

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee
Date: February 22, 2022
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Place: Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761139624?pwd=UEdySzU3NjQybWYvaERHdGZkdjIQQT09>
Passcode: 337854 / Webinar ID: 867 6113 9624 / +1 253 215 8782
Purpose: Continue conversations in key topics areas.
Outcome(s): Identify key themes to include in Year 1 report to Council.
Note: Public testimony will not be heard at this meeting or in the breakout sessions; however, the committee accepts written comments. Please email parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov

4:00 p.m. Welcome

4:15 p.m. Committee business and updates

4:30 p.m. Small Group Breakouts (*please note each has a separate link outside the main session to choose from below, and each session will also be recorded*)
Topic areas:

- Metro's land acquisition program

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85874680271?pwd=ZU1XdElIVDNQMEQzeE4wTVJoYk0zZz09>

Meeting ID: 858 7468 0271 / Passcode: 693434 / Phone: +1 253 215 8782

- Bond refinement community engagement

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82309673623?pwd=QXp4U2VPZzIWN3VKQ05RWFYzRjdRdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 0967 3623 / Passcode: 025168 / Phone: +1 253 215 8782

- Bond financial reporting and bond contracting

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88046942004?pwd=OHd0QXEmVW5ZNjdYaUp0ZEwrc0ExQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 4694 2004 / Passcode: 088624 / Phone: +1 253 215 8782

Key discussion questions:

- What opportunities do you see in each of these three areas, especially around advancing the three bond criteria and effective program delivery?
- What things do you want to flag for staff/Council?
- What opportunities do you see in each of these areas?

6:00 p.m. Adjourn

* According to the Oregon State Legislature's House Bill 4212, all meetings that are subject to public meetings law and conducted with telephone or video conference tools that allow recording are required to be recorded and posted for accessibility by the public. This requirement ends 30 days after the Governor's emergency COVID order, and any extension of the declaration, is no longer in effect.

Metro respects civil rights

Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes that ban discrimination. If any person believes they have been discriminated against regarding the receipt of benefits or services because of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, they have the right to file a complaint with Metro. For information on Metro's civil rights program, or to obtain a discrimination complaint form, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights or call 503-797-1536. Metro provides services or accommodations upon request to persons with disabilities and people who need an interpreter at public meetings. If you need a sign language interpreter, communication aid or language assistance, call 503-797-1700 or TDD/TTY 503-797-1804 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays) 5 business days before the meeting. All Metro meetings are wheelchair accessible. For up-to-date public transportation information, visit TriMet's website at www.trimet.org.

Thông báo về sự Metro không kỳ thị của

Metro tôn trọng dân quyền. Muốn biết thêm thông tin về chương trình dân quyền của Metro, hoặc muốn lấy đơn khiếu nại về sự kỳ thị, xin xem trong www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên ra dấu bằng tay, trợ giúp về tiếp xúc hay ngôn ngữ, xin gọi số 503-797-1700 (từ 8 giờ sáng đến 5 giờ chiều vào những ngày thường) trước buổi họp 5 ngày làm việc.

Повідомлення Metro про заборону дискримінації

Metro з повагою ставиться до громадянських прав. Для отримання інформації про програму Metro із захисту громадянських прав або форми скарги про дискримінацію відвідайте сайт www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. або Якщо вам потрібен перекладач на зборах, для задоволення вашого запиту зателефонуйте за номером 503-797-1700 з 8.00 до 17.00 у робочі дні за п'ять робочих днів до зборів.

Metro의 不歧视公告

尊重民權。欲瞭解Metro民權計畫的詳情，或獲取歧視投訴表，請瀏覽網站 www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights。如果您需要口譯方可參加公共會議，請在會議召開前5個營業日撥打503-797-1700（工作日上午8點至下午5點），以便我們滿足您的要求。

Ogeysiiska takooris la'aanta ee Metro

Metro waxay ixtiraamtaa xuquuqda madaniga. Si aad u heshid macluumaad ku saabsan barnaamijka xuquuqda madaniga ee Metro, ama aad u heshid warqadda ka cabashada takoorista, booqo www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. Haddii aad u baahan tahay turjubaan si aad uga qaybqaadatid kullaan dadweyne, wac 503-797-1700 (8 gallinka hore illaa 5 gallinka dambe maalmaha shaqada) shan maalo shaqo ka hor kullanka si loo tixgaliyo codsashadaada.

Metro의 차별 금지 관련 통지서

Metro의 시민권 프로그램에 대한 정보 또는 차별 항의서 양식을 얻으려면, 또는 차별에 대한 물만을 신고 할 수 www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. 당신의 언어 지원이 필요한 경우, 회의에 앞서 5 영업일 (오후 5시 주중에 오전 8시) 503-797-1700을 호출합니다.

Metro의差別禁止通知

Metroでは公民権を尊重しています。Metroの公民権プログラムに関する情報について、または差別苦情フォームを入手するには、www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights。までお電話ください。公開会議で言語通訳を必要とされる方は、Metroがご要請に対応できるよう、公開会議の5営業日前までに503-797-1700（平日午前8時～午後5時）までお電話ください。

សេចក្តីជូនដំណឹងអំពីការមិនរើសអើងរបស់ Metro

ការការពារសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ ១ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋសម្រាប់ការបោះឆ្នោត www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights។ បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការអ្នកបកប្រែភាសានៅពេលអង្គប្រជុំសាធារណៈ សូមទូរស័ព្ទមកលេខ 503-797-1700 (រវាង 8 ព្រឹកដល់រវាង 5 ល្ងាច ថ្ងៃច័ន្ទ) ប្រសិនបើ ឬថ្ងៃច័ន្ទ មុនថ្ងៃប្រជុំដើម្បីអាចឱ្យមានអ្នកបកប្រែសម្រាប់លោកអ្នក។

إشعار بعدم التمييز من Metro

تتكرم Metro الحقوق المدنية. لتزايد من المعلومات حول برنامج Metro للحقوق المدنية أو لإبداء شكوى ضد التمييز، يرجى زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. إن كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة في اللغة، يجب عليك الاتصال مقدماً برقم الهاتف 503-797-1700 (من الساعة 8 صباحاً حتى الساعة 5 مساءً، أيام الاثنين إلى الجمعة) قبل خمسة (5) أيام عمل من موعد الاجتماع.

Paunawa ng Metro sa kawalan ng diskriminasyon

Iginagalang ng Metro ang mga karapatang sibil. Para sa impormasyon tungkol sa programa ng Metro sa mga karapatang sibil, o upang makakuha ng porma ng reklamo sa diskriminasyon, bisitahin ang www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. Kung kailangan ninyo ng interpreter ng wika sa isang pampublikong pulong, tumawag sa 503-797-1700 (8 a.m. hanggang 5 p.m. Lunes hanggang Biyernes) lima araw ng trabaho bago ang pulong upang mapagbigyan ang inyong kahilingan.

Notificación de no discriminación de Metro

Metro respeta los derechos civiles. Para obtener información sobre el programa de derechos civiles de Metro o para obtener un formulario de reclamo por discriminación, ingrese a www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. Si necesita asistencia con el idioma, llame al 503-797-1700 (de 8:00 a. m. a 5:00 p. m. los días de semana) 5 días laborales antes de la asamblea.

Уведомление о недопущении дискриминации от Metro

Metro уважает гражданские права. Узнать о программе Metro по соблюдению гражданских прав и получить форму жалобы о дискриминации можно на веб-сайте www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. Если вам нужен переводчик на общественном собрании, оставьте свой запрос, позвонив по номеру 503-797-1700 в рабочие дни с 8:00 до 17:00 и за пять рабочих дней до даты собрания.

Avizul Metro privind nediscriminare

Metro respectă drepturile civile. Pentru informații cu privire la programul Metro pentru drepturi civile sau pentru a obține un formular de reclamație împotriva discriminării, vizitați www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret de limbă la o ședință publică, sunați la 503-797-1700 (între orele 8 și 5, în timpul zilelor lucrătoare) cu cinci zile lucrătoare înainte de ședință, pentru a putea să vă răspundă în mod favorabil la cerere.

Metro txoj kev ntawv ntxaug daim ntawv ceeb toom

Metro tributes cal. Rau cov lus ghia txog Metro txoj cal kev pab, los yog kom sau ib daim ntawv tsis txaus siab, mus saib www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights. Yog hais tias koj xav tau lus kev pab, hu rau 503-797-1700 (8 teev sawv ntov txog 5 teev tsaus ntuj weekdays) 5 hnub ua hauj lwm ua ntej ntawm lub rooj sib tham.

Meeting recording links



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee
Date: February 22, 2022
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Place: Zoom
Purpose: Continue conversations in key topics areas.
Outcome(s): Identify key themes to include in Year 1 report to Council.

Meeting recording links for meeting packet:

Main session: <https://vimeo.com/682070008/10e8eace41>

Working group - Bond finance: <https://vimeo.com/682054146/cf489e4837>

Working group - Community engagement: <https://vimeo.com/682060295/02a75b3028>

Working group - Land acquisition: <https://vimeo.com/682064277/897bec39f0>



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: Parks and Nature Oversight Committee
Date/time: February 22, 2022, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Place: Virtual meeting (Zoom) recording: <https://vimeo.com/682070008/10e8eace41>
Purpose: Continue conversations in key topics areas.
Outcome(s): Identify key themes to include in Year 1 report to Council.

Committee Members:

Burt Edwards
John Ferguson
Lisa Freedman
Shantae Johnson
Michelle Lin
Martita Meier
PK Melethil
Bryan Mercier
Georgena Moran
Vivek Shandas
Erin Upton
Cary Watters

Council Representatives:

Councilor Shirley Craddick, District 1
Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, District 5
Councilor Mary Nolan, District 3

Public: Eric Fruits

Absent

Tana Atchley Culbertson
Nicole Johnson
Owen Wozniak
Shannon Shoul
Tabitha Palmer DuPrau

Staff:

Beth Cohen, Metro
Melanie Reinert, Metro
MG Devereux, Metro
Melissa Weber, Metro
Dan Moeller, Metro
Shannon Leary, Metro
Mychal Tetteh, Metro
Humberto Marquez-Mendez, Metro
Eduardo Ramos, Metro
Allison Brown, JLA
Ariella Frishberg, JLA

Topics

Welcome and Agenda Review

Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement, began the meeting by welcoming everyone and reviewing Zoom tools and logistics, then took roll. A full record of the chat can be found in Appendix A.

MG Devereux, Metro, welcomed the group and gave a land acknowledgment. He added that Metro has received feedback about the land acknowledgment and recognizes that it needs to be improved.

Allison briefly introduced the staff present at the meeting and reviewed the agenda and group agreements.

Committee Business and Updates

Beth Cohen, Metro, reviewed the basics of the bond measure and the programs it funds. She shared the timeline for meetings during 2022, discussed the goals for this meeting and the following meeting in March, and explained how these fit into the longer-term work the committee is tasked to do.

MG Devereux, Metro, gave committee members an opportunity to share any updates relevant to the committee.

- Erin Upton shared that she works for an evaluation firm that is currently working with Metro.

MG Devereux went on to share updates at Metro Parks and Nature since the last meeting. These included:

- Improvements were made at some Metro Parks facilities
- Two new parks opened, funded by the 2019 Parks and Nature bond: Chehalem Ridge, Newell Creek Canyon. Both opened at the end of 2021.
- The refinement plan for the Protect and Restore program is nearing completion
- An online survey was open through February 20th, which gave members of the public an opportunity to look at the 24 project areas. The survey received over 2,000 responses.

Comment: A committee member shared a comment from a peer, asking that Metro remain aware of how important public access is to community members, especially those who don't drive/don't have cars.

MG: Thanked the committee member for sharing and agreed that this is a priority for Metro as well.

MG also gave a general reminder about how Metro stays in compliance with public meeting laws. Members of the public are invited to attend all meetings and recordings of the meetings are posted to the website afterward for community members to review.

Meeting minutes, materials and any relevant information are also posted to the website. Interested parties are able to sign up and receive updates by email, and accommodations can be made to make information available in other ways as needed. He also shared that individuals can share public comment and testimony by sending an email to parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov. He reviewed some of the concerns brought up by the Cascade Policy Institute, focused on properly noticing the Oversight Committee Meetings, handling the agricultural land purchased with bond dollars, and the administrative costs around implementing the bond. There will be opportunities in each of the breakout groups at this meeting to cover these last two topics.

Question: When you are soliciting public input are you reaching out to different agencies in order to reach marginalized communities? For example, reaching out to agencies that serve people of color and people with disabilities?

MG: Absolutely. This is one of the reasons that the refinement process has taken the amount of time it has. We want to make sure that the breadth of the outreach we're doing reaches not just folks who have been previously engaged but to identify other levels of government and individuals who have not been involved before. We have specific community organizations on that list who represent BIPOC and disability awareness/advocate groups, but that list can always get bigger and we're always looking for ways we can continue to

grow that. One good sign is that we have been contacted by other jurisdictions to look at the toolkit Humberto and the team put together.

Allison Brown asked if there were any additional questions from the committee.

Q: Is information about the bond refinement process available somewhere for us to review?

MG: If you're asking specifically about the Protect and Restore program, the bond program for acquiring properties, that information is on the web and is also part of the survey we just closed.

Q: Will there be a summary of community feedback from those five sessions?

Beth: Yes, we can share that.

Humberto: We are working on summarizing those meetings and that will be shared with the public in the next month.

Small Group Breakouts

The group then split into breakout rooms with some committee members, Metro Council members, and Metro staff in each group. Members of the public were able to observe the breakout rooms, which lasted for about 45 minutes. The group did not reconvene after the breakout rooms. Notes from these sessions are included in this document and recordings are included in the meeting packet.

NOTE: the links originally shared for these breakout rooms did not work, but staff were able to resolve these technical difficulties so that attendees and members of the committee could continue their discussions.

Breakout Rooms

1. Metro's land acquisition program: [See Appendix B](#)
2. Bond refinement community engagement: [See Appendix C](#)
3. Bond and financial reporting and bond contracting: [See Appendix D](#)

Appendix A: Zoom Chat**Main room**

16:16:21 From Georgena Moran (she/her) to Hosts and panelists : MG can you send me your script for acknowledgement to Indigenous people? Thanks!

16:16:46 From MG Devereux (He/Him) to Hosts and panelists : Yes will do

16:29:43 From Georgena Moran (she/her) : Access Recreation has a project called Accesstrails which includes Metro parks which we have recently updated as seen at www.accesstrails.org

16:31:18 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro parks and nature : thanks for sharing Georgena!

16:33:49 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) : Committee members should see the email in their boxes now

16:38:50 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro parks and nature : here's a good link for an overview

16:38:52 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro parks and nature : <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/parks-and-nature-bond-measure/protect-and-restore-land>

16:39:12 From Michelle (she/they) : Will there be a summary of community feedback from the 5 sessions (and other relevant community feedback) that we can review?

16:39:22 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) : the right side callout box has a link to the draft reports and target area map

16:43:31 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) : Bond funded land acquisition
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486940079?pwd=M2ladFp5RWxUR0ttZ3BzakhVMVExZz09> Meeting ID: 864 8694 0079
Passcode: 191136

16:43:40 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) : Community engagement around implementing bond programs:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83885482623?pwd=U0N5Q2w3V3lMa2JtaERWN3R3Zzc2QT09>
Meeting ID: 838 8548 2623
Passcode: 904287

16:43:51 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) : Advancing contract and workforce equity for bond funded programs and projects Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81901021975?pwd=UGZEV1QxM0ZqM05BbG1QVEVR eXF5dz09>
Meeting ID: 819 0102 1975
Passcode: 710067

16:43:58 From Gerritt Rosenthal Metro Council Dist 3 to Hosts and panelists : I think one councilor per workgroup would work for me

16:46:19 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro parks and nature : Councilors can pick each working group to attend and join whichever is most interesting

Note: breakout links shared in chat were incorrect- links in agenda were correct

Appendix B: Metro's Land Acquisition Program Breakout Room

Natural areas oversight committee: Land Acquisition working group meeting,
Feb. 22, 2022

Attendees:

Members: Lisa Freedman, John Ferguson, Shantae Johnson, Vivek Shandas, Erin Upton

Council liaison: Councilor Shirley Craddick

Metro staff: Shannon Leary, Dan Moeller, Melanie Reinert

Public: Eric Fruits

Recording: <https://vimeo.com/682064277/897bec39f0>

Key themes of discussion/topics for future discussion

1. Staff provided clarification and background on farmland issues that were raised in public testimony to the committee that Metro is not pursuing farmland specifically and is targeting land that meets conservation objectives for the bond measure.
 - a. Land important for ecological values near floodplains, adjacent to creeks, etc. can sometimes be in farm use. After acquiring this land, Metro can take immediate stabilization or improvement measures as appropriate, but cannot do everything at once.
 - b. Typically when Metro purchases a property it comes with a lease that Metro will honor. In some cases a more formal lease needs to be written to formalize an agreement, and in some cases a farmer is ready to move on but restoration isn't ready so we would work with another community farmer for a new lease. Metro is not buying non-farmed property and creating new farm leases.
 - c. With willing farmers, we can maintain existing leases until we decide we have restoration and maintenance funds. More farmland may come into portfolio. We will need expertise to ensure we are doing that, maintain rights and leases and managing opportunities in a comprehensive and equitable fashion.
2. More information sought on methodology for identifying 24 target areas in the bond measure pre-bond passage. 19 of 24 current target areas build on previous Metro bond work and all incorporate Regional Conservation Strategy and Oregon Conservation Strategy and federal strategies.
3. More information sought about how and when community engagement has shaped priorities for land acquisition across 24 target areas.
4. Interest in opportunities to analyze target areas and future land acquisition for access for BIPOC communities in particular. More information needed for how the spatial information about land acquisition can be analyzed as part of the evaluation framework that is currently being developed.

- a. Opportunities to ensure that minority communities are not underserved in accessing natural areas.
 - b. How do we evaluate benefits to communities that have historically not benefitted by purchase of land with a racial equity lens? What tools are or will be available?
 - c. Important to remember if we buy land upstream and restore headwaters, we can make the water clean for the people downstream. Work miles away from living spaces can have a big impact on those living spaces (prevent urban flooding in low income communities with upstream work on water absorption and restoration for floodplains).
- 5. More information sought about how Metro's land acquisition program works with the other programs in the bond and other jurisdictional partners to increase access and benefit communities that have historically not benefitted before.

Feedback for year 1 report

- Think about a summary at the start of the report so it is more accessible to the public and less jargon to make it more accessible and simplified
- Include a list of properties purchased during the year with a summary of how they meet the bond criteria. This is a topic important to voters. We can provide short summaries of acquisitions in the annual report (values, acres, price, ecological targets, etc.)

Detailed meeting notes:

Dan M. provided an overview and reintroduced Shannon L.

Shantae: Regarding the farm acquisition in the public comment and the related position, can we get an update on these topics? Noted crossovers in finance and community engagement for farmland Metro owns.

- Dan: When Metro staff pursue property for conservation access, often it has an agricultural production use (working land). In general Metro assumes existing leases of acquisitions to familiarize with property and understanding that agricultural use is interim with goal to convert to ecologically functioning property (or sold off if not meeting conservation goals). This allows for stabilization and efficient, economically stable management of property while long term plans are made and resources for conservation and ecological restoration are assured.
- Shannon: Regarding the position, we are hiring for a farmland stewardship program manager working on the portfolio of lands with agricultural tenants, soil and water conservation districts, community organizations with a focus on agricultural and food, etc. Metro purchases water rights with property transactions, so the position will also receive those. The position provides additional operational capacity and relationship building. We are looking to build policy around working lands' interim use, and we want to improve and think more comprehensively with our racial diversity equity and action plan regarding our land management in interim status.

Lisa: asked for clarification on points made in the public testimony regarding agenda location and access.

- Staff assured that steps being taken to correct this.

Lisa asked for clarification regarding farmland acquisition, understanding that Metro is not specifically pursuing farmland, but will acquire it if it meets bond goals and wants to make sure it is productively used in interim phase.

- Dan: Metro is not pursuing farmland specifically and is targeting land that meets conservation objectives for the bond measure. Land near floodplains, adjacent to creeks, etc. can often be agricultural land as well. After acquiring this, we can take immediate stabilization or improvement measures as appropriate, but cannot do everything at once. With willing farmers, we can maintain existing leases until we decide we have restoration and maintenance funds. More farmland may come into portfolio. We will need expertise to ensure we are doing that, maintain rights and leases and managing opportunities in a comprehensive and equitable fashion.
- Lisa noted Metro is primarily urban and there are a mix of urban and rural areas here that are part of its attraction. There's no clear division between urban and rural, and it makes sense to have natural areas within the Metro area restored.

Shantae asked about decision-making for selling or transferring acquired land in the portfolio.

- Shannon: This is rare. Front end due diligence is solid, and by purchase time, lands have been carefully researched for ecological values. We have a willing seller program. Sometimes we encounter an area that is too parceled for a meaningful habitat or wildlife corridor. Other times a parcel is too isolated/small for efficient management. In two instances Metro sold land and retained a wildlife easement to protect ecological values. The program has completed over 500 purchase transactions over the life of the bond measures and there are less than ten properties that were later sold.
- Dan concurred that this is rare and requires Council action before disposition.

Shantae: What is considered interim use regarding farms and being on the land while Metro determines conservation approach? What is the time frame?

- Dan: It depends. Every site is different and requires different planning and efforts for long term goals. There is a time spent with partners, tribes, community to think through the overall conservation objectives and benefits that can be achieved. Determine what to do first in the portfolio. There is new work and maintenance work on existing investments to balance. Want to take steps forward that are sustainable.

Lisa: (responding to a chat comment) The new role would be developing new leases because when you buy property have to establish leases. Metro wouldn't be going out to lease property, rather simply, as part of the process of purchasing and in the interim, leases would be developed.

- Shannon: Typically when Metro purchases a property it comes with a lease that Metro will honor. In some cases a more formal lease needs to be written to formalize an agreement, and in some cases a farmer is ready to move on but restoration isn't ready so we would work with another community farmer for a new lease. Metro is not buying non-farmed property and creating new farm leases.
- Lisa: This is being responsible to the resources you have and the public you are serving.
- Dan noted that we sometimes need to modify leases in cases of partial restoration on a property.
- Shannon noted the importance of this skillset in the position to make sure leases are compliant.

John shared his submitted comments regarding the draft report at staff request:

- He was impressed by the amount of information included and felt it was almost overwhelming. He recommends a summary at the start of the report and less jargon to make it more accessible and simplified (9th grade class language).
- Please include a list of properties purchased during the year with a summary of how they meet the bond criteria. This is a topic important to voters.
- Committee would like to continue getting information on recent purchases. Appreciated ones received so far. They contained information hoped for.
- Can we receive racial demographics for target areas to help insure that minority communities are not underserved in accessing areas. Understand not all areas meet this goal, but will help the committee see where goals are met/possible.
- Appreciate the breakouts and comment sharing space.
- Regarding prioritizing target area, staff is looking for high quality habitats and connections available to other areas. In the southeast there are opportunities to provide corridors to Mount Hood, key missing connections. With rapid development in key corridors, prioritizing these areas is important to preserve them.
 - Lisa agreed with the comments and felt an executive summary would be helpful.

Erin appreciated the report. She sought clarification on farmland issues (more background perspective on challenges).

- Lisa clarified that there was public testimony that will clarify this.

Erin is excited to see the oversight roadmap and is interested in the pathways of engagement beyond getting feedback from tribal groups. Also curious about intersection and overlap with other program areas and how they relate to the bond criteria and other land acquisition (local share, biking and walking trail program). Hope to look at regional scale of opportunities for connectivity and adjacencies with other partners.

- Dan: Noted there is an agency-wide formal and specific consultation process being developed for engagement with sovereign tribal nations in our work. Receiving feedback and priorities of tribes and bands that call this region home. We are also working with the urban Indigenous community through Native American Community Advisory Council. We consult with them on projects, tasks and opportunities for collaboration. Over the past decade we have partnered primarily with this community to conduct property work (using Indigenous science, working for opportunity and space for ceremony and collaborative restoration opportunities). We are also collaborating with sovereign tribal nations on topics like fire management. This is in its infancy, but we are continuing to build partnerships.
- Shannon noted Metro is building relationships with sovereign tribal nations as we develop the policy and refinement effort. Best practices are to engage with tribal nations in a place of priority regarding timing and how we use their shared information. We want to be careful to use the feedback we learn as we develop these relationships to influence outcomes. Plans are going to Metro Council. Relationship building is in early space, and we are holding space to make changes if we learn that there is the potential for harm or conflict in plans. We can shift feedback language to building ongoing relationships, maintaining and listening to tribal nations in this work.
- The trail and land acquisition real estate team is the same. There is collaborative work for acquisitions and opportunities for multiple goals being met with transactions. There are different funding pools for these programs in this bond, but

they work closely. We also work with other local governments for best fit on acquisition opportunities and meeting goals.

- Shannon shared a link to the target areas maps and draft refinement plans in the chat and explained these resources as well as the recently closed survey and engagements in January.

Lisa: Regarding community engagement, in the process of looking at parcels of land, it is circular and iterative process with input received on different places to examine that initiates looking at more areas. This is while getting input on properties in process. We had discussed recent purchases and they hadn't happened without input, the process had just been ongoing. The staff will be continually refining parcels with input and trying to comply with all objectives. Iterative process?

- Dan explained the Council-adopted work plan in relation to property purchases (developed in 2006 measure). There are Council-approved tax lots from that measure that carried over into the 2019 measure, so purchases could continue. That is not truly iterative, and we are in a public process now where we will be hearing stakeholder, tribal and community member input to develop a new set of tax lots and new work plan for criteria. It's not continual in that way.
- Shannon did note an iterative quality over scale of time. The bond measures build on past ones. 19 of 24 current target areas build on previous work. Regional Conservation Strategy and Oregon Conservation Strategy and federal strategies all guide as well.

Vivek was interested in the evaluation framework as part of the process, but felt it was vague. He asked for more detail on what is being proposed and what may be brought into the evaluation framework. He is looking at bond criteria regarding engagement, disparities. Based on the map, what is the relationship between the evaluation of benefitting communities that have historically not benefitted by purchase of land and focus on that and an evaluation that would struggle to center historically marginalized voices. How does the evaluation process reflect the goals in the bond criteria? Vivek is interested in digging into this project more.

- Erin explained the project is not yet at the stage to be fully shared; more detail is coming as Metro gets further in the process. Each bond program area is reviewing impacts and outcomes to each of the bond criteria. We are looking individually at each program area and across the whole bond. Protect and restore land will go before Council for approval in spring and then there will be more to dig into. This is an ongoing process throughout life of bond, and there will be time to have the oversight committee provide guidance and feedback perspectives on that impact evaluation. Beth Cohen is working with the consultant and would be a good contact for staff perspective.

Vivek felt the overlay of community demographics and target areas may be mismatched. It may be challenging to get an evaluation outcome that responds to issues and the criteria, particularly racial equity. This could be a point of concern regarding locations, BIPOC community access to spaces.

- Councilor Craddick asked if Vivek meant that target areas should be geographically where communities of color live, and he felt this could be one way, but needs more information from the framework.
- We need to consider alignment and access in relation to racial equity and investments to respond to bond criteria regarding centering communities that have not benefitted historically. Consider what are the ways to increase access through investment. The described collaboration between cities and Metro on acquisitions

could go further if city brings funding and Metro shares in process. Could provide more climate resiliency to communities disproportionately affected.

- Shannon noted some program areas (e.g. grants) can more clearly articulate how they prioritize proposals in park-poor neighborhoods, impact low tree canopy, etc. Protect and restore land purchases are on a regional scale and may not be as accessible in general. In the 2018 development of this bond we sought to honor and respect Indigenous community perspective and connection to land throughout this work. Parks and Nature has an Indigenous community liaison who engages with NACAC to shift Metro decision-making and power. This helps us listen to and react to feedback from the Indigenous community, which was a central part of early program work. At milestones we have gone back to community members to share back.
- With the ecological assessments, the staff started by asking the Indigenous community what they wanted and prioritized, and their input added new data sets, which were incorporated. They also oversaw the ecological assessment for the urban target area. Their perspective is that you can't focus on land without people as they are part of the landscape, and we must consider environmental justice. We included GIS indexes to consider environmental burdens, heat islands, flooding in vulnerable communities, etc. for additional context.
- Dan: Past white lens saw a benefit from land that can be touched and interacted with directly. Through community engagement he learned of the importance of a focus on clean water and access to that for BIPOC communities. Buying property in urban areas doesn't always impact that. If we buy land upstream and restore headwaters, we can make the water clean for the people downstream. Work miles away from living spaces can have a big impact on those living spaces (prevent urban flooding in low income communities with upstream work on water absorption and restoration for floodplains).

John asked about interconnections between purchases. Does Metro look ahead to future purchases so we don't get property islands of habitat and is that a major factor?

- Shannon: We are always looking ahead, and we have a willing seller program, which can have limits. We build long term relationships with sellers for the future, sometimes years down the line.
- Metro just closed on a Clackamas River property, and staff started working with that seller in the late 1990s.
- John wanted to learn more and requested that closing memo (Meyers property, under draft, can be shared after refine
- Shannon: We can provide short summaries of acquisitions in the annual report (values, acres, price, ecological targets, etc.)

Chat:

00:10:43 Melanie Reinert (she/her): Thanks everyone for your patience with the links.
 00:20:25 Eric Fruits: Hate to jump in but ... why is part of the job description to "develop new leases?"
 00:28:05 Melanie Reinert (she/her): re added the report into the chat in case anyone needs it again
 00:41:15 Dan Moeller (He/Him - Metro Parks and Nature): NACAC = Native American Community Advisory Council

00:43:14 Vivek Shandas (he/him): When you get a second, can you help me/us find the '24 target areas' as a part of the land acquisition program? A map, website, or other document link would be helpful.

00:43:56 Melanie Reinert (she/her): I'll get that Vivek

00:44:55 Lisa: take a look at page 9 of the report. there's a link to the 24 areas

00:45:30 Melanie Reinert (she/her): above maps are also accessible from the prl page callout box from the main prl page if you lose that direct link.
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/parks-and-nature-bond-measure/protect-and-restore-land>

00:45:45 Melanie Reinert (she/her): direct link to maps
<https://drcmetro.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=e58ac8dfc8154a65bea9fafcd49370fa>

01:06:42 Vivek Shandas (he/him): Thanks, Shannon, that was helpful!

01:14:08 Erin Upton (she/her): Thanks Melanie!!

01:14:32 Melanie Reinert (she/her): Thanks Dan. And still embarrassed I sent you all bad links at first. Thanks for your grace there!!

01:14:48 Shantae Johnson: Thanks everyone

01:14:52 Vivek Shandas (he/him): Thanks all...I'm learning a lot!

Appendix C: Bond Refinement Community Engagement Breakout Room

Natural areas oversight committee: Community Engagement working group meeting, Feb. 22, 2022

Attendees:

Committee: Burt Edwards, Michelle Lin, PK Melethil, Georgena Moran

Council liaison: Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal

Metro staff: MG Devereux, Humberto Marquez Mendez, Allison Brown (JLA)

Recording: <https://vimeo.com/682060295/02a75b3028>

Key themes of discussion/feedback for Year 1 report:

- Add more detail and information into the report around community engagement:
 - Where community input had feedback on programs, and how that feedback influenced outcomes
 - Add in the ‘what’ and the ‘why’: what activities did Metro do to engage different audiences, and why we did some of these CE activities, and tell the story of how they link to the bond criteria
- When possible, provide for more information on metrics and evaluation
 - Ensuring that these metrics are developed with community, to be able to incorporate their needs
- Racial disparities only show up in the sections on community engagement and COBID contracting. There are likely impacts to other areas of bond work (protect and restore, for example), and information on racial disparities should show up there, too.
- Add in links to background work or previous staff work, to help illuminate how we got here and what else has helped support this work (and the place we’re at now)
- Clarify the wording on page 7 of the report to distinguish the \$40M for Nature in Neighborhoods grants, and the \$4M referenced for the grants pilot.
- Consider how Metro is using this report as a communication tool to also let folks know about access to parks and natural areas.

Chat

00:09:21	Allison Brown, she/her: Y'all, I have a bad cough so I'm going to be off camera for most of this meeting so you don't see me coughing on camera :)
00:51:36	MG Devereux (He/Him): sorry I have to jump off and take a call. BRB
01:06:22	Michelle (she/they): Is it Mar 3? I shared via email I have a conflict and won't be in attendance.

Appendix D: Bond and Financial Reporting and Bond Contracting Breakout Room

Natural areas oversight committee: Finance working group meeting,
Feb. 22, 2022

Attendees:

Members: Martita Meier, Cary Watters

Council liaison: Councilor Mary Nolan

Staff: Mychal Tetteh, Melissa Weber, Beth Cohen

Recording: <https://vimeo.com/682054146/cf489e4837>

Primary questions/topics/recommendations from working group

1. Explore more impactful ways to measure the bond administrative spending over this year and beyond. Consider forecasting bond administrative spending 2-5 years in advance and track actuals against forecast.
2. Think about the best ways to report out key bond financial numbers and help guide the public to those within the OC report. Pull those figures out of the longer report and think about the best format to communicate.
3. Explore ways for Metro and Parks and Nature to analyze and understand the COBID participation figures on a more granular basis including racial and other identity groups. Currently Metro may not have the tools to do so, but could learn from what Portland Bureau of Transportation and others are doing.
4. Focus on figure minority owned participation and emphasize that Metro should aspire to increase that figure (currently 6 percent of total bond spend has been with minority owned firms while 33 percent has been with all COBID designations).
5. Over time, explore strategies bigger than Parks and Nature bond to increase contracts awarded to minority owned firms across all of Metro.
6. Emphasize importance of investing and continuing to invest in community engagement to center BIPOC communities in bond program development and bond projects. Clarify what staff has done and what we plan to do to continue to ask BIPOC communities what they want/need and what they think about what we've done to date.

Recommendations for increased clarity in the staff report

1. Switch the term, COBID utilization to COBID participation
2. Clarify that the COBID figures are for bond contracts where payments have been made, not just awarded
3. Clarify what types of community engagement activities can be counted as part of a capital investment and what are considered administrative costs
4. Clarify what engagement has been completed to date and reference the list of activities in the appendix. Provide more examples for specific bond projects and programs.

Other topics the working group may want to focus on

- What is Metro doing to increase workforce equity, not just for contractors?
- What specific strategies is Metro Parks and Nature employing to conduct outreach to and support COBID certified and minority owned contractors?
- What strategies is Metro employing to identify COBID eligible firms who are not yet certified? What support is Metro providing in assisting those firms in the certification process?

- What are ways to drill down into data on types of contractors in the COBID reporting?
- What are ways to report on the up-stream work Metro Parks and Nature is doing to increase COBID contracting (bid writing assistance, outreach pre-RFP, etc.)?

More detailed notes

Bond administrative percent

- Group discussed the testimony from the December 7 meeting about the administrative cost number and how the testimony arrived at to that administrative cost number given it was different than the figure included in the OC report.
- Current administrative rate is 23 percent over the life of the bond. Metro Parks and Nature's commitment is to keep administrative costs to 10 percent over the life of the bond.
- We have other funds at our disposal that we'll use to keep administrative costs to 10 percent over the life of the bond (general fund and levy).
- Important way to frame this is that every percent that goes to admin is taking away from program investments.
- It is expected that the administrative rate would be high at this point in the bond's life. As with other voter investments, administrative expenses tend to be highest in the first few years as new programs are being built and, with little capital investment spent to date, the current administrative rate appears quite high.
- Once the programs are up and running, the portion of administrative expenses as a percent of total spending decrease significantly. The 2006 natural areas bond measure's administrative cost is under 10 percent and we expect the 2019 parks and nature bond measure to be close to that over the life of this bond measure.
- Maybe explore administrative costs of other capital bond measures from other governments. Are we comparable? What is that right-sizing of the administrative percentage?
- We expect to keep coming to the oversight committee with our administrative costs this year and beyond and expect the OC to help keep us accountable.
- Discussed strategies to lower bond administrative costs over the life of the bond and to better align expectations for administrative spending with the reality year over year
- Discussed owning that administrative costs may be high due to our thorough and expansive community engagement. Communication of that expectation is where we may need to do some work.

COBID (Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity) contracting

- Cary shared how the City of Portland pulls information for COBID certification type in addition to race/identity using a specific software (called B2G). Metro only uses certification type only (from COBID database) and we don't have that software.
- What are the barriers for minority owned firms? Need to keep pushing our strategies about finding COBID eligible businesses and helping those not yet certified do so.
 - What outreach is Metro doing and what support are we providing?
 - Metro needs help from the oversight committee understanding what to report on in terms of non-numeric process towards COBID participation.
- If the current strategies aren't sufficient let's find other strategies that Metro as an agency can employ to either:
 - Help open doors to help companies get COBID certified

- Bring changes to Metro's procurement or other processes that will help us redefine what we mean by a qualified/capable vendor
 - Allow for self-identification in addition to certification (City of Portland is looking to add this based on City of Seattle's model soon)
- One additional benefit of increasing the participation of minority owned contractors in bond projects is that if people are working at the parks they will become more familiar and feel more ownership over them

Potential intersection point: administrative costs and Community engagement

- High admin costs are helping to understand what communities want, especially BIPOC communities who we are trying to focus on with this bond measure and the racial equity lens
- Be willing to spend a tiny bit more in admin to support the bond criteria
- What counts as community engagement for admin? If the engagement is directly tied to a capital project it's considered a program expense but if it's more broad and related to program development or the overall bond, it's considered admin.
- Important to ramp up engagement up front before all investments are made.
- Think about community groups and how we are coming to them always; how we are continually getting input where possible.
- Might be good to hear from the community engagement working group on this.

Chat:

00:01:55 Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro parks and nature: 863554

00:23:36 Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro parks and nature: Questions to work through during discussion

- What things do you want to flag for staff/Council?
- What do you want to focus on in year two?
- What opportunities do you see to further advance the three bond criteria and effective program delivery?
- Is there anything in the report that was surprising or unexpected? Is there anything that is missing?
- Based on work summarized in the report, how do you see the three bond criteria intersecting with the three working group topics?
- Where do you see the three current working group topics intersecting with each other?
- What other topics or questions does this bring up for you?

01:12:34 Cary Watters (she/her): Another question that I have is how workforce diversity is tracked. The City uses LCP Tracker (Labor Compliance Program), which tracks apprenticeship and journey hours, disaggregated by race and gender.

01:12:46 Melissa (she/her) metro finance: We are using LCP tracker too

01:12:54 Mychal Tetteh (he/him): Great questions

01:13:08 Cary Watters (she/her): Great, thank you! Is that information included in the report? I didn't see it immediately...

01:13:15 Melissa (she/her) metro finance: And encouraging local share partners to use it on their Metro bond-funded local share projects.

01:13:49 Melissa (she/her) metro finance: we actually haven't started using it. our first project that will be tracked in LCP begins next fiscal year

01:13:59 Melissa (she/her) metro finance: but will absolutely be incorporated in once that data is available

01:14:10 Cary Watters (she/her): Love that! I need to hop off, but thanks all!!

01:19:17 Mychal Tetteh (he/him): I agree with Beth's analysis. Great questions and insights Martita. Effective outcomes, measurement and data analysis are really valuable.

01:20:36 Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro parks and nature: thank you Mychal...appreciate that addition and Martita, you're hitting it on the head with how you're describing the intersectionality between these topics (finance and engagement)

01:27:18 Mychal Tetteh (he/him): Thanks again Martita. What you've shared today will continue to inform how we approach this committee work and the week we do as a department.



Metro

Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee February 22, 2022

Committee members



Tana Atchley Culbertson
Burt Edwards
Lisa Freedman
Nicole Johnson
Bryan Mercier
Georgena Moran
Cary Watters
Owen Wozniak
John Ferguson
Shantae Johnson
Michelle Lin
Martita Meier
PK Melethil
Michael Morrow
Tabitha Palmer DuPrau
Vivek Shandas
Shannon Shoul
Erin Upton

Co-Director, Nesika Wilamut
Communications Director, Friends of Columbia Gorge
Former US Forest Service Executive and Budgeting Director
Community Engagement Director, 1000 Friends of Oregon
NW Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Accessibility specialist, ACCESS recreation
Contract equity specialist, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Land Transactions Program Manager, the Land Trust Alliance
Former geotechnical engineer
Owner, Mudbone Grown LLC
Adventure leader, Wild Diversity
Digital Strategist and Project manager
Environmental Scientist, private practitioner
Happy Valley Planning Commission
Underwriting Counsel, Fidelity National Title Group
Professor, Portland State University
Director, Procurement Sustainability, Nike
Environmental social scientist and landscape architect

Council liaisons



Metro

Councilor Shirley Craddick, District 1: includes Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village, portions of East Portland and the unincorporated communities of Damascus and Boring

Councilor Christine Lewis, District 2: includes the cities of Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Happy Valley, Oregon City, Rivergrove, West Linn, a portion of Southwest Portland and unincorporated parts of Clackamas County.

Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, District 3: includes portions of Washington and Clackamas counties and the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville

Staff team



Parks and Nature leadership: Jon Blasher, MG Devereux, Dan Moeller, Mychal Tetteh

Background information, staff support: Beth Cohen

Meeting logistics, administrative support: Melanie Reinert

Facilitation: Allison Brown

Office of Metro Attorney: Michelle Bellia

Parks and Nature finance manager: Melissa Weber

Today's agenda



- 4 p.m. Welcome
- 4:15 p.m. Reminders and committee business
- 4:30 p.m. Working group sessions
- 6 p.m. Wrap up

Group agreements review



- In discussions, challenge ideas rather than individuals.
- Approach different opinions with curiosity, seek to understand.
- Keep the needs and concerns of the local community and the larger region at the forefront of the work.
- Keep focus on the objectives of the meetings; work with facilitator to note additional topics for discussion.
- Keep multi-tasking to a minimum

Group agreements review



- Notify committee chairperson and Metro staff of any media inquiries and refer requests for official statements or viewpoints to Metro. Committee members will not speak to media on behalf of the committee or Metro, but rather only on their own behalf.
- Share questions they have with the full committee so everyone can benefit from the answers
- Members in working groups commit to capturing discussions to transparently share the results with the larger group.

Member updates



Metro

Intersections
between work
and committee
focus

Other events or
opportunities to
share



Committee appointment reminders



Public comment to
parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov

Council re-appointments this month



Metro

\$475 million to improve water quality, protect fish and wildlife and connect people to nature (sections 01 and 04 in your packet)

1. Land acquisition and restoration
2. Improvements at Metro parks
3. Community grants
4. Local government allocations
5. Trails
6. Large scale community visions



2022 Committee meeting plan



Phase	1. Build toward year one report	2. Build tools for committee work	3. Gather data and information	4. Review and report
Purpose of phase	Finalize year one report out to the Metro Council	Refine tools for quarterly reporting from staff to the committee	Initial reporting/progress	Shape content and format for first year report to Metro Council
Timing	Feb 22 working sessions ★ March 3 meeting	May 19 2022 meeting	September 2022 meeting	December 2022 meeting
Activities projected and documents for review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review staff report in working groups Identify committee questions, concerns, issues to highlight in the report and focus on in 2022 Committee member re-appointments and co-chairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional tours of Metro sites if safe Review tools for reporting on bond funded land acquisition work Continue working groups Update on bond evaluation outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early findings from Parks and Nature staff developed annual report Review of early findings from bond evaluation outcomes data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of oversight committee year 2 report to Council Committee work plan for 2023

Working session



Three working groups each with its own zoom link

Topic areas continuing from December 2021 meeting breakouts (bond financial, land acquisition, community engagement)

Members of the public in attendance can join and listen to any of the breakout sessions

oregonmetro.gov





Staff report on bond work in calendar year 2021

For the Natural Areas and Capital Program
Performance Oversight Committee

February 2022

If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we’ve already crossed paths.

So, hello. We’re Metro – nice to meet you.

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we can do a lot of things better together. Join us to help the region prepare for a happy, healthy future.

Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.

oregonmetro.gov/news

Follow oregonmetro



Metro Council President

Lynn Peterson

Metro Councilors

Shirley Craddick, District 1

Christine Lewis, District 2

Gerritt Rosenthal, District 3

Juan Carlos González, District 4

Mary Nolan, District 5

Duncan Hwang, District 6

Auditor

Brian Evans

600 NE Grand Ave.

Portland, OR 97232-2736

503-797-1700

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Purpose	1
Background on Metro parks and nature voter approved investments	1
Addressing the bond criteria	2
Bond refinement program updates	4
Protect and restore land	5
Local share	6
Nature in neighborhoods capital grants	7
Walking and biking trails.....	8
Take care of Metro parks.....	9
Large-scale community visions	10
Bond financial reporting	10
Appendix	14
Bond measure program criteria.....	14
Community engagement and racial equity criteria	14
Climate Resilience Criteria	14
Glossary.....	15
Bond refinement community engagement summary, February 2022	16
2019 bond spending detail as of December 31, 2021 by program area	21
2006 bond spending detail as of December 31 2021 by program area	22

DRAFT

Date: February 2022

To: Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee

Re: Staff report on bond work in calendar year 2021

PURPOSE

The Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee provides independent oversight of the 2019 parks and nature bond, the remainder of the 2006 natural areas bond and capital investments from Metro's parks and nature five-year local option levy.

As part of this charge, the Metro Council has asked the Oversight Committee to monitor how bond implementation activities are meeting the direction in the bond measure, to monitor financial aspects of program administration and to share with the Metro Council related concerns or recommendations to help adjust work moving forward. This report is intended to summarize information for the committee's review by providing:

1. Summaries of how bond activities in the last year are addressing the three bond criteria
2. Status updates on each of the six bond program areas
3. Reporting on bond spending and other bond financial data

BACKGROUND ON METRO PARKS AND NATURE VOTER APPROVED INVESTMENTS

For more than two decades, voters have repeatedly trusted Metro to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for people to connect with nature close to home through the passage of three capital bond measures and two local option levies.

The voter approved bond measures and levies are linked together to make the region's system of parks, trails and natural areas possible. The three capital bond measures (1995, 2006 and 2019) have supported the acquisition of more than 15,000 acres of priority habitat, investments in parks, trails and natural areas around the region. Metro's parks and nature local-option levy supports restoration of fish and wildlife habitat on lands purchased with the bond measure, and invests in park operations and improvements and community education, programming and grants to projects designed by community that strengthen people's connection to nature close to home.

1. ADDRESSING THE BOND CRITERIA

The Metro Council included three overarching criteria to govern 2019 parks and nature bond programs: racial equity, climate resilience and community engagement. Each of the six bond program areas will advance these bond criteria in different ways by providing direction to community grant or local share recipients or applying this policy direction to Metro's investments at its facilities and sites across the region. The Natural Areas Oversight Committee provides independent review of whether and how the bond activities are meeting the direction from the Metro Council and endorsed by voters of the region.

The following is a summary of efforts in the last calendar year to advance the three bond criteria through program development, tool building and fostering shared understanding. As bond investments continue, the committee's evaluation of how bond programs are meeting these criteria will continue to evolve.

Build resources and tools to understand how to advance climate resilience through bond investments made by Metro, grant recipients and the region's local park providers

- This bond measure builds on the legacy of 25-plus years of protecting the region's special places through land acquisition and restoration. Land acquisition is at the heart of Metro's parks and nature department work and has allowed for purchasing land to protect the region's priority habitats and species as outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Regional Conservation Strategy including riparian, floodplain, wetlands, oak woodland and forest, oak savanna and prairie and upland forest.
- Advanced an [understanding of concepts underlying climate resilience](#) for Metro staff, local park providers and other grant recipients by providing additional resources on considerations and definitions.
- As part of the refinement of land acquisition priorities, conducted an initial analysis that provides additional context on environmental burdens, access to natural areas and where potential land purchases may have greater opportunity to prevent flooding to complement the data from the ecological assessments. Staff will continue to refine this analysis and identify additional uses for it across Parks and Nature's portfolio.

Ensure that bond programs are considering and addressing racial disparities in benefits from our parks, trails and natural areas

- Set a 20 % minimum for utilization of minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small business owners registered with Oregon's Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) for bond contracting, with plans to set and meet higher goals for COBID utilization through the life of the bond.
- Set a 20 % minimum for utilization of minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small business owners registered with Oregon's Certification Office for Business

Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) for bond contracting, with plans to set and meet higher goals for COBID utilization through the life of the bond.

- Incorporated the requirements of [Metro's Construction Career Pathways framework](#) to increase the opportunities for access to the trades for women and people of color in greater Portland on bond funded projects at Metro facilities. The request for proposals for the upcoming bond funded improvement projects at Blue Lake Regional Park is the first to use Metro's Construction Careers Pathways Project framework to set specific diversity goals alongside its construction requirements for contractors.
- Supported local park providers to implement goals and tracking around COBID utilization and workforce diversity for bond funded investments.
- Conducted [an initial analysis](#) of anti-displacement impacts and mitigation strategies related to trails and natural area investments and sharing those considerations with Metro staff and the region's park providers.
- Hosting [roundtables](#) for the region's park providers to share lessons learned about topics such as anti-displacement, contracting with COBID certified firms and workforce diversity.

Carry out meaningful community engagement that centers the needs and builds trust with BIPOC and other marginalized community members

- Implement a community engagement framework that centers the voices of Black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+ community members, immigrants and refugees, people with low incomes, people with disabilities, and other marginalized communities.
- Goals for community engagement during the last year of bond refinement activities included
- Center BIPOC communities in development of bond programs and prioritization of bond investments
- Increase transparency and access about bond decision-making
- Shift decision-making to community members where possible
- Utilized a broad set of engagement strategies and tactics to achieve these goals, which are summarized in the appendix reporting on those tactics.

Develop bond evaluation framework

The voters of the region have asked us to do our work differently with this bond and that means listening and learning about the needs and priorities of communities who haven't benefitted equitably from previous investments. This also means we need to identify new ways to understand whether and how we are fulfilling this promise. Metro's parks and nature department has experience in collecting a robust set of data to quantify our work funded by voter approved measures and the values of this bond require us to think differently about measuring our impact.

Metro staff have launched a process with a consultant, Dialogues in Action, to develop a framework to monitor efforts towards meeting the three bond criteria and measuring the impact of bond investments through the life of the bond. Staff anticipates bringing an update on the status of this work for the committee's review in spring 2022 and expects that the oversight committee will want to help shape the analysis of data as part of its work in 2022 and beyond.

2. BOND REFINEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

Bond refinement, the process to turn the bond measure language into six functional programs, will be nearly complete by spring 2022. The following summary provides updates on the status of each program area. More detail about the specific engagement activities for the development of each program area can be found in the community engagement summary in the appendix.

PROTECT AND RESTORE LAND

\$155 million allocated for acquisition and restoration of priority habitat across 24 target areas,
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/protect-and-restore-land>

Program description: Protect and restore land builds on the successes of the 1995 and 2006 natural areas bond measures in protecting greater Portland's special places, by purchasing land and restoring it in 24 target areas across the region. Land protection and restoration in all 24 target areas helps restore and preserve regional watersheds, protect some of the region's rarest habitats, protect culturally important plants and create future potential access to nature.

Key bond refinement activities completed in 2021:

- Completed ecological assessments of the 24 target areas outlined in the bond measure with ongoing input from the urban Indigenous community
- Engagement to help confirm priorities and compile local knowledge for each of the 24 target areas with conservation partners, park providers and community members
- Develop draft refinement plans that articulate a road map for acquisition for each of the 24 target areas based on information collected and engagement findings
- Creating space for tribal governments to provide input on the priorities in refinement plans currently and post-Council approval in spring 2022
- In spring 2022, Council's consideration and approval of refinement plans for each of the 24 target areas will give staff direction to purchase land through our willing seller program.

Key implementation activities in 2022:

- Finalize refinement plans that articulate a road map for acquisition for each of the 24 target areas based on information collected and engagement findings
- Purchase land in priority habitats across the region through willing seller program
- Continue to receive feedback from tribal governments on refinement plans

LOCAL SHARE

\$92 million allocated to local governments for park improvement projects and locally important acquisitions, www.oregonmetro.gov/localshare

Program description: The local share program distributes \$92 million to 27 park providers (23 cities, 2 counties and 2 park districts) across the metro area to invest in their community's parks and nature projects including land acquisition, habitat restoration and connectivity, park access facilities at public parks and natural areas, local and regional trails and interpretive or environmental education facilities.

Key bond refinement activities completed in 2021:

- Developed a local share program handbook and supporting materials that provides guidance to park providers as they identify and submit priority projects
- Metro Council approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement template to govern individual agreements with park providers once they have submitted projects
- Convened the region's 27 park providers in monthly roundtables to share lessons learned around addressing the bond criteria including community engagement and anti-displacement
- Approved local share funds for a land acquisition in Gresham at the Shaull property

Key implementation activities in 2022:

- Review park providers' project submissions and finalizing agreements to disburse bond funds
- Convene the region's 27 park providers to share lessons learned around meeting the bond criteria including tribal government engagement

NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS CAPITAL GRANTS

\$40 million to community groups, non-profits and local governments for projects that “re-green” or “re-nature” neighborhoods, <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/nature-grants>

Program description: The Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants program provides up to \$40 million for grants supporting community-led projects that protect and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, support climate resilience and increase people’s experience of nature at the community scale. This program also includes the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Pilot, which will use a community-centered process to create meaningful opportunities to shape \$4 million for investments selected by the community.

Key bond refinement activities completed in 2021:

- Designed framework for capital grants pilot in partnership with Participatory Budgeting Oregon
- Recruited and convened a community committee to help design the program and ultimately recommend up to \$4 million in grant funding that began meeting in January 2022

Key implementation activities in 2022:

- Launch and support community committee to help design the solicitation for up to \$4 million in grant funding
- Work with community committee to develop a guidebook to launch the solicitation of project ideas in summer 2022.
- Begin to develop the guidebook for the Nature in Neighborhoods grant program to launch in 2023

WALKING AND BIKING TRAILS

\$40 million for building out the regional trails network, oregonmetro.gov/regional-trails-and-greenways-system

Program description: This program provides \$40 million to plan and build out trails that close gaps in the regional trails system via \$10 million for acquisition from willing sellers and roughly \$20 million for competitive grants to local governments to plan, design and build regional trails.

Key bond refinement activities completed in 2021:

- Compiled local knowledge and priorities about priorities for 39 regional trails listed in the bond measure from park providers, trail advocates and community members
- Implemented a community engagement strategy that centered BIPOC and other marginalized communities
- Developed a tool to prioritize gaps in the regional trail network for acquisition and used feedback from partners and community to influence which factors are emphasized in the trail prioritization tool
- Develop a draft refinement plan that articulates a road map for trail acquisition priorities across 39 regional trails for Council approval in spring 2022
- Developed solicitation for local government grants to plan and build regional trails in fall 2021

Key implementation activities in 2022:

- Finalize a refinement plan that articulates a road map for trail acquisition priorities across 39 regional trails for Council approval in spring 2022
- Purchase land through the willing seller program where Metro and partners will one day build regional trails
- Solicit and review applications from local jurisdictions for trail grants, with grant awards expected to be made by the Metro Council in fall 2022.

TAKE CARE OF METRO PARKS

\$98 million for safety and accessibility improvements at Metro parks and facilities across the region

Program description: Metro's regional parks, boat launches and cemeteries areas welcome nearly 2.5 million visitors a year to enjoy nature, exercise and cultural gatherings. The take care of Metro parks program funding is a promise to take care of Metro's existing sites by addressing capital maintenance, repair and improvement needs at Metro facilities and completing nature parks with adopted master plans.

Key bond refinement activities in 2021:

- Opened two new nature parks: [Newell Creek Canyon](#) in Oregon City and [Chehalem Ridge](#) south of Forest Grove
- Worked to advance health and safety improvements at Metro's sites like [Blue Lake Regional Park](#) and addressed barriers to meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act barriers
- Dedicated \$4 million to Lone Fir Cemetery's cultural heritage and memorial garden, also known as Block 14, to honor Chinese immigrants and patients from the Oregon Hospital for the Insane

Key implementation activities in 2022:

- Complete a municipal water supply connection to Blue Lake Park and plan for the next phase of maintenance facility and utility improvements. Begin community engagement for Blue Lake Park renovation planning and design.
- Installation of a generator at the Oxbow Welcome Center and completion of maintenance area improvements as part of the Phase 2 of the welcome center and initiate assessment of Oxbow's potable water system for repair.
- Continue to work with community to advance a vision and design for a cultural heritage garden at Lone Fir cemetery honoring Chinese immigrants and patients from the Oregon Hospital for the Insane
- Continue to plan and prioritize bond funded projects to improve access that meet or exceed ADA standards at Metro parks and facilities across the region

LARGE-SCALE COMMUNITY VISIONS

\$50 million for green investments in regional transformative projects

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. \$20 million is set aside for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project.

Key bond refinement activities completed in 2021:

- Develop program criteria in alignment with what's already in the bond measure and additional considerations to ensure projects selected through this program match the policy direction set by the Metro Council

Key implementation activities in 2022

- Work with the Metro Council to finalize more detailed program parameters and guidance by spring 2022.

3. BOND FINANCIAL REPORTING

The committee will regularly review financial reports for the limited remaining money from the 2006 natural areas bond, capital investments from the parks and nature levy, and the 2019 parks and nature bond. Financial data is tracked by Metro's fiscal year, which goes from July 1 through June 30.

Metro issued the first round of bonds on April 21 2020. So far, Metro has issued \$200 million in bonds for the start of this 10-year program and has been able to take advantage of historically low interest rates and earn a return while preparing to spend in the form of a bond premium.

As of December 2021, Metro has spent \$18.3 million of bond proceeds available. Here is how spending breaks down by program area. More details about bond spending by program area can be found in the appendix.

- Protect and restore land (including acquisitions): \$5.3 million
- Taking care of Metro parks: \$5.1 million
- Local share: \$2.9 million
- Capital grants: \$337k
- Walking and biking trails: \$374k
- Large-scale community visions: \$43k

The focus on bond refinement for six new program areas over the last year has meant that bond spending overall appears low. Additionally, there are many administrative costs Metro

has had to incur to shape the programs. With little capital investment spent to date, the current administrative rate appears quite high. The current administrative costs are \$4.17 million, representing 23 percent over the life of the bond.

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 decrease significantly, before a small uptick in the last few years of the life of the bond measure. We fully expect administrative expenses with the 2019 parks and nature bond measure to do the same. The 2006 natural areas bond measure's administrative cost was under 10 percent and we expect the 2019 parks and nature bond measure to be close to that over the life of this bond measure.

Here are some of the specific projects and programs we've invested from 2020 to December 2021:

- Acquisition to protect key parcels from the Sandy River Gorge on the east to the Dairy McKay Creeks on the west totaling \$2,699,500. Most recently, Metro acquired two properties totaling 169 acres. Out at Killin Wetlands Nature Park, near Banks in Washington County, 52 acres were added to the natural area surrounding the park. And in the East Buttes area right on the Clackamas-Multnomah county line, 117 acres connect to the Sunshine Butte Natural Area. The property includes a hilltop where several small streams begin their way down to Johnson Creek.
- Local share funds for Gresham's acquisition of the Shaul property: \$2.5 million.
- Chehalem Ridge Nature Park, \$5.3 million: Chehalem Ridge Nature Park is just south of Hillsboro and is Metro's biggest park west of the Willamette River. The park has 10 miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding.
- Newell Creek Canyon Nature Park, \$2.9 million: Newell Creek Canyon Nature Park, which is in the heart of Oregon City also opened in 2021. Newell Creek Canyon has 2.5 miles of hiking and walking trails and 2 miles of dedicated mountain biking trails.
- Blue Lake Regional Park utilities and facilities improvements, \$337k: The money we've spent at Blue Lake is only the start of improvements and renovations at this beloved park. The work so far has focused on connecting the park's water system to the City of Fairview. In December 2021, staff put out a request for proposals on a contract to demolish and replace several buildings at the park, which will set us up for additional park improvements that community members will help identify.
- Oxbow Regional Park health and safety improvements, \$296k: The biggest project so far at Oxbow is the replacement of a sanitation system.

COBID spending

Metro tracks the percentage of bond spending with firms that are certified with Oregon's Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID). In addition, Metro tracks

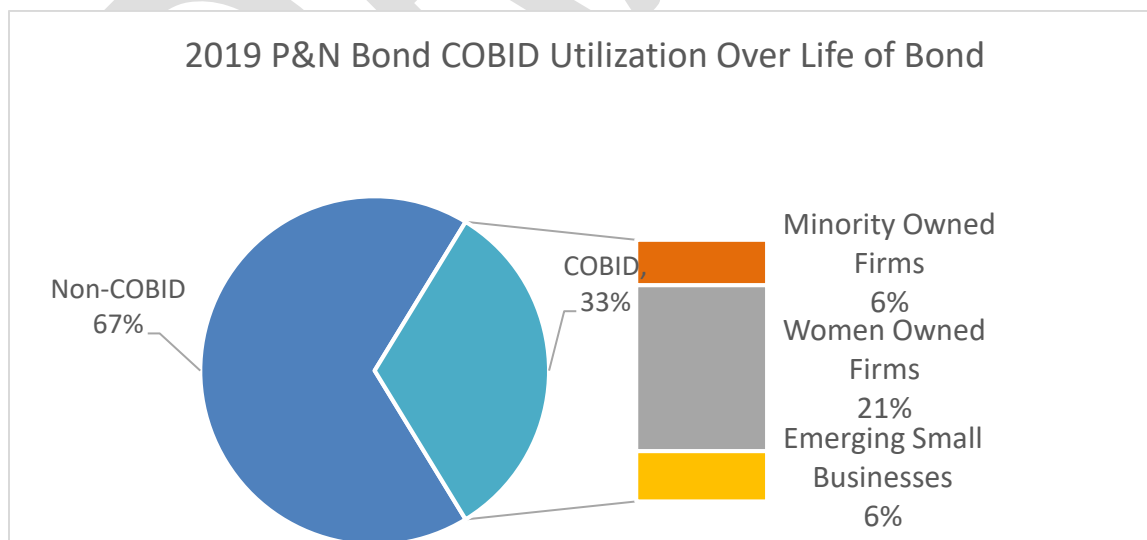
the spending percentage with each type of COBID certification minority owned, women owned and emerging small businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned).

Metro's utilization reporting method removes work that cannot reasonably be performed by a COBID-certified firms from the utilization rate calculation. Metro excludes the following types of contracts and payments from the calculation:

- Services provided by another public agency that do not compete with the private sector
- Services for which there is a single or limited group of businesses, none of which are COBID-certified
- Services mandated by Oregon Law (Oregon Revised Statutes) to be provided by qualified rehabilitation facilities

Parks and nature bond COBID utilization percentages from fiscal year 2019-20 to December 2021

Fiscal Year	2006 bond	2019 bond
FY20	32%	1%
FY21	14%	29%
FY22 YTD	59%	46%



2006 natural areas bond measure

Metro sold the remaining 2006 bonds in spring 2018. Remaining funds from the 2006 bond measure are close to being spent or are dedicated to upcoming projects or acquisitions. Staff will continue to provide the 2006 Natural Areas bond spending report to the oversight committee until funds are completely spent. . The latest 2006 natural areas bond spending report can be found in the appendix.

Local-option levy

Metro's parks and nature local-option levy protects clean water, restores fish and wildlife habitat at natural areas across the region and connects people with nature across 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas through investments in capital projects and programs. The Natural Areas Oversight Committee will review any capital investments supported by the levy. In the last calendar year, the levy did not fund any capital investments, but in future years, the committee can expect to review levy-funded capital projects at Metro's parks, trails and natural areas.

APPENDIX

BOND MEASURE PROGRAM CRITERIA

Community engagement and racial equity criteria

Investments in all program areas must satisfy all of the following community engagement and racial equity criteria:

- 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 marginalized communities.
- 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 COVID contractors and work to reduce barriers to achieving these goals; demonstrate accountability by tracking outcomes and reporting impacts.

Climate Resilience Criteria

All projects funded by the bond must identify at least one climate resilience criterion that the project will satisfy from among the following:

- Protect, connect and restore habitat to support strong populations of native plants, fish and wildlife that can adapt to a changing climate.
- Protect and restore floodplains, headwaters, streams and wetlands to increase their capacity to handle stormwater to protect vulnerable communities from flooding.
- Increase tree canopy in developed areas to reduce heat island effects.
- Use low-impact development practices and green infrastructure in project design and development.
- Invest in segments of the regional trail system to expand active transportation opportunities for commuting, recreation and other travel.

GLOSSARY

BIPOC: Shorthand descriptor for Black, Indigenous, people of color

COBID: [Oregon's Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity](#). The primary goal of certification is to level the playing field by providing certified firms a fair opportunity to compete for government contracts regardless of owner ethnicity, gender, disability or firm size.

Construction Career Pathways: Regional effort of public agencies teaming up with stakeholders from private industry, apprenticeship programs, unions and community-based organizations to provide reliable career pathways for women and Black, Indigenous, and people of color in the construction trades.

Refinement plans: Formal publically adopted road maps outlining strategies for land acquisition that reflect Council direction, community input and give Metro staff the guidance to protect habitat and land for future trails.

Bond refinement: The work to turn the 2019 parks and nature bond measure language into programs ready to invest in parks, trails and natural areas across the region.

BOND REFINEMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY, FEBRUARY 2022

Does not include Metro Council or tribal government engagement

Introduction

In November 2019, voters in greater Portland approved a \$475 million bond measure to further protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for people to connect with nature close to home.

Much of the work to turn the parks and nature bond into programs ready to invest in our region's parks, trails and natural areas is on track to be complete by spring 2022. The investments from the 2019 bond measure will continue to strengthen our unique system with nature at its heart. The local share program is ready to make investments in parks, trails and natural areas in communities across the region, health and safety updates and renovation projects are underway at Blue Lake and Oxbow regional parks, and an application process is open for up to \$20 million in grants for local governments to plan and construct regional trails.

With this bond measure, the voters of the region asked us to do our work differently. That has meant listening and learning about the needs and priorities of communities who haven't benefitted equitably from previous investments. Over the last year, communities across the region have participated in meaningful engagement that staff have designed to meet the following core values:

- Center BIPOC communities in development of bond programs and prioritization of bond investments
- Increase transparency of and access to bond decision-making
- Increase access to engagement opportunities

The feedback collected in the last year from community members and partners has helped shape bond programs that protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and provide access to nature. In addition, the feedback captured will be instrumental in informing work across the parks and nature portfolio from community grants to restoration work.

Initial reflections from engagement planning and execution

- Setting clear expectations about what participants can influence, and acknowledging feedback even if it's outside the scope of the topic at hand increases transparency and can build trust
- Capturing and reporting back on feedback heard by hosting follow up sessions with the same stakeholders can create stronger relationships with partners and increase interest in participation. Many community members participated in multiple engagement activities across bond programs from 2021-2022.

- Organizing focused events tailored to specific audiences can help build more meaningful and productive engagements

DRAFT

Engagement activities by program area through January 2022

Bond program	Goals for engagement during refinement	Engagement work complete to date	How engagement has shaped the bond programs and parks and nature
Protect and restore land	<p>Community and partner review of acquisition strategies for each of the 24 target areas before Metro Council approval</p> <p>Nurture authentic partnership with urban Indigenous community cohort throughout the refinement process</p> <p>Continue to work with conservation partners on information collection</p> <p>Include goals and priorities from BIPOC communities into refinement plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 community members and partners participated across three engagement sessions to review acquisition strategies in winter 2022 • At least six meetings with urban Indigenous community on data and format for ecological assessments of 24 target areas • Hosted 6 affinity group roundtables for BIPOC and people with disabilities in fall 2021 (with over 100 participants) and 2 follow up sessions in winter 2022 (with 60 participants) • Interviews with 129 individuals representing 59 organizations including park providers and watershed councils • Two information sessions with over 70 participants in fall 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collected to understand each of the 24 target areas in the bond measure expanded to include stream daylighting/inline pond removal, pollution/toxins/water quality data, among others • Acquisition strategies for the 24 target areas reflect information and local knowledge shared from partners and aligned with goals and priorities of BIPOC community members, especially around environmental factors such as floodwater mitigation
Local share	<p>Ensure program materials reflect needs and concerns raised by park providers</p> <p>Support park providers in identifying project priorities that meet bond criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of local share program materials • Hosted 6 roundtables for staff from region's park providers • Bond updates at 7 quarterly park directors meetings • At least one meeting with each of the 27 park providers across the region around project priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local share projects submitted and more on the way • Lessons learned around strategies for meaningful community engagement help shape park providers local share project identification processes • Increased connections across park providers

	Build spaces for collaboration between Metro and park providers		
Walking and biking trails	<p>Build relationships with BIPOC community members around needs and priorities for regional trails</p> <p>Ensure that up to \$20 million for grant program to plan and build regional trails has a solicitation process that reflects partner input</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two focused community sessions with over 100 BIPOC community members to provide input on what factors are most important for trail projects and 88 participants responded to a follow up survey • Five open houses in fall 2021 with 100 participants across the sessions to share information and collect feedback about priorities for trail acquisition • 127 individuals responded to a survey to collect feedback on draft priorities for trail acquisition • Meetings with each 27 park providers and local jurisdictions about priorities for regional trails • Performance evaluation work group with park provider staff and community members to help shape solicitation for trail grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool to help prioritize trail gap acquisitions reflects feedback on which factors are most important from BIPOC community and survey results as well as priorities from park providers and the regional trails community • Final prioritization of hundreds of trail segments will reflect priorities and feedback from community
Capital grants	Test participatory budgeting principles through development of pilot to allocate \$4 million to community projects selected through a community process and vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 info sessions on committee recruitment in fall 2021 • Partnering with community organizations and individuals to spread the word about the committee recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial capital grants pilot design and review committee established as a result of recommendation from review panel • Capital grants pilot design and review committee will shape pilot guidebook and idea generating

	Recruit a capital grants pilot design and review committee that reflects the diversity of the region and the requirements laid out in the bond measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 completed applications received of which 7 were selected to serve on the committee • Convene review panel of Metro staff and community members to evaluate applications received 	sessions, which will determine path for community project
Take care of Metro parks	<p>Advance safety, health and accessibility projects that reflect feedback from community during bond development to “take care of what we have”</p> <p>Ensure that major projects at specific Metro sites like Blue Lake and Oxbow regional parks are shaped by community members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and analyzed feedback during bond development • Planning to convene a BIPOC partner cohort to help shape the renovation planning at Blue Lake Park • Partnership with Lone Fir Foundation around the project scope and planning for engagement with new partners including the Oregon Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the Mental Health Association of Portland, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the Buckman Neighborhood Association, Friends of Lone Fir, the Oregon Chinese Coalition and the Portland Chinatown History Foundation through the process on work to advance a concept for the cultural heritage garden at Block 14 	

2019 bond spending detail as of December 31, 2021 by program area

	FY20	FY21	FY22	Total
Protect and Restore land				
Total	128,960	1,870,959	3,348,060	5,347,979
Take Care of Metro Parks				
Total	230,744	3,693,245	1,207,295	5,131,284
Local Share				
Total	29,397	216,142	2,621,373	2,866,912
Nature in Neighborhood Grants				
Total	12,847	186,475	137,348	336,670
Trails				
Total	12,314	244,096	117,799	374,209
Community Visions				
Total	-	3,480	39,387	42,867
Total Program	414,262	6,214,397	7,471,262	14,099,921
Admin				
Total	812,528	1,573,851	1,787,762	4,174,141
Total Bond	1,226,790	7,788,248	9,259,024	18,274,062
Admin percent	66%	20%	19%	23%

2006 bond spending detail as of December 31 2021 by program area

Land acquisition, restoration		
	<i>Total spend</i>	<i>Percent of all 2006 bond spending</i>
	156,710,707	56.97%
Local Share		
	<i>Total spend</i>	<i>Percent of all 2006 bond spending</i>
	43,748,643	15.90%
Capital Grants		
	<i>Total spend</i>	<i>Percent of all 2006 bond spending</i>
	16,371,264	5.95%
Construction		
	<i>Total spend</i>	<i>Percent of all 2006 bond spending</i>
	31,310,378	11.38%
Total Program		
	<i>Total spend</i>	<i>Percent of all 2006 bond spending</i>
	248,140,992	90.20%
Admin Total		
	<i>Total spend</i>	<i>Percent of all 2006 bond spending</i>
	26,953,526	9.80%
Total Bond spend		
	275,094,518	
Admin percent		
	9.80%	

Parks and Nature Bond

From: Parks and Nature Bond
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 4:33 PM
To: Parks and Nature Bond
Cc: Beth Cohen; MG Devereux; Melanie Reinert; 'Allison.Brown@jla.us.com'
Subject: FW: [External sender]Testimony to Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee

Dear Committee members,

Please find the public testimony received this morning and referenced in our meeting today below.

Thank you!

From: Eric Fruits [mailto:eric@cascadepolicy.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 6:03 AM
To: Parks and Nature Bond <ParksandNatureBond@oregonmetro.gov>; Melanie Reinert <Melanie.Reinert@oregonmetro.gov>
Cc: Carrie MacLaren <Carrie.MacLaren@oregonmetro.gov>; Brian Evans <Brian.Evans@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: [External sender]Testimony to Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Please accept the following testimony for today's meeting of the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee.

I request that closed captioning be enabled for today's Zoom meeting.

OREGON PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

I had quite a challenge finding the agenda for today's meeting, and that's a big problem.

- There was no link to the agenda in the "Calendar" page: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/events/natural-areas-and-capital-program-performance-oversight-committee-meeting/2022-02-22>
- There is no link to an agenda for today's meeting posted on the Oversight Committee's webpage (see attached). Apparently, the agenda for today's meeting was "misplaced" under "March 3."
- I could find no published notice of the meeting in the Daily Journal of Commerce (see attached, which are the search results for "Oversight" on the DJC's public notices page).
- I signed up to receive bond updates on Metro's website, but I cannot find an email notifying me of today's Oversight Committee meeting.

As you may know, Metro’s Parks and Nature Oversight Committee has a history of failing to follow Oregon Public Meetings Law, which I documented in my testimony to the Oregon Legislature (<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2022R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/37701>).

I had hoped that the “new” Oversight Committee would have a more serious commitment to following the state’s Public Meetings Law.

COMMERCIAL FARMING OPERATIONS ON PARKS AND NATURE LANDS

I have some concerns regarding Metro’s “Park and Nature” program, specifically its acquisition and use of agricultural land purchased with bond funds.

As you know, Metro voters approved bond measures to “buy open space for wildlife, parks, and trails” (1995); “[p]rotect[] specific natural areas, lands near rivers and streams, wildlife and trail corridors through land acquisition and restoration” (2006); and “protect water quality, fish, wildlife habitat, natural areas” (2019).

As far as I can tell, **none of the bond measures indicated the funds would be used to purchase agricultural land to be farmed or leased to farmers.** When voters approved the bond measures and operating levies, they expected their tax dollars would be used to provide parks and natural areas for their use and enjoyment. **Voters did not expect—and were not told—that approximately 10% of the land purchased would be used for commercial farming operations.**

A recent job posting on Metro’s website, however, indicates that a significant share—approximately 10%—of Metro’s so-called “Parks and Nature” acquisitions are being leased to farmers (<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/oregonmetro/jobs/3420684/farmland-stewardship-program-manager>):

“This position will lead **administrative stewardship of leased farmland** (currently approx. 1,350 acres under 33 leases) and act as liaison to farmers as new land is purchased. You’ll act as a resource for tenants, coordinate with land managers both internal and external, **develop new leases, ensure lease compliance, and oversee rent collection** and pesticide use review, tracking and reporting. You’ll also collaborate with stakeholders and tenants to implement farming practices that protect/improve water quality, respond to the growing impact of climate change, and achieve other environmental benefits from well-managed farmland.”

I am not aware of any Metro ordinance or resolution declaring Metro’s purchase, leasing, and/or operating of farms outside of Metro’s jurisdictional boundaries is a “matter[] of metropolitan concern.” A case could be made that these activities are outside of Metro’s jurisdiction defined in Section 4 of Metro’s charter.

I urge you to audit this component of Metro’s “Parks and Nature” program with special attention to:

- Compliance with the commitments and limitations specified in the relevant Ballot Titles;
- Compliance with bond covenants for each of the relevant bond issues; and
- Compliance with Metro’s charter, including but not limited to Section 4 (Jurisdiction of Metro).

As an Oversight Committee, voters and taxpayers expect you to provide intense and vigorous oversight of the Parks and Nature program. It is up to you to demand staff answer these questions candidly, thoroughly, and truthfully.

All the best.

--
Eric Fruits, Ph.D.
Vice President of Research
Cascade Policy Institute
503-928-6635
eric@cascadepolicy.org

Future meetings

Meeting materials are available in PDF format about one week in advance.

Feb 22, 2022

Mar 3, 2022

 **Meeting agenda**
980.5 KB Adobe Acrobat PDF | Published Feb 10, 2022

Recent meetings

Meeting materials are available in PDF format. The meeting minutes are posted after committee approval.

Dec 7, 2021

 **Meeting packet**
13.3 MB Adobe Acrobat PDF | Published Feb 1, 2022

Sep 15, 2021

 **Meeting agenda**
1.3 MB Adobe Acrobat PDF | Published Sep 7, 2021

Jul 26, 2021

 **Training summary**
202.56 KB Adobe Acrobat PDF | Published Jul 26, 2021

[Login](#) | [Register](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Manage Acct.](#)



Start your search here **Quick Search**

MEDIA network						
Home	DJC Home	Project Center	Subscribe	About	FAQ	Search Tools 

ALL SEARCH RESULTS

File Options:   Total records: 2

<input type="checkbox"/>	COUNTY	SECTION	CATEGORY	SUMMARY	▼ POSTED	DETAILS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multnomah	Bids	Goods and Services	MIDDLE FORK IRRIGATION DISTRICT CLEAR BRANCH DAM S... see more	02/11/2022	Details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multnomah	Government	Hearings and Minutes	Metro Supportive Housing Services Community Over... see more	01/24/2022	Details

From: [Parks and Nature Bond](#)
To: eric@cascadepolicy.org
Cc: [Parks and Nature Bond](#); [Melanie Reinert](#); [Carrie MacLaren](#); [Brian Evans](#)
Subject: RE: [External sender]Testimony to Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 1:40:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[20220222_pnoc_agenda.pdf](#)
[winter 2022 staff report to natural areas oversight committee final draft formatted.pdf](#)

Hi Dr. Fruits—

Thank you for your testimony. We want to acknowledge receipt of it and let you know that we'll be sharing your testimony with the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee.

Staff is working on a formal response to your testimony, but in advance of tonight's oversight committee meeting, we want to make sure you have the following information you need to attend and track the conversation.

- We will be using closed captioning at our meeting tonight
- Attached is the agenda for tonight's meeting. As you can see from this agenda, we'll be breaking out into simultaneous working groups like we did at the December meeting and the links to join and watch the working group discussions can be found in the attached agenda. Each working group discussion will be recorded and will be shared publically as part of the meeting record.
- Also attached is a draft staff report from Parks and Nature staff to the committee. We'll be sharing this draft report at today's committee meeting and it will be part of the meeting packet that is posted on the committee's webpage after the meeting. This draft report will help support initial conversations between committee members at today's meeting and the next meeting on March 3 to identify topics to include in the committee's year one report to the Metro Council. The attached report is in draft form and we are not planning to finalize it or make any decisions about it at today's meeting. Once the committee reviews and refines this staff report and finalizes their own year one report, a final version of this staff report will be included as part of the committee's year one report back to the Metro Council this spring.

If there's anything else you need to attend today's meeting, please let us know.

Thanks,

The Parks and Nature bond team

From: Eric Fruits [mailto:eric@cascadepolicy.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 6:03 AM
To: Parks and Nature Bond <ParksandNatureBond@oregonmetro.gov>; Melanie Reinert <Melanie.Reinert@oregonmetro.gov>
Cc: Carrie MacLaren <Carrie.MacLaren@oregonmetro.gov>; Brian Evans <Brian.Evans@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: [External sender]Testimony to Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Please accept the following testimony for today's meeting of the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee.

I request that closed captioning be enabled for today's Zoom meeting.

OREGON PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

I had quite a challenge finding the agenda for today's meeting, and that's a big problem.

- There was no link to the agenda in the "Calendar" page: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/events/natural-areas-and-capital-program-performance-oversight-committee-meeting/2022-02-22>
- There is no link to an agenda for today's meeting posted on the Oversight Committee's webpage (see attached). Apparently, the agenda for today's meeting was "misplaced" under "March 3."
- I could find no published notice of the meeting in the Daily Journal of Commerce (see attached, which are the search results for "Oversight" on the DJC's public notices page).
- I signed up to receive bond updates on Metro's website, but I cannot find an email notifying me of today's Oversight Committee meeting.

As you may know, Metro's Parks and Nature Oversight Committee has a history of failing to follow Oregon Public Meetings Law, which I documented in my testimony to the Oregon Legislature

(<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2022R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/37701>).

I had hopes that the "new" Oversight Committee would have a more serious commitment to following the state's Public Meetings Law.

COMMERCIAL FARMING OPERATIONS ON PARKS AND NATURE LANDS

I have some concerns regarding Metro's "Park and Nature" program, specifically its acquisition and use of agricultural land purchased with bond funds.

As you know, Metro voters approved bond measures to "buy open space for wildlife, parks, and trails" (1995); "[p]rotect[] specific natural areas, lands near rivers and streams, wildlife and trail corridors through land acquisition and restoration" (2006); and "protect water quality, fish, wildlife habitat, natural areas" (2019).

As far as I can tell, **none of the bond measures indicated the funds would be used to purchase agricultural land to be farmed or leased to farmers**. When voters approved the bond measures and operating levies, they expected their tax dollars would be used to provide parks and natural areas for their use and enjoyment. **Voters did not expect—and were not told—that approximately 10% of the land purchased would be used for commercial farming operations**.

A recent job posting on Metro's website, however, indicates that a significant share—approximately 10%—of Metro's so-called "Parks and Nature" acquisitions are being leased to farmers (<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/oregonmetro/jobs/3420684/farmland->

[stewardship-program-manager](#)):

“This position will lead **administrative stewardship of leased farmland** (currently approx. 1,350 acres under 33 leases) and act as liaison to farmers as new land is purchased. You’ll act as a resource for tenants, coordinate with land managers both internal and external, **develop new leases, ensure lease compliance, and oversee rent collection** and pesticide use review, tracking and reporting. You’ll also collaborate with stakeholders and tenants to implement farming practices that protect/improve water quality, respond to the growing impact of climate change, and achieve other environmental benefits from well-managed farmland.”

I am not aware of any Metro ordinance or resolution declaring Metro’s purchase, leasing, and/or operating of farms outside of Metro’s jurisdictional boundaries is a “matter[] of metropolitan concern.” A case could be made that these activities are outside of Metro’s jurisdiction defined in Section 4 of Metro’s charter.

I urge you to audit this component of Metro’s “Parks and Nature” program with special attention to:

- Compliance with the commitments and limitations specified in the relevant Ballot Titles;
- Compliance with bond covenants for each of the relevant bond issues; and
- Compliance with Metro’s charter, including but not limited to Section 4 (Jurisdiction of Metro).

As an Oversight Committee, voters and taxpayers expect you to provide intense and vigorous oversight of the Parks and Nature program. It is up to you to demand staff answer these questions candidly, thoroughly, and truthfully.

All the best.

--

Eric Fruits, Ph.D.
Vice President of Research
Cascade Policy Institute
503-928-6635
eric@cascadepolicy.org