

Advancing Racial Equity through the Parks and Nature bond – Res. No. 19-4988

Updated 6/11/19 – with community engagement, racial equity and climate resiliency criteria attachment

Metro’s racial equity goals	Bond program development	Bond program implementation	Additional notes
Convene and support regional partners to advance racial equity	Specific goal in bond community engagement plan and bond framework adopted by Metro Council.	Bond implementation requires Metro provide support for and monitoring of local governments and other partners to achieve this goal.	Strong support for racial equity outcomes in the local share and grant programs from historically underserved communities as well as from long-time partners including local governments, park providers, and conservation advocates.
Meaningfully engage communities of color	Specific goal in bond community engagement plan and bond framework adopted by Metro Council. Stakeholder Table advising Metro COO composed of participants with diverse backgrounds and strong representation from communities of color-led organizations, leaders within Portland’s indigenous community and accessibility advocates.	Bond includes requirements for all six funding areas requiring on-going, meaningful engagement for Metro-led, local government-led and community-led projects. Metro staff will develop more detailed guidelines and/or a toolkit for local park providers and other partners to define best practices and expectations. Metro will also be developing technical assistance program for partners and local governments accountable for these requirements.	Bond engagement included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • co-creation – including contracting with CBOs and individuals from communities of color and greater Portland’s Indigenous community to lead engagement activities • inclusive community meetings (e.g. locations and times, child care, food, translation services, etc.) • stipends for participants from/representing communities of color • multiple engagements and follow up. <p>These practices will continue into “refinement” and bond implementation as required by the equity and community engagement criteria.</p>
Hire, train and promote racially diverse workforce	Bond program does not address Metro staffing. Equity criteria include work force and contracting.	Implementation plan will determine what new staff positions will be required for Metro-led investments and may include specific workforce goals. Metro staff will work with bond implementation partners to develop goals and measures for	Metro Parks and Nature REDI plan includes many specific actions to meet this goal which would be applicable for bond program implementation, including hiring, training and promotion of staff.

		contracting with minority owned businesses and workforce.	
Create safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations	<p>Bond program development explored definitions for safe and welcoming destinations.</p> <p>Bond funding cannot be used for services and programming.</p>	All six bond program funding areas include specific criteria and requirements designed to achieve this goal including providing funding for capital maintenance, inclusive and accessible park improvements, trails and other capital investments.	Equity and engagement criteria in the bond require implementation partners to seek firsthand perspectives about specific sites significant to communities of color, and the qualities that make a place special and meet the needs of individuals and communities of color.
Allocate resources to advance racial equity	Bond development sought to identify and uplift priorities identified by communities of color and other marginalized communities through community engagement.	<p>All six bond program funding areas include specific criteria and requirements designed to achieve this goal including prioritizing needs and projects identified by communities of color, investments in areas with high percentages of communities of color and park-deficient areas, inclusion of anti-displacement strategies and goals for capital construction contracts funded by Metro’s bond measure.</p> <p>Additionally the funding areas “protecting land”, “capital grants” and “advancing large-scale community visions” provide opportunities to pilot community-led project development and investments.</p>	<p>Engagement with communities of color and members of greater Portland’s indigenous community revealed priorities that significantly overlapped with priorities identified by historic stakeholders including conservation advocates.</p> <p>How we do the work, (not just how funds are spent), has been identified as opportunity to further advance racial equity.</p> <p>Changes to local share and capital grant programs include prioritizing land and projects identified by and important to communities of color.</p> <p>Staff has confirmed that local governments eligible for grant funding may include tribal governments with historic and cultural ties to the region.</p>

BOND MEASURE PROGRAM CRITERIA – excerpted from Exhibit A to Res. No. 19-4988

The Metro Council directed staff to develop common criteria for each of the six program investment areas set forth above to advance racial equity, make communities and natural areas more resilient to climate change and guide project prioritization and selection. These criteria are set forth below. Additional criteria specific to each program area are identified in Exhibits B through G.

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 COBID 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.