

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 20-5065, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE
PARKS AND NATURE FUND AND FOR AMENDING THE FY 2019-20 BUDGET AND
APPROPRIATIONS SCHEDULE

Date: January 23, 2020

Department: Parks and Nature

Meeting date: February 6, 2020

Prepared by: Lisa Houghton, Financial
Planning Manager, ext. 1829

Presenter: Lisa Houghton, Financial Planning
Manager, ext. 1829

ISSUE STATEMENT

This resolution will authorize the creation of the Parks and Nature Fund, recognition of \$10,000,000 in bond proceeds, \$10,000,000 in additional appropriations and 6.00 additional FTE in the FY 2019-20 Budget.

ACTION REQUESTED

Council adoption of Resolution 20-5065

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Council adoption will allow the Parks and Nature department to begin implementation of the program and projects outlined in the November 2019 Parks and Nature Measure in the current fiscal year.

POLICY QUESTION

Does Council support implementation of the new programs and projects outlined in the November 2019 Parks and Nature Measure in the current fiscal year?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Adoption of the resolution will provide sufficient appropriations and FTE to accommodate the changes in current year operations as outlined in the background section below. Lack of Council adoption will delay planned programs and projects until FY 2020-21.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Interim Chief Operating Officer recommends adoption of Resolution 20-5065.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Known Opposition/Support/Community Feedback: None known

Legal Antecedents: ORS 294.338(4) allows an increase in appropriations due to the sale of general obligation bonds approved by the voters during the current fiscal year when authorized by an official resolution or ordinance of the governing body stating the need for the recognition. Metro code chapter 2.02.040 requires the Metro Council to approve the addition of any position to the budget.

Anticipated Effects: This action provides for the anticipated issuances of bonds in the spring of 2020 by establishing the Parks and Nature fund and authorizing the recognition of bond proceeds, additional appropriations and FTE.

Financial Implications (current year and ongoing):

This resolution establishes the Parks and Nature Fund, authorizes recognition of \$10,000,000 in bond proceeds, authorizes \$10,000,000 of appropriations and adds 6.00 FTE in the Parks and Nature Fund. Future budgets will include debt service payments on the issued bonds and program and project related appropriations and FTE.

BACKGROUND

On November 5, 2019, voters across greater Portland approved a \$475,000,000 Parks and Nature general obligation bonds measure. The bond proceeds will be used to increase access to nature for people in the Metro region, continue our regional investments designed to improve water quality in local rivers and streams, restore fish and wildlife habitat, help prevent flooding in urban areas and protect and restore culturally significant plant communities. Metro will distribute funds to cities, counties and other local park providers across greater Portland for local water quality, wildlife habitat and park capital maintenance projects, as well as provide funding for community-led Nature in Neighborhoods grants, regional trails and large-scale nature projects that also address community issues such as jobs, housing and transportation. Bond funds will be used to maintain regional parks, including Oxbow and Blue Lake, by updating infrastructure and increasing opportunities for low-income families and communities of color to connect with nature close to home.

To begin the work essential to program implementation this amendment requests the following:

Establishment of a the Parks and Nature Fund

The planned spring 2020 issuance of the Parks and Nature bonds will be the first in a series of bond issuances authorized by passage of the November 2019 measure. As such, there is not an existing fund to account for the program's transactions. Establishing a new Parks and Nature Fund is necessary to provide appropriate oversight and accounting for the program's transactions. Similar to other general obligations bond issuances, all debt service payments will be accounted for in the existing General Obligation Debt Service Fund.

6.00 FTE; total Personnel Services appropriations of approximately \$236,000

Positions requested include:

- 1.00 FTE Principal Regional Planner (Strategic Funding Project Manager) who will be responsible for planning, organizing and coordinating the implementation of bond measure, including developing the strategy and leading the execution for refinement. Metro will be selecting projects and setting up decision-making processes across six program areas: land purchase and restoration, improvements at Metro parks, Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants, "local share" money to support local park providers, walking and biking trails, and complex community projects such as providing public access to Willamette Falls.

- 1.00 FTE Senior Public Affairs Specialist (Strategic Funding Community Involvement Specialist) who will design, implement and facilitate opportunities for partners and community members to give input into the way Metro invests bond proceeds.
- 1.00 FTE Administrative Specialist III (Strategic Funding Administrative Specialist) to provide administrative support to staff including scheduling meetings internally and with jurisdictional and community partners, organizing filing protocols, providing logistical support for community events, maintaining spreadsheets and databases and other support functions.
- 1.00 FTE Assistant GIS Specialist who will be responsible for assisting with the management of GIS data, mapping and supporting applications that support the implementation of the 2019 parks and nature bond measure. The incumbent will produce custom maps, reports for Metro staff or other jurisdictions and assist with any related data management needs.
- 1.00 FTE Program Manager (Capital Investments Program Coordinator) to design and implement decision-making processes for the capital grant program selection in consultation with internal and external partners. They'll develop and organize the policy and program for the local share acquisition and park improvement projects, conduct outreach to potential grant applicants and local share recipients, and manage grant and jurisdictional contracts.
- 1.00 FTE Real Estate Negotiator who will acquire property in one or more of the regional target areas identified for acquisition. Responsibilities will include real estate negotiations, coordination with outside consultants and providers, real estate due diligence, preparation for closings and active role in public refinement process.

Annualized costs for the 6.00 FTE are estimated at \$632,600; costs for the remainder of this fiscal year are estimated at \$236,000.

Materials and Services Appropriations of approximately \$9,764,000

In addition to the \$236,000 personnel service costs associated with requested 6.00 FTE, other programs costs will occur as implementation moves forward. Anticipated costs include land acquisition costs, contracted property services and other material and service costs of approximately \$9,764,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 20-5065
- Exhibit A – Schedule of Appropriations
- Exhibit B – Schedule of FTE