

PRESENTATION OF PARKS AND NATURE AND NATURAL AREAS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Date: 11/5/2025
Department: Parks and Nature
Meeting Date: 11/20/2025
Prepared by: Cory Eldridge, Beth Cohen,
beth.cohen@oregonmetro.gov

Presenter: Jon Blasher, Parks and Nature
Director, Committee co-chairs, Cary
Watters and Erin Upton
Length: 45 minutes

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive the Parks and Nature annual report for fiscal year 2024-2025 and the Natural Areas Oversight Committee annual report. Share thoughts and questions about Metro's parks and nature work during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

BACKGROUND

For more than two decades, voters have repeatedly trusted Metro to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for people to connect with nature close to home through the passage of three capital bond measures and a local option levy renewed twice by the region's voters. The Parks and Nature annual report and the Natural Areas Oversight Committee annual report illustrate Metro Parks and Nature's commitment to transparency and accountability in reporting regularly on how its work helps deliver on the promises of these voter-approved measures.

The Parks and Nature annual report describes how Metro invests in nature and community well-being across the region by explaining the department's work on natural area acquisition and restoration, investments to make Metro's portfolio of developed parks and natural areas more safe and welcoming, and supporting community priorities. The report also highlights the impact of specific examples of programs, purchases or projects that happened during the fiscal year and provides an overview of the department's spending during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The report is developed by Parks and Nature staff and leadership and is designed and formatted to be accessible to multiple audiences and interested parties across the region. The report is published on Metro News and a shorter version is published in Our Big Backyard's winter issue. Parks and Nature presented last year's report to the Metro Council in November 2024.

[The Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee](#), which provides independent oversight of the 2019 parks and nature bond, is responsible for reporting annually to the Metro Council on progress in bond implementation as well as areas for

improvement. The committee last presented its annual report to the Metro Council in November 2024.

The committee's annual report provides the Metro Council and the region a more comprehensive look at progress on the 2019 parks and nature bond, committee work to date and potential focal areas for the committee for the coming year. To develop this report, the committee reviewed reporting on bond investments, awards and activities compiled through June 2025 in topic specific working groups on land acquisition, bond finance and community engagement.

These two reports are part of the suite of tools deployed by Metro Parks and Nature to convey meaningful storytelling to multiple audiences on the impact of our work on themes of climate resilience, accessibility and community and economic well-being. The current set of tools includes Our Big Backyard, Metro news stories, a bond progress dashboard on the Metro website, quarterly reporting provided to the oversight committee and an online storytelling tool that provides detailed information about the impact of bond investments and activities on desired outcomes in the short, medium and long term on an annual basis.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Report