



600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

## Council meeting agenda

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**Thursday, August 4, 2022**

**10:30 AM**

**<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID:  
615079992) or 929-205-6099 (toll free)**

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Please note: To limit the spread of COVID-19, Metro Regional Center is now closed to the public. This work session will be held electronically.

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or 929-205-6099 (toll free)

If you wish to attend the meeting, but do not have the ability to attend by phone or computer, please contact the Legislative Coordinator at least 24 hours before the noticed meeting time by phone at 503-797-1916 or email at [legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov).

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

### **2. Public Communication**

Public comment may be submitted in writing and will also be heard by electronic communication (videoconference or telephone). Written comments should be submitted electronically by emailing [legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov). Written comments received by 4pm the day before the meeting will be provided to the council prior to the meeting.

Those wishing to testify orally are encouraged to sign up in advance by either: (a) contacting the legislative coordinator by phone at 503-797-1916 and providing your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify; or (b) registering by email by sending your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify to [legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov). Those requesting to comment during the meeting can do so by using the "Raise Hand" feature in Zoom or emailing the legislative coordinator at [legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov). Individuals will have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated at the meeting.

### **3. Consent Agenda**

3.1 Consideration of the May 5, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

[22-5755](#)

Attachments: [050522c Minutes](#)

### **4. Resolutions**

- 4.1 Resolution No. 22-5279, For the Purpose of Referring to the Voters of the Metro Area Renewal of Metro’s Local Option Levy for Protecting Water Quality, Restoring Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Connecting People to Nature

[RES 22-5279](#)

Attachments: [Resolution No 22-5279](#)  
[Exhibit A](#)  
[Exhibit B](#)  
[Staff Report](#)

- 4.1.1. Public Comment Opportunity for Resolution No. 22-5279 For the Purpose of Referring to the Voters of the Metro Area Renewal of Metro’s Local Option Levy for Protecting Water Quality, Restoring Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Connecting People to Nature

**5. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

**6. Councilor Communication**

**7. Adjourn**

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### Повідомлення Metro про заборону дискримінації

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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](http://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](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights). Haddii aad u baahan tahay turjubaan si aad uga qaybqaadatid kullan dadweyne, wac 503-797-1700 (8 gallinka hore illaa 5 gallinka dambe maalmaha shaqada) shan maalmo shaqa ka hor kullanka si loo tixgaliyo codsashadaada.

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### សេចក្តីជូនដំណឹងអំពីការមិនរើសអើងរបស់ Metro

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

### إشعار بعدم التمييز من Metro

تحتزم Metro الحقوق المدنية. للمزيد من المعلومات حول برنامج Metro للحقوق المدنية أو لإيداع شكوى ضد التمييز، يُرجى زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني [www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights](http://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.

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Metro tributes cai. Rau cov lus qhia txog Metro txoj cai kev pab, los yog kom sau ib daim ntawv tsis txaus siab, mus saib [www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights). Yog hais tias koj xav tau lus kev pab, hu rau 503-797-1700 (8 teev sawv ntxov txog 5 teev tsaus ntxuj weekdays) 5 hnuv ua hauj lwv ua ntej ntawm lub rooj sib tham.

Agenda Item No. 3.1

**Consideration of the May 5, 2022 Council Meeting**

**Minutes**

*Consent Agenda*

Metro Council Meeting  
Thursday, August 4, 2022

# Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736  
[oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)



Metro

## Minutes

Thursday, May 5, 2022

10:30 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
888-475-4499 (toll free)

**Council meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Peterson called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Present:** 6 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Duncan Hwang

**Excused:** 1 - Councilor Shirley Craddick

**2. Public Communication**

Council President Peterson opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on a non-agenda items.

There were none.

**3. Consent Agenda**

Council President Peterson called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

3.1 For the Purpose of Approving a Work Plan and Public Engagement Plan for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan Update

**A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Rosenthal, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**4. Resolutions**

4.1 Resolution No.22-5255, For the Purpose of Approving the Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Planning Body Charter

Council President Peterson called on Patricia Rojas, and Kristen Denise to present to Council.

**Kristen** explained the logistical creation of the Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Planning Body Charter, how Metro funds will support the work, and the Tri-County Planning Body Committees responsibilities.

*Council Discussion:*

**Councilor Hwang** asked staff to define “modified consensus”.

**Patricia** explained that this definition creates a pathway for effective communication to reach consensus, but if the committee cannot reach consensus then a modified majority vote will be accepted.

**Councilor Rosenthal** expressed the charter is missing definitions that specifically highlight the need for speed and urgency.

**Councilor Gonzalez** ask what committee members have identified as goals for this coming year.

**Patricia** identified data alignment and aligning best practices, while reassuring council that once the committee is completely formed staff will be asking them to state their goals and desired outcomes for the coming year.

**Councilor Lewis** asked when and if the committee will be reviewed.

**Kristen** explained there is no automatic review planned but there is the option to begin the process at council’s direction.

**A motion was made by Councilor Gonzalez, seconded by Councilor Lewis, that this Resolution was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Hwang

4.2 Resolution No. 22-5264, For the Purpose of Appointing Members to the Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Planning Body

Council President Peterson called Patricia Rojas and Kristen Dennis to present to council

Staff pulled up the Tri-County Planning Body Member Appointment Powerpoint to present to Council.

**Patricia** explained staff's approach to choosing committee members which focused on, regionalizing the program with the goal of effectively ending homelessness, identifying interested candidates with diverse identities, lived experiences, areas of expertise, and perspectives.

**Council President Lynn Peterson** thanked staff for bringing individuals onto the committee who have a diverse range of skills.

**Councilor Lewis** questioned if the committee members are aware and ready to commit their time and work.

**Patricia** reassured council that in conversations and interviews with committee members they have stress this is a "doing committee" and will require a lot of time and effort.

**Councilor Hwang** inquired if the committee members are being stipend, how staff decided on the number of committee members, and what/ if any perspectives and identities are missing from the chosen group.

**Patricia** explained that the number 17 was settled on for vote and variety of perspectives purposes.



**Councilor Nolan** asked for clarification on what kind of decisions the Tri-County Planning Body will make V.S what recommendations.

**Kristin** explained the Tri-County Planning Body does not have contracting authoring themselves but they are making policy decisions for the counties to follow.

**A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, that this Resolution was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Hwang

- 4.3 Resolution No. 22-5252, For the Purpose of Approving the FY 2022-23 Budget, Setting Property Tax Levies and Transmitting the Approved Budget to the Multnomah County Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission

Council President Peterson called Marissa Madrigal and Brian Kennedy to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the FY 2022-23 Budget Approval PowerPoint to present to Council.

Staff described the budget process, budget changes, presentation feedback, metro staffing trends, the property tax levy, and future important dates.

**Councilor Gonzalez** asked for clarification on the timeline for when the addition of \$10 million to Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES) is expected to be spent.

**Marissa** explained there is urgency to deploy the money as soon as possible.

**President Peterson** asked Metro Attorney, Carrie Maclaren to formulate the motion for Resolution No. 22-5252A

**Carrie** explained the amend resolution would add \$10 million to the WPES Budget.

**A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, that this item be adopted as amended. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, and Councilor Hwang

**Abstain:** 1 - Councilor Rosenthal

4.4 Resolution No. 22-5254, For the Purpose of Adopting Community-Developed Guiding Principles For The Portland Expo Center Development Opportunity Study

Council President Peterson called Marissa Madrigal and Paul Slyman to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Expo DOS- Adopting Guiding Principles PowerPoint to present to Council.

Staff discussed the Expos recent history, guiding principles, and explained the four potential future pathways.

*Council Discussion*

**Councilor Rosenthal** expressed concerned with the phrase “maximize economic prosperity” in the central vision.

**Councilor Lewis** explained the word prosperity was chosen over something like ROI out of the goal to focus on community prosperity.

**Councilor Hwang** ask if staff thought about adding the value flexibility and responsiveness over time.

**Paul Slyman** highlighted the committee and staff will continue to keep the timeline in mind as the project moves forward.

**A motion was made by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor Lewis, that this Resolution was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Hwang

**5. Ordinances (Second Reading)**

- 5.1 Ordinance No. 22-1477, For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Chapter 2.19.150 to clarify the purpose and membership information of the investment advisory board

Council President Peterson stated that the first reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 22-1477 took place on Thursday, April 14th.

Council President Peterson called on Brian Kennedy, Metro to present to Council.

**Brian** explained this is a technical amendment to the Metro code that clarifies the purpose of the Metro Advisory board.

**A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, that this Ordinance was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Hwang

**6. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

- National day of awareness for missing and murdered indigenous people

**7. Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Lewis updated council on the Willamette Locks event that begins the upgrade work to reestablished operations at the Locks.
- President Peterson updated council that the I5 bridge executive steering committee completed their LPA proposal.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brianna Dolbin*

Brianna Dolbin, Legislative Assistant

Agenda Item No. 4.1

**Resolution No. 22-5279, For the Purpose of Referring to  
the Voters of the Metro Area Renewal of Metro's Local  
Option Levy for Protecting Water Quality, Restoring Fish  
and Wildlife Habitat and Connecting People to Nature**

*Resolutions*

Metro Council Meeting  
Thursday, August 4, 2022

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE	)	RESOLUTION NO. 22-5279
VOTERS OF THE METRO AREA RENEWAL	)	
OF METRO’S LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR	)	
PROTECTING WATER QUALITY,	)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
RESTORING FISH AND WILDLIFE	)	Marissa Madrigal in Concurrence with
HABITAT AND CONNECTING PEOPLE TO	)	Council President Lynn Peterson
NATURE	)	

WHEREAS, clean water and air, healthy habitat, and welcoming, accessible parks are more vital than ever to the well-being of greater Portland's people, fish and wildlife;

WHEREAS, Metro has taken a leadership role in protecting water quality and natural areas in greater Portland and providing access to nature for people through an interconnected system of parks, trails and natural areas;

WHEREAS, in 1992, the Metro Council, along with the cities and counties of greater Portland adopted the Greenspaces Master Plan, identifying 57 regional natural areas and 34 regional trails and greenways requiring protection;

WHEREAS, in 1995 and again in 2006, voters of the Metro region approved two successive general obligation bond measures, directing Metro to acquire regionally significant natural area land, trails and greenways to improve water quality and protect fish and wildlife habitat;

WHEREAS, in May 2013, in the absence of a long-term funding mechanism, voters approved a five-year local option levy to pay for ongoing operation and maintenance of Metro’s portfolio of regional parks and natural areas;

WHEREAS, in February 2016, the Metro Council adopted the Parks and Nature System Plan, outlining Metro’s roles and responsibilities for managing a regional system of parks, trails and natural areas;

WHEREAS, in November 2016, voters of the Metro region renewed the initial five-year local option levy, once again providing necessary funding for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of Metro’s natural areas and parks in accordance with the Parks and Nature System Plan, and also supporting Metro’s efforts to connect people to nature through education programming and community grants;

WHEREAS, in November 2019, voters of the Metro region approved 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure, authorizing \$475 million in general obligation bonds to continue the region's legacy of making capital investments to protect and connect nature to people, affirmatively addressing growing concerns about hotter summers, extreme weather, and the impacts of racial inequality in the region;

WHEREAS, Metro now cares for more than 18,000 acres of parks and natural areas and 170 miles of stream and river frontage, which holdings will increase substantially as Metro implements the voter-directed programs and goals of the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure;

WHEREAS, with Metro's current local option levy set to expire in June 2023, continued funding for non-capital operation and maintenance costs is critical to ensure the protection of Metro’s existing and

future portfolio of parks and natural area properties, achieving key restoration, water quality and access to nature priorities supported by the Metro region voters over the past three decades;

WHEREAS, a renewal of the local option levy at its current rate will provide stability and security for Metro's parks and natural areas, continued funding for vital restoration work, keep properties open and welcoming to the public, allow for strategic decisions about multi-year projects, and deliver on Metro's promises to the voters to continue to protect and restore nature for the benefit of human and natural communities now and for the future; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Metro Council hereby refers to the qualified voters of the Metro region renewal of the current five-year local option levy of 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value, to be used for substantially the same purposes as the levy approved by voters in November 2016: improving water quality, protecting fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas and stream frontages, continued management of safe and welcoming parks and natural areas, and ongoing partnerships for community-led nature education and stewardship;
2. The estimated total outlay for the funds raised by the levy renewal is \$98.3 million.
3. The Metro Council hereby certifies the Ballot Title attached as Exhibit A for placement of the renewal of the local option levy on the ballot for the November 2022 General Election;
4. The Metro Council authorizes and directs the Metro Chief Operating Officer, the Metro Chief Financial Officer and the Metro Attorney, or their respective designees (each, an "Authorized Representative"), each acting individually, to file with the county elections official the Ballot Title and a related explanatory statement prepared by the Authorized Representative pursuant to Metro Code Section 9.02.020;
5. The Metro Council authorizes and directs the Authorized Representative to take all other actions necessary to place the renewal of the local option levy on the ballot for the November 2022 General Election in a manner consistent with and in furtherance of this Resolution;
6. The Metro Council further defines the general purposes, allowed uses, and outcomes for funds collected via the renewed five-year local option levy according to the 2022 Levy Renewal Framework, attached hereto as Exhibit B; and

7. Upon the passage of the renewal of the local option levy, program staff is directed to continue to produce an annual report and work plan to be approved by the Chief Operating Officer and presented to the Metro Council at the end of each fiscal year, such report to detail program expenditures by area, as well as major accomplishments, and to be made available on the Metro website and featured in other public outreach.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 4th day of August, 2022.

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Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

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Nathan Sykes, Deputy Metro Attorney



## **BALLOT TITLE**

### **Caption**

Renews local option levy; protects natural areas, water quality, fish

### **Question**

Should Metro protect water quality, fish, natural areas, parks; renew 5-year operating levy, 9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value, beginning 2023?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

### **Summary**

This levy does not increase tax rates. It continues the same rate previously approved by voters.

The levy protects water quality, restores fish and wildlife habitat, and connects people with nature across 18,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas. The levy funds ongoing restoration of natural areas acquired through three voter-approved bond measures. It also improves people's access to nature, by maintaining Metro parks and natural areas, providing nature education for visitors and schoolchildren, and supporting community-led nature projects and programs.

If renewed, the levy will continue to:

- Maintain and improve water quality in local rivers and streams
- Protect and restore habitat for salmon, other native fish
- Restore wetlands, forests and floodplains providing habitat for birds, wildlife
- Manage natural areas to better withstand heat, wildfire, extreme weather
- Maintain parks and trails; maintain and improve restrooms, picnic shelters, play areas, trailheads, and other visitor facilities and services
- Increase opportunities for children from low-income families and communities of color to connect with nature.

A home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$24 per year for five years.

If renewed, the proposed rate (9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value) will raise approximately \$18.1 million in 2023-24, \$18.8 million in 2024-25, \$19.6 million in 2025-26, \$20.5 million in 2026-27 and \$21.3 million in 2027-28.

Parks and Nature



Metro

# 2022 Levy renewal framework





## Metro’s parks and nature local option levy protects clean water, restores fish and wildlife habitat, and provides access to nature close to home.

No matter where you are in the greater Portland region, nature is never far. Metro cares for more than 18,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas across greater Portland – from Chehalem Ridge in the west to the Sandy River Gorge in the east, from Blue Lake and Broughton Beach in the north to Graham Oaks and Newell Creek Canyon in the south. This portfolio of land represents both a big opportunity and a big responsibility. For more than a quarter-century, voters have repeatedly asked Metro to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and provide opportunities to connect with nature close to home. Voters also trust and expect Metro to wisely care for these special places over the long term, while creating opportunities for people to enjoy them.

Metro’s parks and nature work depends on continued voter support for a five-year local option levy, first approved by voters in 2013. At a rate of 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value – about \$25 annually for the owner of a home assessed at \$250,000 – the levy is a critical source of ongoing operating funding that complements voter-approved parks and nature bonds, which by

law must focus on capital spending such as land acquisition and major construction projects.

The levy allows Metro to improve water quality, protect culturally significant plant communities, restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, control invasive weeds, and plant native trees and shrubs. Levy funding has also made Metro parks and natural areas more safe and welcoming by supporting park operations and improving visitor amenities at popular destinations across greater Portland, planning for public access improvements, expanding community programming, and supporting community-led projects that protect and enhance important habitat, improve water quality and strengthen people’s connection to nature close to home.

Current levy funding expires in June 2023. If voters renew the levy for another five years, Metro would continue to preserve the greater Portland region’s legacy of natural beauty, clean rivers and access to nature, ensuring that future generations enjoy the same benefits of nature that we do today. Levy renewal would not raise taxes.

# Levy program areas

If a five-year levy renewal is approved by voters, costs related to the following programs and activities would be eligible for levy funding beginning in July 2023.

Program area	Program area activities	Annual minimum funding allocation
<b>Habitat restoration and land management</b>	<p><b>Habitat restoration</b> – Restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve habitat quality for priority species, and improve water quality and quantity at Metro’s parks and natural areas.</p> <p><b>Natural area management</b> – Manage Metro’s parks and natural areas to maintain ecological health, restore culturally significant plant communities, and reduce the long-term costs of maintenance.</p>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Regional park operations</b>	Support visitor services, maintenance, and amenity improvements at Metro’s parks, trails, natural areas, and cemeteries so that they are welcoming, safe and inclusive, and meet or exceed standards for accessibility.	<b>35%</b>
<b>Community-led investments and education</b>	Co-create culturally specific interpretive programs, materials, and events, and provide resources (financial and programmatic) to support communities in their efforts to strengthen connections with nature. Includes, but not limited to, grant funding for community projects that advance climate resilience and racial equity, and culturally relevant nature education opportunities.	<b>15%</b>

## Accountability and impact analysis

The program allocations reflect regional priorities and ensure transparency and accountability to taxpayers. These allocations form the foundation of the annual operations budgets for the Parks and Nature department that Council considers and adopts each year as part of the Metro budget process.

The Parks and Nature Annual Report shares with the public how levy spending compares to the allocations in the levy framework. An annual financial audit that covers the local option levy

expenditures will be conducted by an independent public accounting firm, and the results published on the Metro website.

The Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee will also review progress in the implementation of any levy-funded capital projects. This committee provides the Metro Council and the people of the region with an independent review of Metro’s bond- and levy-funded capital projects and provides an annual report to the Metro Council.

# Desired levy outcomes

The parks and nature levy is a fundamental part of Metro's proactive efforts to advance racial equity and enhance climate resilience in greater Portland.

Based on community and partner engagement and input from stakeholders, the following desired outcomes articulate the long-lasting impacts that levy investments will have and will act as prioritization guidance, ensuring that racial equity and climate resilience remain core values of levy investments.

These desired outcomes are also coordinated with the outcomes established within the 2019 parks and nature bond measure, as the levy is instrumental to operate and maintain bond-funded investments in parks, trails and natural areas. This alignment is essential to ensure that the bond measure and the levy work together to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature close to home.

**Habitat:** Improve habitat and habitat connectivity for plants, fish, and wildlife at Metro's parks and natural areas.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that priority habitat for plants and animals (as identified by Indigenous communities, tribes and regional conservation strategies) is restored and protected, and invasive plant species are removed. This results in the outcomes of new anchor sites and improved habitat connectivity for native plants, fish, and wildlife, all of which contribute to climate resilience on a site and regional scale.

**Water quality:** Improve hydrologic function, and water quality and water quantity at Metro's parks and natural areas.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that priority habitat for plants and animals (as identified by Indigenous communities, tribes and regional conservation strategies) is restored and protected, and invasive plant species are removed. This results in the outcomes of improved water quality and quantity – meaning reduction of negative impacts of flooding, improved floodplain connectivity, increased late-season flow, healthier water temperatures, all of which contribute to climate resilience on a site and regional scale.



**Resilience:** Execute land management plans at Metro's parks and natural areas to reduce risk from extreme weather.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that land management plans are implemented at Metro's parks and natural areas. This results in the outcome of more resilient habitat for plants, fish and wildlife to the effects of extreme weather.

**Climate leadership:** Collaborate with local, state, federal, tribal and nonprofit partners to plan for and make strategic decisions related to conservation priorities across the region for broader, more effective action for climate adaptation and resilience.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that Metro serves as a convener and an anchor organization for complex restoration and climate resilience projects involving multiple partners. This results in the outcomes of implementation of regionally significant projects, the development and strengthening of region-wide strategies for climate resilience, and supporting conservation investments made by partners.

**Native plants:** Protect and restore culturally significant native plants in partnership with tribal nations and greater Portland's Indigenous community.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that culturally significant and keystone native plants, as identified by tribal nations and Indigenous communities, are restored and protected and cared for collaboratively. This results in the outcomes of new anchor sites and improved habitat connectivity for native plants, fish and wildlife, all of which contribute to climate resilience on a site and regional scale.

**Accessibility:** Improve the accessibility of Metro destinations for people of all ages and abilities.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that Metro visitors of all ages and abilities continue to have their immediate needs met through well-maintained and accessible amenities and signage (e.g. restrooms, areas for picnics, clear wayfinding). This results in the outcome of more universally designed, sensory-rich environments where visitors can physically, socially and emotionally connect with nature at parks, boat ramps, trails and cemeteries.

**Inclusion:** Ensure that Metro visitors of all backgrounds can access a variety of nature experiences to strengthen their relationship to the natural world.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that the amenities (e.g. park recreation types, signage, interpretation, access points, art), services and programming at Metro destinations enable all visitors to enhance their relationship with nature in a personalized way and enjoy the full benefits of nature. This results in the outcomes of increased community health and wellbeing, sense of belonging, and stewardship at Metro sites.

**Workforce equity:** Increase the prosperity of historically marginalized workers and communities through levy investments.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that historically marginalized members of the workforce experience more opportunities to enter and build careers at all levels in the parks and natural area industry. This results in the outcomes of increased prosperity for historically marginalized workers and greater representation within the workforce.

**Contractor equity:** Build capacity and experience of historically marginalized contractors through projects at/with Metro.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) certified businesses experience more opportunities to work with Metro through a streamlined contracting process, and are prioritized in the process of soliciting proposals. This results in the outcome of increased benefits from the economic opportunities of gaining entry to and experience in the parks and natural area industry for historically marginalized communities.



**Engagement and accountability:** Serve communities through inclusive, transparent and accountable engagement.

An objective of the levy is to ensure that communities know how their guidance was utilized, historically marginalized communities see themselves represented through levy-funded work and know that Metro's engagement practices uplift their expertise and knowledge. This results in the outcomes of levy investments that prioritize the needs of historically marginalized communities, advance racial equity and have broader community impact, help Metro natural spaces and programming become critical community assets and increase community confidence and trust in Metro.

**Education:** Design collaborative and culturally relevant education that lifts up multiple ways of knowing by centering work with educators from historically marginalized communities.

An objective of the levy is to ensure educators, centering those from historically marginalized communities, actively participate in and are financially supported to develop culturally relevant and participatory education. This results in the outcomes of increased knowledge of the cultural and regional significance of Metro parks and natural areas and of practices to protect and steward regional lands and water, and in creating career pathways for community educators.

# Program descriptions

## Habitat restoration and land management

At least 40 percent of the proposed levy funding will pay for Metro’s continued work to restore and maintain habitat on land that has been acquired over the course of three decades and through three voter-approved bond measures. These property stewardship activities ensure that Metro’s parks and natural areas foster clean water, healthy fish and wildlife habitat and high-quality opportunities for people to experience nature.

Levy funding will be invested throughout Metro’s portfolio of high-priority habitats (wetlands, prairies, savannas, rivers and forests) and projects informed by science and engagement with stakeholders and community members.

Levy-funded restoration and management projects will be prioritized based on their clear contribution to the protection of water quality and species or habitats identified in federal, state or regional conservation plans, including The Intertwine Alliance’s Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area and the Oregon State Conservation Strategy, which

document and offer guidance for the region’s highest value habitat areas. If approved, the levy would fund three main types of restoration and land management activities:

### Habitat restoration projects

The levy will fund restoration of fish and wildlife habitat at Metro’s sites to significantly improve quality and function, such as improved wildlife connections and hydrologic function of rivers and streams, which are key contributors to building healthy habitat and resilience to climate change. Large-scale projects will typically involve one or more complex actions, such as reconnecting floodplains to rivers, constructing or removing structures that direct hydrology, planting or thinning large tracts of forest or establish prairie and savanna habitat to develop healthy, functional native plant communities. Metro also conducts many small-scale projects, such as removing noxious and invasive weeds to be replaced with native trees and shrubs, or strategically thinning Douglas fir trees that compete for resources with slower-growing Oregon white oaks. Both types of projects can include activities such as replacing or removing failing culverts and modifying or removing roads to prevent erosion from reaching streams and water sources.

### LEVY AT WORK

#### Habitat restoration – Multnomah Channel Marsh

There are roughly a hundred active projects working to protect clean water and restore fish and wildlife habitat across the region at places like Chehalem Ridge Nature Park and Clear Creek and Smith and Bybee Wetlands natural areas.

Metro’s work to improve connectivity between the wetlands at Metro’s Multnomah Channel Marsh, a narrow area of more than 300 acres just across from Sauvie Island, is one example of an active habitat restoration project. Levy funding made it easier for juvenile salmon, steelhead, trout, and lamprey to swim into the marsh, a crucial habitat with abundant food and few predators, improving the health of the fish before their journey to the ocean.



Metro will continue to seek diverse partners in planning and implementing restoration projects and create opportunities for state-certified business enterprises, including minority- and women-owned businesses, to perform work on Metro-owned properties.

### **Land management**

The levy will fund management of Metro sites to maintain ecological health and increase their resilience to extreme weather and other impacts of climate change. Management and maintenance includes suppressing weeds, reestablishing native vegetation, restoring culturally significant native plant communities, identifying and quickly treating threats from invasive species, and protecting infrastructure such as roads, trails, fences and signage. Timely management of Metro parks and natural areas will also reduce long-term costs. In the same way that addressing weed problems early is most efficient, timely action to protect infrastructure prevents sites from deteriorating and extends the useful life of the investments. The levy will ensure that Metro's sites are maintained and operated at their current high quality standard.

### **Regional conservation leadership**

With its unique role in the region, Metro serves as an anchor organization by convening multiple partners and funding sources to undertake complex and critical conservation projects, such as the restoration of River Island Natural Area along the Clackamas River and development of regional data sets that empower better conservation and infrastructure planning. Metro is dedicated to convening and collaboration with local, state, federal, tribal and nonprofit partners to make strategic decisions, in particular those related to climate adaptation and resilience.

Levy funding will enable Metro to continue to serve in this leadership role, ensuring coordination and advancement of regional conservation projects and decisions.



### **LEVY AT WORK**

#### **Land management – Graham Oaks Nature Park**

In addition to restoring forests, prairies and rivers, Metro works to maintain healthy habitat by planting native trees and shrubs, thinning overly dense forests, treating invasive weeds, and more. There are often 20 to 50 levy-funded land management projects ongoing at any given time.

At Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville, the levy enables staff to manage the landscape to create healthier habitats and to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Because of the neighborhoods nearby, a reduction of wildfire risk at Graham Oaks is critical and involves actions such as the removal of invasive species, like Himalayan blackberry, that provide quick fuel for fires, and planting native trees, grasses and flowers in their place. Metro staff also thin trees in strategic locations to help improve habitat health in addition to reducing the amount of fuel available if there were a wildfire. This includes creating fuel breaks near homes and thinning past plantings that have become overly dense. Thinning out trees also provides space for a diversity of habitats. For example, Douglas firs grow quickly, and in the absence of wildfire or active management, they crowd out the light that forest floor shrubs and flowers, or slower growing Oregon white oaks, need to survive.



## Regional park operations

Metro's parks and nature destinations offer important access to nature for people and support regionally important habitats. More than 2.5 million visitors enjoy Metro's developed parks each year for walking, hiking, bird watching, canoeing, camping, boating, fishing and picnicking, in addition to family and community events.

At least 35 percent of levy funding will support operations and maintenance to keep Metro's parks and nature destinations safe, welcoming and accessible to all members of our community. Funds from a levy renewal will continue to allow Metro to develop low-impact access to Metro sites, focusing on safety improvements and hiking, cycling and walking opportunities. These access investments support the physical, mental and emotional health and well-being of our community, by enabling people to experience some of the

region's unique habitats, learn more about nature and become better stewards of the environment.

Levy funding will also allow Metro to continue making improvements and investments in operations that help knit together Metro's parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries into an integrated system that is welcoming, safe and inclusive, and to meet or exceed standards for accessibility. Investments in operations include guest services, park rangers, cemetery services, and park maintenance and repairs on amenities such as picnic areas, signage, restrooms, public art and staff facilities.

Metro will continue to prioritize projects that make parks safe, welcoming, inclusive, and more accessible for visitors, reduce impacts on natural resources and improve the longevity of park infrastructure. Improvements for visitors at Metro's destinations are integrated with Metro's nature programs and restoration projects.



### LEVY AT WORK

#### Regional park operations – Chehalem Ridge Nature Park

More than 2.5 million visitors enjoy Metro's developed parks each year for walking, hiking, canoeing, camping, bird watching, and fishing, in addition to family and community events. The levy allows Metro to operate, maintain, and upgrade Metro sites so that they are safe, welcoming and inclusive.

Chehalem Ridge Nature Park in Gaston near Forest Grove is an example of the parks and nature bond and levy working together to create more inclusive Metro sites close to home. Bond funding allowed Metro to begin acquiring and restoring this once timber farm. After almost a decade of methodical forest restoration at Chehalem Ridge, it was time to plan the park's amenities. The levy funded the extensive community planning process for the park, including a partnership with Centro Cultural de Washington County to engage the county's growing Latinx community. As a result, inclusive amenities like space for family gatherings and trails wide enough for groups with a gentle grade suitable for kids and aging adults, art reflective of the community, and signs in multiple languages, are reflected in the final park construction.



## LEVY AT WORK

### Regional conservation leadership – River Island Natural Area

The levy allows Metro to commit staff and funding in order to serve in a critical anchor organization role for the region. In this role, Metro convenes and coordinates regional partners and multiple funding sources to tackle large-scale conservation projects.

The multi-year, large-scale restoration effort at River Island is an example of the important regional role Metro plays. River Island is a 240-acre natural area that includes wetlands, oak savanna, and upland and riparian forests, where decades of gravel mining and a major flood

in 1996 changed the course of the Clackamas River and damaged habitat for multiple species, including endangered salmon and steelhead.

Metro convened neighbors, technical experts, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and others to craft a restoration plan for River Island. Metro also connected to the project, coordinated work, and brought together funding from multiple partners including the Clackamas River Basin Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, and Portland General Electric. This multi-partner conservation effort was possible due to levy funding, and now River Island is returning to a natural, wilder existence and helping to improve water quality in a river that provides drinking water to nearly 400,000 people.



## Community-led investments and education

Metro is committed to furthering people's relationship with nature, whether that means a family becoming a regular at a Metro nature park, an elementary school class stewarding a local natural area, a group of youth leaders co-creating culturally relevant nature education, or a community group creating a project that helps meet a need to better connect people with nature.

At least 15 percent of levy funding will continue to support community-led partnerships, education and stewardship programs to offer hands-on experiences that allow people to strengthen their relationship to the natural world while also fostering the next generation of leaders. These programs are a critical portion of the region's conservation efforts because

they create opportunities for everyone to grow their understanding of how to become better stewards of nature. They also increase the region's collective knowledge, whether that is by increasing the cultural relevance of restoration activity, accurately sharing the natural and cultural history of a natural area, or learning from people who have been stewards of nature since time immemorial.

These programs aim to work with communities to understand what resources can best support their relationship with nature, which may look different for various partners. People connect with nature in different ways and experience different barriers and opportunities to that connection. Through community-led programming, meaningful engagement and partnerships, these programs will directly support people of color and other marginalized communities.



### LEVY AT WORK

#### **Community-led investments and education – Nature in Neighborhoods grants (Ecology education in North Clackamas and Depave the Centennial School District)**

Ecology education, scholarships for nature-focused camps, and urban forestry job training programs are just some of the projects that have received levy-funded Nature in Neighborhoods grants from Metro. These grants work to support and create partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, restore fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature.

In 2018, the North Clackamas School District was awarded a \$57,700 grant for a two-year ecology education program. This program supported 1,200 third- through fifth-grade students and 40 teachers each year at five Title I elementary schools in the district by providing every classroom with four ecology lessons and a service-learning field trip each year.

In 2019, a \$42,000 grant was awarded to Depave, an organization that empowers disenfranchised communities to overcome social and environmental injustices and adapt to climate change through urban re-greening. The grant is funding the development of new green playspaces within three Centennial School District elementary schools located within park-deficient outer southeast Portland. With the support of parents, teachers, and students, the funding is helping to create approximately 1,000 square feet of new greenspaces with more than 800 native plants, nature play and on-site stormwater elements. One of these projects is the Powell Butte Elementary nature playground that opened in June of 2022.

Metro staff and partners will use levy funding to continue investing in efforts to engage both new and returning visitors to Metro’s destinations and ensure that all visitors have the opportunity to learn and share about a site’s history, restoration activities, and regional and cultural significance. These efforts include the development of a diverse set of culturally specific interpretive programs, materials, events, and resources to support communities in their effort to further their connection with nature, such as grant funding for community projects that advance climate resilience and racial equity, nature education opportunities and student field trips.

Levy funding will also continue fostering deep partnerships between Metro staff and community leaders to strengthen connections between their communities and Metro parks and natural areas. These partnerships are critically important to foster trust and create opportunities for Metro staff to learn from community partners, integrating lessons learned into Metro’s programs, staff training and services. This reciprocal learning relationship with community will strengthen programs and materials and improve and increase the collective resources that Metro can provide for everyone to become better stewards of nature.



## LEVY AT WORK

### Community-led investments and education – Nature education and stewardship

The levy enables Metro to offer tailored nature education and stewardship activities that include school field trips, nature walks, guided tours, scavenger hunts and volunteer opportunities, with a focus on serving people of color, low-income communities, people with disabilities and other underserved groups.

It also allows for Metro to support community organizations big and small to build community and connect people of color with nature at Metro’s parks and natural areas. These levy funded community partnerships help to organize community events, implement nature programming activities, connect communities with park planners and decision makers, explore nature-based career pathways, and offer other activities that build racial equity, diversity and inclusion in the region.

The levy supported a recent partnership with the Beaverton Black Parent Union, a volunteer-led collective of families with Black children organized to create community, advocate for culturally relevant resources, and ultimately support the success and well-being of children and families in Beaverton. In this partnership, Metro provided sponsorship funding to assist in their effort to organize the second series of Sunday Soul Strolls, designating a local park and time frame on Sunday afternoons for Black youth and families in Beaverton to walk, run, cycle, skate, or just whatever exercise they prefer – as a way to build community connectedness, awareness of local greenspaces, and reaffirm community presence in the City of Beaverton.

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we do a lot of things better together – like creating a unique park system with nature at its heart. Voter investments allow Metro to protect 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas, from the Chehalem Mountains on the west to the Sandy River Gorge on the east.

Count on Metro for clean water, healthy fish and wildlife habitat, and opportunities to connect with nature close to home.

**Know before you go:** Visit [oregonmetro.gov/parks](https://oregonmetro.gov/parks) for updates on new amenities and potential closures.



**Metro**

Arts and events  
Garbage and recycling  
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Oregon Zoo  
Parks and nature

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## **STAFF REPORT**

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-5279, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE VOTERS OF THE METRO AREA RENEWAL OF METRO'S LOCAL-OPTION LEVY FOR PROTECTING WATER QUALITY, RESTORING FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT AND CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

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Date: July 14, 2022

Presenters: Jon Blasher, Director of Parks and Nature; Mychal Tetteh, Community Services Program Director

Department: Parks and Nature

Meeting Date: July 28, 2022

Prepared by: Beth Cohen, Parks and Nature  
Scotty Ellis, Parks and Nature, Craig Beebe,  
Government Affairs

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## **ISSUE STATEMENT**

Metro depends on the Parks and Nature five-year local-option levy to protect water quality, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and connect people to nature close to home. The levy works in partnership with Metro's parks and nature bond, both serving critical and complementary functions.

Metro's bond measures are limited to capital expenditures like land acquisition, park development and major construction. Bond money cannot be used to pay for routine maintenance, supplies or general operating expenses. Since its original approval by voters in 2013, the local option levy has allowed Metro to care for, maintain and operate the regional parks, natural areas and historic cemeteries that it owns and acquires, as well as connect people to nature through safe and welcoming parks and trails, nature programming, community grants and education.

The current local-option levy is set to expire in June 2023. Renewal by the voters before that date would extend levy funding to June 2028, without raising taxes, allowing Metro to continue protecting these special natural places for current residents as well as future generations, while building climate resilience on a regional scale.

Working through Council direction, including work sessions on June 14 and July 12, as well as extensive outreach to stakeholders and partners, staff have submitted a final recommended levy renewal framework. This framework emphasizes continuity with the successes of the levy to date, greater adaptability to changing conditions and needs, and strengthening measures of accountability to taxpayers and communities. Council is now asked to consider adopting the recommended renewal framework and to consider referral of a levy renewal measure to the region's voters.

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Staff recommends Council adoption of Resolution No. 22-5279 that will:

- Refer the renewal of Metro’s local-option levy to voters in the November 2022 General Election, to continue protecting water quality, restoring fish and wildlife habitat and connecting people to nature, at the current tax rate.
- Adopt the recommended levy framework, including proposed program descriptions and funding priorities for three primary levy program areas, minimum allocations and desired outcomes for the levy as a whole.

**IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

If a five-year levy renewal is referred by Council and approved by voters, the following programs and activities would be eligible for levy funding beginning in July 2023:

Program area	Program area activities
Habitat restoration and land management	<p><u>Habitat restoration</u> – Restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve habitat quality for priority species, and improve water quality and quantity at Metro’s parks and natural areas.</p> <p><u>Land management</u> – Manage Metro's parks and natural areas to maintain ecological health, restore culturally significant plant communities, and reduce the long-term costs of maintenance.</p>
Regional park operations	Support visitor services, maintenance, and amenity improvements at Metro’s parks, trails, natural areas, and cemeteries so that they are welcoming, safe and inclusive, and meet or exceed standards for accessibility.
Community-led investments and education	Co-create culturally specific interpretive programs, materials, and events, and provide resources (financial and programmatic) to support communities in their efforts to strengthen connections with nature. Includes, but not limited to, grant funding for community projects that advance climate resilience and racial equity, and culturally relevant nature education opportunities.

Listed below are the proposed outcomes that articulate the long-lasting impacts that the recommended levy renewal framework will have in the region. These are aligned with several key governing policy documents including Metro Council’s Strategic Framework, the Parks and Nature System Plan, and the Parks and Nature Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan. These outcomes also align with the 2019 parks and nature bond measure.

Proposed levy renewal outcomes include:

- Improve habitat and habitat connectivity for plants, fish and wildlife at Metro’s parks and natural areas.
- Improve hydrologic function and water quality and quantity at Metro’s parks and natural areas.
- Protect and restore culturally significant native plants in partnership with tribal nations and greater Portland’s Indigenous community.

- Execute land management plans at Metro’s parks and natural areas to reduce risk from extreme weather.
- Serve communities through inclusive, transparent and accountable engagement.
- Design collaborative and culturally relevant education that lifts up multiple ways of knowing by centering work with educators from historically marginalized communities.
- Improve the accessibility of Metro destinations for people of all ages and abilities.
- Ensure that Metro visitors of all backgrounds can access a variety of nature experiences to strengthen their relationship to the natural world.
- Collaborate with local, state, federal, tribal and nonprofit partners to plan for and make strategic decisions related to conservation priorities across the region for broader, more effective action for climate adaptation and resilience.
- Increase the prosperity of historically marginalized workers and communities through levy investments.
- Build capacity and experience of historically marginalized contractors through projects at/with Metro.

## **STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Metro's parks and nature local-option levy is critical to the future of the parks, trails and natural areas that Metro cares for across greater Portland. Metro is one of the largest owners and stewards of parks and natural areas in the region. A quarter-century of voter-approved investments have allowed Metro – on behalf of the public – to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and provide opportunities to experience nature close to home.

By approving bond measures in 1995, 2006 and 2019, voters asked Metro to acquire land, award community nature grants for capital improvements and provide money to local parks providers. As a result, Metro now cares for more than 18,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas including critical forest, river and stream, and wetland habitats. Hundreds of community nature projects have also received a boost through grants and allocations to local cities, counties and park providers.

Bond funding is limited to capital investments, such as acquiring land or major construction projects. For nearly ten years, the levy has allowed Metro to take the next step, funding restoration and management of Metro’s parks and nature system to provide benefits that extend across the region.

### *Restoring natural areas*

Amid hotter summers and other impacts of climate change, levy-funded restoration work includes the planting of more native trees and shrubs to provide shade, protection of cool rivers and streams for fish and people, and the restoration of critical wildlife habitat as well as the removal of invasive weeds.

Metro typically has between 80 to 100 restoration projects occurring simultaneously across wetlands, prairies, savannas, forests and a variety of other priority habitats throughout the region. Without the levy, the number of active restoration projects that Metro would have the ability to manage would significantly diminish to fewer than ten. A renewal of this levy for another five years



will allow Metro to continue this critical restoration and maintenance work, all of which are important contributors to climate resilience on a regional scale.

*Maintaining safe, welcoming parks, trails and natural areas for public access*

Metro operates and maintains 138 parks and nature properties, including 17 developed parks that serve some of the most diverse communities in the region. Annually, more than 2.5 million people visit these popular destinations across greater Portland, such as Blue Lake and Oxbow regional parks, Broughton Beach, Chinook Landing, M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp, and Mount Talbert, Graham Oaks and Scouters Mountain nature parks. Metro recently added Newell Creek Canyon and Chehalem Ridge nature parks to the region's system in Clackamas County and Washington County, respectively.

Metro parks and nature staff, funded by the local-option levy, help visitors enjoy hiking, bird watching, canoeing, golfing, camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, weddings and special events. The levy also funds ongoing maintenance and improvements to restrooms, picnic areas, trails, nature play areas and other important park amenities. This work is vital to extending the life span of these beloved places while also continuing to make them more welcoming and inclusive for more people.

*Connecting more people to nature's benefits*

Finally, the local option levy is essential to fulfilling Metro's commitment to help people strengthen their connection to the natural world and all the benefits it can provide to health and well-being, while also fostering the next generation of conservation leaders. The levy currently funds programs designed to directly support people of color and other communities who have experienced historical barriers in strengthening their relationship with nature through community-led programming and partnership. This work, in turn, improves our region's collective knowledge whether that is by increasing the cultural relevance of restoration activity, learning from communities who have been traditional stewards of nature or by more clearly understanding how Metro parks can support and reflect the needs of everyone in our region. Crucially, the levy supports community engagement, especially with communities of color and other marginalized communities, to ensure that Metro parks support community needs and desires. For example, the levy ensured deep community engagement for the development of the recently opened Chehalem Ridge and Newell Creek Canyon nature parks.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/INPUT**

The proposed levy renewal framework reflects and is built upon nearly a decade of community partnerships, engagement and input. . It has been updated from the current 2016 levy framework to address community input from more recent engagement efforts with partners and the public.

In the months leading up to the development of this renewal package, staff have worked with partners and community to affirm that the levy priorities still align with and meet community need. Staff applied and incorporated the feedback learned through conversations around the development, refinement and implementation of the 2019 parks and nature bond, in addition to convening more focused conversations with partners such as the urban Indigenous community, the leadership and membership of The Intertwine Alliance, the region's park providers, and the

Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee, Metro’s Committee on Racial Equity and other leaders and stakeholders.

The recommended levy framework emphasizes continuity with regional restoration priorities and approaches, which reflects strong support from regional conservation partners for maintaining the restoration activities outlined in the current levy.

Additionally, the recommended levy framework aims to provide greater responsiveness in Metro's restoration work, park operations and community-led investments to address emerging needs amid rapid change in our human and natural communities alike – including a growing population, changing climate and continuing needs to advance racial equity. It centers a strongly expressed community desire to prioritize making current parks and natural areas more welcoming, safe and accessible for all.

## **KNOWN SUPPORT & OPPOSITION**

In recent months, Metro has heard broad support from regional partners that renewing the levy is critical for protecting clean water, restoring fish and wildlife habitat and connecting people with nature close to home, as well as appreciation for Metro's years of experience and a wide range of community and partner guidance.

Metro has conducted public opinion research to confirm that likely voters continue to strongly support investments in parks and nature as a central part of the region's legacy for future generations, including significant support for a sample levy renewal ballot question that would continue the current tax rate and funding priorities. This research demonstrated that the voters of the region value and want to continue prioritizing racial equity and climate resilience as part of such investments.

As with any measure on the ballot, there is a potential for opposition to aspects of the proposal and/or its funding mechanism. At this time staff are not aware of any organized opposition.

## **LEGAL ANTECEDENT**

### State law:

Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 250 (“Initiative and Referendum”) and ORS Chapter 280, (“Financing of Local Public Projects and Improvements”): ORS 250.035 (“Form of ballot titles for state and local measures”); ORS 250.038 (“Form of ballot title for measure authorizing imposition or renewal of local option taxes or establishing permanent rate limitation”); ORS 280.060 (“Levy of local option taxes outside constitutional limitation; duration of levy; approval of levy as approval of bonds”); ORS 280.064 (“Period for use of revenues raised by local option tax”); ORS 280.070 (“Manner of holding elections for local option tax or permanent rate limit; additional statement in ballot title”); ORS 280.075 (“Ballot statements for local option tax measures”); and ORS 280.080 (“Contents of order, resolution or ordinance calling election”).

### Metro Council Legislative History:

Metro Council Resolution No. 92-1637, "For the Purpose of Considering the Adoption of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan," adopted July 23, 1992.

Metro Council Resolution No. 94-2049B, "For the Purpose of Modifying the Submission to the Voters of a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness to Proceed with the Acquisition of Land for a Regional System of Greenspaces."

Open Spaces, Parks and Streams Bond Measure No. 26-26, approved by Metro voters in May 1995.

Metro Council Resolution No. 05-3574A, "Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative Called Nature In Neighborhoods," adopted May 12, 2005.

Natural Areas, Parks and Streams Bond Measure No. 26-80, approved by Metro Voters in November 2006.

Local Option Levy Measure No. 26-152, approved by Metro voters in May 2013.

Metro Council Resolution No. 15-4670, "For the Purpose of Adopting the Parks and Nature System Plan," adopted February 4, 2016.

Local Option Levy Renewal Measure No. 26-178, approved by Metro voters in November 2016.

Portland Metro Bonds for Water Projects and Parks Measure No 26-203, approved by Metro voters in November 2019.

## **ANTICIPATED EFFECTS**

By adopting Resolution No. 22-5279 the Metro Council would refer to Metro voters a local option levy renewal measure at the existing rate of 9.6 cents per \$1,000 assessed value, Additionally, Council would adopt the recommended framework for levy implementation between 2023 and 2028, if the renewal measure is approved by voters in .

The Metro Council will have the legal authority to establish appropriation authority related to the successful passage of the measure, once the election has been certified. It is anticipated that, upon passage of the measure, staff will work with the Metro Council to continue implementation of the levy program for an additional five years and the necessary budgetary appropriation would be approved by Resolution with the overall budget for the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

Compression impacts are expected to be minimal with a potential levy renewal.

## **BACKGROUND**

Metro's parks and nature local operating levy was originally approved by the voters in 2013 to restore Metro's natural areas, maintain and operate parks, and improve opportunities for people to safely enjoy parks and natural areas. It was renewed in 2016 for an additional five years, with support from more than 74 percent of voters across greater Portland. The levy currently makes up the majority of the Parks and Nature

department's operating budget. Without it, Metro would be unable to continue many essential Parks and Nature services and programs.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Resolution No. 22-5079
- Exhibit A: Proposed Ballot Title
- Exhibit B: Recommended Levy Renewal Framework

Materials following this page were distributed at the meeting.

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President Peterson and Metro Councilors:

Please accept this public comment on Agenda Item 4.1 on August 4, 2022, Metro Council meeting.

This week you are considering Resolution No. 22-5279. I urge you to table the resolution and demand staff to rewrite the ballot title to meet the requirements of ORS 250.035 and Metro Code Section 9.02.020.

The ballot title provided in Exhibit A to the resolution is insufficient, not concise, and unfair, and would likely be rejected should a ballot title challenge be filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

### **CAPTION**

ORS 250.035(1)(a) requires that the ballot title caption in a local measure “reasonably identif[y] the subject of the measure” in 10 words or fewer. The caption is essential because it acts as the “cornerstone for the other portions of the ballot title.” *Green v. Kulongoski*, 322 Or 169, 175, 903 P2d 366 (1995). As the ballot title’s “headline,” the caption “provides the context for the reader’s consideration of the other information in the ballot title.” *Id.* Thus, most critically, “[t]he caption should state or describe the proposed measure’s subject matter accurately[.]” *Parrish v. Rosenblum*, 365 Or 597, 599, 450 P3d 973 (2019).

The caption does not meet this standard. The caption in Exhibit A reads:

Renews local option levy; protects natural areas, water quality, fish

The caption fails to accomplish its essential task: accurately identifying the Measure’s subject. The caption incorrectly states that the measure would protect natural areas, water quality, and fish. But, the measure does no such thing.

Instead, the subject of the measure is a property tax levy, with the tax revenues used to fund Metro’s Parks and Nature program, some—less than half—of this spending might provide some protection to water quality and animals.

Upon close scrutiny of Appendix B to the resolution (“2022 Renewal Framework”), there is no mention of “protect[ing]” natural areas or fish. The items the Framework indicates might

receive some protection are clean water, water quality, habitat, species, animals, plants, and infrastructure.

I suggest the following caption, which meets the requirements of ORS 250.035(1)(a):

Renews local option levy; funds Metro Parks and Nature Program

## **QUESTION**

ORS 250.035(1)(b) requires the ballot title question to “plainly phrase the chief purpose of the measure” in 20 words or fewer. The chief purpose is “the most significant aim or end that a measure is designed to bring about.” *Rooney v. Kulongoski*, 322 Or 15, 35, 902 P2d 1143 (1995). In describing a measure’s “chief purpose,” a ballot title question should “synthesize the varying aspects of the measure[.]” *Baker v. Keisling*, 312 Or 385, 392, 822 P2d 1162 (1991).

The question does not meet this standard. The question reads:

Should Metro protect water quality, fish, natural areas, parks; renew 5-year operating levy, 9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value, beginning 2023?

The question fails to meet the standards of ORS 250.035(1)(b) because the question compounds the problems of the caption by incorrectly framing the Measure.

Appendix B to the resolution identifies three program areas eligible for funding, if the measure is approved: (1) habitat restoration and natural areas management, (2) regional parks operations, and (3) community-led grants and programs.

The question frames the measure as “protect[ing]” water quality, fish, natural areas, and parks when, as discussed above, the Framework does not specifically identify protecting fish, natural areas, or parks. Moreover, the question omits any mention of the community-led grants and programs that would make up 15% of levy-funded spending.

I suggest the following caption, which meets the requirements of ORS 250.035(1)(b):

Should Metro renew 5-year operating levy, 9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value, beginning 2023 for land management, park operations, and grants?

## **SUMMARY**

ORS 250.035(1)(c) requires the summary to “adequately summarize the measure and its major effect.” “The purpose of the summary is to help voters understand ‘what will happen if the measure is approved[.]’” *Rooney*, 322 Or at 37. Thus, “the summary must summarize the measure and its major effects, not guess about them.” *Terhune v. Myers*, 342 Or 136, 150, 149 P3d 1139 (2006).

The proposed summary, set forth in its entirety in Exhibit 1 to the resolution, fails to meet this standard in several respects.

**First**, the summary compounds the problems of the previous portions of the ballot title. In

particular, Exhibit B to the resolution makes no specific mention of:

- “Protect[ing]” salmon or other native fish;
- “Restor[ing]” floodplains;
- “Restor[ing]” habitat for birds;
- “Withstand[ing]” heat or wildfires;
- “Maintain[ing]” picnic shelters, play areas, or trailheads.

In this way, the ballot title makes claims about the measure's major effects that are not supported by the Framework in Appendix B to the resolution. Instead, these specific items appear to be included to mislead voters about what the measure actually does, if approved.

**Second**, the summary is not concise and does not, as required by ORS 250.035(1)(c), describe the Measure’s major effects.

The summary states, “This levy does not increase tax rates. It continues the same rate previously approved by voters.” This duplicates the required statement required OAR 150-280-0020(4)(b)): “This measure renews current local option taxes.” This redundant statement seems designed to amplify a message in order to garner voter support for the measure, rather than introduce information regarding the major effect of the measure.

In addition, the ballot title in Exhibit A to the resolution claims the measure will “Increase opportunities for children from low-income families and communities of color to connect with nature.” The Framework in Exhibit B, however, makes no specific mention of low-income families or communities of color. Instead, the Framework indicates some funds will be spent to provide programs and grants to nonprofits and local, state, federal, and tribal governments that may advance climate resilience, racial equity, and culturally relevant nature education opportunities. Again, it appears the ballot title wording is included to mislead voters about what the measure actually does, if approved.

**Third**, the summary unfairly elevates some effects of the Measure over others of similar significance, an approach the Supreme Court has described as “underinclusive” and held fails to satisfy the requirements of ORS 250.035. See *Terhune v. Myers*, 338 Or 554, 559, 112 P3d 1188 (2005).

Appendix B to the resolution indicates that only 40% of the tax revenues from the measure will be used for habitat restoration and natural areas management. Yet, the ballot title in Exhibit A focuses almost exclusively on these program areas. The Framework indicates 15% of the tax revenues will be spent on “community-led investments and education.” Yet, the ballot title makes no specific mention of this program area and gives only a passing—and oblique—reference to it.

If the summary is going to describe some of those uses, it must describe all of them. When the summary singles out some effects of a measure over others of similar significance, it does more to bias voters in favor or against the measure’s passage than to actually describe the effects of the measure accurately.

## **RESOLUTION**

I urge you to table Resolution No. 22-5279 and demand staff to rewrite the ballot title to meet



the requirements of ORS 250.035 and Metro Code Section 9.02.020. I have attached a copy of suggested revisions that meet these requirements.

Respectfully submitted

--

Eric Fruits, Ph.D.  
Vice President of Research  
Cascade Policy Institute  
503-928-6635  
[eric@cascadepolicy.org](mailto:eric@cascadepolicy.org)

## METRO PROPOSED

**Caption** (10 words: reasonably identifies the subject of the measure)

Renews local option levy; protects natural areas, water quality, fish

**Question** (20 words: plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure)

Should Metro protect water quality, fish, natural areas, parks; renew 5-year operating levy, 9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value, beginning 2023?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

**Summary** (175 words summarizing the measure and its major effect)

This levy does not increase tax rates. It continues the same rate previously approved by voters.

The levy protects water quality, restores fish and wildlife habitat, and connects people with nature across 18,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas. The levy funds ongoing restoration of natural areas acquired through three voter-approved bond measures. It also improves people's access to nature, by maintaining Metro parks and natural areas, providing nature education for visitors and schoolchildren, and supporting community-led nature projects and programs.

If renewed, the levy will continue to:

- Maintain and improve water quality in local rivers and streams
- Protect and restore habitat for salmon, other native fish
- Restore wetlands, forests and floodplains providing habitat for birds, wildlife
- Manage natural areas to better withstand heat, wildfire, extreme weather
- Maintain parks and trails; maintain and improve restrooms, picnic shelters, play areas, trailheads, and other visitor facilities and services
- Increase opportunities for children from low-income families and communities of color to connect with nature.

A home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$24 per year for five years.

If renewed, the proposed rate (9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value) will raise approximately \$18.1 million in 2023-24, \$18.8 million in 2024-25, \$19.6 million in 2025-26, \$20.5 million in 2026-27 and \$21.3 million in 2027-28.

## ALTERNATIVE

**Caption** (10 words: reasonably identifies the subject of the measure)

Renews local option levy; funds Metro Parks and Nature Program.

**Question** (20 words: plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure)

Should Metro renew 5-year operating levy, 9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value, beginning 2023 for land management, park operations, and grants?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

**Summary** (175 words summarizing the measure and its major effect)

If approved, the levy provides funding for Metro's Parks and Nature programs and activities and provides grant funding. About 40% of the funding goes toward habitat restoration and land management, 35% toward regional park operations, and 15% toward grants; 10% of the funding is not allocated to any specific program area.

If approved, funds will be spent on programs and activities within Metro's parks and natural areas that may:

- Maintain and improve water quality;
- Restore fish and wildlife habitat;
- Restore wetlands, prairies, savannas, rivers, and forests;
- Provide a habitat for plants, fish, and wildlife more resilient to the effects of extreme weather;
- Maintain parks and trails; maintain and improve restrooms, picnic areas, and other visitor facilities and services;

If approved, funds will be spent to provide programs and grants to nonprofits and local, state, federal, and tribal governments that may advance climate resilience, racial equity, and culturally relevant nature education opportunities.

A home assessed at \$265,000 would pay \$25.44 per year for five years.

If approved, the proposed rate (9.6¢ per \$1,000 assessed value) will raise approximately \$18.1 million in 2023-24, \$18.8 million in 2024-25, \$19.6 million in 2025-26, \$20.5 million in 2026-27 and \$21.3 million in 2027-28.

Name \*

Ravi Laird

Email \*

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

#### Your testimony

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ravi C Laird.

I have been an AV Technician at the Oregon Convention Center since 2009. So thirteen years now.

It is my primary source of income and how I pay my bills and keep a roof over my head as well as my mother who I moved in with me 3 years ago.

I absolutely love working at OCC and have bonded with almost every single person in every department.

Part of what I love about the job is interacting with our customers. In most cases our team is the first faces that our clients see when they come in to present their events.

I take this as a duty and feel that we are greatly responsible for how their day goes.

Not that it's a chore. I am genuinely interested in making a positive contribution to how the event runs for our customers.

After all, they've spent good money to be there and simply put, just want a clean show.

I and we (the AV team) have had many emails written about me (us), appreciating us. Commending our attitudes of professionalism and skill sets that make their shows shine. And that is because we care. We are at home here and feel that we are a part of this OCC family as we have been told in countless All Staff Meetings at OCC.

In a nutshell...we take pride in ownership because we ARE "Living Our GO" and "Being The D".

"We Are Forward Thinking".

"We Welcome Everyone".

"We Live For Magic".

and...

'We Get It Done".

To us, these are not just words. This is not just clever marketing.

WE ARE YOUR BRAND.

you spent all of this money branding us to be just this.

We listened. We live this each and every day inside our very walls. Pounding the pavement. Being an integral part of the OCC team and brand.

I implore you to continue to recognize the value we bring to this business.

We ARE a community resource and we genuinely care.

With us, you will continue to have fantastic events with great customer service.

A value that is commonly greatly underestimated.

A value you can't put a number on.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ravi C Laird

Is your testimony related to an item on an upcoming agenda? \* Yes

# List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

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## Purpose of this document

This document lists site specific and portfolio-wide projects, grants and other activities funded by the 2013 and 2016 levy in the following general categories:

1. Habitat restoration and maintenance
2. Park access, park improvements and park planning
3. Park visitor services and operations
4. Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants and community partnerships and sponsorships
5. Nature education and volunteering

For more comprehensive information about levy funded projects each year, review [Metro’s Parks and Nature annual report for 2020-2021](#) or visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/futurefunding](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/futurefunding) or [www.oregonmetro.gov/news/topic/parks-and-nature](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/topic/parks-and-nature)

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

The 2013 and 2016 levies have provided \$116.3 million in essential dedicated funding into habitat restoration and maintenance, improvements and programming to make Metro sites safe and welcoming and to support community grant projects and partnerships, conservation education and volunteer projects.

2013 & 2016 Levy – Total Spend by Work Group as described in 2013 and 2016 levies

**Habitat restoration and land management:** Restoration and maintenance of the natural areas purchased by Metro’s parks and natural capital bonds to stabilize and improve the ability of priority habitat to provide clean water, healthy wildlife habitat. The grants row in the chart below represents incoming funding from grants leveraged by program activities.

Program area	Category of expenditure	Total Spend (FY 2014-present)
<b>Habitat restoration and land management</b>		
	Personnel	\$9,059,088
	M&S or Capital	\$26,700,877
	Grants	(1,746,769)
	<b>Total levy spend for natural areas restoration and land management</b>	<b>\$34,013,197</b>

**Park access:** Capital investments and planning projects to increase accessibility of Metro developed sites and natural areas. The grants row in the chart below represents incoming funding from grants leveraged by program activities.

Program area	Category of expenditure	Total Spend (FY 2014-present)
<b>Park Access</b>		
	Personnel	\$3,496,499
	M&S or Capital	\$12,889,705
	Grants	(1,352,401)
	<b>Total levy spend for park access</b>	<b>\$15,033,804</b>

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

**Park and Visitor Services:** Programming, operations and staff time dedicated to making Metro sites safe, clean and welcoming. The grants row in the chart below represents incoming funding from grants leveraged by program activities.

Program area	Category of expenditure	Total Spend (FY 2014-present)
<b>Parks and Visitor Services</b>		
	Personnel	\$10,888,785
	M&S or Capital	\$3,780,598
	Grants	(156,152)
	<b>Total levy spend for parks and visitor services</b>	<b>\$14,513,231</b>

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

**Nature in Neighborhoods Community Grants and Community Partnerships:** Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grants provide opportunities to connect people with nature across greater Portland. These grants enable partnerships between community organizations, schools and local park providers to support community nature projects from local park improvements to stream restoration to hands-on nature education for people of all ages and backgrounds. This summary also includes levy funded community partnerships, a program that works with community organizations big and small to build community and connect people of color with nature at Metro's parks and natural areas through community events, nature programming activities, connecting communities with park planners and decision makers, exploring nature-based career pathways, and offering other activities that build racial equity, diversity and inclusion in the region.

Program area	Category of expenditure	Total Spend (FY 2014-present)
Nature in Neighborhoods Grants and Community Partnerships Program		
	Personnel	\$2,424,795
	M&S or Capital	\$6,664,107
	<b>Total levy spend for grants</b>	<b>\$9,088,902</b>

**Nature Education and Volunteering:** Metro offers school field trips, drop-in nature activities and volunteer opportunities, with a focus on serving people of color, low-income communities, people with disabilities and other underserved groups. The transfer row is from when the levy funded nature education activity was managed through the Oregon Zoo during the 2013 levy.

Program area	Category of expenditure	Total Spend (FY 2014-present)
Nature Education and Volunteering		
	Personnel	\$4,761,255
	M&S or Capital	\$399,740
	Transfer	\$847,014



List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

	<b>Total levy spend for nature education and volunteering</b>	\$6,008,009
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<b>Category of expenditure</b>	<b>Category of expenditure</b>	<b>Total Spend (FY 2014-present)</b>
<b>Administrative</b>	<b>Total Levy Spend for admin</b>	<b>\$37,671,882</b>

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

**SNAPSHOT: Levy Funded Habitat Restoration and Land Management**

*What is included in this list:* In alignment with the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) and [Regional Conservation Strategy](#), restoration and maintenance of the natural areas purchased by Metro’s parks and natural capital bond to stabilize and improve priority habitat and to enhance their ability to provide clean water, healthy wildlife habitat. Restoration activities include reconnecting floodplains to rivers, constructing or removing structures that direct hydrology, planting or thinning large tracts of forest or establish prairie and savanna habitat to develop healthy, functional native plant communities as well as removing noxious and invasive weeds to be replaced with native trees and shrubs, or strategically thinning Douglas fir trees that compete for resources with slower-growing Oregon white oaks. Management and maintenance includes suppressing weeds, reestablishing native vegetation, restoring culturally significant native plant communities, identifying and quickly treating threats from invasive species, and protecting infrastructure such as roads, trails, fences and signage.

*Key takeaways on the list below*

- Over \$34 million invested 2013 to support natural area restoration and land management activities at over 105 natural area sites across the region list below
- At many of the sites listed below, the levy has funded multiple restoration and/or maintenance projects over the years, while some sites have only needed minimal levy investments in restoration and maintenance. In addition, many of Metro’s developed sites such as Blue Lake and Oxbow Regional Parks include natural areas that are restored and maintained through these activities.
- Over 17,000 acres across the region restored and maintained since 2013

*Site of restoration/maintenance work (Metro property)      Rough location for context  
 \*note: land may be in or adjacent to a city boundary, though many natural areas cross city/county boundaries or are outside of them*

<a href="#">Ambleside</a>	Gresham
Aspen Ridge Natural Area	Banks
<a href="#">Baker Creek Canyon</a>	West of Sherwood
Baker Creek Woods	West of Sherwood
Baker Heaton Confluence	West of Tigard

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<a href="#"><u>Bakers Ferry Natural Area</u></a>	Along Clackamas River
<i>Balch Creek Forest</i>	Portland/Multnomah County
<i>Barton Natural Area</i>	Barton/Clackamas County
<i>North Beaver Creek Greenway</i>	Confluence of the Sandy River
<i>Beaver Creek Woods</i>	Troutdale
<i>Beef Bend Natural Area</i>	Southwest Washington County
<i>Beggars Tick Wildlife Refuge</i>	Southeast Portland
<i>Bell View Point</i>	Northwest Portland (mouth of Willamette River by Sauvie Island)
<i>Bliss Butte (east and west)</i>	Gresham
<i>Blue Lake Regional Park</i>	Troutdale
<i>Buck and Gordon creek</i>	Sandy River
<i>Burlington creek forest</i>	Multnomah County (Forest Park)
<i>Camas Cliffs</i>	Along Willamette River
<a href="#"><u>Canemah Bluff</u></a>	Oregon City
<i>Carpenter Creek North</i>	Washington County (near Forest Grove)
<i>Cazadero Natural Area</i>	Boring
<i>Cazadero North</i>	Boring

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<i>Chastain creek natural area</i>	Gresham
<a href="#"><u>Chehalem Ridge Natural Area</u></a>	Gaston
<i>Chinaquapin bluffs</i>	Sandy River
<a href="#"><u>Chinook Landing Marine Park</u></a>	Troutdale
<i>Clackamas Bluff</i>	Clackamas County
<i>Clear Creek North</i>	Barton
<a href="#"><u>Clear Creek Canyon Natural Area</u></a>	Oregon City
<i>Coffee Lake Creek Wetlands</i>	Wilsonville
<i>North Coffee Lake Creek Wetlands</i>	Wilsonville
<a href="#"><u>Cooper Mountain</u></a>	Beaverton
<i>Corral Creek Natural Area</i>	Right outside Wilsonville
<i>Dabney state recreation area</i>	Sandy River
<i>Dairy McKay confluence</i>	Tributary of Tualatin River
<i>Drake Lane</i>	Hillsboro
<a href="#"><u>East Council Creek</u></a>	Cornelius
<i>West Council Creek</i>	Cornelius
<i>Ennis Creek Forest</i>	Portland (Forest Park)

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<a href="#"><u>Farmington Paddle Launch</u></a>	Hillsboro
<i>Fernhill Forest</i>	Forest Grove
<i>Forest Park North</i>	Portland
<a href="#"><u>Gabbert Butte Natural Area</u></a>	Gresham
<i>Gabbert Hills East</i>	Gresham
<i>Gales Forest Grove</i>	Forest Grove
<a href="#"><u>Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp</u></a>	North Portland
<a href="#"><u>Glendoveer Golf Course and Nature Trail</u></a>	Northeast Portland
<a href="#"><u>Graham Oaks Nature Park</u></a>	Wilsonville
<i>Grant Butte Wetlands Natural Area</i>	Gresham
<i>Heritage Pine Natural Area</i>	Along Tualatin River (near Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge)
<a href="#"><u>Howell Territorial Park</u></a>	Sauvie Island
<i>Indian John Island</i>	Along Sandy River (Gordon Creek)
<i>Jenne Butte</i>	Gresham
<i>Jonsson center</i>	Clackamas County
<a href="#"><u>Killin Wetlands</u></a>	Banks
<i>Kings Bend</i>	Cornelius

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<i>Lower Tualatin Bluffs</i>	Outside of West Linn
<i>Maple Lane Natural area</i>	Oregon City
<a href="#"><u>Maroon Ponds</u></a>	Forest Grove
<i>McCarthy Creek</i>	Portland (near Forest Park)
<i>Mountain View Corbett Cemetery</i>	Corbett
<i>Mountain View Stark Cemetery</i>	Troutdale
<a href="#"><u>Mount Talbert</u></a>	Happy Valley
<a href="#"><u>Multnomah Channel Marsh (North and South)</u></a>	Near Sauvie Island
<a href="#"><u>Newell creek canyon nature park</u></a>	Oregon City
<i>North Abbey Creek</i>	Portland (near Forest Park)
<a href="#"><u>North Fork Deep Creek Natural Area</u></a>	Near Boring
<i>North Logan</i>	Along Clackamas River
<i>North Newell Creek</i>	Oregon City
<a href="#"><u>Orenco Woods</u></a>	Hillsboro
<a href="#"><u>Oxbow Regional Park</u></a>	Gresham
<i>Peach Cove Fen</i>	South Willamette River
<i>Pecan Creek Natural Area</i>	Stafford

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<i>Penstemon Prairie</i>	Upper Tualatin River
<a href="#"><u>Quamash Prairie</u></a>	West of Tigard
<i>Rivers Bend Prairie</i>	Outside Sherwood (near Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge)
<i>Richardson Creek</i>	Along the Clackamas River
<a href="#"><u>River Island</u></a>	Along the Clackamas River upstream from Barton Park
<i>Sauvie Island Boat Ramp</i>	North Portland
<a href="#"><u>Scouters Mountain</u></a>	Happy Valley
<a href="#"><u>Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area</u></a>	North Portland
<i>South Beaverton Creek Greenway</i>	Beaverton
<i>Rock Islands</i>	
<i>Springdale Natural Area</i>	East of Gresham
<i>Spring Hill Natural Area</i>	Outside of Gaston
<i>Springville Natural Area</i>	Unincorporated east Washington County
<i>Sunshine Butte</i>	Gresham
<i>Tonquin Scablands</i>	North of Wilsonville
<i>Towle Butte</i>	Gresham
<i>Upper Abernathy</i>	Along Clackamas River

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<i>Upper Chicken Creek</i>	Edge of Sherwood (near Tualatin river wildlife refuge)
<i>Upper Johnson Creek</i>	Portland
<i>Upper Mitchell Creek Natural Area</i>	Clackamas County
<i>Wapato View Natural Area</i>	Northwest Portland (near Multnomah Channel)
<i>Weber Farm Natural Area</i>	Along Willamette River (north of Canby)
<i>Willamette Cove</i>	North Portland
<i>Willamette Narrows Forest</i>	Along Willamette River water trail (north of Willamette falls)
<i>Wilkes Creek Headwaters Natural Area</i>	Northeast Portland
<i>Wilson Creek Natural Area</i>	West of McMinnville



List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

[SNAPSHOT: Levy Funded Park Access Projects, Planning Projects and Park and Visitor Services](#)

*What is included in the list below:* Levy funding for planning efforts and capital improvements that increase access at a range of Metro sites as well as investments in park visitor services and operations that help knit together Metro’s parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries into an integrated system that is welcoming, safe and inclusive.

*Key takeaways on the list below*

- Over \$15 million since 2013 invested to support park access and improvement projects and planning projects at 19 distinct sites across the region listed below. Many of these projects, would not be possible without the combined funding from Metro parks and nature’s capital bonds as well.
- Over \$14 million since 2013 invested to support general park visitor services and operations, which benefit Metro’s entire portfolio of developed parks and natural areas across the region. These investments are not listed below.

*Site of planning and capital*

<i>improvement projects (Metro property)</i>	<i>Location (where applicable)</i>	<i>Specific name of planning or capital improvement project</i>
<i>Borland Native Plant Center</i>	Tualatin	Infrastructure improvements
<i>Burlington Creek Forest</i>	North of Forest Park	Planning for Burlington Creek Forest Natural Area
<a href="#"><u>Blue Lake Park</u></a>	Troutdale	Blue Lake Master Plan
		Blue Lake Master Plan Update

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<i>Site of planning and capital improvement projects (Metro property)</i>	<i>Location (where applicable)</i>	<i>Specific name of planning or capital improvement project</i>
		Entry drive renovation
		Curry Building exterior renovation
		Restroom renovations
		Wetlands trail system
		Picnic upgrades
		Office HVAC
		Infrastructure improvements
		Office renovation
		Entrance improvements
		Office security cameras
		Curry security fencing
		Wetland trail culvert
		Space reconfiguration
		Fencing
		Outdoor lighting

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<i>Site of planning and capital improvement projects (Metro property)</i>	<i>Location (where applicable)</i>	<i>Specific name of planning or capital improvement project</i>
<a href="#"><u>Canemah Bluff</u></a>	Oregon City	Temporary office
<a href="#"><u>Chehalem Ridge Nature Park</u></a>	Gaston	North Access Plan implementation
		Chehalem Ridge Comprehensive Plan
		Day use construction
		Trail construction

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<u><a href="#">Chinook Landing Marine Park</a></u>	Troutdale
	Signage
	Boat dock
	Pump-out and dump
	Lighting and striping
	Parking improvements
	Trail
	Floats and gangway
<u><a href="#">East Council Creek</a></u>	Cornelius
	East Council Creek planning work
<u><a href="#">Farmington Paddle Launch</a></u>	Hillsboro
	Boat launch
<u><a href="#">Gabbert Butte</a></u>	Gresham
	Gabbert Hill access improvements
<u><a href="#">Gleason boat launch</a></u>	Northeast Portland
	Entry booth
	Pump and dumpout

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

	Portage building demolition
	Beach cleaning machine
<u>Glendoveer Golf Course and Nature Trail</u>	Northeast Portland
	Trail
	Fitness trail signs
<u>Howell Territorial Park</u>	Sauvie Island
	Bybee-Howell House siding
	Sauvie Island Boat Ramp dock replacement
<u>Killin Wetlands Nature Park</u>	Banks
	Killin Wetland access and site evaluation
<u>Mount Talbert Nature Park</u>	Happy Valley

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<u>Newell Creek Canyon</u>	On-site improvements (boardwalk)
	Oregon City
<u>Oxbow Regional Park</u>	Access and site evaluation
	Day use construction
	Trail construction
	Gresham
	Specialized trail equipment
	Nature play area renovations
	Welcome center
	Office interpretive work
	Campground improvements
	Infrastructure improvements
Boat launch feasibility	

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<u>Scouters Mountain Nature Park</u>	Signage
	Happy Valley
<u>Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area</u>	Water pump
	Percent for art investments
	North Portland
	Smith and Bybee Interlakes Trail work
<u>St. John's Prairie</u>	North Portland
	Trails: St Johns Prairie

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

*Planning and program work across  
Metro's portfolio (non-site specific)* *Region-wide*

	Connect to Nature partnership program
	Levy System Plan and Assessment
	Levy general park improvements
	Recreation surveys
	Development of Nature Play resources
	General Percent for Art programs
	Levy volunteer operations
	Trails System Plan
	Columbia Pioneer Fence
	Radio system upgrade



List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

[SNAPSHOT Levy Funded Nature in Neighborhoods Community Grants and Levy Funded Community Partnerships:](#)

*What is included in this list:* Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods Community Grants provide opportunities to connect people with nature across greater Portland. These grants enable partnerships between community organizations, schools and local park providers to support community nature projects, from local park improvements to stream restoration to hands-on nature education for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Parks and Nature’s Community Partnership Program works with community organizations big and small to build community and connect people of color with nature at Metro's parks and natural areas. These partnerships organize community events, implement nature programming activities, connect communities with park planners and decision makers, explore nature-based career pathways, and offer other activities that build racial equity, diversity and inclusion in the region.

[Summary of grant cycles since 2014](#)

Over \$6.8 million in grants have been awarded in 11 grant cycles including:

- Nature education and outdoor experiences grants, which support and create partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, restore fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature.
- Community stewardship and restoration grants, which support and create partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature.
- A one-time trail grants cycle, which funded regional trail planning, programming and signage projects

Year	Type	Number of grant awards	Total funds awarded
2014	Conservation Education	15	\$ 699,498.00
2014	Restoration and Community Stewardship	14	\$ 799,776.00
2015	Conservation Education	15	\$ 700,000.00
2015	Restoration and Community Stewardship	17	\$ 708,975.57
2016	Conservation Education	8	\$ 203,626.00
2016	Restoration and Community Stewardship	8	\$ 205,774.00
2016	Trails (one-time pilot)	9	\$ 494,035.00
2018	Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences	14	\$ 800,000.00
2019	Restoration and Community Stewardship	15	\$ 795,129.21
2020	Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences	12	\$ 700,000.00
2021	Community Stewardship and Restoration	9	\$ 700,000.00
	<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>\$ 6,806,813.78</b>

Summary of Community Partnership funds awarded since 2014

\$1.7 million invested in the following 173 partnership and sponsorship activities partnering with 74 organizations including some who engaged in multiple partnership and sponsorship activities.

<i>Type of partnership</i>	<i>Number of activities funded</i>	<i>Total funding awarded</i>
Co-Created Partnerships, which bring Metro and community-based organizations together to make Metro's parks and natural areas more welcoming	25 distinct projects	\$1,114,024
Additional funds to support department work with community partners	11 distinct activities/process	\$98,432
Partnership innovation funds, which support community groups and members who partner with Metro staff on innovative projects and initiatives to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion in the parks and natural areas system	7 organizations	\$52,160
Funds for community groups to participate in Metro-led activities	22 distinct activities	\$19,531
Sponsorships for community led activities or capacity building	108 distinct programs/activities	\$443,785
<b>Total</b>	<b>173 distinct activities/74 organizations</b>	<b>\$1.7 million</b>

Key takeaways on the list below

- Over \$9.6 million invested since 2013 to support
  - The awarding of 130 grants to 76 organizations that were the primary recipient and over 400 organizations that provided project support and partnership on each project. Just the primary grant recipients are listed below.
  - 74 organizations that received community partnership funds listed below
- Many of the organizations listed below have grants for multiple projects over the years and have also served as partners on other grant projects. Many organizations listed below have received both grant awards and partnership funds. In fact, some organizations have begun a relationship with Metro around receiving partnership funds and then moving on to receive a bigger grant award.
- Nature in Neighborhoods community grant awards can go up to \$100,000, while funding amounts for community partnerships are typically lower.

<b><i>Primary grantee or community partnership recipient</i></b>
Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde
Access Recreation
Adam McIssac(Artist)
Adelante Mujeres
African Refugee Immigrant Organization
African Youth and Community Organization
Alaska Native Brotherhood
Alaska Native Sisterhood
APANO Communities United Fund
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
Atabey Medicine BIPOC Herbal
Beaverton Black Parent Union
Beaverton School District Native Education
BIPOC Land-leadership group
Black & Beyond the Binary Collective
Black Food Sovereignty Coalition
Black Futures Farm/Black Food Sovereignty
Black Men's Wellness
Brown Folks Fishing
Brown Girl Rise
Center for Diversity & the Environment
Center for Intercultural Organizing AKA
Center for Intercultural Organizing AKA
Centro Cultural del Condado de Washington
Centro Cultural of Washington County
City of Lake Oswego
City of Oregon City
City of Portland Bureau of Environmental

<b><i>Primary grantee or community partnership recipient</i></b>
City of Sherwood
City of Wilsonville
City of Wood Village
City Repair Project
Clackamas River Basin Council
Coalition of Communities of Color
Coalition of Communities of Color
College Assistance Migrant Program at
Columbia Land Trust
Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Community Cycling Center
Community Partners for Affordable
Community Partnerships Forum
Confluence
Depave
Dig In Community
Earth Generations Council
East Columbia Neighborhood Association
Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors (ECO)
Elevate Oregon
ELSO Inc.
Familias en Accion
Friends of Fanno Creek Headwaters
Friends of Gladstone Nature Park
Friends of Nadaka
Friends of the Tualatin River National
Friends of Trees
Friends of Tryon Creek

<b><i>Primary grantee or community partnership recipient</i></b>
Friends of Zenger Farm
George Middle School
Get Hooked
Groundworks Portland
Growing Gardens/Home Gardens
Hacienda Community Development
Hidaya Women's Hiking Group
Hillsboro Parks and Recreation
Hunters of Color
I'm Hooked Inc.
Immigrant and Refugee Community
Johnson Creek Watershed Council
Ka 'Aha Lahui O 'Olekona Hawaiian Civic
KairosPDX
Latino Network
Latino Outdoors PDX
Momentum Alliance
Muslimahs United
NAACP Portland, Branch 1120B -
National Indian Parent Information Center
Native American Youth and Family Center
Native Wellness Institute
Neighbors for Smart Growth
North Clackamas Urban Watersheds
Northwest Youth Corps
Northwest Zen Sangha, Inc.
Oregon City School District No. 62
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<b><i>Primary grantee or community partnership recipient</i></b>
Outdoor Afro
Pacific Northwest Council of Water
PDX Alliance for Self-Care (PDX ASC)
PDX Climbers of Color
People of Color Outdoors
People-Places-Things, LLC
Play Grow Learn
Pollinator Parkways
Portland African American Leadership
Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma
Portland Audubon
Portland Harbor Community Coalition
Portland NAACP Environmental Justice
Portland Opportunities Industrialization
Portland POC Hikes
Portland State University Indigenous
Raceme Farm Collective
Risen Community
ROSE Community Development
Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

<b><i>Primary grantee or community partnership recipient</i></b>
Seed and Thistle Apothecary
Self Enhancement, Inc.
Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League
Sista Sista
SOLVE
Soul River Inc.
The Portland Metro STEM Partnership
The Blueprint Foundation
The Earth Generations Council
The Environmental Education Association
The Forest Park Conservancy
The Wetlands Conservancy
Togo Community Organization of Oregon
Tongan Women's Association of Oregon
Transformative Living Community, Int'l
Tryon Creek Watershed Council
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
Tualatin River Watershed Council
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Umoya Relief Foundation

<b><i>Primary grantee or community partnership recipient</i></b>
Urban Greenspaces Institute
Urban Nature Partners PDX
Verde
Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation
Vive NW
Voz Workers' Rights Education Project
Washington County 4-H Association
West Multnomah Soil & Water
West Willamette Restoration Partnership
Wild Diversity
Willamette Riverkeeper
Wisdom of the Elders & Wisdom Workforce
Wisdom of the Elders, Inc.
WomenFirst Transition & Referral Center
Women-SEW Global Foundation
Yoga Punx & Freedom to Thrive
Zenger Farm

**SNAPSHOT: Levy funded Community Education and Stewardship**

*What is included in this list:* Parks and Nature’s Community Education and Stewardship program supports experiences that strengthen communities/kids connection with nature and helps build the next generation of parks and nature leaders through education, stewardship and volunteer programs designed to be collaborative, culturally relevant, and respectful of multiple ways of knowing. Programming includes public programs that anyone can register to participate, school-based programming at Metro sites like Oxbow, Smith and Bybee and Scouter Mountain and community based programs, which involve working with community based organizations to co-create programs and support events.

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

*Key takeaways on the list below*

- Over 200 schools and community organizations with whom Metro Parks and Nature’s Community Education and Stewardship team has partnered on education and volunteer activities from 2016 to present listed below
- Over \$6 million invested since 2013 to support these education, stewardship and volunteer activities

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization</b>
55th Cascadia Scouts	Brown Folks Fishing	Corbett Grade School
Adelante Mujeres - Chicas and Adult Education Programs	Brown Girls Rose	Crestline Elementary School
Ainsworth Elementary	Camp Clackamas Youth	Cub Scout Pack 35
Airport Learning Tree	Camp ELSO	Cub Scout Troop 799
Alameda Elementary School	Camp Fire Columbia	Cub Scouts Pack 135, Den 1
American Heritage Girls Troop Solid Rock Baptist Church	Cascade Education Corp	Daimler VDRT
Arleta Elementary School	Cascade Heights Public Charter School	De La Salle North Catholic High School
Atabey -Seed and Thistle Apothecary	Catlin Gabel School	Deloitte and Touche LLP
Audubon Society of Portland	Center for Diversity and the Environment	Duniway Elementary School
Banfield Pet Hospital	Central Catholic High School Teachers	Earth Generations Council
Barlow High School	Centro Cultural	Eastwood Elementary School
Beach Elementary	Chapman Elementary School	ECOVA
Beaverton Black Panther	Childpeace Montessori School	El Puente Elementary
Black & Beyond the Binary Collective	City of Portland - Parks and Recreation	Elevate Oregon
Black Futures Farm	City of West Linn	Event Salmon Homecoming
Black Men’s Wellness	City Repair Project	Familias en Accion
Blind Ambition	Clackamas River Elementary School	First Choice Homeschool Co-op
BMWC Constructors	Coalition for Communities of Color	Forest Grove High School
Boones Ferry School	Columbia Riverkeeper- Hood River Office	Forest Grove Rotary Club
Boy Scout Troop #3531	Columbia Slough Watershed Council	Franciscan Montessori Earth School
Bright-MD	Columbia Sportswear	Friends of Lone Fir
	Columbia Valley Elementary School	GenYouth
	Community Cycling Center	Get Hooked

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Gresham Arthur Academy	Lewis Elementary School	Northwest Chinese Academy
Hacienda CDC	Lincoln Street Elementary School	Northwest Outward Bound School
Harrison Park K-8	Llewellyn Elementary School	NW Regional Education Service District
Hartley Elementary School	Lower Columbia Canoe Club	On the Move Community Integration
Home school group	Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership	Oregon City Service Learning Academy (HS)
Hosford Middle School	Lynch Wood - Ready, Set, Go!	Oregon Episcopal School
Hunters of Color	Multnomah Education Service District	Oregon Home Education Network (OHEN)
Imagine Black	Ainsworth Transition	Oregon Master Naturalist Program/Oregon State University
Impact NW	Multnomah Education Service District Arata Creek	Oregon Trail Academy
Independent Living Resources	Multnomah Education Service District	Oregon Trail Elementary
IRCO	Wheatley Transition	Oregon Zoo
Jason Lee Elementary	Metro Montessori Middle School	Outdoor Afro
Journey Summer Camp	Metro PES BLYR program	Pacific NW Council of Water Protectors
Ka 'Aha Lahui O 'Olekona Hawaiian Civic Club of Oregon and SW Washington	Metropolitan Family Service - Hillsboro Office	PacifiCorp- CS Programs & Procurement
Kelly Creek Elementary School	Metropolitan Family Service – Milwaukie	Paideia Classical Christian School
Kids Community Learning Center	Metropolitan Learning Center	Patrick Lynch Elementary SUN School
Kinco	Montessori School of Beaverton	Portland Community College Cascade
La Salle Catholic College Preparatory	Morrison Child and Family Services	Portland Community College Assistance Migrant Program
Latino Network CHI Program	Mt Hood Community College - Project YESS	Portland Community College Rock Creek: College Assistance Migrant Program
Latino Network Escalera Program	Mu Sigma	Portland Community College Sylvania
Latino Network Summer Academia	Multnomah County District Attorneys	PDX Alliance for Self-Care
Latino Network Unidos Program	Multnomah Learning Academy	PDX Climbers of Color
Latino Outdoors	Muslimah's United	People of Color Outdoors
LDS Portland Stake	My Father's House	Phonics Phactory
Lee Elementary School	NAACP Portland	Pioneer Adult Community Center
L'Etoile French Immersion School	Naas Elementary School	Play Grow Learn
Levi Strauss and Co.	Native Wellness Center	
Lewis and Clark Student and Leadership Service	Niner Empire of Portland	

List of levy funded investments from 2013 and 2016 levies as of June 30, 2022

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	Saturday Academy	TriMet
Portland Firefighters	Sauvie Island Center	Tualatin High School
Portland Garden Group	Self Enhancement Inc.	Umoya Relief Fund
Portland POC Hikes	SOLVE	Unite Oregon - Center for Intercultural Organizing
Portland Trail Blazers	Soul River Runs Wild	University of Portland
Portland Village School	Span family	Urban Nature Partners
Portland Waldorf School	Springwater Environmental School	Valley Catholic MS
Portland Youth Builders	Springwater Trail High School	Verde
Powell Valley Elementary	Sunnyside Environmental School	Vestal School
Quatama Elementary School	Sweetbriar Elementary School	Village Home
Raceme Farm Collective	The Blueprint Foundation	Vive NW
Renaissance School of Arts and Sciences	The Cottonwood School of Civics and Science	Voz Workers Rights
Reynolds High School AP Environmental Science	The International School	Wild Diversity
Reynolds High School Key Club	The Nature Conservancy	Wisdom of the Elders
Rigler Elementary School	TOGO Community Organization of Oregon	Women First Transition Center
Risen Community	Tongan Women's Association of Oregon	Women SEW
River Mill Elementary	Tooth and Talon	Woodstock Elementary School
Road Scholar	Toyota	WPES Internship Program
ROSE CDC	Trail Counter Training	YMCA Camp Collins
Rosemary Anderson HS/POIC	Trail Like Troop – Gresham	Yoga Punx & Freedom to Thrive
Salish Ponds Elementary	TrailKeepers of Oregon	Youthworks
Sandy Grade School	Transformative Living	
	Transformative Living Community, Int'l	



Metro

## Parks and Nature local option levy

August 4, 2022



# Resolution No. 22-5279



Metro

## Metro Council consideration

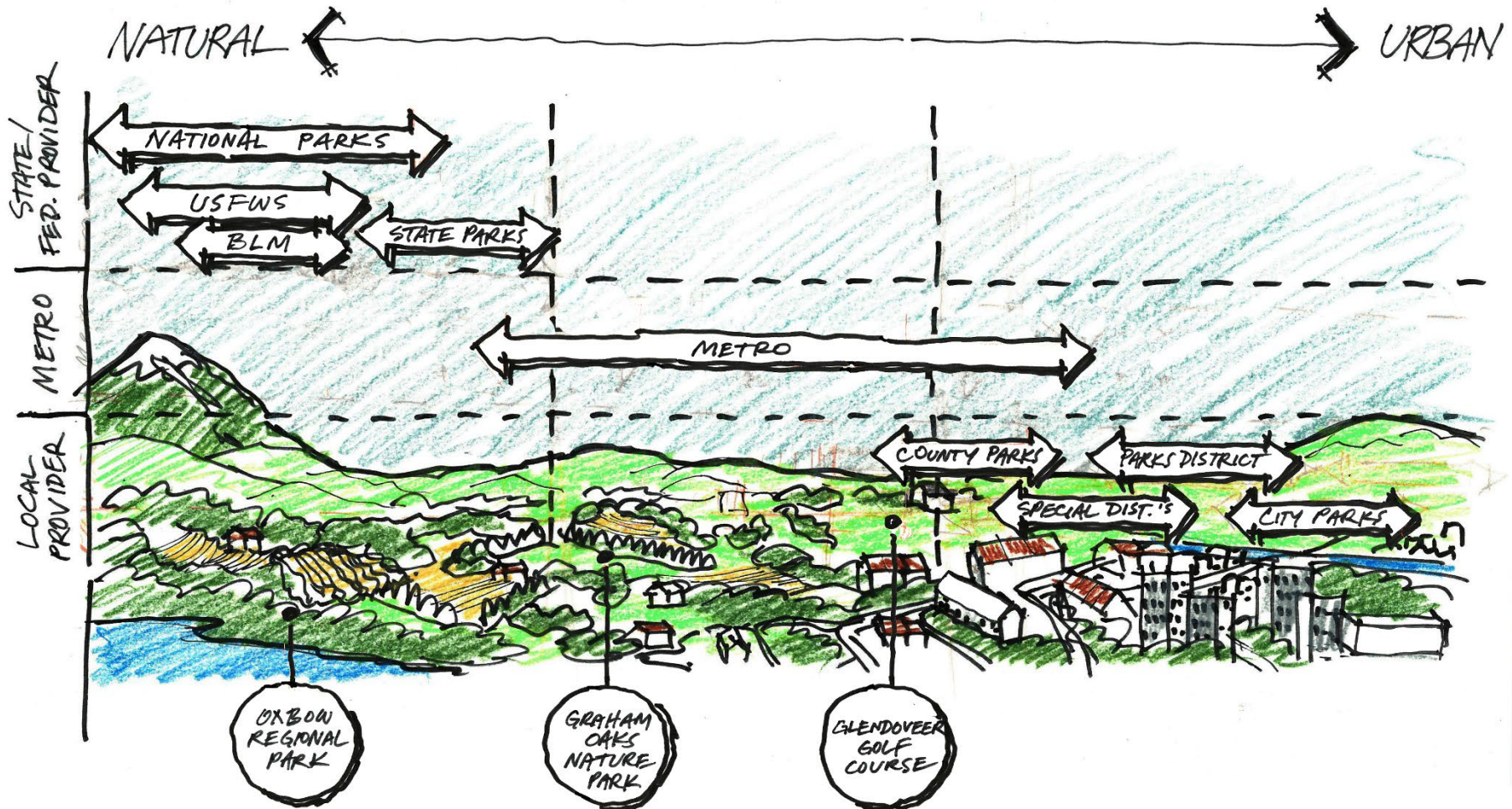
- Local option levy renewal measure for referral
  - Maintain tax rate (9.6 cents/\$1000 assessed value)
  - Continue key priorities – clean water, healthy habitat, access to nature
- Adopt final levy renewal framework for implementation



# Metro Parks and Nature's role in the region



Metro



# Local option levy: Critical to our region



Metro



# Delivering on promises since 2013



Metro

Over \$115 million invested in the region

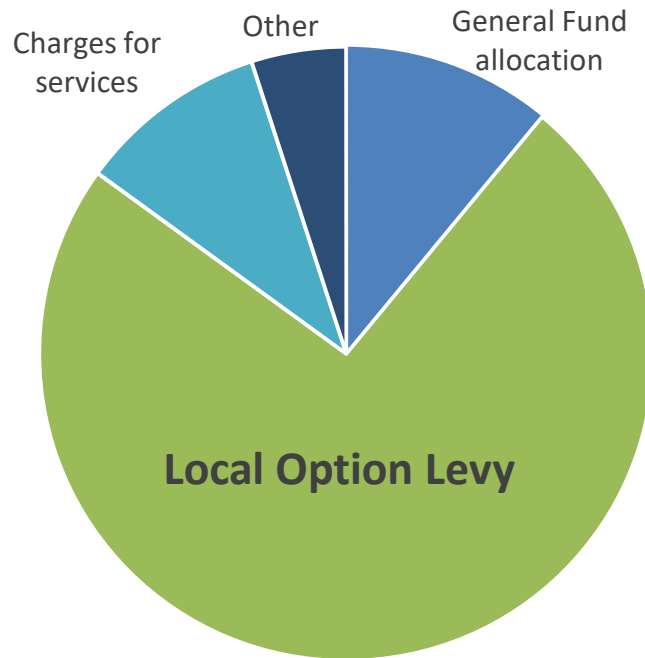
- Over \$34 million to restore and maintain over 105 natural areas across the region
- Over \$29 million to make our sites safe, accessible and welcoming for all
- \$6.8 million to community restoration, education projects over 130 grants



# Fiscal significance of levy



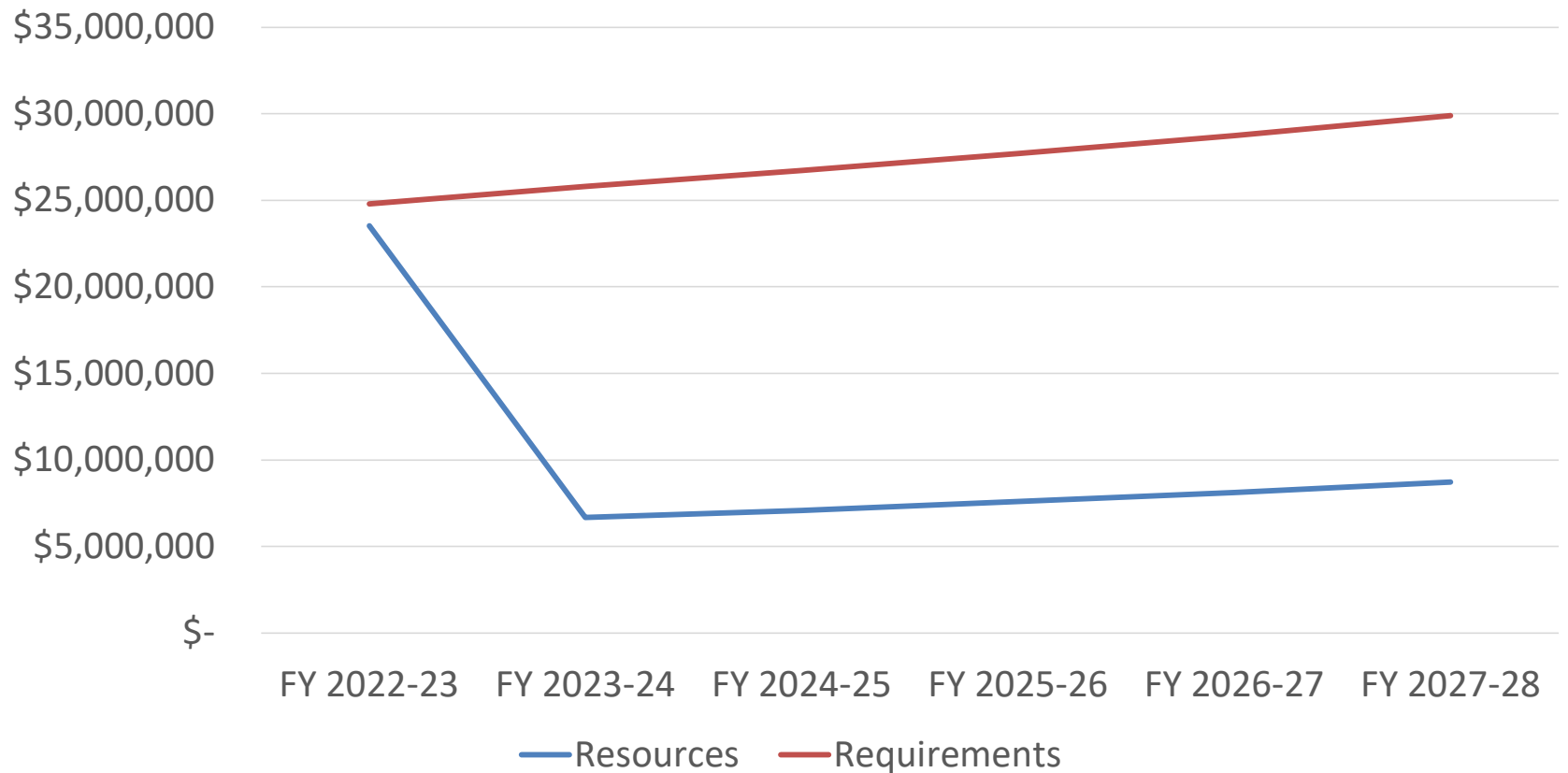
Parks and Nature operating fund (FY 2023)



# Without levy renewal: Fiscal impacts



Parks & Nature Operating Fund without Levy Revenue



# Without levy renewal: Likely program impacts



## **Habitat and water quality restoration**

End vast majority of ongoing restoration and monitoring projects  
Habitat decline, tree loss, invasive species  
No funds for restoration of newly bond-acquired lands

## **Parks and natural area operations**

Severe decline in visitor facilities and services  
Closed restrooms, play areas, trails due to lack of maintenance  
Reduced ranger presence, garbage pickup, cleaning  
Fee increases at some parks needed to cover basic services

## **Non-capital grants, education, volunteering programs**

Full elimination likely needed

# Council leadership and community support



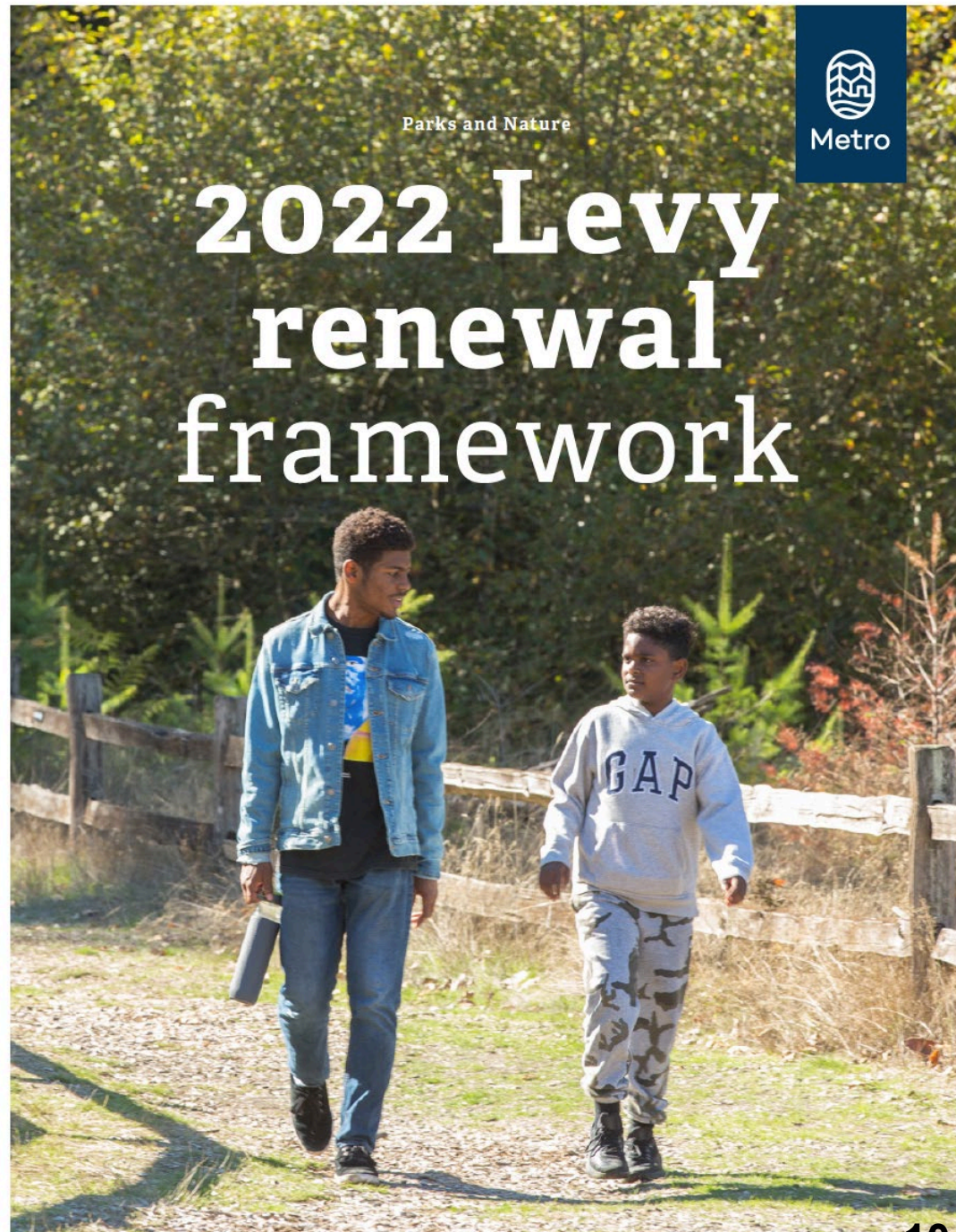
Metro





# Levy renewal framework

- Does not raise tax rates; uses same rate (*9.6 cents/\$1,000 assessed value*).
- Continues prioritization of current program areas.
- Strengthens ability to advance racial equity, climate resilience and other Metro-wide priorities.
- Builds responsiveness to emerging conditions and needs.
- Strengthens ways to show levy impact and maintains strong accountability measures.



# Thank you!



# Resolution No. 22-5279



Metro

- Local option levy renewal measure for referral
  - Maintain tax rate (9.6 cents per \$1,000 assessed value)
  - Continue key priorities – clean water, healthy habitat, access to nature
  
- Adopt final levy renewal framework for implementation

