

ADDRESSING THE BOND CRITERIA

This section provides detailed examples of progress to date related to the three bond criteria that govern bond programs: racial equity, climate resilience and community engagement. While it will take time to fully evaluate progress on the bond criteria, early results point to:

- Continued utilization of community engagement approaches to increase participation and build trust with BIPOC communities that build on feedback received to date, incorporate lessons learned from previous engagement activities and feature focused engagement opportunities.
- Completion of land acquisitions that demonstrate alignment with the bond’s climate resilience criteria and have been informed by community feedback on priorities for land protection.
- Early feedback from park providers around the region that underline the impact of engagement in the local share and trails programs on building capacity around community engagement and racial equity related approaches to investments in parks, trails and natural areas.
- Development of reporting tools and frameworks to evaluate the impact of bond investments and activities over the life of the bond on the well-being of people and place across the region.
- Preparation to invest bond funds on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements across Metro’s portfolio and to leverage bond funded projects to track and improve participation of women and Black, Indigenous, and people of color in the construction trades.

Moving ahead, increased bond investments and activities will allow for deeper evaluation:

- More data is needed to understand how community members experience participating in bond related engagement activities and how they continue to participate in bond related engagement.
- Increased volume of land acquisitions will allow for deeper analysis of impact on key pillars of climate resilience including habitat connectivity, anchor habitats and water quality and quantity
- Initial results from tracking workforce participation on Parks and Nature bond funded projects, along with more detailed analysis of COBID participation will deepen understanding of the bond’s economic impact on businesses and workers across the region.

List of parks and nature bond community engagement and racial equity criteria

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| • Meaningfully engage with communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities in planning, development and selection of projects. |
| • Prioritize projects and needs identified by communities of color, Indigenous communities, low income and other historically marginalized groups. |
| • Demonstrate accountability for tracking outcomes and reporting impacts, particularly as they relate to communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically |
| • Improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of developed parks. |
| • Include strategies to prevent or mitigate displacement and/or gentrification resulting from bond investments. |

- Set aspirational goals for workforce diversity and use of COBID contractors and work to reduce barriers to achieving these goals; demonstrate accountability by tracking outcomes and reporting impacts.

Figure 1, Snapshot of community engagement activities completed in 2022

More detailed information about engagement activities can be found in appendix [exhibit 4](#).

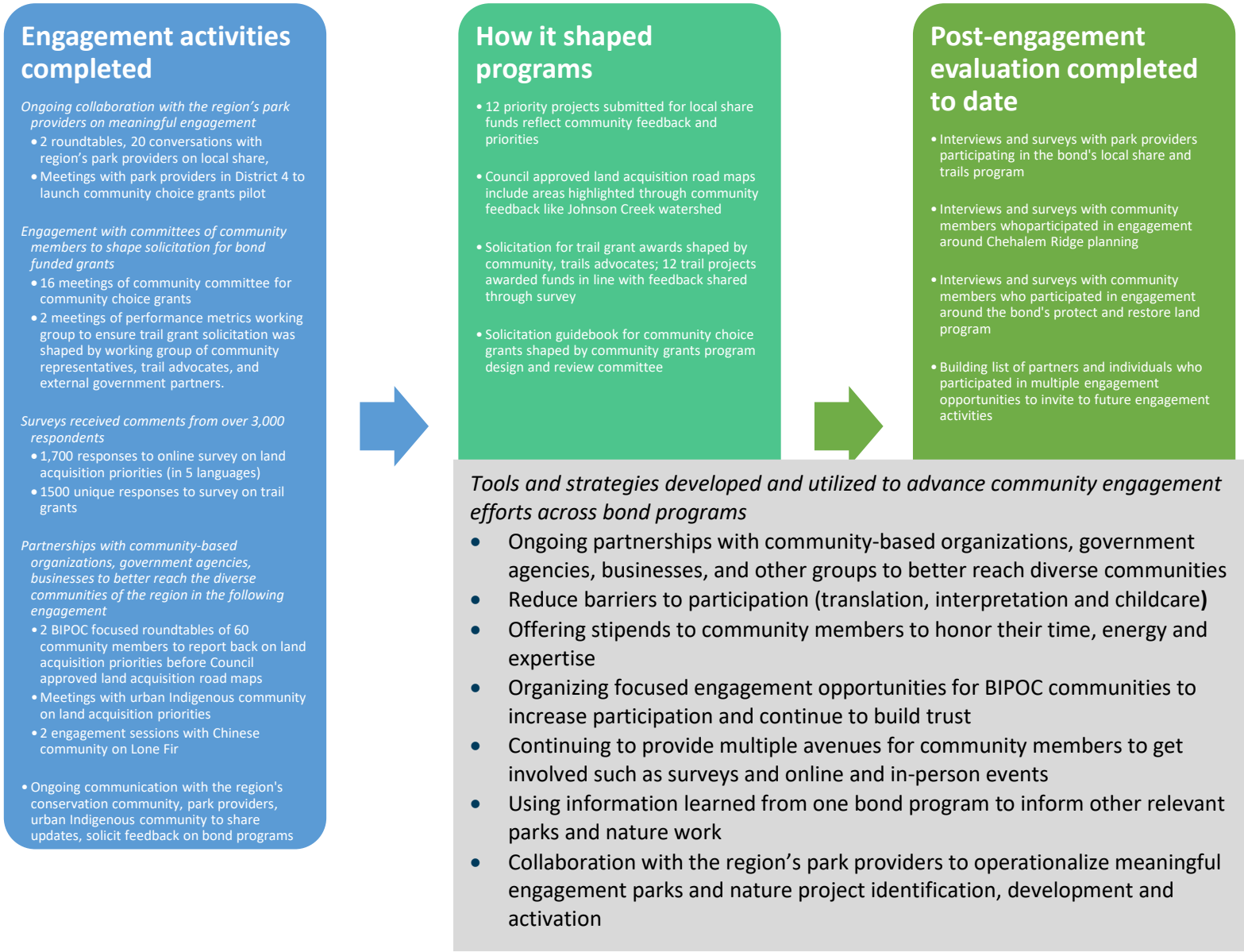


Figure 2, Community engagement case study: launching [Community Choice grants](#)

This snapshot describes work completed in 2021 and 2022 to launch the community choice grant program, which puts community members in the lead to imagine, design and choose parks and nature projects

Fall 2021-Spring 2022: Pre-launch/program design and review community work: Staff partnered with a community committee, the program design and review committee on the development of the solicitation guidebook. Staff conducted a broad recruitment for committee members in fall and winter 2021. 44 people applied and 6 were chosen to be on the program design and review committee. The committee has met 16 times since winter of 2022 to help shape the community choice grants guidebook for project solicitation. Staff shared the recruitment opportunity with the following partners to share with their networks.

East Portland Action Plan, Q Center, North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Friends of Trees, Audubon Society of Portland, Oregon Trails Coalition, East Portland Parks Coalition, Urban Greenspaces Institute, NW Trail Alliance, PSU Center for Public Service, PSU Nat'l Policy Consensus Center, PSU Hatfield Fellowship Program, PSU Student Inclusion Coordinator, PSU College of Urban & Public Affairs, Momentum Alliance, OPAL, Centro Cultural, Lara Media, Kairos PDX, Latino Network, Rosewood Initiative, Historic Parkrose, Getting There Together Coalition, Oregon Walks, NAYA, Utopia PDX, APANO, CETI, Community Cycling Center, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Depave, Urban League of Portland, Adelante Mujeres, Unite Oregon, Betties 360, Wild Diversity, Verde, POC Hikes, People of color outdoors, Black Community of Portland, Black Food Sovereignty Coalition

Winter-Spring 2023: Idea collection phase: In anticipation of March 2023 information sessions and April 2023 idea generating events to get people interested in the process and ready to submit project ideas, staff reached out to the following organizations with a focus on the Elmonica and Aloha communities to attend and share with their networks.

- Schools and youth focused organizations (*Merlo Station High School, Meadow Park Middle School, Beaver Acres Elementary School, Chinmaya Mission, Rock Creek Community Association, Westview High School, Raymond Arthur Brown Middle School, McKinley Elementary, 4 Youth, Beaverton High School, Multilingual Department, Beaverton School District, APANO, International School of Beaverton, Quatama Elementary School, Orenco Elementary School, Family Justice Center of Wa. Co, Hillsboro High School, Poynter Middle School, Lincoln Street Elementary School, Eastwood Elementary School, Neil Armstrong Middle School, Cornelius Elementary School, Forest Grove Community School, Forest Grove High School, BSD Black Parent Union*)
- Organizations focused on the disability community (*People with Disabilities, CACA*)
- Cultural organizations (*Ka'Aha Lahui O 'Olekona Hawaiian Civic Club of Oregon, Asian Health and Services Center, Center for African Immigrants, Latino Network, Centro Cultural, Adelante Mujeres, Muslim Education Trust, Bilal Masjid, Southwest Somali Community, Wisdom of the Elders*)
- Community services organizations (*Homeplate, Beaverton Resource Center, School, Lifeworks NW, Community Action Family Shelter, Bienestar, Vision Action Network, Unite Oregon, Virginia Garcia*)
- Conservation organizations (*Tualatin River Watershed Council*)
- Advocacy organizations/alliances (*National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)*)

Demonstrate accountability for tracking outcomes and reporting impacts, particularly as they relate to communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities.

Tools and strategies developed in 2022 to advance accountability in reporting

- Working with a consultant, Dialogues in Action, Parks and Nature staff made significant progress in developing and piloting an evaluation framework to articulate and measure outcomes for the bond that builds upon and broadens current efforts to report on specific investments in parks, trails, and natural areas. Staff worked to articulate long term impacts for bond investments and activities meant to align with the bond criteria and launched a data collection pilot to test the framework developed and to collect preliminary findings that pointed to impact and identified areas for improvement. Staff also worked to keep the oversight committee updated on this effort.
- [Dashboard on bond progress on website](#)
- Quarterly reports to oversight committee on bond investments and activities completed
- Memos to Council and the oversight committee that summarize key features and bond criteria met for each property purchased

Improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of developed parks.

Tools and strategies developed in 2022 to advance accessibility and inclusiveness of developed parks

- Developing the long-term framework to support Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements across the Metro portfolio, which includes a pilot at Graham Oaks Nature Park to address barriers to access and 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.
- Planning for [ADA improvements to Oxbow boat launch](#) with construction beginning in 2023
- Several projects submitted by the region's park providers for local share funding are designed to advance accessibility at parks and natural areas across the region. One example is THPRD's project to upgrade a section of the boardwalk on the Waterhouse Trail in the Willow Creek Greenery, part of the Five Oaks Triple Creek neighborhood in Beaverton to be in alignment with ADA accessibility guidelines.

Include strategies to prevent or mitigate displacement and/or gentrification resulting from bond investments.

Tools and strategies developed in 2022 to advance understanding of strategies for mitigating displacement.

- While this criteria is one that extends beyond the Parks and Nature sphere of responsibility, Parks and Nature staff have identified markers to demonstrate making progress on this criteria through bond investments that provide opportunities for community members to truly help

shape projects in their own communities and to benefit economically through workforce and contracting opportunities.

- In 2022, significant progress has been made on programs or processes that allow community to shape investments directly. The [Community Choice grants pilot](#) in Metro Council District 4 will provide an opportunity for a specific community to help identify, shape and select project priorities through piloting participatory budgeting principles. The pilot round of solicitation for the large scale community visions program, intended to support community driven catalytic projects, launched in 2022.

Set aspirational goals for workforce diversity and use of COBID contractors and work to reduce barriers to achieving these goals; demonstrate accountability by tracking outcomes and reporting impacts.

Tools and strategies developed in 2022 to advance contract and workforce equity

- Metro continues to identify, implement and evaluate strategies to increase the participation of COBID contractors for parks and nature bond funded contracts in alignment with agency-wide priorities and protocol and to exceed the floor of 20 percent COBID participation across bond funded projects. The current COBID participation rate for bond funded projects is 38 percent. Parks and Nature staff working on several bond programs have encouraged prime contractors to partner with COBID certified firms as sub-contractors.
- In 2022 Metro officially signed the [Regional Workforce Equity Agreement](#), which covers projects undertaken in the next five years by Metro, Multnomah County and the City of Portland. It implements Metro's [Construction Career Pathways Regional Framework](#) and will be a key tool in creating and sustaining construction careers for women and people of color across the Portland region. The contract for the Blue Lake Park Curry Building, finalized in May 2022, was the first to incorporate workforce requirements in alignment with this agreement and will allow for setting and meeting specific workforce participation goals once this project begins construction.
- Parks and Nature staff are working with other teams at Metro to develop guidance documents and technical assistance and access to resources for park providers advancing local share projects that meet construction costs thresholds established by the Construction Career Pathways Regional Framework that require tracking workforce participation and advancing specific goals for participation of people of color, women and apprentices.

| Community engagement activity (listed by date in ascending order) | Who was engaged | How feedback was used | Was there continuity from previous and subsequent bond engagement activities? | Use of post-activity evaluation to determine impact |
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| | through partnering with community organizations across the region | | | |
| Fall 2021: Report back/general community engagement sessions to shape priorities for trail gap acquisition | Individuals who participated in spring 2021 | Report back on work completed to evaluate trail segments for prioritization and how feedback from the spring shaped staff work on prioritizing trail gaps | Yes, participants from the spring trail acquisition engagement events were invited | no post activity evaluation |
| Fall 2021-spring 2022: Performance measures working group | Representatives from the region's park providers, community organizations and trail advocates | Worked with staff to develop the solicitation for the bond funded trails grant and evaluation framework for applications | Yes, working group members were comprised of organizations working closely with Metro | No post activity evaluation |
| 2021-2022: Groundtables for BIPOC and people with disabilities in fall 2021 and 2 follow up sessions in winter 2022 to help shape priorities for bond funded land acquisition (protect and restore land) | BIPOC community members, people with disabilities (160 attendees between fall and winter events); consultant conducted outreach across the region to invite individuals to attend | Feedback shared helped identify priorities for land acquisition and restoration based on lived experience | Same individuals invited to participate in fall and winter focus groups; also have been invited to other engagement activities | No post activity evaluation |
| Winter 2022: Survey on priorities for land acquisition translated into five languages | Survey shared with individuals across the region; on Metro's website and shared on social media; 1700 unique responses received | Feedback shared helped affirm priorities for land acquisition road maps; shared with Council as they considered and approved final target area refinement plans | Not determined, though it is likely that many individuals already engaged took the survey | No post activity evaluation |

| Community engagement activity (listed by date in ascending order) | Who was engaged | How feedback was used | Was there continuity from previous and subsequent bond engagement activities? | Use of post-activity evaluation to determine impact |
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| Summer 2022: Survey on priorities for trail grants translated into 5 languages | Survey shared with individuals across the region; on Metro's website and shared on social media; 1500 responses received | Feedback shared was an input considered by the Metro Council as they reviewed and considered trail projects for grant funding | Not determined, though it is likely that many individuals already engaged took the survey | No post activity evaluation |
| Fall 2022: two engagement activities in November 2022 on Lone Fir Cultural Heritage and Healing Garden | Members of Chinese and Chinese American communities. The focus group sessions were designed and assembled with input from partners with the Oregon Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the Chinese American Citizen's Alliance, the Lone Fir Cemetery Foundation, and a contracted engagement professional. PN staff have been connecting separately and individually with advocates for people with mental illness. | Participants shared initial thoughts about overall project concept | A small work group has recently been assembled to provide input on project issues moving forward. | No post activity evaluation |