

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-5621, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING METRO TO APPLY FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT FROM THE OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Date: June 8, 2026
Department: Parks and Nature
Meeting Date: June 25, 2026

Prepared by: Olena Turula,
olena.turula@oregonmetro.gov
Presenters: N/A
Length: N/A

ISSUE STATEMENT

Metro Council is asked to consider approving the resolution to authorize Metro to apply for a Local Government Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the Blue Lake Regional Park Renovation project.

Metro has allocated funding from the Take Care of Metro Parks program area of the 2019 Parks and Nature bond to build an initial phase of the public-facing park renovations. Funding from the Local Government Grant Program funding (LGGP) would leverage bond funds toward completing the highest priority elements of the project including:

- Trails through proposed new wetlands, to visually and physically connect visitors to nature from the active heart of the park, inviting people to explore nature trails;
- Accessible circulation connecting to key destinations within the park;
- Renovation of two picnic shelter interiors;
- Relocation of an aging basketball and sand volleyball court;
- Inclusive play features; and
- Wayfinding and interpretive signs throughout the park.

If awarded, the grant would commit \$1,900,000 of the existing project budget as matching funds to support a request of \$1,000,000.

The Local Government Grant Program requires a resolution authorizing an application as a part of the program process.

ACTION REQUESTED

Metro Council is asked to adopt Resolution No. 26-5621 to authorize Metro to apply for a Local Government Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the Blue Lake Regional Park Renovation project.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Funding from the Local Government Grant Program will leverage Metro funding to upgrade visitor amenities at Blue Lake Regional Park in a manner that is consistent with the goals

and criteria set forth in the Take Care of Metro Parks (TCMP) program area and overall 2019 Parks and Nature bond.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

Should Metro apply for funding through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant Program to support Blue Lake Park renovation?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

There are two options for Council to consider:

- Adopt the Resolution authorizing Metro to apply for a Local Government Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.
- Reject the Resolution and direct staff to explore other options.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adopting Resolution No. 26-5621.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

In January, Council, acting as the Local Contract Review Board, approved a resolution to authorize an exemption to the competitive bidding procedures and procurement of a Construction Manager/ General Contractor (CM/GC) for the Blue Lake Regional Park Renovation project.

Funding from the Local Government Grant Program will leverage Metro funding to more fully enable Parks and Nature to upgrade visitor amenities at Blue Lake Regional Park in a manner that is consistent with the goals and criteria set forth in TCMP program area and overall 2019 Parks and Nature bond.

The planned improvements to Blue Lake Regional Park build upon completed infrastructure and park operations projects to improve visitor amenities at the park. The project includes accessibility improvements, improvements to habitat and nature experiences, upgraded lake access facilities for boating, fishing and swimming, improvements to play, picnicking, and wayfinding in the park.

Blue Lake Regional Park is one of Metro’s most visited parks. The park renovation plan was developed through extensive community engagement with communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities. The phase 1 construction priorities were informed by community input. The renovation project meets TCMP program area goals of creating safe and welcoming spaces, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of operations and maintenance, providing expanded access to nature for people, providing people with access to water with scenic and recreational opportunities, increasing access for those living with disabilities, and providing opportunities for culturally responsive public improvements.

Staff plan to request Metro Council adoption of the Blue Lake Regional Park renovation plan this summer.

Anticipated Effects

If this resolution is adopted, Metro will submit a Local Government Grant application.

Financial Implications (current year and ongoing)

This Blue Lake Regional Park renovation project is in Metro's capital improvement plan, funded by the 2019 Parks and Nature bond.

If awarded, the Grant would add \$1,000,000 to the project budget and commit \$1,900,000 of the existing project budget as matching funds.

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Local Government Grant Program was created by initiative petition filed on March 11, 1998, adopted by the citizens of Oregon on November 3, 1998 and approved by the 1999 Legislature. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission adopted administrative rules for the distribution of state lottery funds to eligible local governments and the process for establishing the priority order in which projects are funded. The Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) and program budget are administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

The LGGP supports projects that are consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan including developing basic outdoor recreation facilities, picnic facilities, camping facilities, or interpretive facilities as well as repairing, restoring, or reconstruction on normal wear and tear of facilities.

In January 2008, the rules were amended and approved by the Oregon Parks Commission (OAR 736-006-0100-OAR 736-006-0150). The Oregon Lottery Funds for Natural Resources Amendment was adopted on November 2, 2010, which continued lottery funding for the Local Government Grant Program. A resolution is required authorizing an application for grant funds as a part of the program process.

Many of Blue Lake Regional Park's facilities were built between 1960 and the early 1980s. Since the park was transferred to Metro in 1995, funding to upgrade facilities and meet current needs and priorities has been limited. Improvements planned for the first phase Blue Lake Regional Park renovation are consistent with the Local Government Grant criteria.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Blue Lake Regional Park Plan