

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

- Meeting: Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee
- Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023
- Time: 4:00–6:00 p.m.
- Place: Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89884345575?pwd=NzRkNzl4bmRldlQyQTdRMmhFZHNQQT09> / Webinar ID: 898 8434 5575 / Passcode: 685172 / +1 253 215 8782
- Purpose: The committee hears a presentation on and discuss the 2019 parks and nature bond audit and receives an update on the LSCV program.
- Note: A period for public comment will be provided during this meeting. If you would like to provide testimony:
- Submit written testimony by emailing parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov. Testimony received by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting will be shared with the committee in advance. All written testimony received will be added to the meeting record. Written testimony received after the 5 p.m. deadline will be shared with the committee after the meeting.
 - Those wishing to testify orally are encouraged to sign up in advance by either: (a) contacting the Program Assistant by email at parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov and providing your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify or (b) if time permits you may be able to testify without prior notice by letting the facilitator know during the public testimony period in the virtual meeting.
 - Individuals will have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated at the meeting.
-

- 4:00 p.m. Welcome and introductions
- 4:05 p.m. Committee business reminders
- 4:10 p.m. Public testimony
- 4:20 p.m. *Discussion item:* Metro Auditor presentation of the 2019 Parks and Nature bond audit and discussion with committee members about the process and findings
- 5:20 p.m. *Discussion item:* Needed adjustments and additions to the committee focus areas and work plan based on findings from Parks and Nature bond audit
- 5:45 p.m. *Informational item:* Parks and nature bond large scale community visions program
- 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 This requirement ends 30 days after the Governor's emergency COVID order, and any extension of the declaration, is no longer in effect.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 물란을 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 ។ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានក្របខណ្ឌរើសអើងសូមចូលទស្សនាគេហទំព័រ www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights។ បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការអ្នកបកប្រែភាសាអង់គ្លេស-អ្នកបកប្រែភាសាខ្មែរ សូមទូរស័ព្ទមកលេខ 503-797-1700 (រវាង 8 ព្រឹកដល់រវាង 5 ល្ងាច ថ្ងៃច័ន្ទ-ព្រហស្បតិ៍) ដើម្បីទទួលបានមុនថ្ងៃប្រជុំដើម្បីអាចឱ្យគេបកប្រែសម្រាប់លោកអ្នក ។

إشعار بعدم التمييز من Metro

تتكرم Metro الحقوق المدنية. للمزيد من المعلومات حول برنامج Metro للحقوق المدنية أو لإدراج 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 răspunde în mod favorabil la cerere.

Metro txoj kev ntxub ntxaug daim ntawv ceeb toom

Metro tributes cai. Rau cov lus ghia txog Metro txoj cai 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.



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee
Date/time: September 14, 2023, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Place: Virtual meeting (Zoom) recording link in notes
Purpose: The committee hears a presentation on and discuss the 2019 parks and nature bond audit and receives an update on the LSCV program.

Note: A period for public comment was provided during this meeting.

- Submit written testimony by emailing parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov. Testimony received by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting will be shared with the committee in advance. All written testimony received will be added to the meeting record. Written testimony received after the 5 p.m. deadline will be shared with the committee after the meeting.
- Those wishing to testify orally are encouraged to sign up in advance by either: (a) contacting the Program Assistant by email at parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov and providing your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify or (b) if time permits you may be able to testify without prior notice by letting the facilitator know during the public testimony period in the virtual meeting.
- Individuals will have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated at the meeting.

Committee Members:

Tana Atchley Culbertson
Burt Edwards
PK Melethil
Georgena Moran
Tabitha Palmer DuPrau
Erin Upton
Cary Watters
Owen Wozniak

Council Representatives:

Councilor Ashton Simpson, District 1

Metro Auditor Representatives:

Brian Evans, Metro Auditor
Mason Atkin
David Beller

Absent

John Ferguson
Shantae Johnson
Martita Meier
Vivek Shandas
Shannon Shoul

Staff:

Linda Bartolini Venegas, Metro
Jon Blasher, Metro
Beth Cohen, Metro
MG Devereux, Metro
Shannon Leary, Metro
Dan Moeller, Metro
Melanie Reinert, Metro
Mychal Tetteh, Metro

Public:

Sharron Fuchs
Un-named caller

Recording: <https://vimeo.com/864992828>

Co-Chair Burt Edwards opened the meeting as facilitator, reviewed meeting procedures, led attendee introductions, reviewed the agenda topics and reminded the team a Miro board is available for notes and thoughts during the meeting, which will be captured in the notes packet.

Committee business reminders

Co-Chair Cary Watters gave an overview of the optional committee visit to Scouters Mountain Nature Park in August, where staff provided information about the site's history, and importance as a habitat and nature corridor.

Owen expressed appreciation for ongoing tour opportunities, though he could not attend.

PK, who was able to attend, appreciated the visit, information about and connection to the park and noted the importance of chances to interact in person with staff and fellow committee members.

Burt also appreciated chances to meet in person.

MG confirmed that there will be more opportunities for future site visits and asked members to forward any suggestions to staff.

MG discussed testimony processes and brought up a letter received from a member of the public (shared with the committee by email), who is present at the meeting.

MG shared that Blue Lake Park is temporarily closed for water system and utilities upgrades, and planning is underway to improve accessibility and continue community engagement.

MG shared about the agency five-year targets work to guide Council and the agency's work in the future. This may have impacts to department work plans. The targets have been shaped with feedback from community stakeholders like this committee.

Committee members should forward questions and comments on this work to staff.

This work is in line with and upholding many of the bond criteria in the 2019 parks and nature bond.

Michelle Lin needed to step down from the committee due to work and other commitments. **MG** relayed her appreciation and thanks to the committee for their work, and the staff and co-chairs also thanked her for her insight and participation as a member.

Recruitment for the committee to fill vacancies is planned for fall and winter 2024. The committee, community partners and Council will be engaged to share the opportunity and recommend candidates.

MG asked members to share any intersections between their work on the oversight committee and other work with Metro Parks and Nature.

Cary shared that she has a new role as Sustainable Procurement Program Manager with the City of Portland Bureau of Transportation. She attended the Sustainable Purchasing

Leadership Council Summit and [recommended the slides](#) from that as a resource (*also shared in chat*).

Owen shared that he works for Land Trust Alliance, and last week was the Land Trust Alliance Rally held at the Oregon Convention Center with Metro as a sponsor. 2,200 people attended workshops, networking events and field trips related to land trust and conservation work. Metro led a field trip to Chehalem Ridge as part of the programming.

Public testimony

Burt moved to live public testimony and reviewed ways to share testimony.

MG shared that one letter had been received regarding grant opportunities through the local share program, and the writer was present to speak.

Sharron Fuchs is a public citizen from the Rose City Park neighborhood, near Rose City Golf Course.

She received a response to her letter with resources from Metro staff. She followed up to Mary Stewart at Portland Parks, who worked to answer questions.

After reviewing the original grant, Sharron is concerned and asking for oversight of how the grant was written and applied to the Rose City Golf Course. Zoning review a year ago showed open, green space, wildlife habitat and wetlands, a nature experience, particularly along 72nd between Tillamook and Sacramento Street.

The appeared to create a “path to Taco Bell” starting at Tillamook and 72nd. The path heads east along treeline, road and fairway, then arcs to the north with an unknown connection to a sidewalk on the south end of McDaniel High School. It then proceeds to Taco Bell and 82nd Avenue. Access to the school from that sidewalk is barred by locked gates and would require walking along 82nd, which is not pedestrian-friendly.

The path as shared is not the nature experience that was intended [by the grant] or that constituents would look for in a walking trail or nature experience around this unique space.

Portland Bureau of Transportation has been surveying the path described above, and Sharron questioned why the grant funding would support work towards this alignment. She requests that the coordinators of the funding and the project convene the neighborhoods of Rose City Park, Roseway, and Madison South to discuss best alignment for value. The 72nd east-side sidewalk could also be improved.

Burt thanked Sharron for her comments.

MG shared that Metro staff will continue to circle back on the grant oversight limits and make sure City of Portland has heard these concerns.

There was no other public testimony, and there was one more introduction of an arriving committee member.

Metro Auditor presentation of the 2019 Parks and Nature bond audit and discussion with committee members about the process and findings

Burt asked Councilor Simpson for his audit comments, as he needed to leave early.

Councilor Simpson felt this should be a transparent and balanced discussion of the 2019 parks and nature bond audit. He shared key takeaways from the Council's July discussion.

- The audit provided solid research, evaluation, and open dialogue with Parks and Nature that resulted in suggestions that might not have been immediately available to the team.
- Council was cognizant of the role of Metro Parks and Nature in the region.
- The bond measure makes strong commitments for access and local share (e.g. Willamette Cove, Community Choice Grants) and effecting meaningful engagement across the bond.
- There was appreciation for progress across the bond regarding meaningful engagement to bring community members and voters along on these efforts.
- Councilor Simpson thanked the members and Co-Chairs for their contribution to this work.
- The definition of access in the region has grown and as an agency of continuous learning, Metro needs to grow with it.

Councilors raised these questions:

- Is this the ideal timing for the audit, and is the work at the right point for this audit?
- How long is a reasonable timeframe for the implementation of the management response to the recommendations?
- How has access been defined in the audit beyond just the question of geography?
- Will Council be able to consider categories of purchase for acquisitions for nature protection versus access.

Potential next steps for Council included:

- Helping review and define a definition of access and related performance metrics and SMART goals to measure progress and look at the broadest possible definition of access.

The Councilor opened to staff for further comments and information, and MG offered further follow up and discussion after the audit presentation.

Burt introduced Auditor Brian Evans and teammates David Beller and Mason Atkin, who were present to discuss the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Audit presented to Council in July.

Auditor Evans thanked those present for their work on these subjects.

He provided an overview of the auditor role and a brief recap of the presentation provided in the optional August information sessions (*see recordings from [August 2](#) and [August 4](#)*).

Auditors are elected to provide an independent and objective analysis, separate from leadership and other electeds' priorities, work and viewpoints. They provide accountability and oversight for the public view in mind.

They focus on performance audits and program evaluation. They look at expenditures but focus on progress towards goals and related allocated resources. They then make recommendations regarding improvements in efficiency, effectiveness and equity.

Their mission is to ensure Metro programs are accountable and transparent to the public. This committee is part of the processes to make sure promises made to the voters are kept.

Auditors follow standards put out by the government accountability office regarding communications and evidence needed. The audit team was in communication with leadership throughout the audit, providing drafts and updates from start to end as well as a chance to make comments and clarifications prior to publishing. [The audit was published with a management response.](#)

Information is available online at the [audit website](#).

The audit office presents to “those charged with governance” including Council and groups with an oversight role. Council received a presentation in July, and this is the follow-up presentation of results and a chance for discussion with the related oversight committee.

Owen asked what drives the choices of what is audited (public or council request or through audit office scanning of the work?)

Auditor Evans shared that it’s a multiphase process. The group reviews a long list of potential audit topics in the spring, some suggested by public, media reporting, Council or leadership questions, or items that have not yet been audited.

The Auditor takes the staff-prioritized list and speaks to directors in Metro about timeliness and topics for audits.

The Auditor also makes a call for public suggestions, which are relatively rare.

The team takes the qualitative feedback and does a quantitative risk assessment for each topic (last time audited, program size and changes, events).

The team considers staffing and puts out the schedule as required by Metro code.

Burt shared that the audit office reached out at the beginning of the process and interviewed him and previous Co-Chair, Lisa Freedman, which is standard per the Auditor.

Auditor Evans provided an overview of the audit, with the purpose to determine if Metro was prepared to increase access to nature as envisioned by the bond measure.

Four objectives:

- Summarize and define access based on community engagement work done before and after the bond was passed.
- Determine the current state of access within Metro’s existing portfolio.
- Determine if the bond structure/programs were set up to increase access.
- Identify opportunities to increase access.

He reviewed the bond and its guiding principles for the committee.

The audit was designed to take an early look at implementation, which is done for every ballot measure Metro puts forward. This allows for early course corrections when needed.

The bond was developed with the goal of doing things differently than in previous parks measures in 1995 and 2006, including centered commitments to climate resiliency, community engagement and racial equity throughout each program.

Mason and David shared on the audit results.

- It found a lack of clarity on what specific outcomes the bond sought to accomplish related to access to nature. Access was not defined, and no specific access goals were set.
- In addition, the bond prioritized equity and equitable access, but equitable access was not defined.
- Without these, employees and the oversight committee may not have a clear direction for what strategies and activities should be prioritized.
- Even with definitions, the number of goals in the bond may not result in progress without prioritization. The volume of goals could reduce effectiveness. The average number per program was 47.
- The large number of goals led to an underdeveloped measurement system, specifically for equitable access. Developing performance measures would provide direction to staff, partners and the public to create a vision of what success looks like.
- Metro has had success when setting specific data-driven performance targets in past bonds (e.g. commitment to opening new nature parks and setting acquisition acreage goals to protect water quality and habitat).
- Land purchase presents an opportunity to increase public access, though the team found limitations to accessing some of the land.
 - One barrier is that the portfolio is oriented towards conservation. Only 17% of acquisitions since 2006 ranked high for access potential, indicating most land not intended for public access. Some sites may be more suitable since stabilization and restoration work done.
- There were barriers getting to and experiencing Metro-owned land. Many require a personal vehicle, lack information online, lack amenities, signage and maintenance.
- The bond's role in increasing access was mainly focused on funding partners rather than increasing access within Metro's portfolio. Several programs have potential, but only one program was mostly focused on creating new access to nature. 53% of bond funds are on internal Metro programs, not primarily focused on new access.
 - Local share and grant programs could support access depending on project selection. Local jurisdictions may be trending away from new access projects to focus on deferred maintenance, and Metro may need to prioritize access on its own lands more than in the past.
 - Possible strategies include building new parks, alternative management practices making some natural areas more accessible, increasing investment at co-owned partner sites, and designing future bonds to make greater investments in new access opportunities.

The audit included recommendations to ensure the bond delivers on commitments:

- Establish specific, measurable and timebound goals for the bond's expected effects on access and to equitable access
- Collect data to measure performance
- Report annually on progress made on bond goals for access and equitable access
- Use performance data to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of bond strategies
- Document how communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities were engaged in bond project planning and selection
- To clarify the longterm vision for Metro's landholdings, Metro can update the system plan to clarify how access and equitable access will be prioritized among other goals such as stabilization, restoration and habitat conservation.
- Use 2019 bond community feedback to evaluate and update the Parks and Nature department's program activities and capital investment priorities.

Auditor Evans thanked the presenters and participants and opened to questions and comments.

Jon shared that management had weighed in previously in the audit response and appreciated the opportunity for the discussion and ongoing work moving forward.

Owen noted his representation of an alliance of nature advocates, The Intertwine Alliance, and felt improving equitable access to nature and ensuring that the benefits of nature flow to everyone is core to the mission. There is interest in tangible progress there. However, the bond measure is fundamentally about delivering on habitat, clean air, clean water, functioning ecosystems and climate resilience. The investments connecting people to nature are by design through local share and grantmaking programs. It is wonderful to create public access to Metro sites where appropriate, but many are rare, fragile, disappearing habitats. It's not appropriate to set providing access as the dominant or a major goal of the natural areas program. In the audit, was it factored in how Metro treats its own landholdings regarding access relative to the success of Metro's efforts to foster access through its past through funding and grant funding?

Auditor Evans clarified that while access was the audit focus, it is not the only concern. Metro has had a lot of success defining the conservation space through bond measures. When you pivot to using access and equitable access as a way to ask for additional funds, you are asking the public to trust there is a strategy there. Returning after several years and not seeing a clear strategy, there is a need for a plan and definitions for success. The audit shows that Metro can do hard things, such as in the conservation space, and now the audit seeks the same development internally and quantitatively in terms of defining access. The goals are not at cross purposes, but the conservation side is well-developed with expertise, developed performance measures, acreage and clear habitat goals, while there is not the same level

of refinement in the access space. The audit seeks more infrastructure and guidelines there.

Consider where/how would you make the decision within the acquisitions what parts are sensitive, as some things should be purely for conservation purposes. Over time, with more acquisitions, the criteria should be robust enough to make well-informed decisions about which parts are accessible and which parts are not, for public clarity.

In previous audits of bond measures, the team has seen the idea of what will happen in terms of the relationship between Metro and partners at outset changes in reality over time. For example, past measures anticipated that partners would take a large responsibility for maintenance, which did not happen, leading to an operating levy. If you rely too much on partners for access and they decide to focus on deferred maintenance, this could lead to a surprise result of less access than anticipated.

Mason explained that the team looked at Metro's current holdings and estimations and at program potential for access. Due to timing, many projects had not yet been implemented, so they looked at projects so far and retrospectively from past bonds. There were some challenges in seeing how past projects contributed to access in different ways (unclear or had not been defined, not enough information to draw on).

David suggested the audit purchase memo analysis as a reference. The team also looked at key words that were part of the purchase memos regarding access and specific purchases.

Tabitha requested clarification on concerns that over 50% of Metro spending was internal versus external purchases and the recommendation to increase purchasing for public spaces/parks. How much of the audit takes into account the current real estate market conditions (shortage of sellers, competition with developers)? Is this a factor or independent, and how does that play into the audit? Was the 50% based on spending to date or allocations within the bond (spent and projected to be spent)?

Auditor Evans explained they did not approach it from a market conditions standpoint, but noted there was not a clear statement that Metro should purchase more land specifically for public access. Rather the audit was looking at program by program analysis, looking at structures, goal statements and then looking at if the weight of the program was towards access and what the end result would look like. This was before several Council decisions on grants and programs moving forward, and the team anticipated that some of those projects would be access related, but did not have specific details.

David recommended the option section of the report. The audit discusses ways to increase access without giving a prescriptive indication that some ideas are better or should be done in certain ways. It adds additional perspectives on some possibilities as well as trade-offs between different options.

Tabitha asked if this was access to parks in general versus properties Metro already owns.

David clarified that they considered all the programs and not just purchases.

Auditor Evans considered, if a fair amount of purchase was for conservation purposes initially is it worth Metro reevaluating the potential use of a site over time. Have the conservation goals been achieved, or is there a portion that could be made accessible while maintaining sensitive habitats? The staff's science lens would be valuable in evaluating this.

Cary underscored past confusion witnessed about goals for Metro's parks and natural areas versus parks and recreation departments that are more focused on human gathering or sports. She encouraged the members to add thoughts to the Miro board if they were not comfortable speaking up. She noted confusion around what access means in terms of Metro's specific goals for natural areas and the local share program and corridor connections.

She had concerns that the audit might negatively impact the perceptions of the public in thinking the bond is not meeting its goals or could compromise future bond measures. She understood the time involved in the work and the value of clear early benchmarks to stay on track long term. The pandemic and other factors also affected the work. She appreciated the external third-party audit but noted she had not been a part of the early audit conversations and felt blindsided.

The Auditor apologized for an unintentional blindside. The audit began about a year ago, and there is a possibility an opportunity was missed to circle back when the Co-Chair position switched. The audit intent is not to be negative, but to provide a call to action. Metro usually does well when it intends to do something, and it is apparent there has been a lot of public engagement around what access looks like and intentional questioning of the balance between access and the conservation priorities in the past. The audit team reviewed that data and feedback to determine what access could entail. The goal is to make sure this engagement work is carried through to results and the changes Metro wanted. He noted the impact of the pandemic on the timeline but saw opportunity to get the bond on a clear footing for the access goals.

David shared that the bond language emphasizes access, equity and community engagement are foundational elements, and the team saw strong indication of the importance of access in community engagement with communities of color. This drove some of the focus on access and should not deemphasize the bond's other goals.

Cary asked about the audit team's engagement with the oversight committee's community engagement work group.

Burt suggested there was a disconnect and the group did not meet with the audit team/may not have been aware of the audit. The group has discussed accessibility, but not necessarily access. He noted **Georgena's** chat comment

regarding access being defined and asked for thoughts from the working group.

Georgena felt there should be clarification regarding parks, choosing parks, and what equity means. She noted access means different things to different groups, and she is speaking for people with disabilities and different abilities. She seeks clarification and bringing information to people to empower them to make their own choices whether or not something is ADA accessible means little, because that's minimal, a low benchmark that doesn't serve all conditions. It would be nice to see it addressed, outlined as to who is involved with defining and people with disabilities are included in that.

Erin didn't remember hearing about the audit, but noted she had not been to all meetings. She related to **Cary's** comments and appreciated the audit's comprehensive efforts and seeking to highlight areas where there was room for improvement. She was also struggling with the definition part. She felt there should be an understanding of what access versus equitable access is. Within this bond, equitable access seems to be what is sought, which might be different than a broader definition of access. Access might mean physical access to a park entrance, and this is broader and considers whose voices are at the table.

There's a lot to dovetail with the community engagement, as the bond language seeks to improve accessibility, and part of that is planning and engaging the community. She also was considering the timing of the audit in relation to the life span of the bond as brought up by the Council comments.

Does this audit revisit later? With the focus on performance measures and impacts, and is that something being evaluated in the future?

Cary asked the land acquisition working group members for thoughts.

PK noted he had reached out to staff regarding his thoughts on parks and nature acquisitions and accessibility. He agreed with Georgena's thoughts and that those who are able to walk may not understand accessibility as well as those who have disabilities. He also brought up the lack of public transportation to acquisitions. Walking and private vehicles are not options available to all.

Consider signage in more than one language. There are also concerns by people of color who are being imposed on when others approach them and given them a hard time about being in a natural area. Metro could put up signage indicating the space is welcome and open to all people and that action/enforcement is possible if this is not observed. Regarding access and accessibility, consider how we make a natural area more welcoming.

Access to green spaces improves health, so as we increase greenspaces around the Metro area, we improve health, and denying access to these areas, whether intended or unintended, has negative impacts to be managed.

Owen expressed concern from a viewpoint of the region as a unified system of 29 jurisdictions. Metro's bond measure reflects that by moving a lot of funding through to these jurisdictions and community groups. It is lacking a better articulated vision of the broader outcome which all across the jurisdictions are working towards. Metrics for access aren't meaningful if just limited to Metro and not considering benefits across the region.

It would be inappropriate for Metro to create neighborhood access in places where that is the jurisdiction's role. Supporting that work with technical assistance and grant funding is appropriate. It would be disappointing if an effort to quantify metrics on access led Metro to focus resources only on projects Metro could specifically measure.

He understood the Metro focus for the audit but without measuring against the bigger regional vision, we are not effectively measuring the impact of the Metro bond, because much of the bond aspires to have an effect beyond Metro's sites. Some of the bond measure was aspirational and vague enough that it was challenging to evaluate delivery of those aspects of the bond.

If the audit were redone, what would have been a way to establish more meaningful and robust metrics for measuring criteria? Would that ideally be in the bond language itself or in implementation plans created after, or retroactively?

Auditor Evans explained when making a promise, it's good to know how to meet the promise, and in the two previous bonds there was a strong investment in science-based research, surveying, mapping, and setting quantitative goals for target areas. The current bond measure has remnants of that and new commitments that are not quantified. This makes it challenging to define what is access, and requesting the funding before defining success can lead to divergences in what people expect. That doesn't preclude success, but committing to something and measuring towards that has been the past method. There was a lot of community engagement, and the team used that to try to define access and measure it in experience. The audit seeks that commitment to measure these challenging-to-measure things.

Erin asked about next steps regarding the audit.

Auditor Evans shared that there are follow up audits and surveys to managers for the five years after a recommendation is made. In January every year, letters are sent to directors reiterating the recommendations and requesting status updates. There is an online dashboard to track recommendations and status. Formal follow up audits are then done for selected important recommendations (high value or high impact topics). The process for this audit will likely follow this pattern, as did the Housing Bond Audit.

Burt referenced the presentations on the audit and noted Jon Blasher's comments regarding access to decisionmaking power and voices of historically marginalized communities being part of Metro decisions regarding parks. The community engagement working group has also discussed how to determine how effective this has been. The committee has also discussed climate resilience.

With an intersection between climate and access, how do you measure equitable access to the broader benefits that are provided by conserving habitats such as wetlands?

Auditor Evans acknowledged the importance of the broader climate impacts and the smaller actions that have impacts on climate. Rather than start with all the possibilities, the audit team starts and builds up what can be done now. He cited a 2016-17 audit of the Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants program that found a lack of clarity for measures of success. Metro then did work regarding tree cover and found this to be a topic of value, something to pursue as a tie between projects and specific effects on the region and beyond. The audit recommends a good place to start, but that's only the beginning. Sometimes debate gets caught in measures, but it's better to use the measures, evaluate, remove the ones that don't work and invest in the ones that do. Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Burt clarified for Jon that he was asking about evaluating the equitable access benefits when you protect an ecosystem or area.

Jon discussed the bond outcomes where tangibly bond dollars buy or develop a capital asset, and the goal is to determine what that outcome is and what it actually does in a broader sense. Council and this committee have been discussing this, and the management response to the audit also touched on this and how to tie the recommendations to trackable, measurable efforts in the bond work. He referenced Connecting Canopies as an example. With climate resilience as an overall criteria, partners are also considering how their work connects and contributes. Historically underserved communities have less tree canopy and greenspaces. Investing in these and other natural resources and habitats creates benefits across the entire region.

There are opportunities to look at the broader impacts and at a more granular neighborhood level. Access to decisionmaking has also been a big part of this bond work. We are asking communities about their needs for their immediate neighborhoods and responding. There is chance of failure in all this work, but also failing forward, learning, being accountable and progressing. Early questions on this from the audit and the oversight committee are good opportunities to evaluate, course correct and get ahead to make sure these positive impacts reach the communities most affected by other changes they have little control over.

Erin referenced **Owen's** comments on local share and local jurisdiction funding passed through the bond. She was curious about requirements in local share to encourage jurisdictions to measure their efforts and impacts at community levels, which then filter back up to the measurement for the overall bond goals.

Jon explained the local share handbook and its documentation of new processes for the program in this bond. It outlines steps from concept to approval and accountability. The handbook can be updated to reflect

changes since the pandemic and to address audit questions on increasing equitable, proximity or amenity access, and rising above ADA standards for accessibility. The program wants to balance asks of the jurisdictions to meet bond goals and be accountable without overwhelming their resources. This topic will be considered when revising the next round of the handbook.

Beth referenced the local share presentation to the oversight committee in the spring and follow up as data comes in from jurisdictions can be brought to the committee for more discussion and to continue shaping the program and meet measurable goals.

MG thanked the committee and audit team for the engagement on the topic and recommended all read the audit report in full. Conversations with the committee have helped guide progress on defining and measuring so far, and the committee is requested to suggest topics within the outcomes topics that staff can return to for discussion and follow up on a regular basis. The timeline for audit response can also be accelerated through good conversation and faster work, but the longer timeline also allows for longer conversation, exploration and flexibility.

There were no further questions, and Auditor Evans expressed the hope that the audit is not read as overly negative and is read as a constructive critique. He thanked the staff and committee for the attention, work and conversations moving forward.

The Co-Chairs agreed to hold the large scale community visions presentation and discussion for the next meeting due to time constraints.

Miscellaneous updates

Regarding transit access discussions, Jon flagged that he had a discussion with Metro's planning division on the Regional Transportation Plan. Connecting the first and last mile to access transit is being studied, which is of interest, as several major Metro parks are a little under a mile from the closest transit. Identifying service gaps in relation to regional parks is part of that language for the first time.

Erin also noted how connections and transit link into the climate resilience goals, including access regarding walking and biking trails.

Staff will follow up with links and recordings.

Linda Bartolini Venegas has created a recorded presentation on large scale community visions as a resource.

Needed adjustments and additions to the committee focus areas and work plan based on findings from Parks and Nature bond audit

Cary asked the committee for thoughts on audit progress discussions in working groups and possibly creating an audit-specific group for that purpose.

Owen felt the audit recommendations weren't relevant to much of the land acquisition group discussion and goals. He felt the audit access question was valuable as a separate topic.

Cary and **Erin** supported making it a separate group if it didn't fit in the engagement group discussion.

Burt noted **Michelle** had been on the engagement group prior to stepping down.

Erin felt the topic might become too narrow in the community engagement group and miss intersections with other topics. It could be another subcommittee or a time in the general meeting discussions.

Georgena agreed. It's an important topic to track, and input beyond the one committee would be beneficial.

Cary recommended a new working group.

Tana felt it didn't need to be in community engagement to allow for more voices and participation.

PK shared on a message sent to the staff 10 days prior regarding conversations at Scouters Mountain and the large Metro map displayed. He hoped the map could be updated to include land acquisitions as a living document showing the public the distribution throughout the Metro area during the three bonds. He hoped to hear back on the request. A large scale poster showing the three waves of acquisitions could be a valuable tool to educate the public on nearby greenspaces.

Staff have the large map request in to the data team and are working towards a reply. There are also some smaller maps in the annual reporting showing the points for acquisitions for reference.

Burt asked for comments and thoughts to the parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov email and closed the meeting.

Chat

16:06:57 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) To Everyone:

Test chat

16:10:22 From Sharron Fuchs To All Panelists:

Working

16:11:57 From Sharron Fuchs To All Panelists:

There is no video option for me

16:12:23 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) To Everyone:

Hi Sharron, the observers don't have video, but I can set that during testimony for you

16:12:42 From Sharron Fuchs To All Panelists:

Thank you

16:13:39 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) To Everyone:

You will see a panelist option if you would like to be on video at that time, please accept, and then we will set your status back afterwards.

16:14:02 From Sharron Fuchs To All Panelists:

Ok

16:16:14 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro Parks and Nature To Everyone:

https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVMILn_lU=/?share_link_id=532389558947

16:18:17 From Erin Upton (she/her) To Everyone:

Sorry to miss it as well. Hopefully there will be future sessions in person!

16:20:42 From Sharron Fuchs To All Panelists:

Public testimony please

16:22:07 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) To Everyone:

Noted as first speaker, thank you.

16:25:37 From Cary Watters (she/her) To Everyone:

<https://www.summit23.sustainablepurchasing.org/schedule>

16:26:05 From Erin Upton (she/her) To Everyone:

Congrats on the new position Cary!

16:26:12 From Cary Watters (she/her) To Everyone:

Thank you, Erin!

16:27:52 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro Parks and Nature To Everyone:

parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov

16:28:35 From Shannon Leary (she/her) Metro Parks and Nature To Everyone:

Thanks for mentioning that Owen! A third field trip stopped at another Parks and Nature location, Lone Fir Cemetery. It's great to showcase our wonderful nature parks and visitor venues with folks around the country.

16:34:01 From Sharron Fuchs To All Panelists:

Thank you

16:34:23 From Sharron Fuchs To Everyone:

Thank you

16:35:02 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro Parks and Nature To Everyone:

parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov is the email address to send testimony to

16:43:03 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro Parks and Nature To Everyone:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/regional-leadership/metro-auditor>

16:43:32 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro Parks and Nature To Everyone:

and folks can add questions to the miro board. we'll check those

16:43:34 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro Parks and Nature To Everyone:

https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVMlLn_lU=/?share_link_id=532389558947

17:01:34 From Ashton Simpson, he/him, Metro Council D1 To Everyone:

Thank you everyone for your time and dedication on this oversight body. I hope you all have a great rest of the week and a wonderful weekend!

17:03:25 From Burt Edwards, he/him/his To Everyone:

And for committee members who have a question you can also note in the chat that you have a question and will add you to the list for next up.

17:10:27 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro Parks and Nature To Everyone:

https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVMlLn_lU=/?share_link_id=532389558947

17:12:21 From Erin Upton (she/her) To Everyone:

I share Cary's perspective on the focus of the audit results really on access versus the suite of all the bond goals

17:12:50 From Erin Upton (she/her) To Everyone:

Sorry, I haven't figured out to sign in to the miro board at the moment

17:13:04 From Georgena Moran To All Panelists:

I appreciate you bringing up clarifying what "access" means

17:14:07 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) To Everyone:

If the previous link isn't working this one might (same board)
https://miro.com/welcomeonboard/cHBLS1VTRWdDNTFOOTVUVGtHdFZpbkFXVmZJcmhMaEVK_Vjk3dGN0U3VzcFhkMzhLejVDSDFPU3MzczJyWTFxUnwzNDU4NzY0NTUyNjNTE3MzczfDI=?share_link_id=419862435065

17:19:08 From Owen Wozniak To Everyone:

Be right back.

17:27:22 From Georgena Moran To All Panelists:

Melethil, yes, attractions accessed by public transit are so important to prioritize. They're few and far between.

17:51:18 From Georgena Moran To All Panelists:

That's great, Jon!

17:52:20 From Jon Blasher (he/him) To All Panelists:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2023/07/10/2023-RTP-chapter-8-public-review-draft-20230710.pdf> section 8.2.3.3 Connecting First and Last Mile on page 25 of the document.

18:00:49 From Melethil To Everyone:

Thank you all. Good bye,

18:00:57 From Melanie Reinert (she/her) To Everyone:

Thank you!

18:00:57 From Erin Upton (she/her) To Everyone:

Thanks Cary and Burt on leading a great meeting!

18:01:24 From Jon Blasher (he/him) To All Panelists:

goodnight and thanks everyone!

18:01:40 From Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro Parks and Nature To Everyone:

I probably sent the wrong link. sorry erin

Miro board



Metro

Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee September 14, 2023

Today's agenda



4:00 p.m.	Welcome and introductions
4:05 p.m.	Committee business reminders
4:20 p.m.	Public testimony
4:35 p.m.	<i>Discussion item:</i> Metro Auditor presentation of the 2019 Parks and Nature bond audit and discussion with committee members about the process and findings
5:40 p.m.	<i>Informational item:</i> Parks and nature bond large scale community visions program
6:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Committee business reminders



Public testimony received

Reminders to reply only to
parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov
on committee business

Other member updates to share?

Public comment



Three minutes per speaker

Can always submit written testimony to
parksandnaturebond@Oregonmetro.gov

Presentation of 2019 PN bond audit



Metro



Topics for committee discussion



Questions for the Metro Auditor or Metro staff about the process and/or the findings and recommendations

Findings that are resonating with you based on your work and experience on the committee

Topics you'd like the committee or working groups to spend more time reviewing in future meetings (more context about committee's work to date and moving ahead on slides 13-20)

Questions, comments around the management response and proposed plan to meet audit's recommendations (description of recommendations on slides 10-12)

Resources and reminders | Metro audits



[Office of the Metro auditor](#)

[Link to audit highlights](#)

[Link to full audit](#)

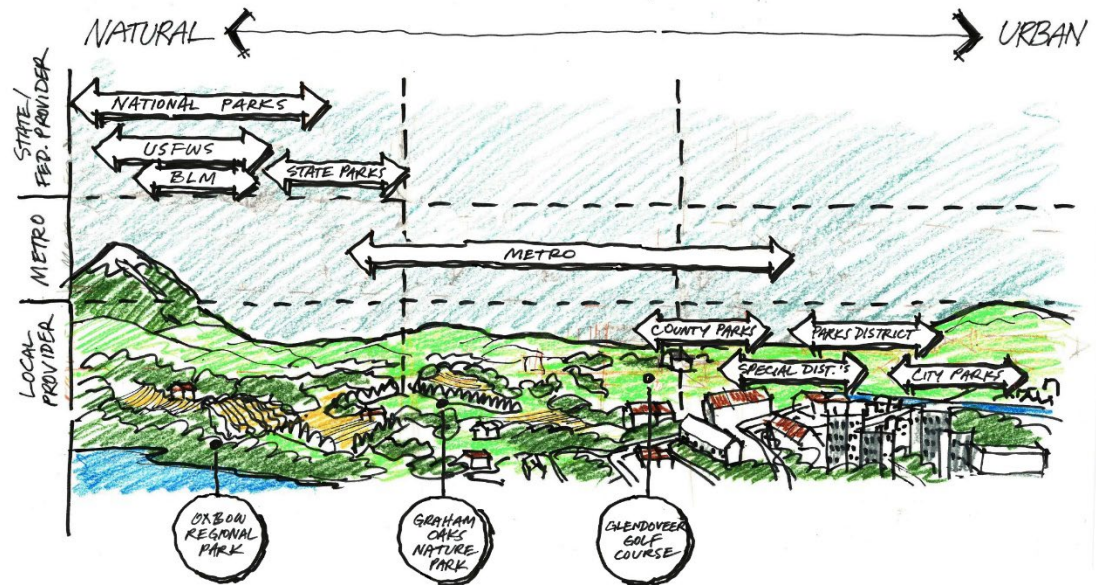
[Video from optional drop-in sessions earlier this month](#)

[Video of audit presentation to the Metro Council on July 20](#)

Resources and reminders | Metro's Parks and Nature role in the region



Protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and create opportunities to enjoy nature close to home through a connected system of parks, trails and natural areas.



Parks and Nature mission critical strategies



- Use science to guide Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio.
- Ensure that Metro Parks and Nature programs and facilities support the needs of underserved communities, including communities of color, low-income communities and young people.
- Develop a stable, long-term funding source to support Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio.
- Ensure that parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries managed by Metro are knit together into an integrated system.
- Diversify the businesses and people who do contracted work for Metro Parks and Nature.
- Build, sustain and leverage partnerships to advance the region's shared commitment to an interconnected system of parks, trails and natural areas.

Audit recommendations



Recommendations:

1. Establish specific, measurable and timebound goals for the bond's expected effect on access.
2. Establish specific, measurable and timebound goals for the bond's expected effect on equitable access
3. Collect data to measure performance for the goals identified in recommendations one and two.
4. Report annually on progress made on goals for access and equitable access.

Proposed plan: Broaden existing departmental reporting to build capacity to report on progress in meeting the bond criteria via:

- mapping of bond investments over time as a connected system
- the development of a framework that can measure and articulate the long-term impact of bond investments over the life of the bond.

Proposed timeline for completion: By December 31, 2024

Audit recommendations



Recommendation: Use performance data to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of strategies to increase access and equitable access in the region.

Proposed plan:

Build understanding of outcomes and impacts of investments made and activities completed through spatial analysis, online surveys, community focus groups and site tours and visits, some of which are currently underway.

Explore the feasibility of deploying broader survey tools to collect information from residents across the region about experiences at and accessing the region's parks and natural areas.

Proposed timeline for completion: By December 31, 2024

Audit recommendations



Recommendation: Document how communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities were engaged in project planning and selection.

Proposed plan:

Parks and Nature has worked to build trust and strengthen relationships with communities of color, Indigenous communities and other historically marginalized communities by engaging them in development and implementation of bond programs and selection of specific projects.

Parks and Nature summarizes feedback received from community members and shares it back with community to show how it has been used to shape programs and projects including continuing engagement in 2023 for the Nature in Neighborhoods community choice grants and project improvements at Blue Lake Park and Lone Fir Cultural Heritage and Healing Garden

Park providers receiving bond funds will articulate how community feedback has and will continue to shape project identification, selection and development.

Proposed timeline for completion: By December 31, 2024

Next steps



Refine work plan to address audit recommendations reflecting the following

- Feedback from oversight committee
- Findings from Council-led strategic targets process
- Understanding of staff capacity and other PN efforts lined up

Reminders | committee work plan



Metro



Reminder: goals for committee (identified in winter 2022)



1. GOAL 1: Build understanding of the bond and the broader context of committees at Metro
2. GOAL 2: Continue evaluation of bond work to date with a focus on tools that make sense of progress on bond criteria
3. GOAL 3: Continue to build committee membership and leadership structures with a focus on committee sustainability

Reminder: committee work plan



GOAL 1:
Deepen
understanding
of bond

GOAL 1:
Deepen
understanding
of Metro

GOAL 2:
Continue
evaluation
of bond

GOAL 3:
Strengthen
committee
membership
and leadership

Dec. 2022	Feb. 2023	April 2023	Sept. 2023	Dec. 2023
Climate resilience/protect and restore land ✓	Take care of Metro parks ✓	Local share ✓	Large scale community visions ✓	Capital grants
	Connect with Council liaisons ✓	Site visit/tour opportunity ✓	Site visit/tour opportunity ✓	Connect with other Metro committees
	Develop process for year 2 report; review bond evaluation findings ✓	Review staff report for year 2 ✓	Any debrief from year 2 report ✓	
Plan for targeted recruitment in 2023	Co-chair identified; working group time ✓	Working group time ✓	Working group time	

Reminder: upcoming milestones for committee work



Fall 2023: Targeted new member recruitment

Early 2024: Appointment/reappointment of committee members

Summer 2024: committee's year 3 report to the Metro Council

Committee has reviewed the following bond programs



Bond program	Deep dive with committee? y/n	when
Local share	Y	April 2023 meeting
Protect and restore land	Y	In working group and at December 2022 meeting
Community choice grants	Y	In community engagement working group
Take care of Metro Parks	Y	February 2023 meeting
Walking and biking trails	N	
Large scale community visions	Y	September 2023 meeting

Committee has reviewed following elements of bond criteria



Topic related to bond criteria	Deep dive with committee? y/n	When/how?
Bond evaluation outcomes project	Y	May and September 2022 committee meetings
Bond's climate resilience criteria	Y	December 2022 committee meeting
Meaningful community engagement case studies	Y	February 2023 meeting; February 2023 engagement working group
Overview of COBID participation	Y	Finance working group
Advancing accessibility at Metro sites	Y	May 2022 engagement working group
Workforce participation in bond funded projects	N	

Information available for committee to assess progress



More information on efforts and bond investments

Mapping tools/spatial analysis that show location and connection of bond investments

Number and type of project awards to demonstrate breadth of bond investments

- Capital grants awarded in June 2023
- Large scale community visions designated in May 2023
- Community choice grants (will be awarded in fall 2023)
- Local share projects awarded in summer/fall 2023

Impact of bond investments

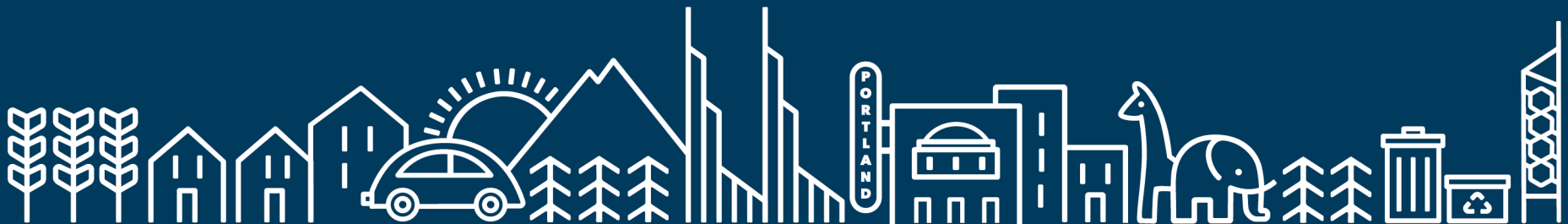
- Evaluation outcomes report
- *Evaluation of engagement efforts at Blue Lake Park renovation and community choice grants*
- *Reporting from park providers on engagement and other efforts for local share, trails projects*
- *Exploring whether Metro can conduct more nuanced analysis of COBID reporting looking and race and gender categories more specifically*

Topics for committee to continue exploring this fall and beyond (identified in spring 2023)



1. Explore potential of mapping as a tool for analysis to better understand bond investments as connected systems, progress over time and on criteria like access, climate and racial equity
2. Information on Metro's tribal government engagement related to Parks and Nature bond
3. Opportunities to measure dimensions of access around bond funded projects
4. Analyze a subset of acquisitions from 2006 bond to understand how 2019 acquisitions are comparing especially on climate
5. Continue to review updates and evaluation on engagement process and projects
6. Other

oregonmetro.gov



Bond program
deep dive |
large scale
community
visions



Metro



Topics for committee discussion



Additional information needed on the program or the pilot round

Reflections on how large scale community visions pilot round addressed bond criteria and goals

Feedback on information and reporting to collect on the program moving forward

Community visions program at-a-glance



Money allocated in bond:

\$50 million total

\$30 million for a community driven grant process to fund transformative regional-scale projects that increase access to nature for people in urban areas and/or improve the resilience of urban natural areas

Key documents: Council approved pilot program handbook

Large scale community visions program



Driven by community engagement and community interests

Catalyze investments in transformative regional-scale projects that increase access to nature for people in urban areas and/or improve the resilience of urban natural areas

Leverage public/private investments in affordable housing, transit and connections to local or regional parks

Partner with other public agencies and private organizations



Building on what we know



Program is new to Metro in scale in complexity

- Minimum \$6m project budget
- Minimum \$2m grant
- 5:1 match for overall project to nature uplift components

Functions in a similar manner to other Parks and Nature grant programs

- Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants, community choice grants



Council approved criteria in the bond measure



Improve access to nature for people

Protect and reclaim rivers, increase tree canopy and/or restore or improve other important natural features in urban areas for the benefit of people and wildlife

Create access to nature in a regional or town center, employment area or other areas identified as a priority for investment in Metro's 2040 Growth Concept

Foster partnerships between public agencies and between the public and private sectors and/or catalyze private investment by focusing public investments and efforts on specific priority projects

Meet a need identified by communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities

Complement investments in affordable housing and transit or active transportation projects

Engagement and outreach for pilot round



Announced on Metro's website, bond newsletter

10 conversations with potential partners;

4 letters of intent submitted by end of October;

Completed information gathering with 4 applicants; all invited to participate in detailed application stage

Pilot round | Project Submission Review



3 Projects

- Trust for Public Land/Oregon State University (OSU) – Forest Acquisition
- OMSI+CRITFC– Waterfront Education Park
- Albina Vision Trust – Acquisition/Development

Report to Council

- Match to Criteria – Bond Rules
- Project Readiness/Risk Dimension
- No Final Staff Selection – Options Similar to Expo Report

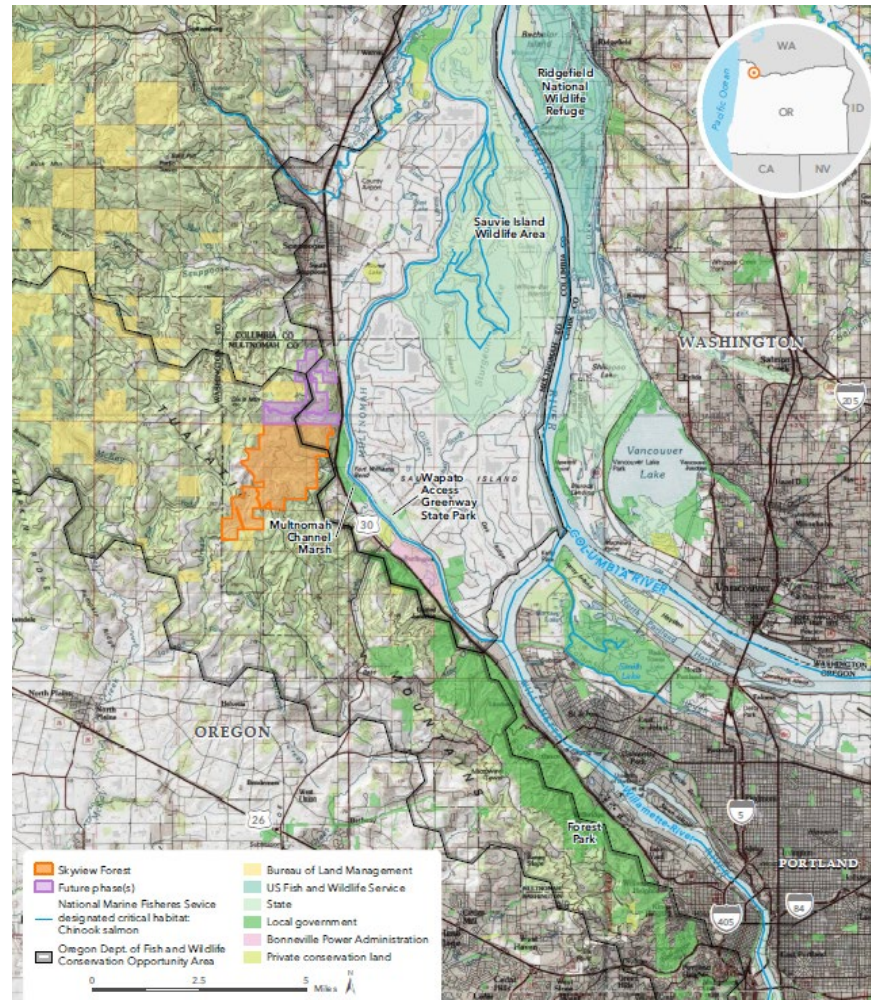
North Tualatin Mountains Forest Site Acquisition



Metro



- Requested \$3.5 million as match for a federal grant to protect an over 3,000 acre working research forest
- Opportunity to protect a significant parcel of land in an area already identified as priority habitat for Metro's land acquisition
- Opportunities for future mass timber research funding and carbon mitigation research for biofuel development



OMSI Waterfront Education Park



OMSI



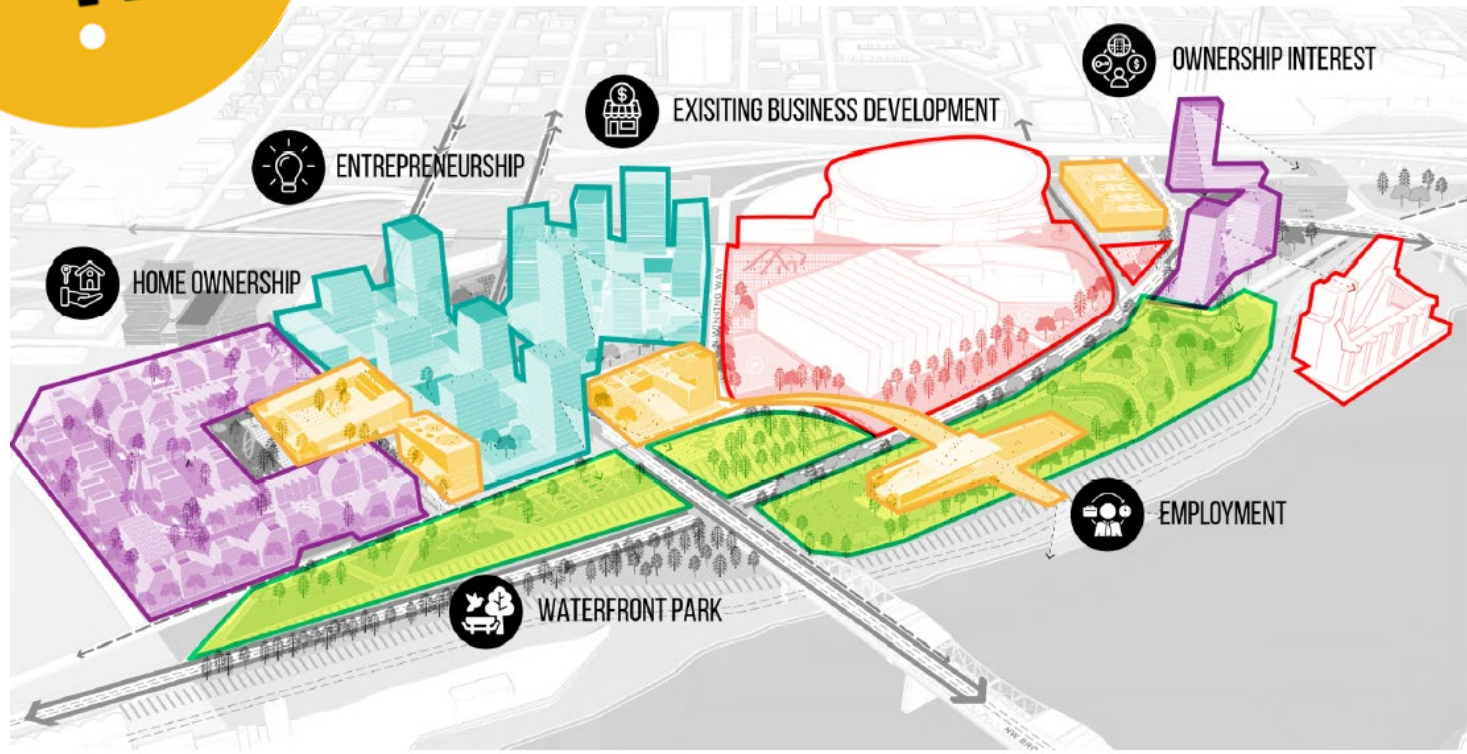
- Requested \$10 million for construction of Waterfront Education Park
- Project is catalyst for broader OMSI district vision and center for tribal nations
- Near term nature uplift in urban center of Portland



Site acquisition readiness in Albina District

**ALB
INA**

- Requested \$5 million, \$3 million for option to acquire Rose Quarter site and \$2 million for site planning activities
- Catalyst for long-term neighborhood revitalization



Pilot round and review process for up to \$10 million



Challenges



- Public/private partnerships that require public ownership or easement
- Complex projects with multiple phases and components
- Projects that are eligible vary in ability to meet and address bond requirements, bond criteria and program criteria
- Projects need to have a significant nature component

Demonstrate program progress over time

Number and type of community visions projects awarded

Outcomes of community visions projects on nature uplift, housing, transportation and other

Feedback from program applicants and recipients on impact of participating in the program

Topics for committee discussion



Additional information needed on the program or the pilot round

Reflections on how large scale community visions pilot round addressed bond criteria and goals

Feedback on information and reporting to collect on the program moving forward

Informational item: Summer 2023 bond updates



Metro



Bond updates for quarter 4 (April-June 2023)



Program	Milestone
Protect and restore land	One real estate negotiator started in August, making a team of 3; Total of 17 purchases totaling 529 acres across 13 target areas.
Local share	Getting ready to finalize IGA with PPR, Wilsonville and Forest Grove for 7 projects; received submission from NCPRD for \$1.2 million
Walking and biking trails	Moving forward with IGAs for 12 projects awarded grants in fall 2022
Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants	<u>June 29 Council approval of \$2.7 million in awards to 7 projects</u>
Community choice grants	Initial project vote in district 4 to review of list of 50 project ideas
Community visions	Council designated up to \$15 million for three projects for the pilot round in May 2023
Take care of Metro parks	<u>Communicating plans to close Blue Lake Park for infrastructure improvements on Sept. 5</u> ; convened partner cohort

Community engagement snapshot | Community Choice Grants



Idea collection phase included collected 118 submissions from the following efforts

- 2 community events in April at Shute Park library in Hillsboro and Tualatin Hills Nature Park where about 100 people attended.
- 7-8 different community events in district 4 (Hillsboro Farmers' Market, Forest Grove Farmers' Market with Adelante Mujeres, Dia de los Niños celebrations with Centro Cultural and THPRD.
- idea submission opportunities through Metro's social media, website and email blasts
- Sent an additional 50,000 copies of Metro's Our Big Backyard summer 2023 publication to households in district 4 in equity focus areas to increase awareness of the community choice grants process and upcoming opportunities to participate.

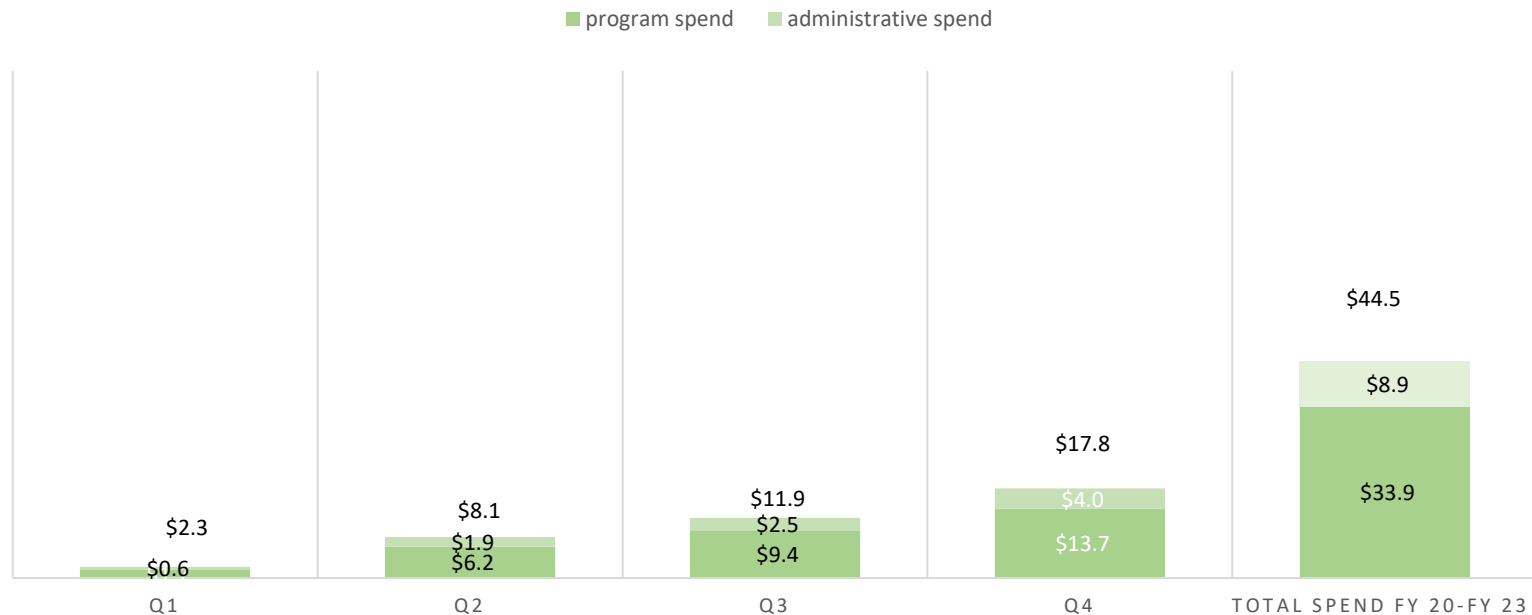
In May and June, Metro staff worked with park providers in district 4 and a committee of community members to recommend 50 ideas to move forward to the project development phase.

Initial vote on July 26, 2023 and a final vote in November 2023. The final voting period, open to anyone in district 4 who is 11 and older, will finalize a recommended slate of awards for the Metro Council to consider and approve.

FY 2023 bond spending by quarter



FY 2023 BOND SPENDING BY QUARTER*



Numbers in millions

Reference slides



Metro



Committee members



Tana Atchley Culbertson
Burt Edwards
Georgena Moran
Cary Watters
Owen Wozniak
John Ferguson
Shantae Johnson
Martita Meier
PK Melethil
Tabitha Palmer DuPrau
Vivek Shandas
Shannon Shoul
Erin Upton

Co-Director, Nesika Wilamut
Director of Programs, Re-Think Media
Accessibility specialist, ACCESS recreation
Contracts Supervisor, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Land Transactions Program Manager, the Land Trust Alliance
Former geotechnical engineer
Owner, Mudbone Grown LLC
Digital Strategist and Project manager
Environmental Scientist, TCM physician
Underwriting Counsel, Fidelity National Title Group
Professor, Portland State University
Director, Procurement Sustainability, Nike
Environmental social scientist and landscape architect

Binder section 00

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

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

Office of Metro Attorney: Michelle Bellia

Parks and Nature finance manager: Chantia Clark

Group agreements



- 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



- 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.**

Land acquisition at-a-glance



Money allocated in bond

Total of \$155 to acquire priority parcels in 24 target areas across the region through a willing seller program (\$15 million for community-led acquisition), plus \$10 million from trails program for trail gap acquisition

Governing documents

- Council approved refinement plans with acquisition priorities for land and trail gaps
- Natural areas work plan sets parameters for acquisition protocol
- Closing memo for each completed purchase to Metro Council and oversight committee demonstrates alignment with bond criteria

Progress to date (as of May 2023)

- Deep engagement to identify priorities for land acquisition
- \$12 million spent on 12 acquisitions
- Acquisition of over 478 and 1 trail gap
- Hired two real estate specialists
- Outreach to about 80 landowners since July 2022

Trail grants program at-a-glance



Metro

Money allocated in bond: \$20 million for grants to trail planning and construction projects

Key documents

- Council approved resolution approving slate of grants
- Trail grants handbook
- Report from summer 2022 public comment

Progress to date (as of May 2023)

- one cycle of trail grants awarded to 12 projects for \$19.5 million in September 2022;
- moving towards executing IGAs for the 12 projects awarded

Key issues for awareness

- Grant program is reimbursement based, with up to 30% available up front
- Incorporating policy priorities into requirements for grantees like cultural resource assessments for ground disturbing activities and workforce equity goals

Local share program at-a-glance



Money allocated in bond: \$92 million to 27 park providers for natural area and park land acquisitions, habitat restoration, new or improved access facilities at public parks and natural areas, local or regional trails, enhanced or new environmental educational facilities.

Key documents

- [Local share handbook](#)
- Council approved local share IGA template (approved by resolution)
- [Local share webpage with resources for identifying and submitting projects](#)

Progress to date (as of May 2023)

- five projects awarded \$9.3 million in funds; \$4 spent on acquisition
- 5 projects in review (3 from Portland Park and Recreation, Forest Grove and Wilsonville);
- 1/1 meetings and 8 roundtables to support park providers in meeting bond criteria

Key issues for awareness

- Allocations based on a population, assessed value formula, range from \$200,000 to over \$30 million
- Park providers have ten years to identify and submit projects for funding;
- Program is largely reimbursement based with the allowance up to 30 percent awarded up front. For acquisitions, full dollar amount is awarded up front.

Nature in Neighborhoods Capital grants program at-a-glance



Money allocated in bond: \$4 that the community in western Washington County will identify a project or projects for funding using participatory budgeting principles

Key documents

- Pilot guidebook and guidebook brief
- RFP for community engagement services for idea collection and community vote phases

Progress to date (as of May 2023):

- Preparing materials to launch idea collection activities in Spring 2023
- Convened a committee in 2021 to build the program handbook and guide idea collection;
- affirmed initial geographic focus for pilot on district 4;
- Partnering with 5 park providers in district 4 on pilot;
- hired community engagement team for idea collection and preparing materials and website for future engagement and community voting

Key issues for awareness:

- Project(s) selected will need to be in public ownership

Nature in Neighborhoods Capital grants program at-a-glance



Money allocated in bond: \$40 million for projects that support partnerships between park providers, community organizations, schools and others to increase experience of nature at the community scale

Key documents: [Capital grants initial solicitation handbook](#)

Progress to date (as of May 2023):

- Developed solicitation for initial round with an eye towards recommending a slate of funding awards to Council in summer 2023
- Received 16 letters of intent for \$6 million

Key issues for awareness:

- This program in the 2006 natural areas bond funded 8 rounds of grants including projects like Cully Park, Gateway Green, Nadaka nature park in Gresham, Milwaukie riverfront park
- Projects must involve partnership of a park provider and community organizations and funded projects must result in a capital asset in public ownership
- Traditionally it has taken time, staff support and building relationships with grant recipients to identify projects that will result in a capital asset and are ready for funding

Take care of Metro parks program at-a-glance



Money allocated in bond: \$98 million to take care of Metro's developed sites across the region with a focus on addressing infrastructure at sites like Blue Lake and Oxbow before investing in new development at sites with approved master plans.

Key documents

- PN Capital Improvement Plan

Progress to date (as of May 2023)

- \$9 million spent to complete 9 projects
- Completed Chehalem Ridge and Newell Creek
- Completed Blue Lake Park utilities and facilities plan, water line phase 1, building demo and projects underway at BLP including water line phase 2, sanitary sewer
- Kick off of ADA improvements to Oxbow boat launch parking
- ADA pilot at Graham Oaks
- Engagement activities at Lone Fir Cultural Heritage and Healing Garden

Key issues for awareness

- Blue Lake Park Curry building project incorporates Metro's regional workforce agreement goals.
- About \$10 for investing in ADA transition plan including pilot at Graham Oaks
- \$4 million to Lone Fir Cultural Heritage and Healing Garden

Community visions program at-a-glance



Metro



Money allocated in bond: \$50 million to help deliver significant investment in habitat preservation, restoration, and access to nature in coordinated and visionary capital projects, \$20 million earmarked for Willamette falls legacy project

Key documents

- [Council approved pilot program handbook](#)
- [Website with active notice of funding availability](#)

Progress to date (as of May 2023):

- Pilot solicitation for up to \$10 million in projects open in summer 2022
- 4 letters of interest submitted by end of October 2022
- Completed initial review of letters of intent

Bond administration/criteria alignment at-a-glance



Key documents

- [Bond measure language](#)
- [Oversight committee bylaws](#)
- [Climate resilience intention](#) guidance document
- [Anti-displacement information and resources](#)
- [Evaluation framework to articulate impact of bond investments](#)
- [Bond dashboard](#) (updated quarterly)

Hi Committee members—

Hope you are enjoying this part of summer and the cooler weather that we're getting!

Our next committee meeting is coming up on Thursday, September 14 and we have some items for your review and attention in advance. See information below and let us know if you have any questions.

If you would like to sign up for a 15 minute check in with MG by phone, please fill out the survey here:

<https://naturalareas.wufoo.com/forms/m1bshy8d02hk5mk/>

Meeting agenda and packet

See attached for meeting agenda and draft slides to help support committee discussion at the meeting on September 14. At this meeting, we will be offering space for public testimony, which we've also done at a few previous meetings. If we do receive public comment and testimony at the meeting, it's important to remember there is no expectation for committee members to respond.

The primary focus of the meeting will be to hear a presentation from the Metro Auditor on the audit of the 2019 Parks and Nature bond and there will be time for committee members to ask the Metro Auditor and staff questions about the findings and recommendations.

If you'd like to review the audit and additional context about the Metro Auditor and the overall process, here are some resources that you can use.

- [Link to audit highlights](#)
- [Link to full audit](#)
- [Video from optional drop-in sessions earlier this month](#)
- [Video of audit presentation to the Metro Council on July 20](#)

Other opportunities

Thanks to those of you who were able to join our August 7 meet up at Scouters Mountain! For those who were able to attend and those who couldn't make it, please share any feedback you have about what we can do to make these optional meet ups more appealing and feasible to attend. In that vein, we have two spots to a Metro Council tour of Howell Historic House on Sauvie Island. If you are interested, please email parksandnaturebond@oregonmetro.gov.

There is also an opportunity to visit a virtual open house for the **Blue Lake Regional Park renovation plan**. Earlier in the year, the committee received a presentation from Parks and Nature planner, Olena Turula about engagement activities planned around the Blue Lake Park renovation project and now some of those activities are live including [Metro's online open house and survey](#), where community members can learn what is being planned and share ideas about the park. Feel free to pass along to others in your networks who may be interested. Survey closes September 25, 2023. oregonmetro.gov/bluelakeplan

Reminders and resources

- [Summer 2023 quarterly report](#). NOTE: we are still wrapping financials for close of FY 2023 and will update the quarterly report when we have those

- We're excited to share an update on the Nature in Neighborhoods Community Choice grants program. [A slate of 28 parks and nature projects are headed](#) to the final round of voting in Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods community choice grants program. The program gives community members in Metro Council district 4 (western Washington County) the opportunity to vote for the parks and nature projects that will receive grants totaling up to \$2 million.
- [Summer 2023 Our Big Backyard](#)
- [Virtual resource library](#)

Parks and Nature Bond

From: Sharron Fuchs <email redacted>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 12:07 PM
To: Parks and Nature Bond
Subject: [External sender]Audit Metro Grant for Rose City Golf Course walking trail

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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

Dear Committee,

I ask that you audit the 'technical details' required of the grant (2 million dollars) given for preliminary action(s) on the Rose City Golf Course walking trail.

Technical details :

Does the grant require a neighborhood impact study?

Does the grant require an environmental impact study?

Does the grant require that ADA requirements be met for all entrances onto the trail and along the entire trail?

Does the grant require collaboration with different agencies to address problems of the area including lack of a walking or assistive device only (not bicycles) Safe Route to Schools path along 72nd Drive north from Tillamook and up the hill to Sacramento St.? (This is a major route for children going to school from south of the golf course including the low income Ellington apartment complex.)

Does the grant require collaboration with different agencies ie PBOT to address cost savings by combining efforts to address multiple problems of the area?

Does the grant require a safety analysis be done including how to cross 72nd Drive if the path crosses 72nd Drive?

Does the grant require public comment on all stages of the trail project?

Does the grant require that all areas of the trail be a nature/ natural experience for users, including along 72nd Drive which is in the middle of an area zoned and designated as an open green space?

Very truly yours,

Sharron Fuchs
Public Citizen
Resident Rose City Park neighborhood

Sent from my iPhone

Parks and Nature Bond

From: Sharron Fuchs <email redacted>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 3:50 PM
To: Parks and Nature Bond
Subject: [External sender]Re: Audit Metro Grant for Rose City Golf Course walking trail

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

Thank you for this information. It's very helpful.

Very truly yours,

Sharron Fuchs

Public Citizen

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2023, at 4:44 PM, Parks and Nature Bond <ParksandNatureBond@oregonmetro.gov> wrote:

Hi Ms. Fuchs—

Thanks for your email and your attention to projects funded by Metro's 2019 parks and nature bond. We have shared your testimony with the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee and on the staff side, we wanted to provide some information and context that may be helpful.

Metro's Parks and Nature bond measure, passed by the voters in 2019, is designed to improve water quality, protect fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature close to home through several program areas.

One of these six programs, the local share program, allocated funds to each of the region's 27 park providers including Portland Parks and Recreation. [The bond measure](#), endorsed by the region's voters in 2019, describes criteria, requirements and goals for each of these projects to which projects must adhere. [The local share program handbook](#) provides further guidance for park providers in determining and designing projects that meet the intended outcomes of the bond measure.

Metro reviews all local share project submissions for alignment with the stated goals in the bond measure around water quality, habitat protection and access to nature. In addition, projects identified by local park providers for funding through the local share program, must be reviewed and approved by their governing body (like the Portland City Council) prior to receiving funding from Metro's bond.

Given the specificity of the questions you raise around the project, we've forward along your comments to the team at Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR), who will be better able to speak to the process they've completed for this project and transportation analysis and future steps to advance the trail improvements at Rose City park golf course. If you want to follow up, a good initial contact at Portland Parks and Recreation is Robin Laughlin, Robin.Laughlin@portlandoregon.gov.

Please let us know if there are other questions or comments you'd like to raise about the 2019 parks and nature bond.

Thank you again,

The Parks and Nature bond team

<mime-attachment>