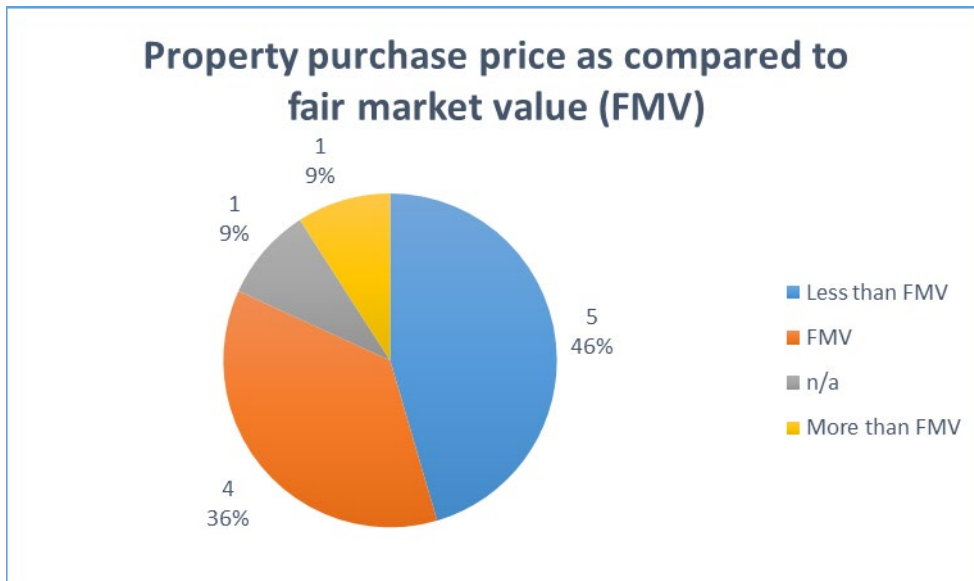


**What is this chart?**

Through the policy established in the [2019 parks and nature bond measure](#) and the [target area refinement plans](#) the Metro Council has directed staff to acquire properties in 24 regional target areas that meet the refinement plan goals. Each property varies in size and other features. This chart displays the both the number of properties purchased and acres protected in each target area through the Protect and Restore Land program over the lifetime of the 2019 bond. Through December 31, 2022, Metro staff have acquired 10 properties totaling 385 acres across 8 target areas. This number will expand over time as more properties are purchased across all target areas.

**BOND COBID PARTICIPATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022**

**Purchase price vs. market value**

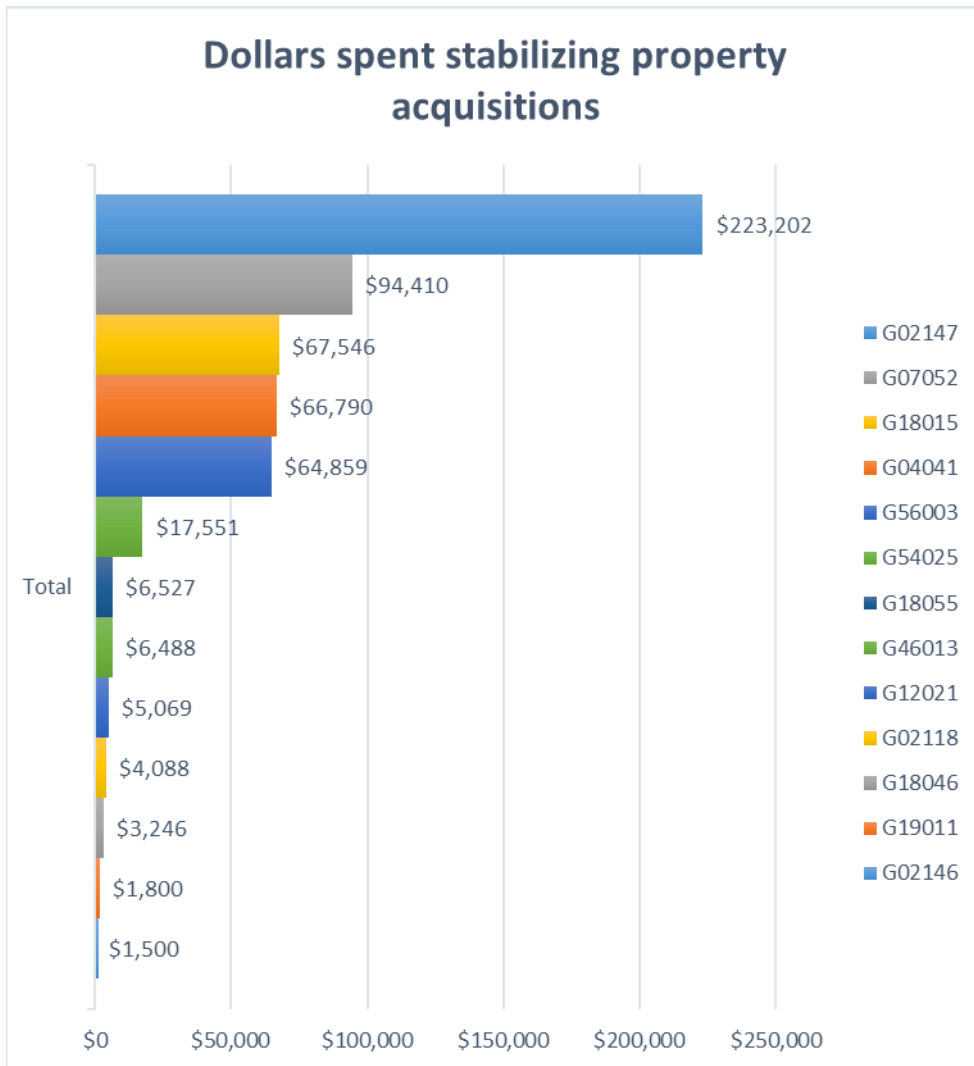


***What is this chart?***

The Metro Council may direct staff to purchase property at any price, but through the policy established in the Natural Areas Work Plan, the Metro Council has delegated authority to staff to acquire properties for fair market value as supported by an independent appraisal (with the exception of properties purchased for less than \$50,000, which do not require an appraisal). The Chief Operating Officer may purchase a property for up to 10% more than the value established by an appraisal provided certain conditions are met. This chart shows that most properties purchased to date were for fair market value or an appraisal was not required (i.e., the purchase price was less than \$50,000). This includes all purchases funded through the Protect and Restore Land as well as Create Trails for Walking and Biking programs.

BOND COBID PARTICIPATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

Cost of stabilization to date



Dollars spent through December 31, 2022

Note; labels starting with "G" are financial project codes; each one represents one property.

**What is this chart?**

Stabilization is one of the four program activities eligible for Protect and Restore Land funds. Stabilization is the phase of management that follows acquisition. During stabilization Metro uses bond funds to address threats that would otherwise compromise the values for which a new natural area is acquired. As no two properties are the same or have the same conditions present, stabilization plans and costs will vary by property and the conditions present. Metro uses a function-based approach to identify and implement stabilization activities appropriate to each site. Function-based stabilization focuses on actions that protect high ecological function and shift currently degrading conditions to a positive trend leading to Metro to meeting the conservation objectives for which the property was purchased. Common stabilization actions include natural resource enhancement and property management and security actions. Important ecological functions addressed include key features such



**BOND COBID PARTICIPATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022**

as: soil erosion control, habitat quality and trend, temperature and flow modification of streams, and public safety.

**Constraints**

Current constraints on pace of implementation relate to staff capacity and market dynamics. Capacity is on the way up as Metro has recruited for and hired 2 senior conservation real estate positions in fiscal year 2023, with one assistant conservation real estate specialist position to be hired in the future. That will bring the total to 4 FTE (full time equivalent) working on acquiring real estate for Metro. New staff are getting up to speed quickly and have launched landowner outreach and relationship building activities. New landowner outreach is increasing rapidly which we expect will translate into more possible transactions.

The market continues to be dynamic and challenging for off market transactions. The largest challenges in the market are still related to timelines and seller expectations of value – but Metro real estate staff are now also seeing impacts of low inventory and high interest rates on willing seller cultivation.

**Total COBID participation percentages by fiscal year for the 2019 parks and nature bond**

Fiscal Year	2019 bond
FY20	1%
FY21	29%
FY22	46%
FY23 YTD	46%

BOND COBID PARTICIPATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

