

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: CORE Monthly Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 18th, 2019
Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Place: Muslim Educational Trust, Al-Iwan Hall
10330 SW Scholls Ferry Road, Tigard, OR 97223

- 6:00 p.m.** Welcome and Public Comment
Updates from Committee members
- 6:15 p.m.** Discussion on CORE Recruitment 2019
- 6: p.m.** Potential 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Program
Jon Blasher, Parks and Nature
- 7:45 p.m.** Next Steps on CORE Guidance document
- 8:00 p.m.** Adjourn

Memo



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Date: February 28, 2019
To: Lynn Peterson, Metro Council President
Shirley Craddick, Metro Council
Christine Lewis, Metro Council
Craig Dirksen, Metro Council
Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Metro Council
Sam Chase, Metro Council
Bob Stacey, Metro Council
From: Jonathan Blasher, Parks and Nature Director
Subject: Potential 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Program Investments

In January 2019 the Metro Council identified six program areas for investment with capital funding from the renewal of the current parks and nature bond measure in the range of \$400-450 million dollars. Bond investments are intended to provide a series of outcomes across the six program areas:

- 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.

The Metro Council will make all final funding allocations and requirements. Potential distribution of program investments include:

- Urban transformations - \$40-50M
- Regional trail acquisition and development - \$40-55M
- Local parks and nature projects - \$65-70M
- Nature in Neighborhood capital grants - \$25-30M
- Metro capital parks and nature projects- \$100-105M
- Land acquisition; fish and wildlife habitat restoration - \$130-140M

These potential distributions are based on input from the Metro Council, community engagement participants and local government partners. This information will be used as part of the next round of community engagement. Please contact me for questions, comments or concerns.

Cc: Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer
Paul Slyman, Chief of Staff



Potential Metro Parks and Nature bond renewal: Protect and connect people and nature.

Discussion draft 4/9/2019

Program Area	Funding Range	Potential investments	Highlights of program requirements/criteria
Protect and restore land Protect and connect greater Portland's special places, especially river and stream banks, oak and prairie habitat, wetlands and culturally significant sites, by purchasing land from willing sellers and restoring it to support plants, animals and people.	\$130-140M	Acquire 3,500- 4,000 acres including land that protect water quality, wildlife habitat and habitat connectivity and increase climate resiliency. Identify and fund 1-2 habitat restoration project(s) targeting regional challenges for fish and wildlife habitat improvement. Identify and fund 1-2 habitat restoration project(s) that would restore plant communities significant to greater Portland's Indigenous community.	Include goals in land acquisition strategies that protect and improve habitat for salmon, steelhead and lamprey. Include goals in land acquisition strategies for protecting culturally significant plant communities and first foods. Work with greater Portland's Indigenous community to identify culturally significant lands and partnership opportunities for land management.
Support local projects Distribute money to cities, counties and park providers across greater Portland to protect land, restore habitat, and build and care for parks that connect people to nature in local communities.	\$65-70M	Provide funding for 150+ local parks and nature projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local park providers to select projects after bond approval. Metro to develop a formula for funding allocations similar to 2006 bond. Local parks providers may opt out/designate other local park providers to receive and disburse their portion of Metro funds if they lack capacity. Some capital maintenance projects are eligible for these funds. 	Require transparent, inclusive community engagement, decision-making and accountability in local parks and nature projects funded by Metro's bond measure. Ensure that local projects advance racial equity and improve climate resiliency; remove barriers and increase contracting opportunities for minority-owned businesses. Improve access to nature for communities identified as "nature-deficient". Require use of low-impact, environmentally-friendly development practices in local construction and development projects.
Award community grants Support innovative approaches to caring for nature and creating public access at the community scale by awarding Nature in Neighborhoods grants, with an emphasis on historically marginalized communities.	\$25-30M	Provide funding for 100+ parks and nature projects through Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive grants - \$50K-\$1M. Flexibility regarding partnerships, timelines, match. Improved racial equity outcomes; giving more decision-making power to communities of color and other marginalized communities. 	Require transparent, inclusive community engagement, decision-making and accountability in local parks and nature projects funded by Metro's bond measure. Ensure that grant-funded projects advance racial equity and improve climate resiliency; remove barriers and increase contracting opportunities for minority-owned businesses. Improve access to nature for communities identified as "nature-deficient". Require use of low-impact, environmentally-friendly development practices in grant funded construction and development projects.

<p>Take care of Metro parks Provide safe, welcoming places to connect with nature by completing newer nature parks and maintaining water systems, trails, bathrooms and other amenities at older parks like Oxbow and Blue Lake.</p>	<p>\$100-105M</p>	<p>Maintain critical infrastructure in legacy parks that Metro manages including Oxbow and Blue Lake. Make needed upgrades to other Metro-managed parks and natural areas including Smith and Bybee Wetlands, Glendoveer Nature Trail, Lone Fir and other historic cemeteries.</p> <p>Improve accessibility at Metro’s parks and natural areas by implementing ADA projects and other improvements such as accessible pathways, signage and visitor amenities.</p> <p>Increase public access to lands managed by Metro through construction of 5-6 “Phase II” Metro master-planned nature park projects, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chehalem Ridge Nature Park • East Council Creek Nature Park • Gabbert Butte Nature Park • Killin Wetlands • Lone Fir Cemetery Cultural Heritage Garden • Newell Creek Natural Area • North Tualatin Mountains <p>Plan and build 1-2 new Metro nature parks or public access improvements.</p>	<p>Improve physical and cultural accessibility to parks and nature through local and regional investments.</p> <p>Ensure that projects advance racial equity and improve climate resiliency; remove barriers and increase contracting opportunities for minority-owned businesses.</p> <p>Ensure transparent, inclusive community engagement, decision-making and accountability in Metro parks and nature projects.</p> <p>Require use of low-impact, environmentally-friendly development practices in local and regional parks and nature capital projects.</p>
<p>Create trails for walking and biking Secure land to build new trails and construct missing sections, fulfilling greater Portland’s vision for a network of trails where people can relax, exercise and commute.</p>	<p>\$40-55M</p>	<p>Acquire 8-10 miles of new regional trail corridors.</p> <p>Construct 6 miles of new regional trails and maintain of up to 10 miles of existing regional trails.</p> <p>Remedy 1-2 key pinch points in regional trail system.</p> <p>Metro to lead acquisition and construction, with some locally-led projects.</p>	<p>Ensure that projects advance racial equity and improve climate resiliency; remove barriers and increase contracting opportunities for minority-owned businesses.</p> <p>Require use of low-impact, environmentally-friendly development practices in local and regional trail construction projects.</p> <p>Require transparent, inclusive community engagement, decision-making and accountability in local parks and nature projects funded by Metro’s bond measure.</p> <p>Consider proximity to affordable housing, transit and connections to local or regional parks in trail project selection.</p> <p>Local trail projects eligible for “local share” and Nature in Neighborhood grants.</p>
<p>Advance large-scale community visions Help deliver large-scale projects that uplift communities by leveraging nature to achieve benefits such as job opportunities, affordable housing and safe, reliable transportation.</p>	<p>\$40-50M</p>	<p>Capital funding that catalyzes investments in 2-4 transformative regional-scale projects that increase access to nature for people in urban areas and/or improve the resiliency of urban natural areas.</p> <p>Provide additional funding for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project and the river walk.</p> <p>Technical assistance to projects seeking and receiving funding.</p> <p>Metro Council to designate project proposal and review process.</p>	<p>Leverage with public/private investments in affordable housing, transit and connections to local or regional parks.</p> <p>Ensure that projects advance racial equity and improve climate resiliency; remove barriers and increase contracting opportunities for minority-owned businesses.</p> <p>Require transparent, inclusive community engagement, decision-making and accountability in projects funded by Metro’s bond measure.</p>
	<p>\$400-450M</p>		

Note: Figures are based on general cost estimates – real costs will vary with complexity and location of projects; land costs vary significantly depending on location of target areas.

Draft outcomes for potential 2019 Parks and Nature bond investments

DRAFT 1/7/2019



Based on community and partner engagement, Stakeholder Table recommendations and Metro Council input to date, staff have identified the following draft outcomes for potential bond investments, for Metro Council discussion in January 2019.

Serve communities through inclusive engagement, transparency and accountability. Continue to build trust and relationships through engagement of the region's diverse communities in the identification, planning and implementation of Metro-funded projects. Develop tools to evaluate and report on impacts, and adjust course as needed.

Advance racial equity through bond investments. Remove barriers and increase accessible contracting opportunities for COBID contractors and other vulnerable business communities. Set aggressive goals for use of COBID contractors and demonstrate accountability through tracking outcomes and reporting impacts.

Protect clean water for people, fish and wildlife. Update regional land acquisition priorities to increase emphasis on water quantity as well as quality, including protection of headwaters and preventing flooding in urban areas.

Protect and restore culturally significant plant communities. Update regional land acquisition and management plans to prioritize culturally significant plants in partnership with greater Portland's indigenous community. Consider state, federal and regional conservation priorities.

Protect, connect and improve habitat for native fish and wildlife. Update regional land acquisition and management plans to focus on habitat protection for native fish species, such as salmon, trout, steelhead and lamprey. Restore and enhance habitat for wildlife prioritized in state, federal and regional conservation plans and/or identified as priorities through community engagement. Refine natural area protection consistent with Metro's commitment to protecting the agricultural economy and working lands in the greater Portland region.

Take care of what we have. Maintain, update and reinvest in regional and local destinations, particularly those with high visitation and use by communities of color or places/projects identified by communities of color.

Make parks and natural areas more accessible and inclusive. Increase access for those living with disabilities through investments in ADA compliance and projects using universal design principles. Work with communities of color, greater Portland's indigenous community, and other historically marginalized groups to identify opportunities for culturally responsive public improvements.

Connect more people to the land and rivers of our region. Provide people with new or improved access to local rivers and streams, natural areas and places for multi-generational, healing spaces and community gatherings. Leverage other public and private investments in affordable housing and transit.

Invest in trails for biking and walking. Focus on closing gaps and ready-to-build projects that fulfill the Regional Trails Plan, particularly those identified as priorities by communities of color. Consider proximity to affordable housing, transit and connections to regional or local parks.

Support community-led parks and nature projects. Require greater community engagement and racial equity strategies for local, community-led projects funded by the bond. Prioritize projects identified and created by of communities of color and other historically marginalized groups. Hold partners accountable for tracking outcomes and reporting impacts.



Metro

Potential bond: Protect & connect Nature & people

Metro CORE

April 18, 2019



This is our mission.

“Metro protects clean water, restores fish and wildlife habitat, and connects people with nature close to home.”

Parks and Nature System Plan,
Adopted by the Metro Council, February 2016



This is our commitment.

“Metro will concentrate on eliminating the disparities that people of color experience, especially in those areas related to Metro’s policies, programs, services and destinations.”

*Strategic Plan to Advance Racial
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Adopted by the Metro Council,
June 2016*



Parks and Nature

REDI Plan outcomes

- Connect communities of color to resources
- Provide more equitable access to safe, welcoming public lands
- People of color connect with nature and one another in the region's parks and natural areas





Shaped by the community

How can we invest bond funds?

Capital projects only:

- Land acquisition
- Access and major restoration
- Trails and facilities

Public ownership

Levies, not bonds, can support non-capital investments, such as programming

6



Maintain tax rate

Put people first

**Advance
racial equity**

**Prepare for
climate change**



Metro



\$400-450 million across six areas:

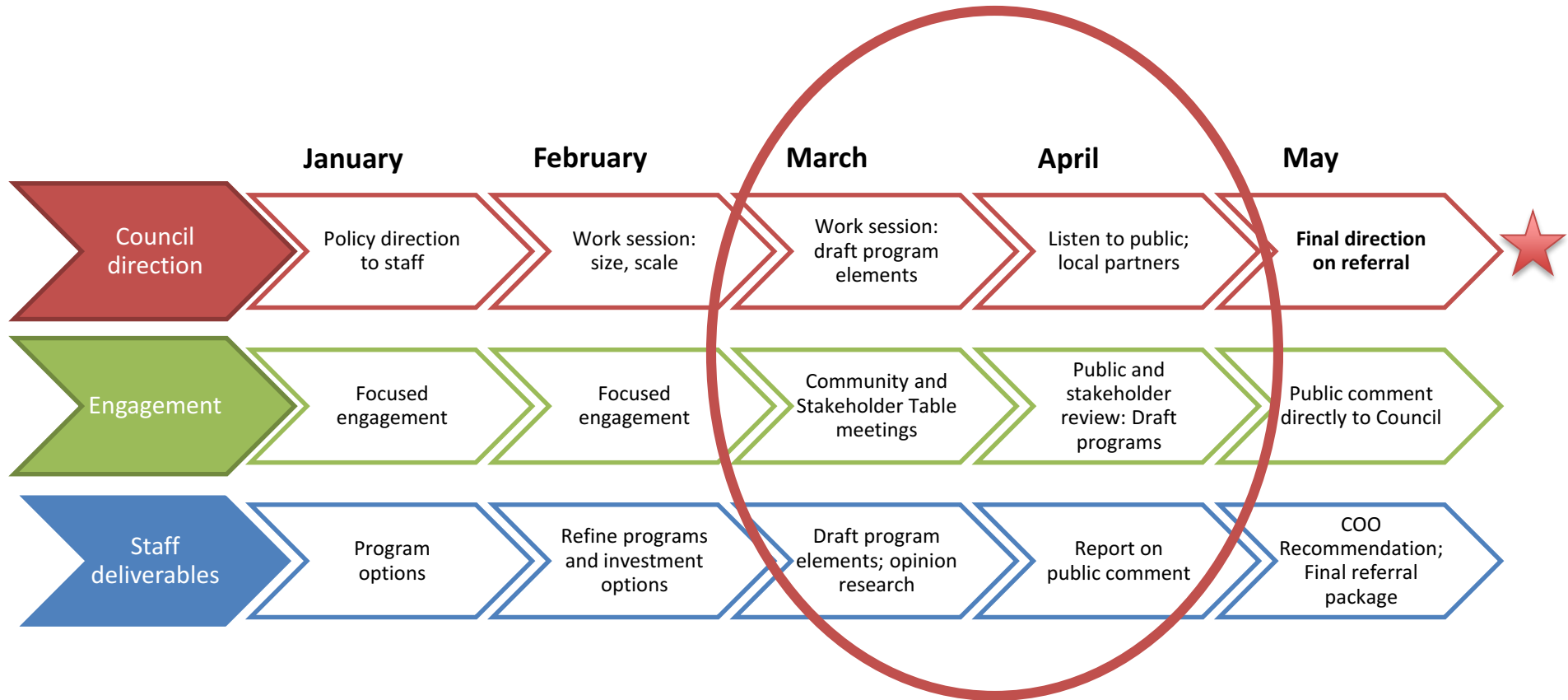
1. Protect and restore land
2. Take care of Metro parks
3. Award community grants
4. Support local projects
5. Create trails for walking and biking
6. Advance large-scale community visions



Metro



Path to referral decision



April engagement activities

- Conservation meeting – April 5
- Stakeholder Table - April 8
- MPAC – April 10
- CORE – April 18
- Community forums – April 16, 20
- Community leaders – April 26
- Online survey, media, etc.



Metro's racial equity goals

- Convene and support regional partners to advance racial equity
- Meaningfully engage communities of color
- Hire, train and promote racially diverse workforce
- Create safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations
- Allocate resources to advance racial equity

Questions?



Metro

- What other ways do you see to strengthen our equity outcomes?
- Ideas for working with local partners
- Accountability measures?



oregonmetro.gov

