

PRESENTATION OF PARKS AND NATURE 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

Date: 1/11/2023
Department: Parks and Nature
Meeting Date: 1/19/2023

Prepared by: Cory Eldridge,
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Presenter: Jon Blasher, director, Parks
and Nature
Length: 20 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive the Parks and Nature Annual Report for fiscal year 2021–2022. Share thoughts and questions about Metro’s parks and nature work during that fiscal year.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

N/A

POLICY QUESTION(S)

N/A

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

N/A

BACKGROUND

Metro Parks and Nature depends on the ongoing support of the voters of the region to further its mission to improve water quality, protect fish and wildlife habitat and help people connect with nature close to home. Parks and Nature has a strong legacy of reporting regularly on how its work helps deliver on the promises of the voter-approved measures—capital bonds and operating levies—by investing in parks, trails and natural areas across the region.

The Parks and Nature annual report describes how Metro invests in nature and community well-being across the region. The report is part of the department and agency's commitment to transparency and accountability to the people of greater Portland.

The report explains the department's work on natural area acquisition and restoration, investments to make Metro's portfolio of developed parks and natural areas safer and more welcoming and investments in community projects. 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 that 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 January 2022.

Parks and Nature uses other tools in addition to this annual report to share information about the impact of its work and describe its progress toward making good on voter-approved investment measures. Specifically, the Metro website includes a dashboard describing progress on investments from the 2019 parks and nature bond, staff provide quarterly reports to the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee, available on the committee's webpage, as well as monthly email updates on bond activities to the Metro Council.

The Natural Areas and Capital Performance Oversight Committee is responsible for reporting annually to the Metro Council on progress in the implementation of the bond programs under 2019 Parks and Nature Bond as well as provide recommendations, if any, to improve efficiency, administration and performance of the bond programs under 2019 Parks and Nature Bond and review the Parks and Natural Areas Local-Option Levy expenditures for compliance with program requirements and any remaining bond expenditures from the 2006 Natural Areas Bond.

The committee presented its year one report in May 2022 and is planning to present a year two report to the Metro Council in Spring 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

Annual Report