



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Council retreat agenda

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

8:30 AM

Oregon Convention Center, VIP Suite B

AGENDA REVISED 7/07/17

- 1. Introduction, Background, and Purpose of the Day (8:30 AM)**
Presenter(s): Martha Bennett
- 2. 2006 Natural Areas Background and Results (8:40 AM)**
Presenter(s): Brian Kennedy & Heather Nelson Kent
- 3. Public Opinion Research (9:00 AM)**
Presenter(s): Jim Middaugh & Becca Uherbelau
- 4. Elections Calendar and Options (9:20 AM)**
Presenter(s): Martha Bennett
- 5. Council Discussion of Calendar (9:45 AM)**
- 6. Break (10:00 AM)**
- 7. Council Direction to Staff (10:15 AM)**
- 8. Next Steps (11:30 AM)**
- 9. Adjourn (11:45 AM)**

Metro respects civil rights

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Повідомлення Metro про заборону дискримінації

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ការគោរពសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ ។ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានកាតបណ្តឹងរើសអើងសូមចូលទស្សនាការបោះពុម្ព www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights។ បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការអ្នកបកប្រែភាសានៅពេលអង្គប្រជុំសាធារណៈ សូមទូរស័ព្ទមកលេខ 503-797-1700 (ម៉ោង 8 ព្រឹកដល់ម៉ោង 5 ល្ងាច ថ្ងៃធ្វើការ) ប្រាំពីរថ្ងៃ មុនថ្ងៃប្រជុំដើម្បីអាចឲ្យគេសម្រួលតាមសំណើរបស់លោកអ្នក។

إشعار بعدم التمييز من Metro

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Materials following this page were distributed at the meeting.



Parks and Nature opinion research by the numbers

1

Favorability ranking of parks and natural areas among all of Metro's services

86

Percentage who approve of Metro's management of parks and natural areas

78

Percentage who rated "caring for and restoring our rivers" a top priority when it comes to the future of greater Portland

(only "good jobs" and "quality public schools" ranked higher)

76

Percentage who rated "protecting natural areas and wildlife habitats" a top priority when it comes to the future of greater Portland

90

Percentage who rank "preserving and maintaining natural areas and wildlife habitat" as a priority initiative Metro might pursue to help address the impact of growth on greater Portland

68

Percentage willing to pay higher taxes for "preserving and maintaining natural areas and wildlife habitat"

56

Percentage willing to pay higher taxes for "providing more parks and trails to help people access natural areas and rivers"

63 and 59

Percentage of yes votes on the 1995 and 2006 natural area bond measures, respectively

53 and 71

Percentage of poll respondents stating they would likely vote yes on the 2013 and 2016 natural area operating levies, respectively

54 and 74

Percentage of yes votes on the 2013 and 2016 natural area operating levies, respectively

Metro Parks and Nature Capital Bond Program Investments – 1995-2017

Four times during the last two decades, voters across the greater Portland area have invested in a network of regional parks, trails and natural areas. By approving bond measures in 1995 and 2006, voters asked Metro to invest a total of \$360 million in protecting water quality, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. As a result, Metro has protected 13,100 acres and counting, from the Chehalem Mountains on the west to the Sandy River Gorge on the east. Hundreds of community nature projects have also received a boost through a total of \$90 million in grants and allocations to local cities, counties and park providers for projects identified as important to local communities.

The Parks and Nature System Plan, approved by the Metro Council in February 2016, lays out Metro Parks and Nature's mission and role, the status of Metro's portfolio today, trends that will shape future work and strategies to guide the future. A local-option levy passed in 2013 – and renewed in 2016 – helps care for this growing collection of parks, trails and natural areas by improving them for visitors, restoring habitat and engaging the community.

Conserving high-quality, regional natural areas – 13,100 acres and counting

Altogether, more than 13,100 acres have been protected by Metro through fee title or conservation easements. The combined footprint of that land would cover an area the size of approximately 2.5 City of Happy Valleys, or approximately 17 additional Oxbow Regional Parks. Regional acquisitions protected more than 100 miles of stream and river frontage. Stretched end to end, this length would run from Portland to Eugene. Additionally, the Metro Council has directed more than \$20 million to capital investments in new nature parks and regional trails designed to connect people to nature close to home.

Local parks, trails and natural areas – more than \$90 million invested

Under the local share component of the bond, a portion of bond funds are distributed on a per capita basis to cities, counties and park providers within the Metro region to fund local acquisitions, restoration projects and trail and park improvement projects. With support from Metro's bond measures more than 800 acres have been protected by local government partners, many in close-in urban areas. A total of more than 200 local projects support the region's growing network of parks, trails and natural areas, serving Metro residents where they live.

Nature in Neighborhood Grants – impacts greater than the projects themselves

The \$15 million invested in Nature in Neighborhood grants are having impacts far greater than the projects themselves. After nine rounds of awards, capital grants are going to nearly 60 projects with goals as diverse as restoring salmon habitat on Johnson Creek and turning an alley into a linear park in Cornelius. An assessment conducted in 2016 evaluated the impact of the first two dozen grants funded by Metro. Grant recipients and partners reported a wide range of outcomes that benefitted their local neighborhoods and built capacity within underserved communities, in addition to achieving the program goals of protecting water quality and wildlife habitat, increasing the presence of nature in urban neighborhoods and connecting people to nature.

Parks and Nature capital bond program detail and comparisons

Measure 26-80, Nov. 7, 2006	Measure 26-26, May 16, 1995
\$227.4 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional land acquisition, \$168 million (73%) Community projects, \$44 million (20%) Nature in Neighborhood grants, \$15 million (7%) <p>10% cap on administrative costs established by Metro Council resolution</p>	\$135.6 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional land acquisition, \$76 million (56%) Trails and greenways, \$16 million (12%) Community projects, \$25 million (18%) <p>\$18 million (14%) allocated for land purchase expenses, bond issuance costs, administrative expenses and contingency</p>
Acres acquired by Metro: 5,084*	Acres acquired by Metro: 8,115
Additional Metro capital investments: \$29M Capital Projects included in original bond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mount Talbert (\$1.5M) Cooper Mountain (\$2.5M) Graham Oaks nature parks (\$2.9M) Capital Projects approved by Council 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chehalem Ridge Natural Area (\$2.9M) Columbia Blvd. Bridge (\$1.9M) Fanno Creek Trail (\$800,000) Farmington Paddle Launch (\$885,500) Gabbert Butte Nature Area (\$1.8M) Marine Drive Trail (\$2.5M) Willamette Falls Riverwalk (\$4.3M) River Island Natural Area Restoration (\$7M) 	As part of the transfer of Multnomah County Parks to Metro, Metro became responsible for Multnomah County share (\$3.4M) of local funds including capital investments in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitaker Ponds acquisition Burlington Bottom improvements Howell Territorial Park improvements Sauvie Island Boat Ramp improvements Ancient Forest Improvements Oxbow Regional Park improvements Springwater Corridor improvements Blue Lake Regional Park improvements M. James Gleason Boat Ramp improvements

<p>“Local Share” - \$44M</p> <p>More than 100 projects completed by local governments and park districts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring natural areas or park lands (including for active park uses) • Restoring fish and wildlife habitat • Enhancing public access to natural areas • Designing and constructing local or regional trails • Providing enhanced environmental education opportunities 	<p>“Local Share” - \$25M</p> <p>More than 100 projects completed by local governments and park districts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration or enhancement of natural areas • Trail construction • Access and public use facilities • Environmental education facilities
<p>Nature in Neighborhoods Grants - \$15M</p> <p>To provide local organizations and public entities with additional funds for land acquisition and projects that protect and enhance natural resources in the urban environment.</p> <p>The program was designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard water quality in local rivers and streams • Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat • Promote partnerships that protect and enhance nature in neighborhoods • Increase the presence of ecological systems and plant and animal communities in nature-deficient and other disadvantaged neighborhoods within the region. 	<p>Capital grants not included</p>

Established by Metro Council Resolution as part of the 2006 bond referral, the Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee gives the Metro Council and the region an outside review of how Metro invests the region’s 2006 bond measure and increases transparency and accountability.

*As of 4/17/17

Other races and measures	May 18		November 18		May 19		November 19		May 20		November 20	
	Metro President Metro District 1 Metro District 2 Metro District 4 Governor Portland Children’s levy Beaverton SD levy		Metro President Possible Metro district races Housing (?) TriMet measure Governor Lake Oswego SD levy		City of Portland Parks bond PPS levy? TVF&R levy		PPS levy?		Metro District 3 Metro District 5 Metro District 6 US President Portland gas tax		Possible Metro district races Regional transportation US President	
	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
Parks, trails and natural areas	Certainty soonest Aligns with Council primaries Candidates for Metro Council could use as a platform issue No competing Metro money measures “Maintains existing tax rates” Advances Council priorities	No Council leadership identified New dept. director Limited staff capacity Limited time to build a project list Limited time to work with partners Little time to incorporate P+N DEI Action Plan input Unclear partners’ capacity to support Candidates for Metro Council could use as a platform issue	Likely highest turn out until 2020 “Maintains existing tax rates” Potential Council run-offs – could align with measure If not successful, can go again in 2019 without “raising” taxes More time to incorporate P+N DEI Action Plan input If “yes” avoid ramping down program	New director short time on the job Limited time to build partner support Limited time to build a project list Council may want to fully engage on TriMet measure Outstanding council races could limit councilors’ time Council races could politicize bond Unclear partners’ capacity to support	“Maintains existing tax rates” More than a full year of planning time Council champion could include newly elected members More time to build partner support More time to build project list Potential light ballot	Likely lowest voter turnout Council turnover in January 2019 – ramp up time? Delays certainty (A/B budget with risk to capacity to implement) May require FY 19-20 budget “ramp down” (potential staff reductions) Recession more likely the longer we wait	“Maintains existing tax rates” More time for planning, building support Time for Council champion to build coalition support More time for stakeholder engagement and feedback Potential light competition on ballot	Likely low voter turnout Delays certainty for Metro organization Will likely require proposed budget reductions in FY 20-21 (likely staff reductions)	More time to build a coalition More time to build public awareness High voter turnout Candidates for Metro Council could use as a platform issue	Candidates for Metro Council could use as a platform issue Recession more likely the longer we wait Delays certainty for Metro organization Will likely require adopted budget reductions in FY 20-21 (likely staff reductions) Delays certainty (A/B budget with risk to capacity to implement)	Not advised to wait, will not be able to use room within the current tax rate after June 30, 2020.	