



Metro

Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee onboarding session

May 2024

Topics to cover today



Metro

Welcome and agenda review

Intro to Metro Parks and Nature

Introduction to the 2019 Parks and Nature bond

Committee introductions

Committee expectations

Next steps

Intro to Metro



Metro



Staff team



Metro

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

Background information, staff support: Beth Cohen

Meeting logistics, administrative support: Melanie
Reinert

Office of Metro Attorney: Michelle Bellia

Parks and Nature finance manager: Chantia Clark

Email Parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov

Council liaisons



Metro

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

Councilor Mary Nolan, District 5: includes Northwest and North Portland, portions of Southwest and Northeast Portland, plus the city of Maywood Park and part of Washington 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

Voters have asked Metro to bring together partners for issues that cross city and county lines



Metro

The Metro boundary includes **24 cities** – from the Columbia River to the bend of the Willamette River and from the Coast Range near Forest Grove to the banks of the Sandy River at Troutdale.

- Safe, livable, affordable communities.
- Clean water, habitat and abundant access to nature.
- Roads, streets and transit that serve everyone.
- An innovative garbage and recycling system.
- Greater Portland's most popular venues.

Meet the Metro Council



President Lynn Peterson
Elected region-wide



Councilor Ashton Simpson
District 1 (East Multnomah County,
parts of north Clackamas County)



Councilor Christine Lewis
District 2
(West Clackamas County)



Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal
District 3
(Southeast Washington County,
Wilsonville)



Councilor Juan Carlos González
District 4
(West & Central Washington County)



Councilor Mary Nolan
District 5 (Northwest Multnomah
County, northeast Washington County)



Councilor Duncan Hwang
District 6 (Southwest Multnomah
County, Central Portland)



Metro Auditor Brian Evans
oregonmetro.gov/auditor

The Metro Council is advised by a wide variety of regional and community-based committees.



Formal advisory committees



Transportation
(JPACT)



Land use
(MPAC)



Equity
(CORE)



Venues
(MERC)



Garbage &
recycling
(RWAC)

Investment measure community oversight committees



Housing
Supportive Housing



Parks
&
Nature



Oregon
Zoo

And many more...

- Grantmaking committees
- Program steering committees
- Technical committees



Metro

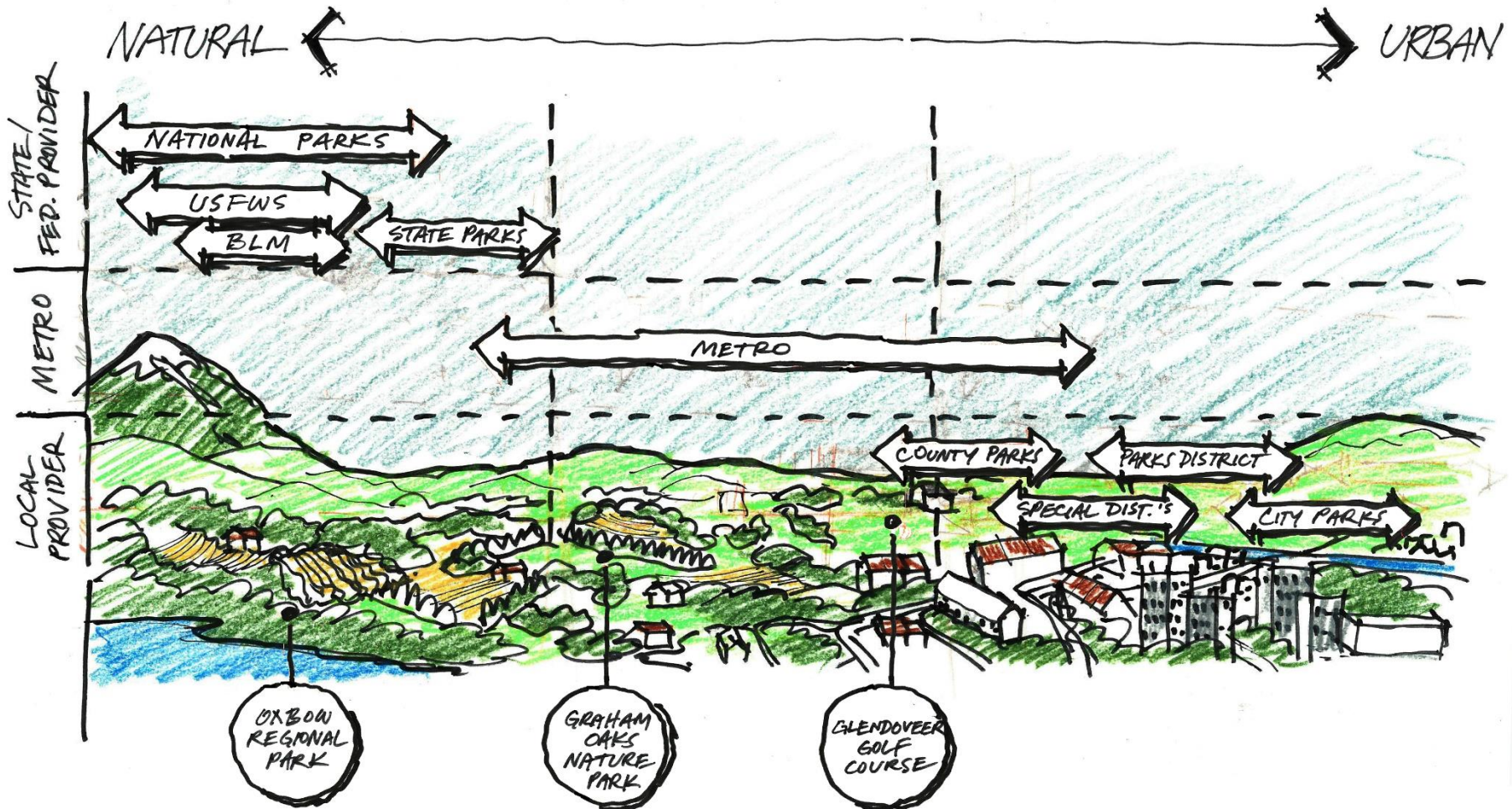
Metro Parks and
Nature: Clean
water,
healthy habitat,
happy people



Metro Parks and Nature's role in the region



Metro



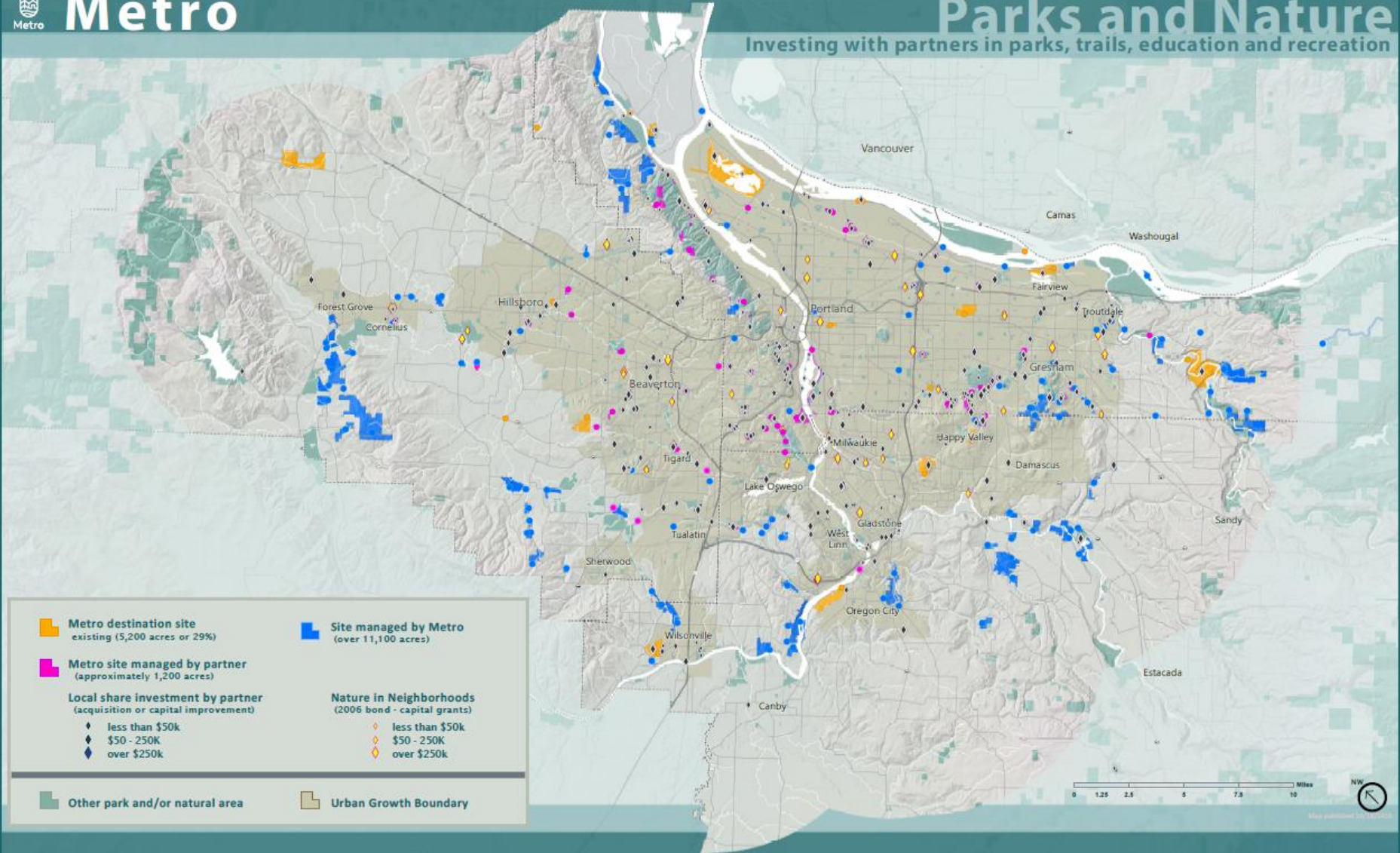
Three decades protecting what makes this place special



Metro

Parks and Nature

Investing with partners in parks, trails, education and recreation



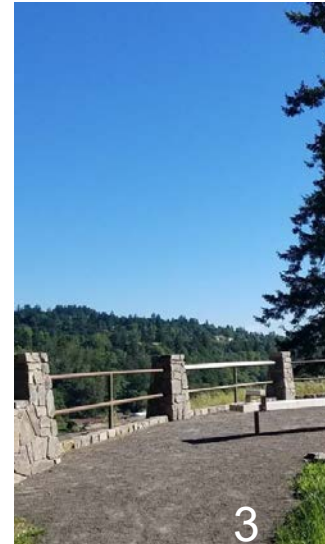


Access to nature

Local priorities



Metro



Bonds and levies



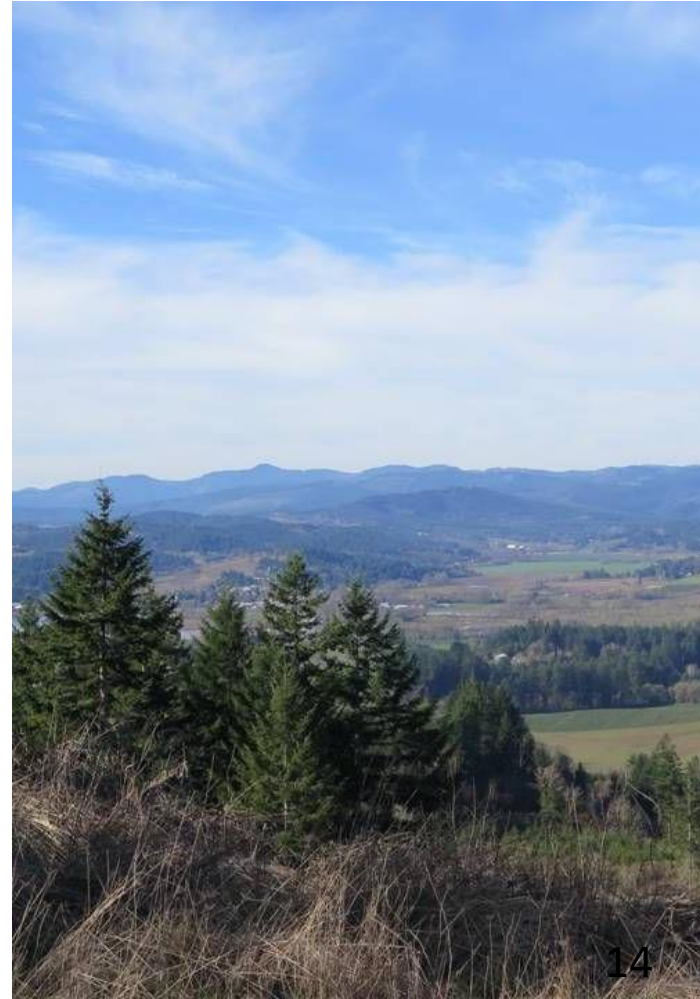
Metro

Require voter approval

Are a type of property tax

Bonds = capital

Levies = operating





Metro

2019 parks and
nature bond 101:
Clean water,
healthy habitat,
happy people





Metro

\$475 million to improve water quality, protect fish and wildlife and connect people to nature

1. Land acquisition and restoration
2. Improvements at Metro parks
3. Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants
4. Allocations to park providers
5. Trails grants
6. Large scale community visions



Progress update

2019 Parks and nature bond

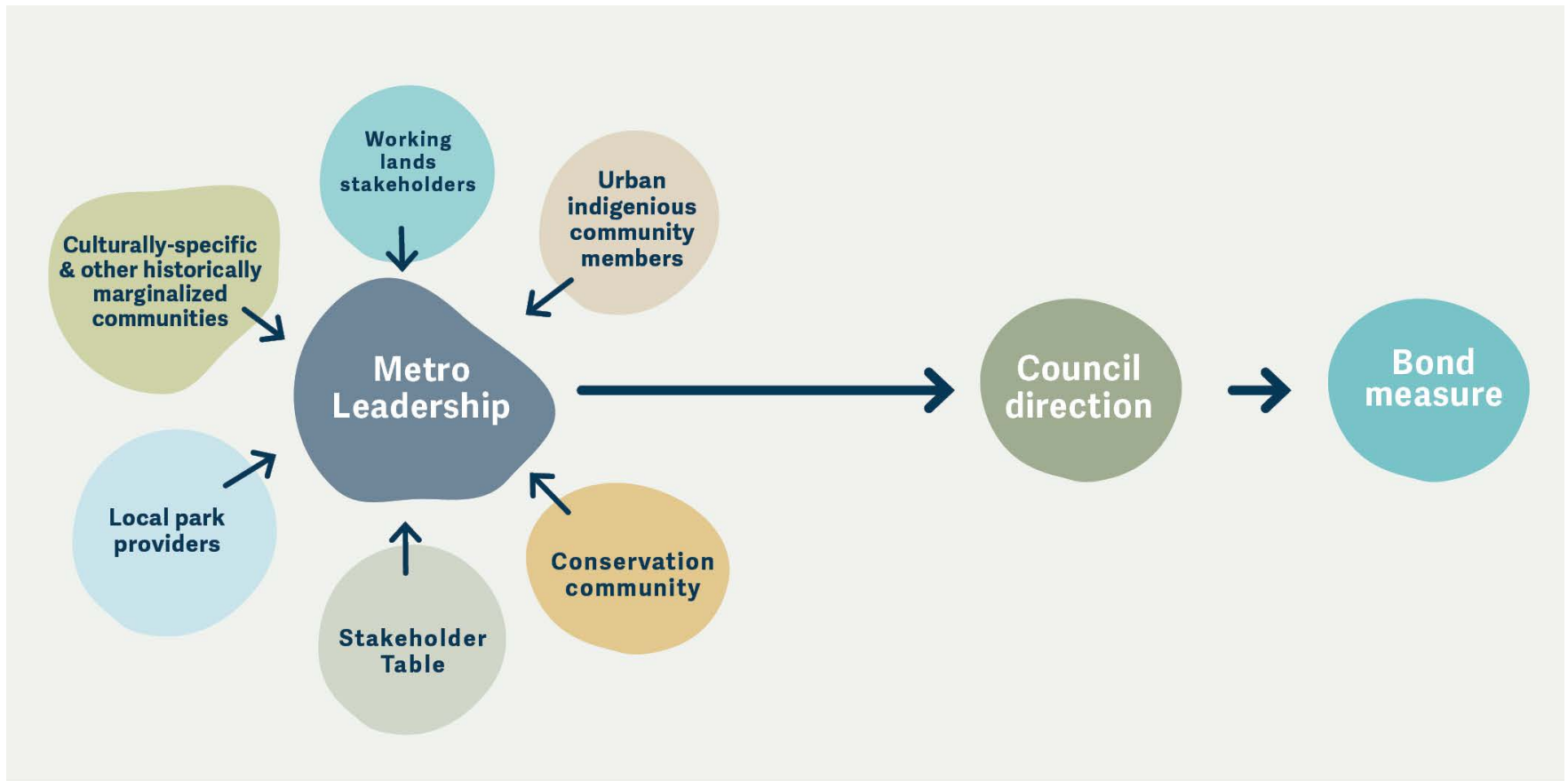
April 2024

Bond programs

The bond includes six programs. The funding levels were set by the legislation.



How the bond was built



Bond criteria set
this measure
apart

Advance
racial equity

Prepare for climate
change

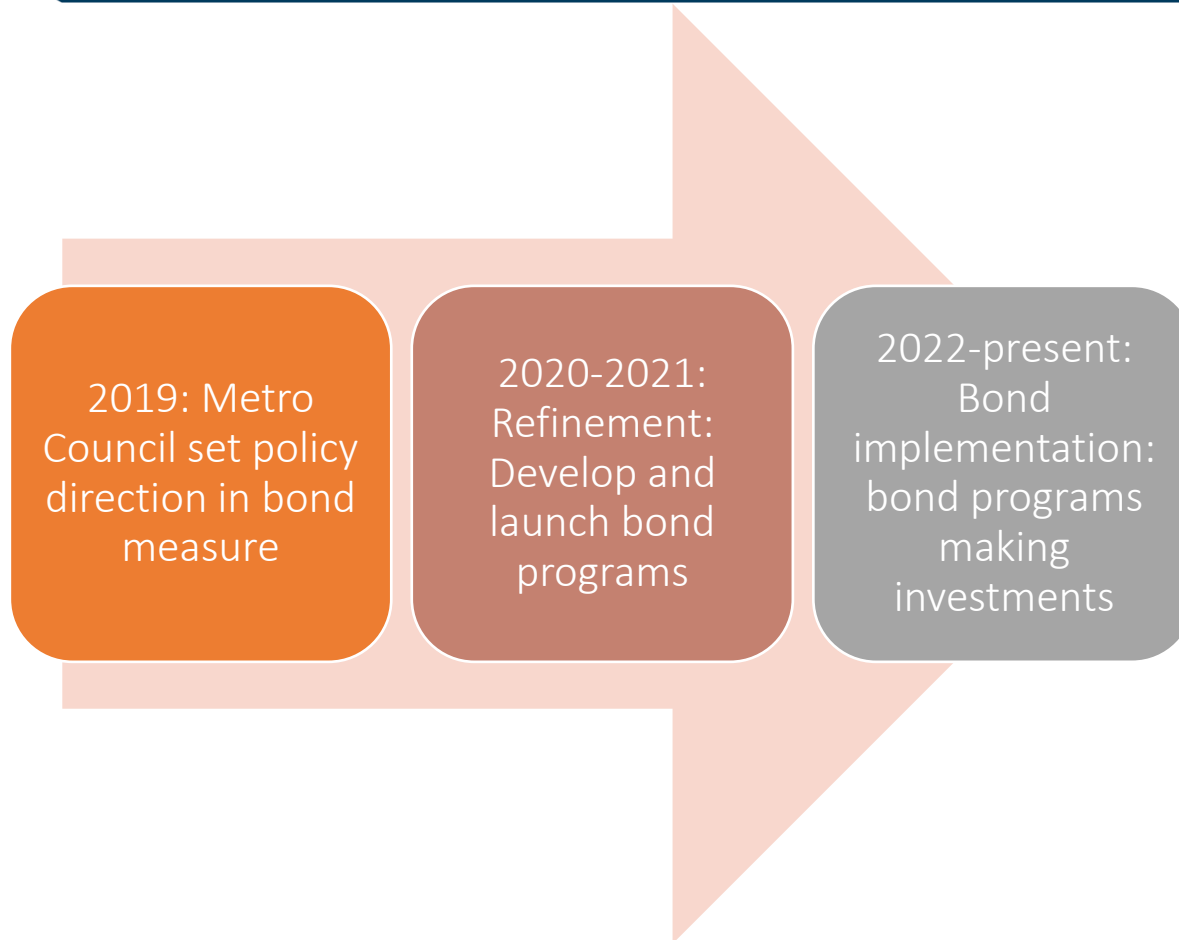
Conduct meaningful
engagement



Metro



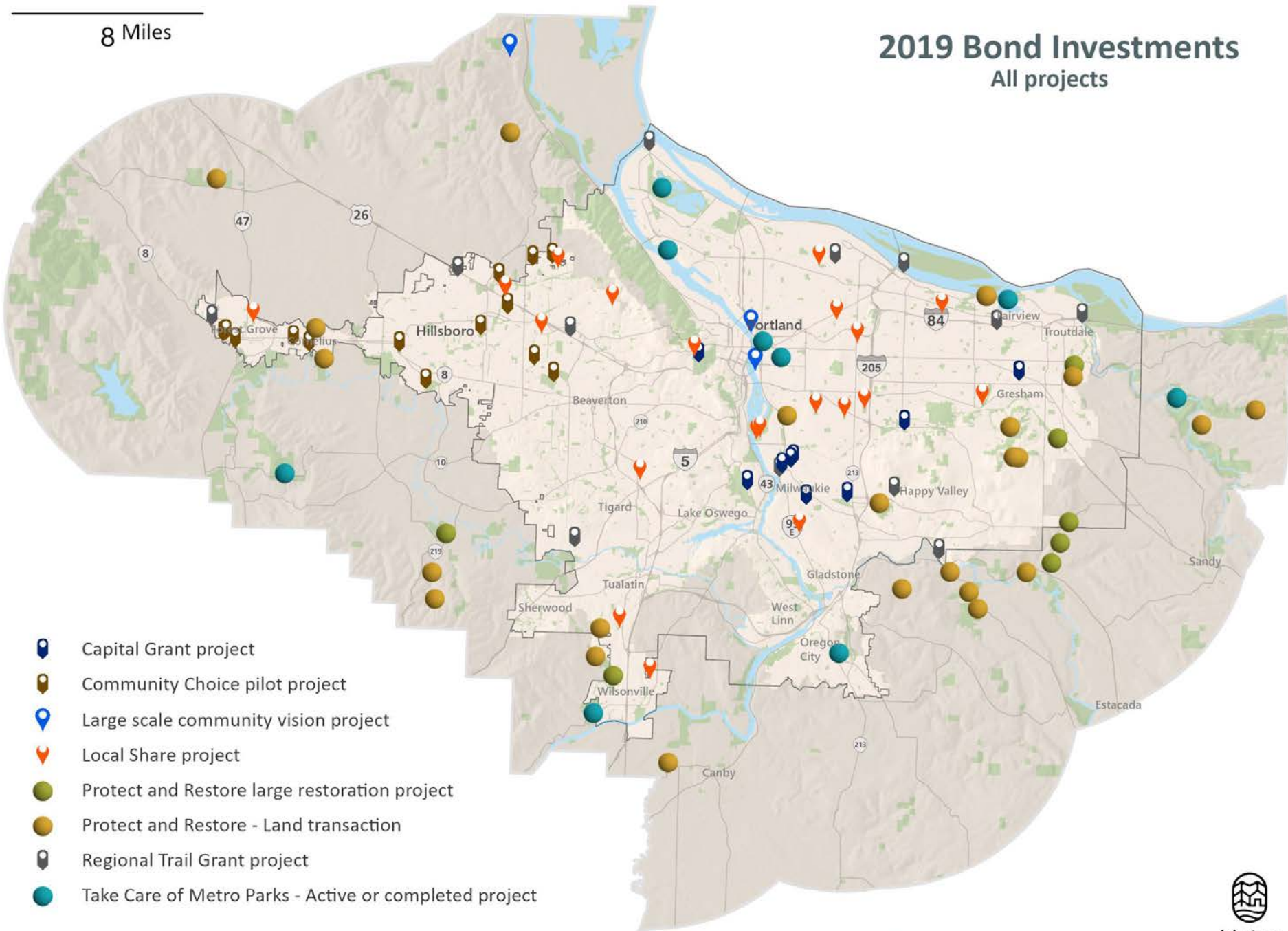
Bond governance and management



8 Miles

2019 Bond Investments

All projects



- Capital Grant project
- Community Choice pilot project
- Large scale community vision project
- Local Share project
- Protect and Restore large restoration project
- Protect and Restore - Land transaction
- Regional Trail Grant project
- Take Care of Metro Parks - Active or completed project

Metro Jurisdiction

Major water bodies

Urban Growth Boundary 2023

Status of bond investments to date



Metro

Over \$123 million had been spent or awarded to projects by March 31, 2024. Administrative costs accounted for 12% of spending. This share of costs is expected to drop quickly as bond programs ramp up spending.



Resources for onboarding



Metro

Committee webpage on Metro website
(<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/parks-and-nature-investments/oversight>)

- Committee bylaws
- Quarterly reporting to committee

Virtual resource library (we'll share link)

Metro news
(<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/topic/parks-and-nature>)

Welcome newly appointed committee members



Sachi Arakawa	Environmental Planning Consultant, Cascadia Partners and Adjunct Professor, Portland State University
Yume Delegato	Senior Communications Coordinator, Prosper Portland
Ananda Gordon-Peabody	Environmental Planner, Maul Foster & Alongi
Sophie Kaady	Independent Strategy Consultant
Jean Paul Mugisha	Product Development Engineer, Intel Corporation
Jim Sjulín	Former Portland Parks & Recreation Program manager, 40 Mile Loop board member
Emma Stocker	Information Security Governance Manager, OnPoint Credit Union

Introductions



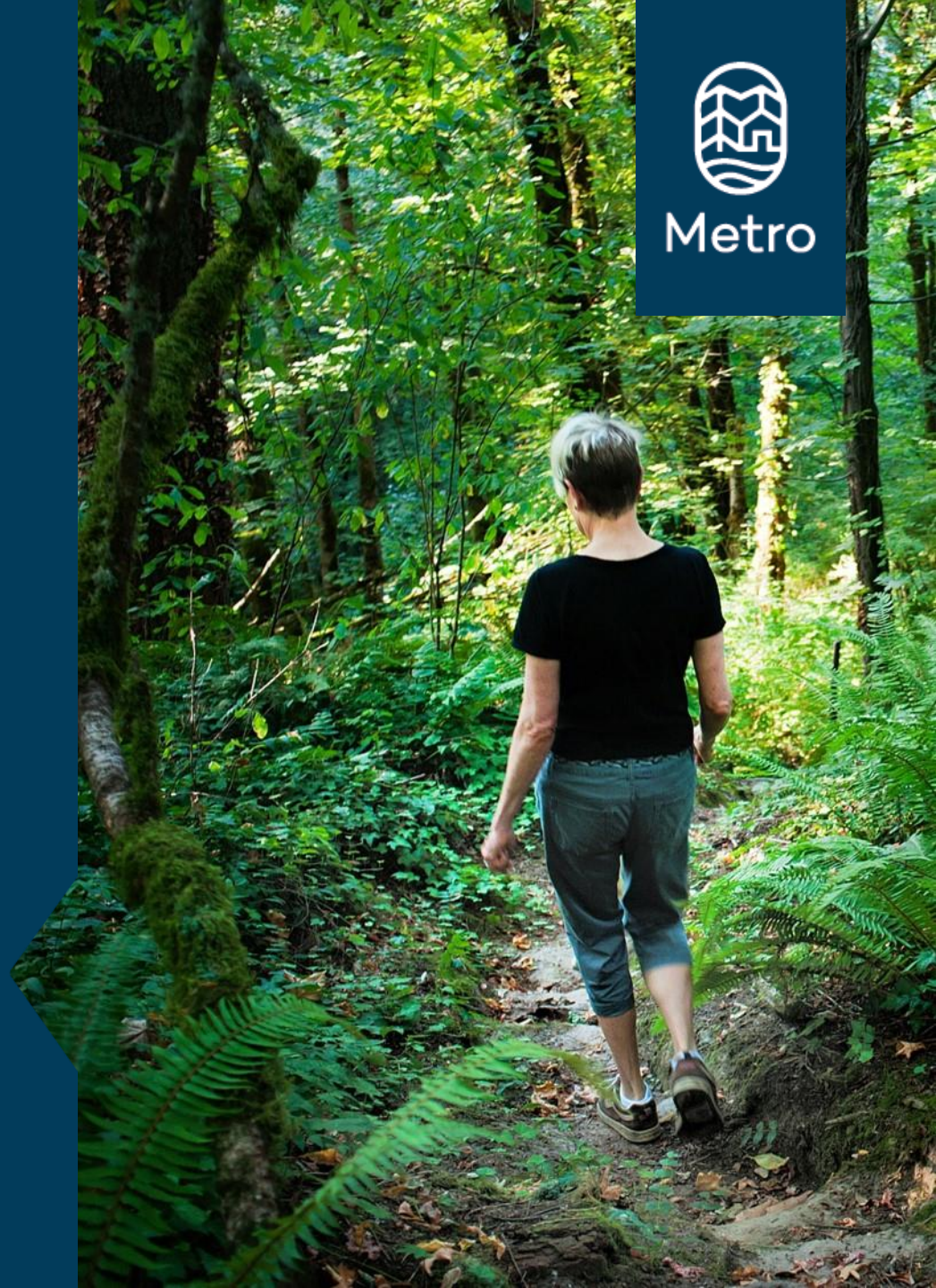
Metro

Share your name, pronouns, your day job/affiliation and a moment where parks and/or nature became important to who you are or a recent experience in nature that you want to share



Metro

Expectations for the committee



Committee purpose



Metro

Provide independent program oversight on behalf of the Metro Council to ensure that the committee will keep Metro accountable and transparent in its use of capital funds from the \$475 million 2019 parks and nature bond (passed in 2019), the parks and natural areas local option levy renewed in 2022).

Committee history and work to date



The Metro Council established the committee in spring 2021 with 19 members. 11 of those 19 continue to serve on the committee.

All committee members can serve up to three 2-year terms

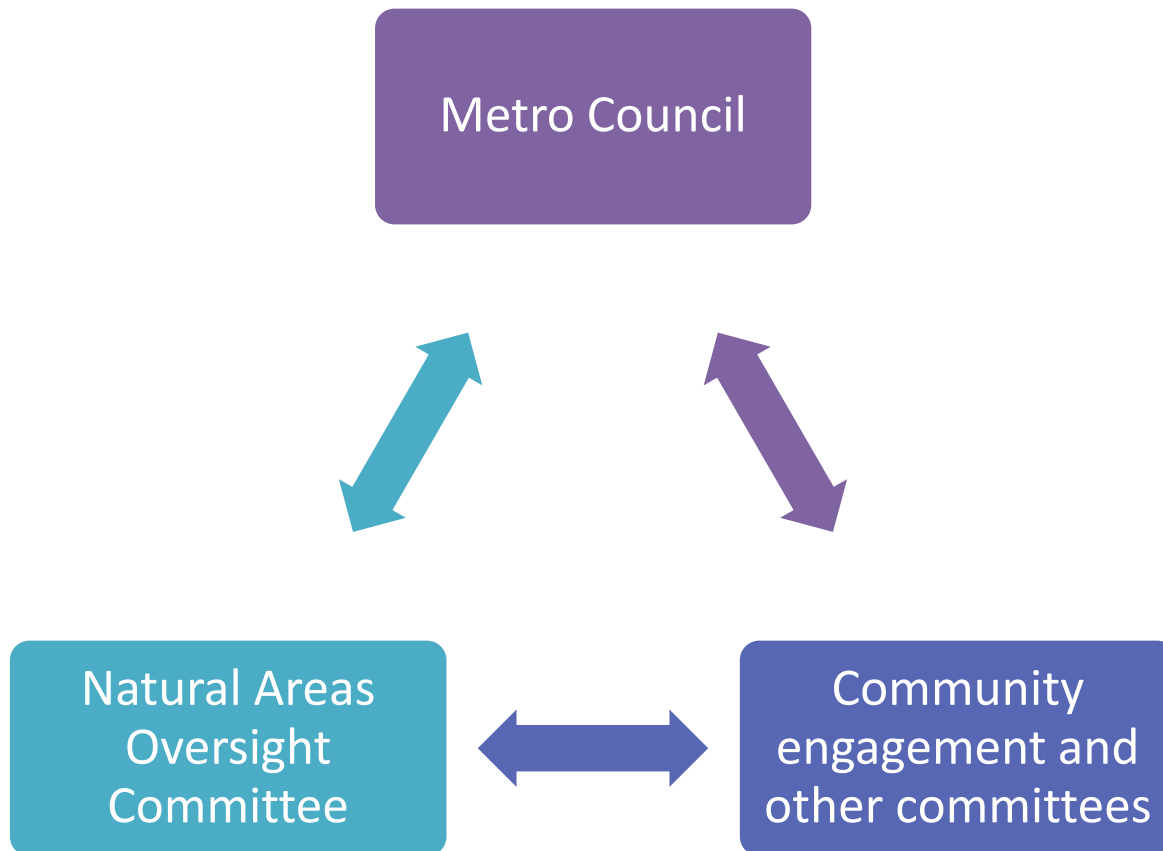
Council aspirations for committee that reflects the diversity of the region in geography, experience and commitment to bond criteria

Co-chairs facilitate meetings and help plan agendas, present annual reports to the Metro Council

Committee bylaws set expectations for committee membership, terms and work

Committee required to meet at least four times a year

Oversight committee's role



We are asking for your review and oversight



Metro Council goal to ensure Oversight Committee includes a diversity of perspectives in terms of experience, background, geography

Commitment to applying bond criteria to evaluation of bond progress and projects

Committee activities



Metro

Receive updates on bond programs and projects, ask questions

Review reporting tools

Develop annual report to Metro Council

Participate in one working group (land acquisition, finance, community engagement or other)

Optional: participate in site visits, tours

OREGON GOVERNMENT

ETHICS, RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, PUBLIC MEETINGS & RECORDS

Individual committee members are considered a “public official” and as a result, you are each personally responsible for complying with Oregon Government Ethics Law, Restrictions on Political Activities, Oregon Public Meetings and Records Law

Overview today of two handouts:

Welcome Packet

Guide for Volunteer Committee Members

Ethics Laws for Public Officials

ORS Chapter 244 – Oregon Ethics Act

- I. Prohibited Use of Official Position
- II. Gift Limitations
- III. Conflicts of Interest – Actual vs Potential

I. Prohibited Use of Official Position

“A public official may not use or attempt to use official position or office to **obtain financial gain** or **avoidance of financial detriment** for the public official, a relative or member of the household of the public official, or any business with which the public official or a relative or member of the household of the public official is associated, if the financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment would not otherwise be available but for the public official’s holding of the official position or office.”

ORS 244.040(1)

II. Gift Limitations

“**Gift**” means something of economic value given to a public official, a candidate or his/her relative or member of the household, for free or less than that required from others who are not public officials. ORS 244.020(7)(a)

Gift Limit. During a calendar year, a public official, a candidate or his/her relative or member of the household, may not solicit or receive, directly or indirectly, any gift(s) with an aggregate value **>\$50** from any source that could reasonably be known to have a legislative or administrative interest in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the public official. ORS 244.025

An economic interest, *distinct from that of the general public* in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the public official acting in the public official’s capacity as a public official or a candidate who, if elected, would be acting in the capacity of a public official. ORS 244.020(10)

III. Conflicts of Interest – Actual v Potential

Any action or any decision or recommendation by a person acting in a capacity as a public official, the effect of which **would (ACTUAL CONFLICT)** or **could (POTENTIAL CONFLICT)** be to the private pecuniary benefit or detriment of the person or the person's relative or any business with which the person or a relative of the person is associated.

ORS 244.020(1)(would; actual)

ORS 244.020(13)(could: potential)

Declaring Conflicts of Interests

Potential Conflict of Interest

- You must publicly declare, for the record, the nature of the conflict before participating in any action.

Actual Conflict of Interest

- You must publicly declare, for the record, the nature of the conflict; and
- You must refrain from participation in any discussion, debate or vote on the issue.

REMINDERS:

- You must publicly declare on each occasion the topic arises.
- Complete “Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form and Acknowledgement for Oversight Committee Members”

Restrictions on Political Activities for Public Officials: Secretary of State Guidance

Non-elected Metro volunteers:

- May express personal political views
- May engage in political activities outside of their service for Metro
- May not spend time while serving for a Metro committee or board promoting or opposing candidates or ballot measures
- May not spend time while serving for a Metro committee or board promoting or opposing political committees or gathering signatures for proposed ballot measures
- May not use Metro property, funds or staff to promote or oppose ballot measures, signatures on proposed measures, political committees, or election or recall of officials or candidates

Public Records Law Overview

(ORS 192.410 - .505)

Right to Inspect. Every person has a right to inspect any public record of a public body in this state, except as otherwise expressly provided by ORS 192.501-.505.

“Public records” include:

- any “writing” (defined expansively and including electronic);
- containing information relating to the conduct of the public’s business.

This includes “personal” email, text, Facebook, Twitter, etc. accounts and records if Metro business is discussed – regardless whether the “writing” is received or delivered from a public or private device, or where it is stored.

Public Records and Meetings Reminders

- Individual committee members are personally responsible for complying with Oregon Government Ethics law. Familiarize yourself with ethical obligations and abide by them.
- Conduct the business of your committee during scheduled public meetings.
- Do not deliberate outside of scheduled meetings.
- Always copy designated staff person on any correspondence.
- Do not communicate by email or texts with other committee members outside of scheduled meetings.
- If you have information to share, send it to the designated staff or Co-Chairs for dissemination.

Practical implications for communicating

- Direct most email communication to parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov
- Do not reply all to committee emails
- All committee meetings and working groups are public

Additional Resources

Ethics training through Oregon Government Ethics Commission: <https://www.oregon.gov/ogec>

Oregon Secretary of State's Office – Elections Division
<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/manuals-tutorials.aspx>

Oregon Public Meetings Law:

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/public-records/public-records-and-meetings-law/>

Oregon Public Records Law:

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/public-records/public-records-and-meetings-law/>

Thank you and next steps



Metro

Physical or electronic binders available

May 21 full committee meeting

May working group meetings

Lunch and learns through summer and fall



oregonmetro.gov

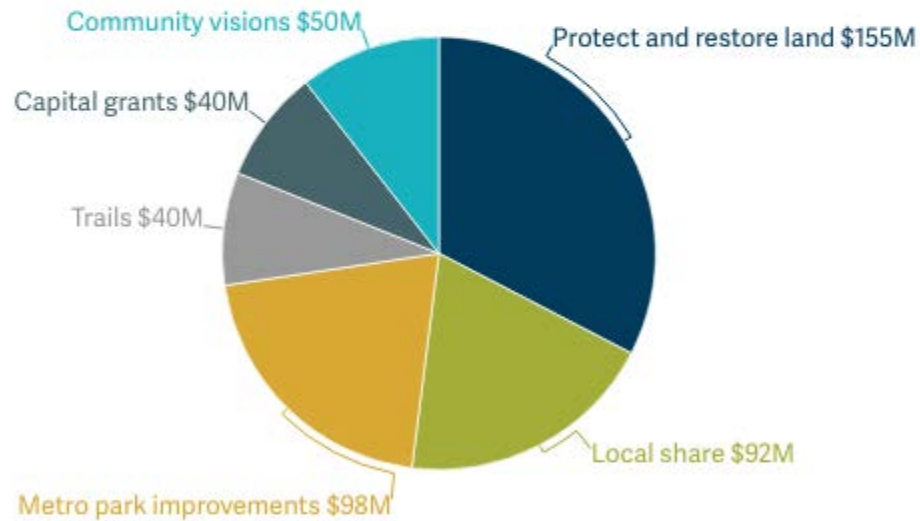


2019 Parks and nature bond

April 2024

Bond programs

The bond includes six programs. The funding levels were set by the legislation.



Bond spending

Over \$123 million had been spent or awarded to projects by March 31, 2024. Administrative costs accounted for 12% of spending. This share of costs is expected to drop quickly as bond programs ramp up spending.



Protect and restore land

\$155 M to acquire high-priority natural areas and funds major restoration projects, plus \$10 M for trail gap acquisitions in alignment with Council approved land acquisition road maps

The 1995 and 2006 bonds helped Metro purchase 15,000 acres of natural areas

Progress to date

Engagement with community members, conservation partners and park providers to develop priorities for land acquisition and capital restoration

Total of 21 land acquisitions, totaling 691.84 acres and 0.44 miles of trail right of way



Take care of Metro Parks

\$98 M to invest in health, safety and accessibility improvements at Metro developed parks

Progress to date

10 completed projects including the completion of two new nature parks Chehalem Ridge (Washington County) and Newell Creek Canyon (Oregon City), improvements at Oxbow Nature Park and Blue Lake Park

Community engagement ongoing for projects at specific sites (i.e. Blue Lake Park)



Metro



Local share



Metro

\$92 M allocated to the region's 27 cities, counties and parks districts in pre-determined amounts to invest in local priorities for land acquisition, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, new or improved access facilities at public parks and natural areas, local or regional trails, enhanced or new environmental educational facilities.

Progress to date

Multiple park providers across the region working with community to identify and submit projects

Awarded funds to 9 park providers for 14 projects and \$26 M



Walking and biking trail grants



\$20 million for trail planning and construction

Progress to date

In 2022, Metro Council awarded \$19.5 million to local agencies for 12 trail grant projects across the region

Metro is finalizing intergovernmental agreements with jurisdictions to kick off project implementation



Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants

\$40 million for grants to projects led by community organizations, park providers, local governments and other organizations for publicly owned capital projects, which include buildings, large conservation projects, real estate purchases and other physical projects.

Progress to date

Council awarded \$2.7 million to 7 projects in initial round with more planned

Piloted participatory grant-making with Community Choice grants pilot



Metro

Large scale community visions

\$30 M for grant program that supports innovative capital projects that bring together nature, job opportunities, affordable housing and safe transportation.

Progress to date

Council awarded \$10 M in pilot round to three projects

Open solicitation for up to \$10 M this year



Metro

