



600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

## Council work session agenda

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Tuesday, January 29, 2019

2:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber

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**2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Work Session Topics:**

2:05 Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature Bond [19-5144](#)  
Outcomes

Presenter(s): Jon Blasher, Metro

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)

3:05 Regional Investment Strategy Bi-monthly Update [19-5143](#)

Presenter(s): Andy Shaw, Metro

**3:35 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

**3:40 Councilor Communication**

**3:50 Adjourn**

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ការគោរពសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ ។ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានកម្មប្រតិបត្តិការរើសអើងសម្រាប់សេចក្តីណែនាំ [www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights)។ បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការអ្នកបកប្រែភាសានៅពេលអង្គប្រជុំសាធារណៈ សូមទូរស័ព្ទមកលេខ 503-797-1700 (ម៉ោង 8 ព្រឹកដល់ម៉ោង 5 ល្ងាច ថ្ងៃធ្វើការ) ប្រាំពីរថ្ងៃ មុនថ្ងៃប្រជុំដើម្បីអាចឲ្យគេសម្រួលតាមសំណើរបស់លោកអ្នក ។

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**Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature Bond  
Outcomes**  
*Work Session Topics*

Metro Council Work Session  
Tuesday, January 29, 2018  
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

## REGIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY: PARKS AND NATURE BOND OUTCOMES

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Date: Jan. 17, 2019

Prepared by: Craig Beebe, x1584,  
[craig.beebe@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:craig.beebe@oregonmetro.gov)

Department: Parks and Nature

Presenter: Jon Blasher, Parks & Nature  
Director, [jon.blasher@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:jon.blasher@oregonmetro.gov)

Work session date: Jan. 29, 2019

Length: 60 min

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### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

The Metro Council is seeking regional funding to protect and connect nature and people throughout the greater Portland region. The Metro Council has directed staff to develop a potential bond for referral to voters in 2019. At a series of January 2019 work sessions, staff is seeking Council refinement and direction on potential bond outcomes and options to explore through further engagement and technical work.

### **ACTIONS REQUESTED**

- Jan. 15 work session: Identify Council's desired outcomes for a potential Parks and Nature bond measure
- Jan. 22 work session: Identify connections and possible gaps between Council's desired outcomes and previous bond investment programs
- Jan. 29 work session: Provide directions to staff on questions and investment options to explore through further engagement and planning, prior to Council consideration of bond measure referral

### **IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

- Build on momentum of past Parks and Nature bond investments, while meeting new challenges, particularly population growth, racial disparity, and climate change
- Advance Parks and Nature System Plan and Metro's work with partners to connect people to nature, protect fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality
- Advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion in bond development, programming and implementation
- Integrate with regional investments in affordable housing and transportation

### **POLICY QUESTIONS**

- What questions or options for a potential 2019 Parks and Nature bond should staff continue to explore through engagement and technical work? What additional information does Council need in order to make a referral decision?
- How should Metro align community needs, conservation priorities and Council's desired outcomes in a Parks and Nature bond measure?
- How can bond investments provide direct benefit to the people of greater Portland?

## **POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER**

Based on community and partner engagement, Stakeholder Table recommendations and Council input to date, staff presented a set of draft outcomes for potential bond investments on Jan. 15. On Jan. 22, the Metro Council discussed connecting desired outcomes to past and potential bond programs. On Jan. 29, staff seeks Metro Council direction on options and questions to explore further through engagement and planning.

## **STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

In late 2017, the Metro Council directed staff to work with partners and the community on a coordinated regional strategy for potential investments in housing, parks and nature, and transportation, to address the challenges of growth and keep greater Portland livable for everyone. The passage of the regional affordable housing bond in November demonstrates greater Portland voters' eagerness to work together to address these critical issues.

Residents of the region have repeatedly supported investments in parks and nature, an essential element of greater Portland's quality of life and our national reputation. Over the past quarter-century, the region's voters have passed two bond measures that allowed Metro to create a unique regional park system with nature at its heart, in 1995 and 2006. Voters have also passed two levies to care for this system, in 2013 and 2016.

Metro has a strong track record of success delivering on commitments made to voters in these funding measures. With voters' continuing support, Metro has worked with partners to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and bring parks and nature closer to hundreds of thousands of people. Parks and nature investments have made our communities healthier and our economy stronger. Metro now manages 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas across greater Portland, including beloved places like Oxbow and Blue Lake, as well as lesser-known but invaluable natural areas. Thousands more acres of parks and natural areas have are enjoyed by people every day thanks to local and community projects made possible by regional funding.

Although much has been accomplished, there is more to do. A growing population and changing climate threaten the streams and habitat Oregonians have worked so hard to protect. Treasured parks and trails need improvements to keep up with demand. And some communities – particularly communities of color and other historically marginalized communities – need a more equitable share of the benefits of public investments in parks and nature. The Metro Council adopted a Parks and Nature System Plan in 2016, spelling out Metro's regional role in addressing these needs with partners and the community.

The Metro Council has directed staff to advance racial equity throughout the development and framework of a potential bond, incorporating lessons learned through past investments, partnerships with community organizations and Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. This means including in decision-making those communities that have been left out in the past, as well as looking at how future investments can provide benefits to communities of color and other historically marginalized populations.

## **BACKGROUND**

In fall 2018, Metro engaged a wide range of partners and community members to explore options for a potential bond. Staff conducted focused discussions with members of the conservation community, fellow park providers, Indigenous community members, and farmers to discuss priorities for a potential bond measure, including how it could advance racial equity. Working with a cohort of culturally-specific organizations and conservation groups, Metro also co-hosted two community forums, hearing directly the voices of more than 100 community members who were not included in creating previous Metro parks and nature bond measures.

In September, Metro convened a Stakeholder Table to explore options and provide recommendations to the Metro chief operating officer. Members include roughly 30 people representing perspectives from the conservation community, culturally-specific organizations, business, working lands and local elected officials.

Through the rich insight of these community members and partners, staff identified potential priorities for a third parks and nature bond, as well as ideas that could help a bond meet community and conservation needs in the future. Summaries of this engagement are available in briefing binders supplied to the Metro Council in early January 2019. Staff presented a summary of engagement to date to the Metro Council at an Oct. 11 retreat and Nov. 13 work session.

Since that time, staff have re-engaged key stakeholder groups and jurisdictional partners, including MPAC, to discuss potential bond framework options. A number of stakeholders have also submitted further comments to the Metro Council and/or staff.

As the Metro Council reconvenes with several new councilors, staff seek guidance on the council's desired outcomes for continuing investments in parks and nature, and what questions or options staff should explore further with partners and the community prior to a potential bond measure referral.

This conversation will be continued over three work sessions. On Jan. 15, the Metro Council will discuss the key outcomes the potential bond measure should prioritize in order to serve the needs of people and nature in greater Portland. On Jan. 22, the Metro Council will consider possible gaps between Council's desired outcomes and previous parks and nature bond investment programs. On Jan. 29, staff will hear the Metro Council's direction on potential options and concepts to continue exploring with partners and the community in a new potential bond measure.

Staff will return to Metro Council work sessions in the coming months to further explore key policy questions. Staff will also conduct further engagement with the Stakeholder Table, partners and the community to develop potential bond investments and program criteria. The Metro Council could consider referring a bond to voters in the late spring.

- Is legislation required for Council action? **Yes**
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? **No**

Materials following this page were distributed at the meeting.





Metro

*Regional Investment Strategy*

# Parks and Nature bond: Potential program options

Metro Council  
work session  
Jan. 29, 2019





# January work sessions

**Jan. 15:** Outcomes

**Jan. 22:** Potential gaps between desired outcomes and past bond programs

**Today:** Program options/questions to explore further



# Agenda for today

Outcomes review

Potential program areas for new bond

Key questions

Next steps



# Discussion: Draft outcomes

*Based on Council and community input, Stakeholder table recommendations*

**Inclusive** engagement, transparency and accountability.

Advance racial **equity** through bond investments.

Protect clean **water** for people, fish and wildlife.

Protect and restore **culturally significant** plant communities.

Protect, connect and improve **habitat** for native fish and wildlife.

Take care of **what we have**.

Make parks and natural areas more **accessible** and inclusive.

Connect more **people** to the land and rivers of our region.

Build **trails** for biking and walking.

Support **community-led** parks and nature projects.

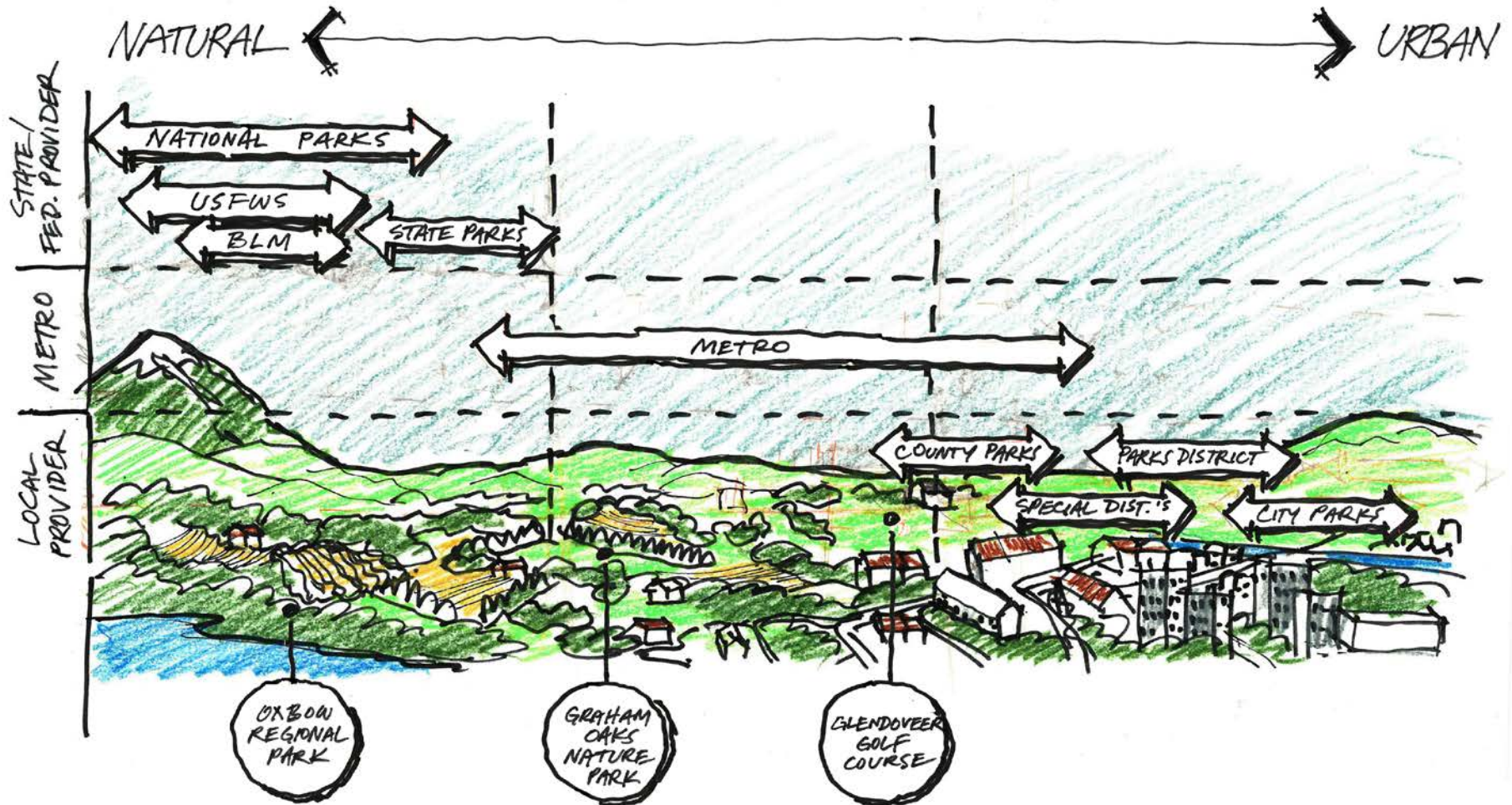


# Work session, 1/15/19: Key additional outcomes

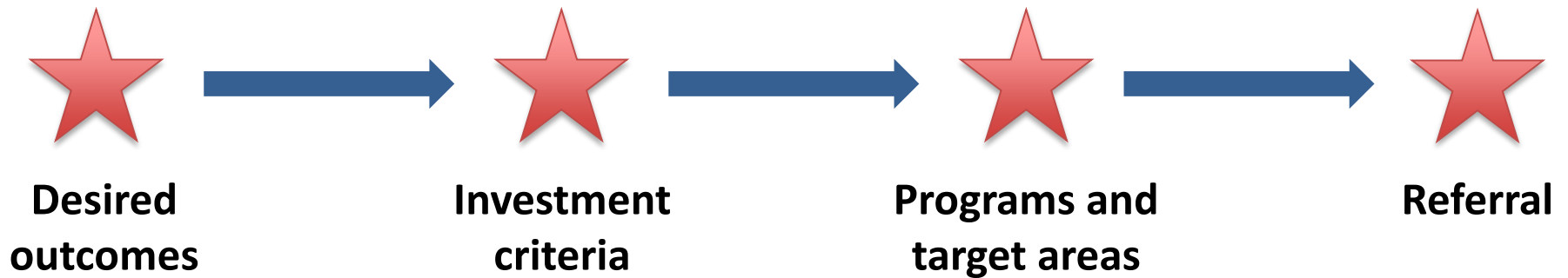
- **Nearby nature** – maintain or improve proximity and access to local and regional rivers, parks and natural areas
- **Trails** – increase physical connections to nature with safe bike and pedestrian trails and pathways
- **Urban transformation** – leveraging regional investments to increase people's access to nature in urban areas



# Metro's role in the region



# Council bond direction



## Informing Council decisions

- Stakeholder Table
- Community engagement
- Public opinion research
- Current policy
- Staff analysis



# Potential 2019 bond program investment areas

Land acquisition – for people and wildlife

Urban transformation

Capital projects

Regional trails

Capital grants

Local share





# Potential 2019 bond additional considerations

For all program investments

- Racial equity
- Climate resiliency
- Strategies at scale – urban, suburban, outside UGB
  - Include considerations for “working lands”



# Potential program – Land acquisition & restoration

- Water quality
  - Habitat value
  - Rarity of habitat
  - Parcel size
  - Restoration potential
  - Wildlife connectivity
  - Trail systems
  - Scenic resources
- **Access to rivers**
  - **Identified by communities of color,**
  - **Significant to local Indigenous community**

# Equity and climate – Land acquisition & restoration

## Racial equity

- Engagement and decision making
- Prioritizing lands identified by communities of color, including Indigenous community
- Resource allocation – contracting

## Climate resiliency

- Protecting/connecting habitats
- Water quantity/flooding
- Tree canopy

# Potential program – Urban transformation

Connect people to land and rivers of region

Improve water quality or natural systems

Leverage other public/private funding –  
affordable housing, transportation options

Provide multiple benefits for people and  
nature

Require adopted land use plans

# Equity and climate – Urban transformation

## Racial equity

- Engagement and decision making
- Displacement strategies/affordable housing
- Resource allocation – contracting

## Climate resiliency

- Green infrastructure – including “depaving”
- Nature connection, education/interpretation
- Tree canopy

# Potential program – Metro capital investments

- Improve critical infrastructure at regional parks and natural areas
- Improve accessibility (beyond ADA)
- Improve visitor experience
- Improve efficiency, reduce maintenance
- Expand access to lands, waters of our region with new public sites

# Equity and climate – Metro capital investments

## Racial equity

- Prioritize places with high use by communities of color
- Improve accessibility and use inclusive design principles
- Culturally-responsive public improvements
- Resource allocation – contracting

## Climate resiliency

- Green infrastructure and natural habitat
- Nature connection, education/interpretation
- Tree canopy



# Potential program – Trail acquisition/development

Provide people access to lands, water

Provide connections to significant trails

Close gaps, connects people to major destinations

Readiness – plans completed, right of way acquired

Partnerships; funding leverage

# Equity and climate – Trail acquisition/development

## Racial equity

- Focus on priorities identified by communities of color, inclusive design
- Consider proximity to housing, transit
- Include strategies to mitigate displacement
- Resource allocation – contracting

## Climate resiliency

- Potential for transportation purpose (e.g., commuting)
- Green infrastructure and natural habitat
- Tree canopy, respite

# Potential criteria – Community grants

Improve water quality, quantity issues

Protect and enhance  
fish and wildlife habitat

Promote community-led partnerships

Increase function and presence of nature  
where communities have identified need

# Equity and climate – Community grants

## Racial equity

- Meaningful engagement with communities of color
- Explicit racial equity outcomes for community-led projects
- Communities of color in decision-making roles
- Impact assessment, track and report outcomes

## Climate resiliency

- Encourage climate-adaptation strategies
- Green infrastructure, tree canopy, respite
- Nature connection, education/interpretation

# Potential criteria – Local share

Acquiring natural areas or park lands

Restoring habitat

Enhancing public access to natural areas

Designing and constructing trails

Providing enhanced environmental  
educational opportunities

# Equity and climate – Local share

## Racial equity

- Meaningful engagement with communities of color
- Explicit racial equity outcomes for community-led projects
- Uplift priorities of communities of color
- Impact assessment, track and report outcomes

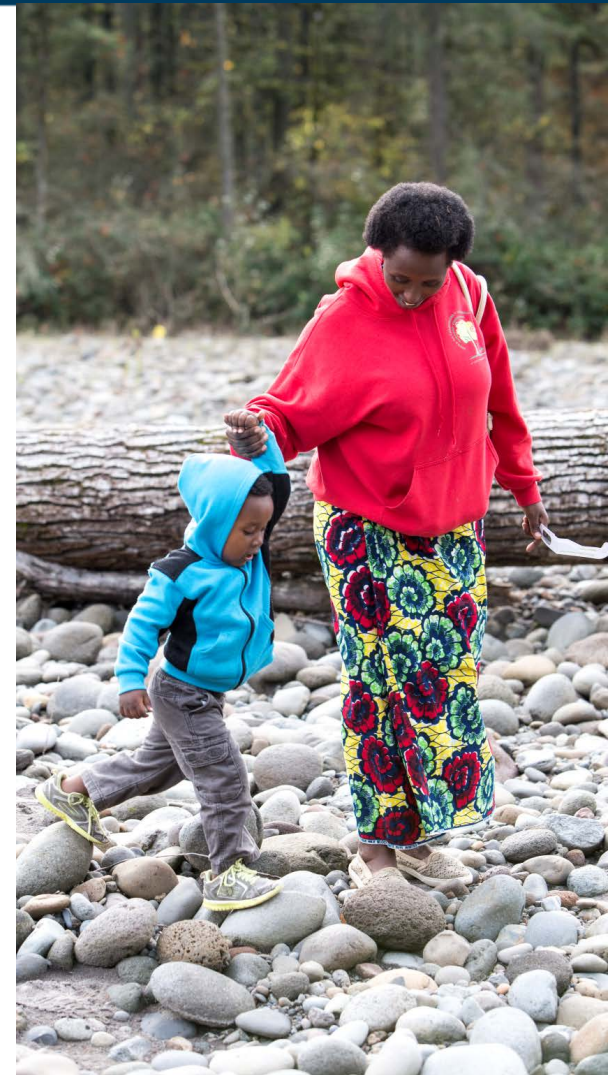
## Climate resiliency

- Encourage climate-adaptation strategies
- Green infrastructure, tree canopy, respite
- Nature connection, education/interpretation

# Performance measures

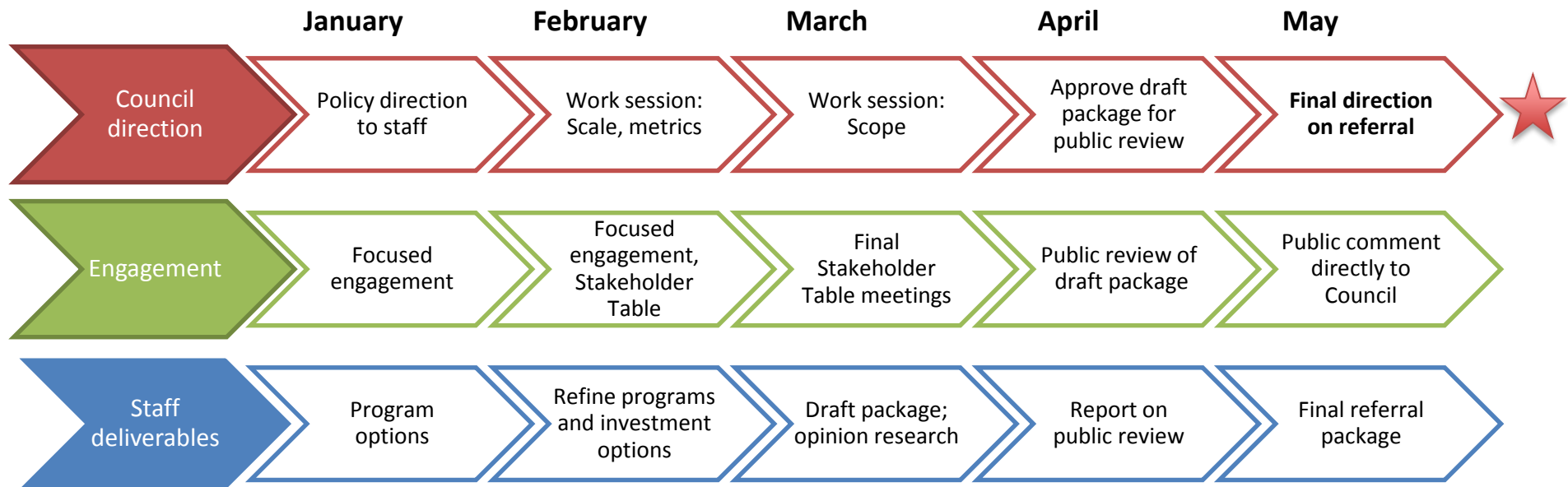
## Access to nature

- Proximity
- Amenities and culturally-responsive places
- Barriers





# Steps to referral decision



# Policy questions

How can bond investments provide direct benefit to the people of greater Portland?

**Are we on track with these programs and criteria to deliver the greatest number of outcomes for people and for nature?**



# Regional Investment Strategy: Overview

Council work session  
Jan. 29, 2019



Metro



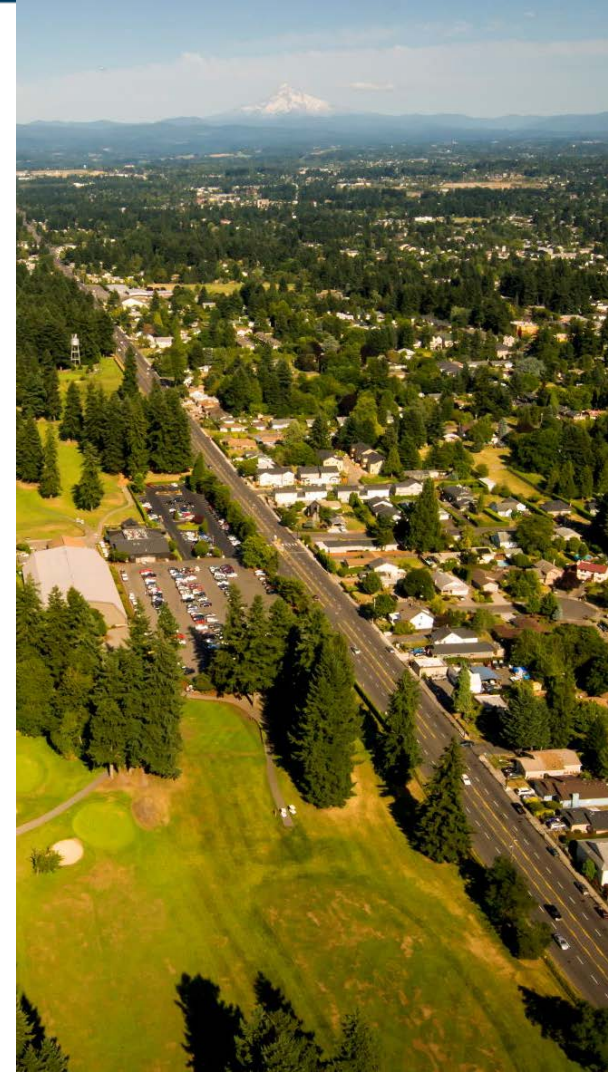


# The big picture

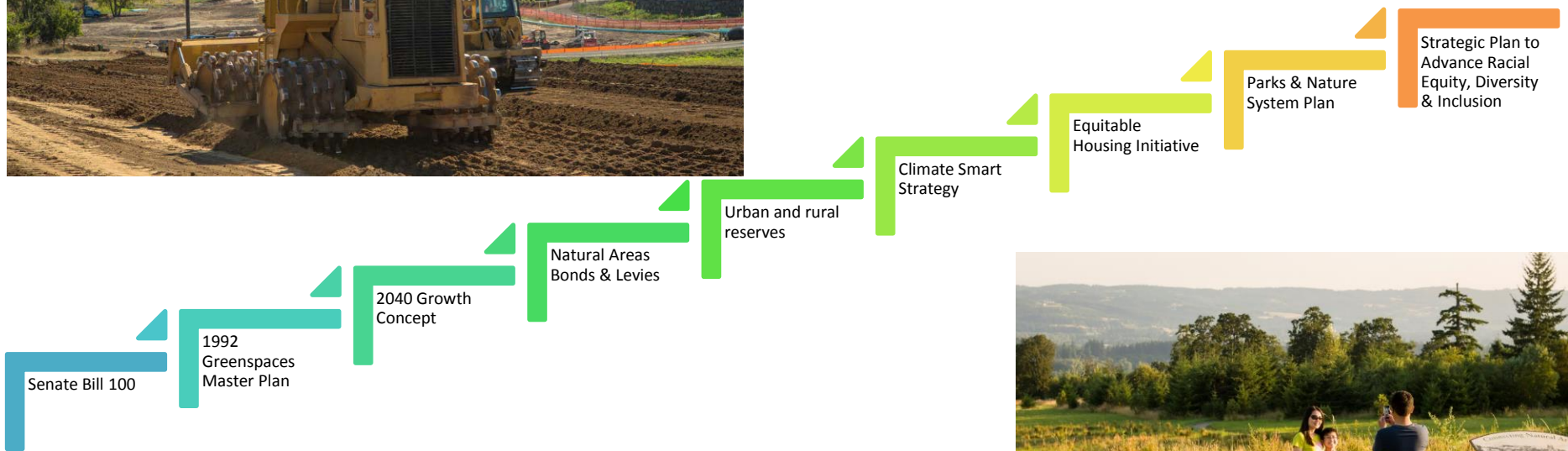
Metro is a good steward of the systems that maintain regional livability. Now and into the future.

We connect urban and rural, natural and built communities, in one vision: a complete and livable place for all.

**We must do more to protect these places, keep up with growth, and create a more equitable region.**



# We build from a strong foundation.



# Take action now. And look to the future.



**Affordable  
Housing Bond**

**Urban Growth  
Boundary  
Decision**

**2018 Regional  
Transportation  
Plan**

**Parks &  
Nature Bond**

**Regional  
Transportation  
Funding**

**Mid Cycle  
UGB Review**

**2023 Regional  
Transportation  
Plan**





# Regional Investment Strategy: Work program outline



2018

Regional housing  
bond development  
Parks & Nature  
bond development  
Transportation  
2020 development  
**Housing bond  
election**



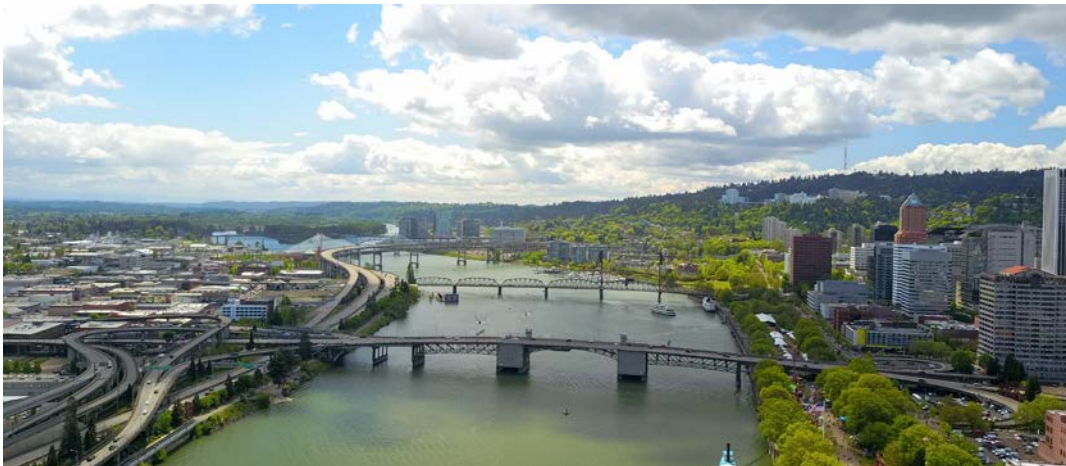
2019

Parks & Nature  
bond development  
Transportation  
2020 development  
Housing bond  
implementation  
**Parks bond  
election**



2020

Housing bond  
implementation  
Parks bond  
implementation  
**Transportation  
funding election**



- Program
- Political
- Program and Political



# Metro Council leadership

## Program and policy direction

- Affordable housing bond implementation
- Parks & Nature investments and programs
- Transportation 2020 policy principles

## Coalition building and community partnerships

- Convene stakeholders
- District outreach, quarterly exchanges, community dialogue
- Month-by-month messaging

## Eye on elections

- Review public opinion research
- Ballot referral decisions
- Support political strategy work programs



# Many hands...working together.

## Project coordination: GAPD

Project coordination: GAPD					
<b>Housing</b> Program Development •Planning & Development	Political Strategy •GAPD/Council Office •Planning	Communications and Engagement •Communications	Partnership and Leadership Development •Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program	Legal •Office of Metro Attorney	Financial •Finance & Regulatory Services
<b>Parks &amp; Nature</b> Program Development •Parks & Nature	Political Strategy •GAPD/Council Office •Parks & Nature	Communications and Engagement •Communications	Partnership and Leadership Development •Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program	Legal •Office of Metro Attorney	Financial •Finance & Regulatory Services
<b>Transportation</b> Program Development •Planning & Development	Political Strategy •GAPD/Council Office •Planning	Communications and Engagement •Communications	Partnership and Leadership Development •Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program	Legal •Office of Metro Attorney	Financial •Finance & Regulatory Services

