

JOIN THE GRANTS REVIEW TEAM!

Nature in Neighborhoods community grants program's 2023 funding opportunity: community stewardship and restoration grants

Metro is recruiting people to review applications for the Nature in Neighborhoods community grants program's 2023 funding opportunity. This year's funding opportunity is for community stewardship and restoration grants. Members of the committee will help to recommend up to \$750,000 in grants to community organizations and groups seeking to support and create partnerships in local communities. Community stewardship and restoration grants support and create partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature.

It's important to have a broad diversity of experience and backgrounds represented. Grant applicants are eligible to serve on the review committee; reviewers must disclose any conflicts of interest and will recuse themselves from discussing and scoring applications where they have a conflict of interest. The Metro Council makes all final funding decisions.

To apply, send a simple email and attach a resume or a few paragraphs describing your relevant professional and/or lived background and experience. Metro staff will begin reviewing committee applications in **November, 2023**.

For more information about the Nature Neighborhoods community stewardship and restoration grants, please see oregonmetro.gov/grants.

INTERESTED IN REVIEWING GRANTS?

Metro is looking for people with backgrounds in community stewardship, environmental restoration, nature education, outdoor experiences, climate resiliency, cultural programs, mentorship and job skill development, racial equity, diversity and inclusion, community partnership development, philanthropy, grant management or related fields. We also seek people who have experience enjoying parks and participating in programs supported by this funding opportunity. Stipends are available upon request.

Metro seeks a mix of potential committee members who bring experience or interest in:

- Reviewing or writing grant proposals and offering suggestions on ways to strengthen programs
- Projects that involve a wide range of partners and funding
- Projects that engage diverse community groups

GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE DUTIES

- Serve a one-year term with an opportunity to be reappointed.
- Review approximately 30 pre-applications in **January/February**, and approximately 20 full applications in **March/April**. Please see the next page for a more detailed timeline)
- Evaluate applications based on the information submitted; the purpose, goals and evaluation criteria; and the review committee's professional and collective judgment.
- Attend two review committee meetings via Zoom (4 hours each).
 - **Pre-application review committee meeting: Tuesday, February 20th, 1p.m. to 5p.m.**
 - **Full application review committee meeting: Tuesday, April 23rd, 1p.m. to 5p.m.**
- Develop funding recommendations together with other review committee members.
- Provide feedback to staff about ways to strengthen the grant program administration and outcomes.

EMAIL A STATEMENT OF INTEREST AND A RESUME OR SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

To apply for the nature education grant review committee, please email us a statement of interest that briefly explains why you would like to participate in the review committee and attach a resume or a short written summary that details your relevant professional and lived experience. You can use the questions below as a guide for your statement of interest.

Email your application to the program manager, Karissa Lowe, karissa.lowe@oregonmetro.gov.

Metro staff will begin reviewing applications in **November 2023**.

Why are you interested in serving on the nature education and outdoor experiences grant review committee?

- **Experience:** What lived and/or professional experience, knowledge and skills will help you to evaluate whether community organizations and groups meet the grant purpose to improve water quality, restore fish and wildlife habitat, or connect people to nature and the goals of building greater resiliency to climate change and cultural, environmental and economic equity? What is your connection to and involvement with the community and racial equity, diversity, and inclusion work?
- **Conflict of interest:** Are you or your immediate family a staff member or board member of an organization that plans to submit a grant application? Grant applicants are eligible to serve on the review committee, but will recuse themselves from the scoring and the committee discussion of that grant application.
- **Availability:** In order to serve on the grant review committee, you must attend the two grant review meetings for four hours each at the Metro Regional Center in Portland. Are you available to do so on **Tuesday, February 20th, 2023 and Tuesday, April 23, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.?**

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE?

November 2023	Availability of grant funds announced
January 23, 2024, 4 p.m.	Nature education pre-applications due to Metro
January 24 to February 13, 2024	Review committee reads and scores pre-applications
February 20, 2024, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Grant review committee pre-application meeting
February 21, 2024	Organizations with successful pre-applications are invited to submit full applications
March 10, 2024	Full applications due to Metro
March 11 – April 16 2024	Review committee reads and scores full applications
April 24, 2024, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Grant review committee full application meeting
April 25, 2024, by 5 p.m.	Grant award recommendations announced to applicants
May 2024	Metro Council votes on grant awards