

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2025-26) RESOLUTION NO. 26-5580
NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS)
COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AND) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Marissa
RESTORATION COMMUNITY GRANTS) Madrigal in concurrence with Council
) President Juan Carlos González

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Metro Council established an initiative designed to protect and restore our region's significant fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature as provided in Resolution No. 05-3574A, "Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative called Nature in Neighborhoods," adopted May 12, 2005;

WHEREAS, to fulfill the goals of this regional initiative, the Metro Council approved Resolution No. 05-3580A to establish the Nature in Neighborhoods grant program for local communities;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council reaffirmed the grant program's purpose, eligibility and funding criteria via Resolution No. 12-4398 when the council referred a 5-year local option levy for Metro's parks and natural areas to the voters, and called for the creation of a committee to review grant applications and make award recommendations to the Metro Council;

WHEREAS, in May 2013, voters in the Metro region approved the 5-year local option levy which included new and expanded funding for this grant program, referred to in the levy as Nature in Neighborhoods community grants;

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the first round of Nature in Neighborhood Restoration and Community Stewardship grants in September 2014 via Resolution No. 14-4554;

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the second round of Nature in Neighborhood Restoration and Community Stewardship grants in November 2015 via Resolution No. 15-4644;

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the third round of Nature in Neighborhood Restoration community grants in September 2016 via Resolution No. 16-4725;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council confirmed the grant program's purpose and funding via Resolution No. 16-4690, when the council referred the renewal of Metro's local option levy for Metro's parks and natural areas to the voters;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council approved Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion via Resolution No. 16-4708, which directs the agency to incorporate racial equity into all aspects of its work;

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the fourth round of Nature in Neighborhood Restoration community grants in June 2019 via Resolution No. 19-4985;

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the fifth round of Nature in Neighborhood Restoration community grants in November 2021 via Resolution No. 21-5213;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council reaffirmed the grant program's purpose, eligibility and funding criteria via Resolution No. 22-5279 when the council referred a 5-year local option levy for Metro's parks

and natural areas to the voters, and called for the creation of a committee to review grant applications and make award recommendations to the Metro Council;

WHEREAS, in May 2022, voters in the Metro region approved the 5-year local option levy which included new and expanded funding for this grant program, referred to in the levy as Nature in Neighborhoods community grants;

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the first round of Nature in Neighborhood Restoration community grants in May 2024 via Resolution No. 24-5417;

WHEREAS, Metro has solicited and received applications for 2025-26 Nature in Neighborhoods Community Stewardship and Restoration grants, and the grant review committee has identified the proposals which best meet the grant criteria and the goals of the Nature in Neighborhoods community grant program; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby approves the award of the 2025-26 Nature in Neighborhoods Community Stewardship and Restoration community grants to those recipients listed in Exhibit A and for the amounts listed for each individual award.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 21st day of July 2026.

Juan Carlos González, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney