

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO., FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING THE
PARKS AND NATURE BOND LOCAL SHARE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
FORM AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Date: September 13, 2021
Department: Parks and Nature
Meeting Date: September 30, 2021

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Length: 25 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

The 2019 parks and nature bond local share program allocates funds to 27 park providers in the region for projects in their communities that satisfy bond community engagement, racial equity and climate resilience criteria and meet program criteria guidelines.

An intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between Metro and each park provider will formalize commitment to these projects and launch the distribution of funding for projects.

At the September 30 Council meeting, Parks and Nature staff will be presenting for Metro Council consideration and approval a local share IGA form and a process for Council to delegate approval of individual IGAs with jurisdictional partners to the Metro Chief Operating Officer (COO).

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff requests approval of Resolution No. 21-5201, for the purpose of approving the Parks and Nature bond local share intergovernmental agreement form and approval process.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The Metro Council's policy direction for the local share program is reflected in the local share program materials, which support park providers in meeting the bond criteria around racial equity, community engagement and climate resilience.

The local share submission package and process is designed to ensure that local jurisdictions can demonstrate that they have met and can meet the relevant bond and program criteria for projects that protect clean water, restore habitat and connect people with nature close to home.

The Metro Council has directed staff to pursue a streamlined path for approval of IGAs with the 27 park providers that allows for expeditious distribution of funds for priority projects across the region that protect clean water, restore habitat and connect people with nature close to home. This streamlined path allows the Metro Council to approve an IGA form and

delegate authority to the Metro Chief Operating Officer (COO) to execute the final IGA negotiated with each individual park provider.

In the past, the Metro Council has delegated authority to the COO to take operational actions Council is otherwise required to approve. For example, the Metro Code requires Council to approve any contract for the purchase, sale, lease or transfer of real property, but for property acquired under the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Council has delegated authority to the COO to enter into purchase agreements provided such acquisitions are in accordance with the Council-approved Work Plan.

The Metro Council has also asked staff for regular and detailed communications on the status of the local share program and individual partner project priority submissions. In response to this direction, Parks and Nature staff are implementing a local share Council communications strategy that includes the following elements:

- Providing a monthly local share status update to Council
- Alerting the Parks and Nature bond refinement Council liaisons when staff initially receives project submission from a specific jurisdictional partner.
- Alerting the specific Councilor and policy advisor when staff initially receives a project submission from a jurisdiction within the Councilor's district
- If there are concerns with a specific project submission, working with the Parks and Nature bond Council liaisons to elevate issues and update the rest of Council in a timely manner.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Metro Council approve Resolution No. 21-5201, for the purpose of approving the Parks and Nature bond local share intergovernmental agreement form and approval process.

The proposed process for implementing the Local Share Program Intergovernmental Agreement is described in a summary memo attached to this staff report.

BACKGROUND

Parks and Nature staff launched the local share program by finalizing a program handbook, a ZoomGrants online portal for submitting priority projects and a community engagement toolkit and other resources to help park providers identify and submit priority projects.

Staff have also developed a review process for local share project submissions that is comprehensive, timely and ensures that the proposed projects meet bond eligibility, bond and program criteria.

At a Council work session this spring, the Metro Council affirmed this approach to IGA approval. Since then, the Office of Metro Attorney developed a draft IGA form and provided

an opportunity for all 27 park providers to review the form. The IGA pursuant to this resolution incorporates feedback from jurisdictional partners.