

Exhibit A

Metro's 2019 Bond Measure to Protect and Connect Nature and People

PURPOSE AND INTENT

The Metro Council has recognized the need to work together as a region to make this a more livable place for everyone as greater Portland grapples with growth and its impacts. People across the region want a comprehensive approach to keeping greater Portland livable for all.

Our parks and natural areas have long set greater Portland apart from other metropolitan regions. Over the past quarter-century, the region's voters have passed two bond measures that allowed Metro to create a unique regional park system with nature at its heart – and two levies to care for these special places.

Metro has a strong track record of success delivering on commitments made to voters in these funding measures. With voters' continuing support, Metro has worked with partners to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and bring nature closer to hundreds of thousands of people. Metro now cares for more than 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas across greater Portland, including beloved parks like Oxbow and Blue Lake, as well as invaluable natural areas. Metro has also provided more than \$80 million to communities and local park providers to acquire land for parks and trails, improve water quality and provide people with improved access to nature in their neighborhoods.

Although much has been accomplished, there is much more still to do. Investing in parks and nature remains urgent in greater Portland. A growing population and changing climate threaten streams and habitat Oregonians have worked hard to protect. Treasured parks and trails need improvements to keep up with demand and to be welcoming to all. And some communities – particularly communities of color and other historically marginalized¹ communities – still await equitable access to the benefits of public investments. This proposed 2019 bond measure will allow the region to continue efforts protecting water quality and wildlife habitat for generations to come.

¹ Historically marginalized: A limited term that refers to groups who have been denied access and/or suffered past institutional discrimination in the United States and, according to the Census and other federal measuring tools, includes African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans. This is revealed by an imbalance in the representation of different groups in common pursuits such as education, jobs, housing, etc., resulting in marginalization for some groups and individuals and not for others, relative to the number of individuals who are members of the population involved. Other groups in the United States have been marginalized and are currently underrepresented. These groups may include but are not limited to other ethnicities, adult learners, veterans, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, different religious groups and different economic backgrounds. – *University of California, Berkeley (2015). Berkeley Diversity – Glossary of Terms.*

BOND MEASURE PRINCIPLES

Based on community and partner engagement and input from stakeholders, the Metro Council approves the following principles to guide the proposed bond measure.

Serve communities through inclusive engagement, transparency and accountability.

Continue to build trust and relationships through engagement of the region's diverse communities in the identification, planning and implementation of all Metro bond-funded projects. Develop tools to evaluate and report on impacts, and adjust course as needed.

Advance racial equity through bond investments.

Set aspirational goals for workforce diversity and use of minority-owned and diverse contractors identified through COBID (Oregon Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity) and work to reduce barriers to achieving these goals. Demonstrate accountability by tracking outcomes and reporting impacts.

Protect clean water for people, fish and wildlife.

Increase the emphasis on water quality as well as quantity in regional land acquisition priorities, including but not limited to protecting headwaters and preventing flooding in urban areas.

Protect and restore culturally significant native plant communities.

Prioritize protection and restoration of culturally significant native plants in partnership with greater Portland's Indigenous community in regional land acquisition and management plans.

Protect, connect and improve habitat for native fish and wildlife.

Focus on habitat protection for native fish species, such as salmon, trout, steelhead and lamprey, in regional land acquisition and management plans. Restore and enhance habitat for wildlife prioritized in state, federal and regional conservation plans and/or identified as priorities through community engagement. Consider additional opportunities for natural resource protection on working lands consistent with Metro's commitment to protect the agricultural economy and working lands in the greater Portland region.

Take care of what we have.

Maintain, update and reinvest in regional and local destinations, particularly those with high visitation and use by communities of color or places/projects identified by communities of color.

Make parks and natural areas more accessible and inclusive.

Increase access for those experiencing disabilities through investments using universal design principles and projects that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Work with communities of color, greater Portland's Indigenous community and other historically marginalized groups to identify opportunities for culturally responsive public improvements.

Connect more people to the land and rivers of our region.

Provide people with new or improved access to local rivers and streams, natural areas and places for multi-generational activities, healing spaces and community gatherings. Leverage other public and private investments in affordable housing and transportation.

Invest in trails for biking and walking.

Focus on closing gaps and completing ready-to-build projects that fulfill the Regional Trails Plan, particularly those identified as priorities by communities of color. Consider proximity to affordable housing and transit and connections to regional or local parks.

Support community-led parks and nature projects.

Require greater community engagement and racial equity strategies for local, community-led projects funded by the bond. Prioritize projects identified and created by communities of color and other historically marginalized groups. Hold partners accountable for tracking outcomes and reporting impacts.

Make communities more resilient to climate change.

Reduce impacts of climate change through conservation and park development. Emphasize flood control, water quality and availability, urban forest canopy, habitat connectivity, food security and community access to water.

PARKS AND NATURE BOND MEASURE SIX PROGRAM AREAS

The proposed bond measure consists of the following elements, as described more fully in the following Exhibits B through G:

1. Protect and restore land	\$155 million	(Exhibit B)
2. Support local projects	\$92 million	(Exhibit C)
3. Nature in Neighborhood capital grants	\$40 million	(Exhibit D)
4. Take care of Metro parks	\$98 million	(Exhibit E)
5. Create trails for walking and biking	\$40 million	(Exhibit F)
6. Advance large-scale community visions	\$50 million	(Exhibit G)

BOND MEASURE PROGRAM CRITERIA

The Metro Council directed staff to develop common criteria for each of the six program investment areas set forth above to advance racial equity, make communities and natural areas more resilient to climate change and guide project prioritization and selection. These criteria are set forth below. Additional criteria specific to each program area are identified in Exhibits B through G.

Community Engagement and Racial Equity Criteria

Investments in all program areas must satisfy all of the following community engagement and racial equity criteria.

- Meaningfully engage with communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities in planning, development and selection of projects.
- Prioritize projects and needs identified by communities of color, Indigenous communities, low-income and other historically marginalized groups.
- Demonstrate accountability for tracking outcomes and reporting impacts, particularly as they relate to communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities.
- Improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of developed parks.
- Include strategies to prevent or mitigate displacement and/or gentrification resulting from bond 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.

Climate Resilience Criteria

All projects funded by the bond must identify at least one climate resilience criterion that the project will satisfy from among the following.

- 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 stormwater 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 ADMINISTRATION

Bond proceeds must be spent on capital costs, which could include, but are not limited to, costs for land acquisition, design, planning and construction, general and program administrative expenses, bond issuance costs and reimbursable bond preparation expenses related to community engagement, design, planning and feasibility of the acquisition and capital construction program. General and program administrative expenses include, but are not limited to, assistance from

professional realtors, real estate appraisals, surveys, title reports, environmental and equity evaluations, Indigenous cultural contractors and design and engineering services. Bonds mature in not more than 30 years. The Metro Council may annually allocate interest earnings on unspent bond proceeds to the capital costs of any Metro bond program area described in the remaining exhibits.

Program funding amounts set forth above are approximate based on a rate not to exceed 19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and the assumption that Metro will sell tax-exempt bonds. Maximum funding amounts for any program area are set forth in the following Exhibits B through G. If taxable bonds are required in any program area, funding for that program area will be adjusted based on proceeds received.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPACT ANALYSIS

An independent community advisory committee will review progress in the implementation of Metro's bond measure, including protection of land, local and community project implementation, capital construction of Metro park and regional trail projects, and grant program administration. This committee, the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee, gives the Metro Council and the region's residents an independent, outside review of the capital program. The committee's charge and responsibilities will include oversight of Metro's efforts to meet the racial equity and climate resiliency criteria and outcomes described in this measure.

An annual financial audit of the expenditure of the bond proceeds will be conducted by a public accounting firm and the results published on Metro's website.