



Parks and Nature Community Partnerships Community-led Programs Grants

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 grants provide funding for activities that facilitate connection to nature for BIPOC communities. Find out if community-led programs grants are right for you.

Who are grants 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).

*The Community Partnerships program recognizes the following as BIPOC communities, adapted from the Coalition for Communities of Color definition: African, African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latine, South West Asian 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 grant funds for?

These funds are intended to support community-based organizations and groups and must be used facilitate connection to nature for BIPOC communities. These 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 connecting BIPOC communities 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 BIPOC communities with nature.

- Expansion or establishment of in-person programming to connect people of color with nature.
- Other activities that facilitate connection to nature for BIPOC communities.

Some examples of possible, allowed activities include:

- Leadership development training for staff or community members that supports their capacity to offer programming that facilitates BIPOC connection with nature.
- Facilitation of an herbal medicine-making workshop for BIPOC communities in a park or natural area
- Creation of 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.

How much funding is available?

Individual groups can request up to \$5,000 per application. Up to \$195,000 total is available in this funding cycle.

Minimum requirements for by invitation program

- Applicant organizations or groups must be led by and for communities of color.
- Programs must contribute to the Parks and Natural Areas Levy goal of increasing opportunities for communities of color to experience nature.
- Programs must include an element of shared learning between Metro and applicant.*
- Groups who have an accepted legal entity status to receive funds or have an eligible fiscal sponsor that are not political committees, campaigns or lobbying groups, and religious organizations (religious organizations are acceptable if the project provides a public benefit and does not promote religion).
- Grants may only be awarded to projects and programs that benefit Metro-area residents.
- Activities must start no earlier than June 1, 2024 and be completed by September 30, 2025.

What is the process to receive funds?

- Complete your request by December 14, 2023 by filling out the online form or using the paper form available at oregonmetro.gov/parkpartnerships.
- A committee of community members and Metro staff will review all the requests and recommend which ones should receive funding.

- The department director will make the final decision on who receives sponsorship funds.

What’s the timeline?

October 2023	Sponsorship funds announced.
November 2, 7, & 8, 2023	Optional workshops for interested organizations
December 14, 2023	Requests due to Metro.
January 2024 and February 2024	Committee review and recommendation.
March 2024	Parks and Nature leadership review and funding decision.
March 2024	Community-led programs grants announced.
June 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025	Grantee programming takes place.

What do I need to report?

Grantees will complete a short online form to report activity numbers and key impressions or learnings. Grantees 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 community-led programs grants are available thanks to the voters’ renewal of Metro’s parks and natural areas levy in 2016 and 2022.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

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