

# Metro

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



Metro

## Minutes

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber;  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
253-205-0468 (toll free), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=vaoBL5PHpEk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaoBL5PHpEk)

**Council work session**

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

President Peterson called the work session to order at 10:32 a.m.

**Present:** 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Ashton Simpson, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Duncan Hwang

**2. Work Session Topics:****2.1 Parks and Nature Road Map Project Update**

**Presenter(s):** Jon Blasher (he/him), Director, Parks and Nature  
MG Devereux (he/him), Deputy Director, Parks and Nature  
Beth Cohen, Strategic Funding Program Manager, Parks and Nature

**Attachments:** [Staff Report](#)

Staff reviewed Metro's role in planning for and providing parks and convening stakeholders across the region. They described the work to update the Parks and Nature System Plan and current needs and opportunities.

Councilor Hwang raised Metro's relative levy rate to that of the City of Portland. He hoped for more discussion of how the public uses Metro parks and what experiences they hope for, and he also stated his support for improved access to community members. In considering Metro's role, he also asked staff to review the services Metro provides. Staff highlighted services ranging from regional trails planning to habitat restoration to nature parks.

Councilor Lewis suggested Metro focus on adding value and filling funding gaps, referring to state aspirations for water quality specifically. She noted that Metro's stewardship of

unique properties, like Glendoveer Golf Course and Pioneer cemeteries, provide community value.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about connections between planning for parks and nature and the Future Vision, pointing specifically to opportunities to reduce overlap and duplication. Staff shared upcoming engagements with parks providers and cross-departmental collaboration.

President Peterson named several Metro policies aimed at producing and measuring equitable outcomes, along with specific projects that implicate natural areas and climate change. She spoke to the need for a strategy that addresses those policies and that helps attract federal dollars. For metrics, President Peterson hoped for quantifiable information that would allow Council to provide policy direction to improve outcomes and increase access.

Councilor Nolan emphasized the importance of transportation to parks and natural areas. Staff confirmed they are working with Planning, Development and Research to consider transit access to all parks in the region. Councilor Rosenthal noted his support for that effort.

Councilor Gonzalez addressed the difficulty of maintaining service levels region-wide while continuing to acquire property. Staff shared data about the impacts of habitat protection by area, noting that nature parks help support those goals.

President Peterson asked that future conversations specifically address urban and rural reserves, as it relates to open space, protecting natural areas, protecting farmland,

and supporting the creation of new housing.

## 2.2 Willamette Cove Nature Park Update and Draft Funding Strategy

Presenter(s): Jennifer D'Avanzo (she/her), Senior Regional Planner  
Jon Blasher (he/him), Parks and Nature Director  
Andrew Scott (he/him), Deputy COO and Willamette Cove  
Project Sponsor

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment 1 - Resolution No. 20-5149](#)  
[Attachment 2 - FY2021-2022 Budget Note](#)  
[Attachment 3 - Draft Preferred Design](#)

Staff reviewed the master planning process, revisions to the plan, and funding considerations.

Councilor Lewis emphasized the importance of designing a project responsive to the algae bloom problem at the site. She also asked for greater budget detail about funds already spent and funds collectively committed to the project. Staff shared continued and upcoming engagements with other in-water remediation partners to address harmful algae blooms.

Councilor Rosenthal asked whether the Portland Parks Levy would provide the resources to make Portland Parks a more active partner at the site. Staff referred to the current system plan, which considers management of the park, and that it may make more sense for Portland Parks to manage the park in the future.

Staff framed for Councilor Hwang opportunities to rely on design and construction elements to reduce future operating costs. Staff explained that the maintenance team is considering more durable materials and materials that won't compromise the remedy, as well as design changes to

ensure the remedy isn't compromised.

Councilor Nolan emphasized that Willamette Cove bears regional significance, particularly to Tribal Nations. They noted that with few access points to the Willamette River, the park should be a major regional asset.

President Peterson prioritized the need for project partners to determine how they will share and allocate costs, rather than approaching funding piecemeal. She also prioritized addressing algae blooms up front

In response to Councilor Rosenthal's question about vehicle access, staff referred to a parking capacity study at the site which and offered to share the findings.

**3. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

None.

**4. Councilor Communication**

Councilor Hwang announced that members of the Committee on Racial Equity planned to meet with Councilors throughout the month to discuss committee priorities.

**5. Adjourn**

With no further business, President Peterson adjourned the work session at 12:25 p.m.



Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor  
January 30, 2026