

## Exhibit A –Program Criteria

### Program Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

#### Program Outcome and Purpose

The intent of the Program is to fund large-scale capital improvement projects that invest in ecological restoration and complement investments with either housing, transportation, and/or workforce development.

All projects must demonstrate best efforts to meet or exceed the goals of the program: to uplift communities by leveraging nature to achieve benefits such as job opportunities, affordable housing and safe, reliable transportation.

### Selection Criteria

Projects must meet the eligibility requirements and their ability to address Program principles, as well as racial equity, community engagement and climate resilience criteria.

#### Eligibility Requirements

Project must meet **all** of the following criteria to be eligible:

- ☐ Project must have a total nature uplift component of minimum \$2 million, including grant amount
- ☐ Project must complement investments in affordable housing, transit or workforce development
- ☐ Project must have a committed public partner and result in a publicly owned asset
- ☐ Project must be a capital improvement project; either restoration, urban transformation, or neighborhood livability
- ☐ Nature uplift work must have 1:1 match (*see Match Requirements for more detail*)
- ☐ Overall project, including nature uplift, housing/transportation/economic development, must have 1:2 match (*see page 9 for details*)
- ☐ Project must be within Metro's jurisdictional boundary

### Principles

Metro Council approved the following principles to guide the program. Applicants seeking Program funding will address **all** of these principles:

- ☐ Serve communities through inclusive engagement, transparency and accountability.
- ☐ Advance racial equity through bond investments.
- ☐ Protect clean water for people, fish and wildlife.
- ☐ Protect and restore culturally significant native plant communities.
- ☐ Protect, connect and improve habitat for native fish and wildlife.
- ☐ Make parks and natural areas more accessible and inclusive.
- ☐ Connect more people to the land and rivers of our region.
- ☐ Invest in trails for biking and walking.
- ☐ Support community-led parks and nature projects.
- ☐ Make communities more resilient to climate change
- ☐ Uplift communities and leverage nature to achieve job opportunities, affordable housing or safe/reliable transportation.

## Community Engagement and Racial Equity Criteria

Projects must address **all** of the following criteria:

- ☐ Meaningfully engage with communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities in planning, development of project.
- ☐ Prioritize needs identified by communities of color, Indigenous communities, low-income and other historically marginalized groups.
- ☐ Provide data that will support tracking outcomes and reporting impacts, particularly as they relate to communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities.
- ☐ Include strategies to prevent or mitigate displacement and/or gentrification resulting from project investments.
- ☐ Set aspirational goals for workforce diversity and use of COBID contractors and work to reduce barriers to achieving these goals; demonstrate accountability by tracking outcomes and reporting impacts.
- ☐ Catalyze other investments in transformative regional-scale projects that increase access to nature for people in urban areas and/or improve the resilience of urban natural areas.
- ☐ Leverage with public/private investments in affordable housing, transit and connections to local or regional parks.

## Climate Resiliency Criteria

Projects must satisfy **at least one** of the following criteria:

- ☐ Protect, connect and restore habitat to support strong populations of native plants, fish and wildlife that can adapt to a changing climate.
- ☐ Protect and restore floodplains, headwaters, streams and wetlands to increase their capacity to handle storm water to protect vulnerable communities from flooding.
- ☐ Increase tree canopy in developed areas to reduce heat island effects.
- ☐ Use low-impact development practices and green infrastructure in project design and development.
- ☐ Invest in segments of the regional trail system to expand active transportation opportunities for commuting, recreation and other travel.

## Program Criteria

Projects must meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- ☐ Improve access to nature for people.
- ☐ Protect and reclaim rivers, increase tree canopy and/or restore or improve other important natural features in urban areas for the benefit of people and wildlife.
- ☐ Create access to nature in a regional or town center, employment area or other areas identified as a priority for investment in Metro's 2040 Growth Concept.
- ☐ Foster partnerships between public agencies and between the public and private sectors and/or catalyze private investment by focusing public investments and efforts on specific priority projects.
- ☐ Meet a need identified by communities of color, indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities.

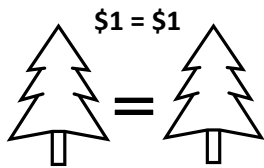
## Match Requirements

Projects that foster partnerships between public agencies and between the public and private sectors and/or catalyze private investments by focusing public investments will be considered strong candidates for large scale community visions funding. The program will encourage projects that leverage additional government and private funding to increase the overall program impacts.

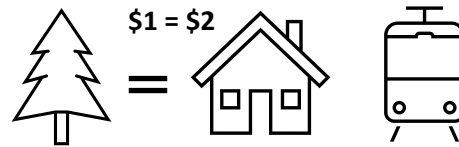
Awarded funds for the nature uplift/habitat restoration element of projects will require a 1:1 match, meaning the project must match \$1 for every \$1 of Metro grant funding. As these projects are meant to be large scale, innovative, and multi-benefit, an overall project match of 1:2 is required, in order to ensure other partners are contributing at magnitude.

So for example, if the project is awarded \$1,000,000 in Program funding, applicants must have a 1:1 match, meaning a minimum of \$2 million total invested in nature uplift. The overall project must have at least a 1:2 match, meaning that the overall project must demonstrate a match of \$2 for every \$1 of Metro LSCV Program funding. Metro funding awards will not exceed one-third the total project cost of successful applications.

### 1:1 nature uplift match



### 1:2 overall project match



Ideally, match would be identified and committed at time of application. However, Metro may consider projects with conditions of approval, including the need to meet matching requirements.

## Qualifying Match

Requirements and limitations for matching funds are as follows:

- The match can be a combination of financial resources and staff time.
- The value of donated or acquired property can be used as a match if the property was donated or acquired within one year of the grant application, as long as no Metro funds (from either the LSCV Program or other Metro programs) were used to acquire the property.
- Volunteer time should be valued based on the Independent Sector's value of volunteer time. The most current information can be found at: <https://independentsector.org/resources/>
- Metro funds or staff time from other programs can be utilized in the project may not be used as a match for the total project.
- Metro funding cannot be used as a match.

It is recognized that some costs must be incurred to adequately prepare the full application. For that reason, the following costs can be included as match if incurred after Metro's invitation to submit a full application:

- Professional services, agency staff time and volunteer time spent on the following activities: site planning, preliminary design, environmental assessment, preparation of cost estimates, construction drawings and specifications, building relationships with potential partners and similar tasks necessary for project preparation.

- When applicable, professional services, agency staff time and volunteer time spent on appraisals, survey, environmental evaluation costs, cultural and historic resource surveys, and building relationships with potential partners for site acquisition.

## Review and Approval Process

The administration of this grant program is designed to be responsive to the needs of potential applicants and flexible enough to assist with the evolving nature of capital improvement projects.

Metro will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis and anticipates doing monthly reviews and announcing selections as soon as practicable after the review process is complete. The timing of the review and selection process are dependent on the volume of applications received and other considerations.

## Metro Council Approval

Metro Council, will review the evaluations, site visit analysis, and conditions of approval. Metro Council will select projects for award. Projects may receive funding lower than requested in the application.

Metro staff will submit a resolution for approval to the Metro Council based on the evaluation scoring and conditions of approval. The Metro Council will consider the information received, and award funds to those proposals that best advance the vision, goals and intent of the Large Scale Community Visions program.