

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS: Parks and Nature**

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Date: March 26, 2025

Prepared by:  
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Department: Parks and Nature

Presented by:  
Jon Blasher, Parks and Nature Director

Meeting date: April 15, 2025

Length: 90 minutes

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### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

This work session will provide Council, acting as the Budget Committee, the opportunity to hear how the Parks and Nature FY 2025-26 budget aligns with Council priorities, strategic targets, racial equity outcomes and climate action goals. Information shared at the work session will help guide development of the FY 2025-26 Approved Budget.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Council discussion and feedback on the department's proposed budget.

### **IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

Development of a FY 2025-26 Metro budget that aligns with Council priorities.

### **POLICY QUESTIONS**

What are the policy implications and trade-offs that will result from the department's budget?

Specific factors for Council consideration *may* include:

- How well do the department's programs align with Council priorities and direction?
- Does the budget represent a good investment in and advance the Council priorities?
- Has the department demonstrated sufficient planning to successfully implement any new programs and/or projects?

### **POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER**

Each department's budget has individual items that should achieve outcomes specifically addressed by Council through the strategic targets. Council can support the budget in whole or in part and modify individual items or larger program requests.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer recommend that Council review all the department submissions prior to determining their support for the departments' proposed budgets.

## **STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Each department's FY 2025-26 base budget was developed following the Chief Financial Officer's budget instructions released in early December 2024. The base budgets allow the departments to continue existing programs and projects as adjusted for various factors such as inflation, COLAs, etc.

New and/or reduced programs, projects, appropriations and FTE are requested through the department's modification request process. These requests were reviewed and analyzed by the Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Chief Operating Officers and Chief Financial Officer. Approved requests were built into the Proposed Budget, released on April 4, 2025, and presented by the Chief Operating Officer on April 10, 2025, with their budget message.

### **Legal Antecedent**

The preparation, review and adoption of Metro's annual budget is subject to the requirements of Oregon Budget Law, ORS Chapter 294. The Chief Financial Officer, acting in their capacity as the designated Budget Officer, is required to present a balanced budget to Council, acting in their capacity as our Budget Committee.

## **BACKGROUND**

Each department will provide information pertaining to their proposed budget, including budget modification requests approved by the Chief Operating Officer.