



LARGE SCALE COMMUNITY VISIONS

\$30 million for green investments in regional transformative projects, <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/large-scale-community-visions>

Large scale community visions program description: The Metro Council created the large scale community visions program to fund regionally significant catalytic investments that re-green communities and connect parks and nature with other community assets such as transportation and affordable housing. Large scale community visions projects must be capital projects (including real estate acquisitions) owned by a public agency, meaning a building, facility, property or large natural area restoration and must meaningfully engage with communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities in planning and development.

In spring 2022, the Metro Council approved a [pilot program handbook](#) to launch a pilot round of up to \$10 million for projects that cost at least \$6 million and are devoting at least \$2 million of that to habitat restoration. The Metro Council and staff are planning to conduct two future solicitations and will compile lessons learned from this pilot round to identify potential adjustments to the program handbook as needed.

Large scale community visions program milestones complete as of December 2022

- Launched pilot solicitation of up to \$10 million.
- Broad outreach about solicitation through Metro’s website, bond newsletter and sharing with interested parties list as well as meetings with 10 potential partners around the region to solicit interest and assess project compatibility.
- Received four letters of intent in fall 2022 and met with each entity:
 - Trust for Public Lands/Oregon State University for a land acquisition in the Tualatin Mountains area
 - Portland Botanical Gardens – Site acquisition on the Willamette River near Willamette Cove
 - Oregon Museum of Science and Industry/Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission and Prosper Portland for Waterfront Education Park and OMSI district catalyst on the Willamette River
 - Albina Vision Trust for development of site acquisition adjunct to Willamette River

Looking ahead

Each of the four projects that submitted a letter of intent has provided a presentation about their project to a team of Metro staff to help the Parks and Nature team establish a deeper context about the project proposals and a clearer understanding of how each applicant thinks the projects match to the overall 2019 bond criteria and program goals as outlined in the program handbook as well as bond requirements.

All four letters of intent are moving into the detailed application phase with an eye towards having Council consider and approve an initial funding round by spring 2023.

Markers to determine progress on large scale community visions in 2023 and beyond

- Number of award designations made by the Metro Council in the pilot round
- Status of completed funding agreements for awardees from the pilot round
- Outreach to solicit letters of interest for future rounds
- Reporting from large scale community visions program grant recipients on how they're advancing bond criteria in project development, advancement and activation
- Feedback from entities that submitted letters of intent and applications on the experience of participating in the pilot round