## Exhibit G Advancing Large-Scale Community Visions

In this program area, Metro will provide up to \$50 million to help deliver large-scale projects that uplift communities by leveraging nature to achieve benefits such as job opportunities, affordable housing and safe, reliable transportation. In addition to satisfying the community engagement, racial equity, and climate resilience criteria set forth in Exhibit A, this program will:

- Catalyze 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.
- Provide an additional \$20 million in funding for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project and the riverwalk.

## **Program activities**

- Partner with other public agencies and private organizations to create access to nature in regional-scale development projects, as directed by the Metro Council.
- Provide technical assistance and project development support to projects seeking and receiving funding.

## Program criteria

Program investments must satisfy 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.
- Complement investments in affordable housing and transit or active transportation projects.

## **Program detail**

Projects should make significant progress toward Metro's parks and nature mission of protecting clean water, restoring healthy fish and wildlife habitat and connecting people to nature, as well as support Metro's regional goals for growth management and livable, affordable communities. Projects should enhance the health of urban environments, mitigate the impacts of climate change and provide public access to nature even in the densest areas of the region. Additionally, projects should advance racial equity by meaningfully engaging communities whose voices and interests have not historically been recognized.

This program is focused on strategic capital improvements that will catalyze investments in the community where they are located while demonstrating regional, statewide and/or national significance. Projects are typically complex, multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder, public-private partnerships and could include Metro-led projects, such as the Willamette Falls Legacy Project. Partners should ensure limited public resources generate maximum private investment and complement other public investments in schools, roadways, bike and pedestrian routes, public transit and affordable housing.

Projects could be identified through a letter of interest or other invited request for proposal process. The Metro Council will designate a proposal and project review process. Several project review cycles could be necessary, though there may only be one per year. Projects could be funded each cycle up to \$10 million each until all funds are allocated. Metro may help identify potential projects and work with partners to shape the scope, scale and budget of the project being proposed for funding. Projects in which Metro has previously invested may be prioritized for additional funding.

After five years, the Metro Council may reallocate unspent and unobligated funds to other program areas, up to any maximum program funding amount(s).