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455-2022

Report

## Accept the 2019 Metro Bond Local Share Allocation Project List

Accepted

**DATE:** MAY 18, 2022

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Robin Laughlin, Capital Renovation Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Accept the 2019 Metro Bond Local Share Allocation Project List (Report)

I am pleased to submit for your consideration and acceptance Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R) 2019 Metro Bond Local Share Allocation Project List (Report). This report summarizes the Local Share Program, PP&R's Project List Development, and provides an overview of PP&R's public outreach related to list development.

Metro's 2019 Bond Measure to Protect and Connect People to Nature (Metro Bond) provides funding across six program areas including \$92 million of Local Share funds dedicated to park providers in the Tri-County area for local parks and nature projects. PP&R will have access to \$31,821,020 of Local Share funds to implement projects in the city of Portland. To access these funds, PP&R must meet program criteria established by Metro, have our governing body's approval of the project list, enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Metro describing the Metro-PP&R responsibilities to implement the Local Share agreed upon projects, and make project applications for each project.

The Project List included in the Report to Council has had input from the community, PP&R staff, and Metro. The list presents a grouping of citywide and neighborhood serving projects that balances the many priorities of these groups and Metro's Local Share Bond criteria. As projects on the list move forward, PP&R's Community Engagement team will connect with the community to seek input on project design. Construction updates will be shared through PP&R's social media channels, webpages, emails, and on-site signage as the work progresses.

### Introduced by

[Commissioner Carmen Rubio](#)

### Bureau

[Parks & Recreation](#)

### Contact

**Robin Laughlin**

Capital Projects Manager (2014  
Parks Bond Program)

✉ [robin.laughlin@portlandoregon.go](mailto:robin.laughlin@portlandoregon.go)

📞 [971-940-5567](tel:971-940-5567)

### Requested Agenda Type

Regular

### Date and Time Information

#### Requested Council Date

May 25, 2022

#### Time Requested

20 minutes

PP&R's next steps to secure funding and begin project work include finalizing an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Metro. The IGA requires refined project applications for each proposed project and the results of those application materials be included in the IGA.

PP&R will provide regular reporting to Metro and to Council to ensure progress made is in keeping with the desires of the community. We are grateful that the Metro area voters have prioritized park investments across the region, and we look forward to this opportunity to improve access to nature, protect our natural resources, increase accessibility, address inequities in our parks system, and lower our energy use through the implementation of these projects.

Recommendation: PP&R is recommending approval and acceptance of the proposed City of Portland 2019 Metro Local Share Allocation Project (List).

Thank you,

Robin Laughlin, PLA – Capital Renovation Program Manager

## **Documents and Exhibits**

 [2019 Metro Bond Local Share Allocation Project List](#) (3.96 Mb)

## **Impact Statement**

### **Purpose of Proposed Legislation and Background Information**

The purpose of this Report is to gain Council governing body approval of Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R) project list to be used in applying for the 2019 Metro Local Share dollars.

Metro's Bond Measure to Protect and Connect People to Nature (Metro Bond) provides funding across six program areas including \$92 million of Local Share funds dedicated to park providers in the Tri-County area for local parks and nature projects. PP&R will have access to \$31,821,020 of Local Share funds to implement projects in the City of Portland. To access these funds, PP&R must meet a list of criteria established by Metro, have our governing body's approval of the project list, enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Metro, and make project applications for each project.

The Project List included in the Report to Council has had input from the Portland community, PP&R stakeholders, and Metro. The list presents a grouping of citywide and local serving projects that balances many priorities of these groups. PP&R's Community Engagement team will connect with Portlanders to seek input on project design and will posts updates to PP&R's social media channels, provide links to the online information, and share information as the work progresses.

PP&R's next steps to secure funding and begin project work include finalizing an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Metro. The IGA requires refined project applications be made for each proposed project and the results of those application materials be included in the IGA.

PP&R will continue to evolve outreach and contracting efforts State-certified disadvantaged, minority-owned, women-owned, emerging small businesses, and/or service-disabled veteran business enterprises to ensure that these design and construction professionals have contract opportunities with the City of Portland.

## **Financial and Budgetary Impacts**

Approval of this report will allow PP&R access to \$31,821,000 of Local Share funds from Metro's 2019 Bond Measure to Protect and Connect People to Nature. Future operations and maintenance costs for built objects will be addressed through the PP&R annual budget process. Current staffing levels will not be affected.

## **Community Impacts and Community Involvement**

In November 2019, voters across the greater Portland area approved Metro's 2019 Bond Measure to Protect and Connect People to Nature, authorizing Metro to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$475 million to fund natural area and water quality protection projects and to connect people to nature. The bond provides funding across six program areas, one of which is the Local Share, the subject of this Report.

Following internal project prioritization and collaboration with Metro, a draft project list (the July 2021 List) was brought to the community in November 2021 for evaluation and input during a month-long community engagement process. By providing a list that exceeded the available funding, PP&R offered an opportunity to community members to have a true voice in prioritizing work that meets Metro's criteria and PP&R's priorities for equity, maintenance, renovation, and growth.

The November 2021 community engagement process included eight focus group meetings with specific cultural/language communities and an online community survey in Spanish and in English. The focus group meetings were led by Verde, with PP&R staff present to help answer questions. The eight focus groups included:

- Mobile home residents (English/Spanish)
- Spanish speakers, held in Spanish
- Vietnamese speakers, held in Vietnamese
- Black community members
- Russian speakers, held in Russian
- Chinese/Cantonese speakers
- Akateko (Mayan Indigenous language) speakers, held in Aketeko
- Native/Tribal community members, held in English

The initial project list was developed based on the information from various sources, including an equity ranking with focus on serving populations of diversity, youth, and poverty, level of service guidance, staff-identified needs, asset evaluation reports on likelihood of failure and consequence of failure, and input from the community. Potential projects were screened, evaluated, and reviewed against community priorities, system-wide needs, and Metro's criteria for funding.

### **100% Renewable Goal**

The City's Renewable Energy Goals are not directly impacted as a result of the presentation of this report. The City's total energy use is expected to decrease as a result of the new future LED Lighting projects described within the report.

### **Budget Office Financial Impact Analysis**

No fiscal impact—accepting project list.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **455 Regular Agenda in May 25-26, 2022 Council Agenda**

Accepted

Motion to accept the report: Moved by Hardesty and second by Rubio.

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

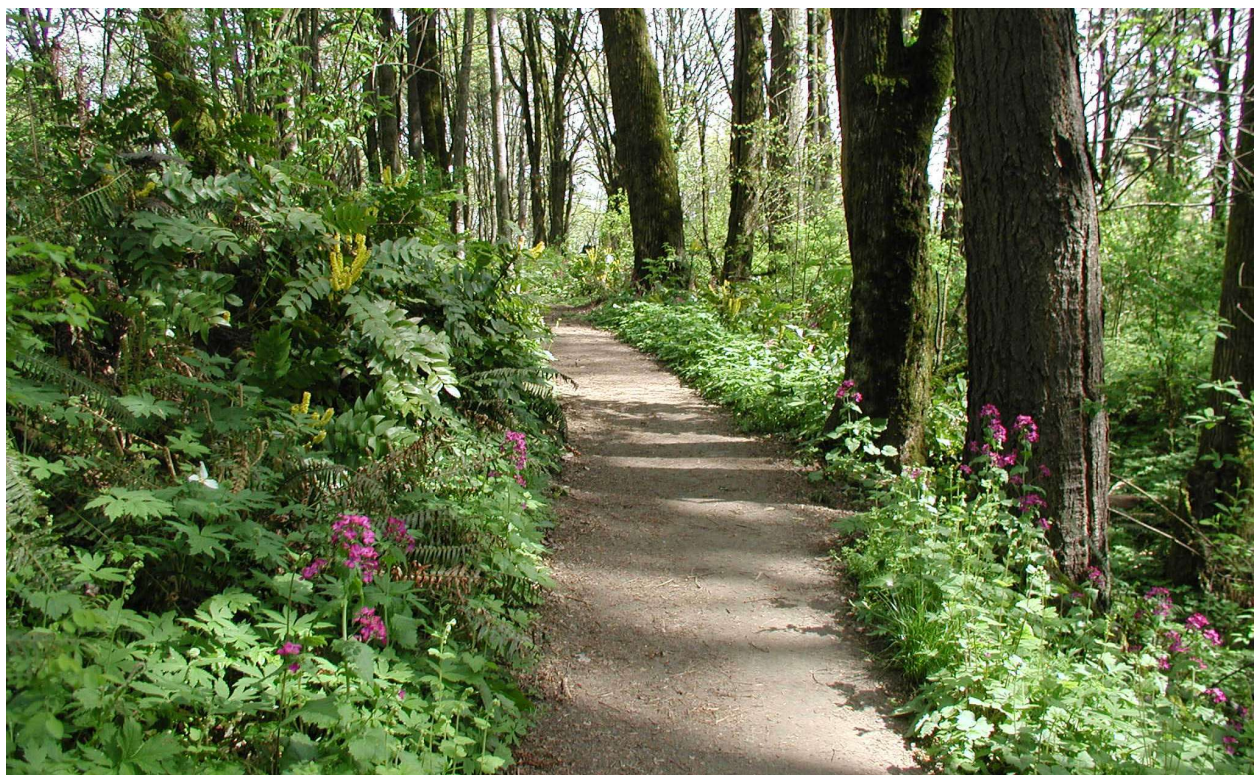
Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea



**PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION**<sup>SM</sup>

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



# 2019 Metro Bond Local Share Allocation Project List

## **Background**

### *Metro Bond 2019 Passage & Purpose*

In November 2019, voters across greater Portland approved Metro's 2019 Bond Measure to Protect and Connect People to Nature (Metro Bond), authorizing Metro to issue \$475 million in general obligation bonds to fund natural area and water quality protection and to connect people to nature. The Metro Bond provides funding across six program areas and has allocated \$92 million for Local Parks and Nature Projects across the Tri-County area. Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) will have access to \$31,821,020 of Local Share funding to fund projects at a local level. For access to the 2019 Metro Bond Local Share dollars, PP&R must meet a list of established Metro criteria, including public engagement, prior to the local share project lists being finalized.

The Metro Bond prioritizes serving people of color, Indigenous people, people with low incomes, people with varying abilities, and other historically marginalized groups that have not benefited equitably from past investments. It requires that all programs funded by the Metro Bond are shaped through meaningful stakeholder engagement, are developed using a racial equity lens, and work to make the region more resilient to climate change.

### **Local Share List Development**

PP&R has been working with Metro and PP&R staff to develop a list of projects that could be eligible for Local Share dollars. A draft list was developed in 2019 from projects that had been identified and prioritized in PP&R's Capital Projects List. Prioritization included many factors such as an equity ranking with focus on serving populations of diversity, youth, and poverty, level of service guidance, staff-identified needs, asset evaluation reports on likelihood of failure and consequence of failure, and input from the community. Additional guidance from then PP&R Commissioner-in-Charge Nick Fish directed PP&R to prioritize projects that would help begin to address the \$500M Major Maintenance backlog.

In March 2021, Metro provided a Local Share Handbook (Handbook) to define the project criteria and process they would use to distribute Local Share funds. PP&R's Local Share List was further refined in response to the Metro criteria presented, resulting in a July 2021 Draft Local Share List which included 23 projects with an estimated total project cost of \$60 million. The list presented a grouping of citywide and neighborhood serving projects that balanced many priorities including but not limited to:

- Metro Local Share Criteria
  - Safe and welcoming infrastructure, accessibility, cultural responsiveness, new or improved park amenities, access to nature, improved efficiency of operations and maintenance for developed parks, connect people to nature, improve water access, acquire natural area land, and protect and improve water quality and quantity.
- PP&R Equity Scores
  - Population % of diversity, youth, and poverty.

- PP&R Major Maintenance Scores
  - Likelihood of failure and consequence of failure.
- PP&R Capital Growth Scores
  - Service variety and how many households are being served.
- PP&R priorities
  - Including financial sustainability, geographic equity, natural areas restoration goals, and impacts to operations and maintenance.
- Service gaps identified in the 2021 Level of Service Guidance for Developed Parks and Natural Areas Report, other systemwide plans, and park master plans.
- Priorities discovered through recent community engagement efforts.

The July 2021 List was brought to the community in November 2021 for a month-long community engagement process. By initially providing a list that exceeded the available funding, PP&R offered an opportunity to community members to have a true voice in prioritizing the projects. The community engagement process included eight focus group meetings with specific cultural/language communities representing historically marginalized communities. An online community survey, presented in Spanish and in English, was used to gather additional input.

For the community engagement focus groups, **safety** and **lighting** were the top themes. Every group mentioned **safety as a major priority** – this included better lighting and feeling like a park is cared for and clean. Well maintained, accessible and clean **restrooms** were also a big priority for participants. **Better accessibility** for people with disabilities and families using strollers was also a high priority across the groups. **Restoration** and **conservation** were shared themes across the groups. Destination parks such as Forest Park are appreciated, but many noted that **having nature accessible close to where they live is a higher priority**.

Overall, participants in the online survey said that **better trails, parking, and habitat restoration** were their top priorities. English survey participants were also concerned about issues related to the **houseless, safety, and cleanliness**. Spanish survey participants shared concerns about **safety and more accessible, better maintained parks**. River access and boating was a low priority across the online survey and the focus groups. Trails and other ways to access nature without special equipment were preferred.

### ***February 2022 List***

With \$31.8M in available funding, the Local Share Project List now totals \$28,500,000, with the remainder held in program contingency.

The February 2022 list proposes a list of projects that:

- Provides significant improvements for access to nature in most quadrants of the city, as well as multiple smaller improvements in all areas of the city.
- Prioritizes community needs for safety and accessibility.
- Meets the stated Metro Criteria.
- Addresses priority major maintenance needs by taking care of our existing assets.
- Reflects Bureau and staff priorities.

The attached map illustrates the proposed geographic distribution of projects. The proposed project list provides for Portland's historically marginalized community's identified priorities for:

- Improved safety, accessibility, and close to home recreation opportunities by renovating access and trail and bridge infrastructure in Forest Park and multiple natural areas throughout the city.
- Providing new, free, close to home recreation opportunities for the community at golf courses, natural areas and parks.
- Increasing accessibility at multiple parks.
- Renovating restrooms.
- Providing modern, energy efficient lighting.
- Investing in nature trails and habitat restoration.

The proposed projects meet several overlapping priorities. Of the \$31.8M in available funding 72% is allocated to priorities identified by Portland's underserved communities; 68% to taking care of existing assets; and 31% to providing new access to nature, with many projects meeting multiple goals.

Across focus groups and the survey participants, safety was a key concern that we heard from the community. While all projects will be designed with safety as a priority, some meet specific safety aspects. Many of the funded projects will address multiple safety aspects in parks and natural areas such as:

- 64% to addressing pedestrian safety
- 5% to fire/life/safety work
- 9% to projects improving visibility
- 8% to building safety work
- 22% to site activation work



Below is a summary of the proposed projects:

### **Single Site Projects**

- **Columbia Blvd Crossing, \$3M:** Build a new pedestrian bridge in Chimney Park and along the existing Peninsula Crossing Trail to provide access to the future Metro park site and trail at St Johns Prairie.
- **Forest Park Renovations, \$3M:** Provide safe access to nature and improve emergency response access in Forest Park by making trail and fire lane access improvements with a focus on safety and accessibility. Work to include renovations to culverts, bridges, and trailheads.
- **Golf Courses: New Trails, \$2M:** Improve free nature access at Rose City Golf Course with a new walking loop around the perimeter of the course for physical activity space with access to trees and open space. Additional golf course trail candidate sites include Colwood and Heron Lakes Golf Courses, Eastmoreland and others, if funding allows.
- **Hoyt Arboretum, Bristlecone Pine Trail Renovations, \$3M:** Renovate the existing trail and parking area to provide safe, barrier-free ADA access, and partner with Hoyt Arboretum Friends.
- **Wilkes Headwaters Property, \$4M:** Develop a master plan for the 20-acre natural area hybrid park at the headwaters of Wilkes Creek. Renovate portions of the site to provide habitat restoration and new trails in the natural areas to address a natural area level of service gap. With separate funding, construct approximately 5-acres of the property as a neighborhood park to address a developed park level of service gap.

### **Multiple Location Projects**

- **ADA and Path Renovations, \$3M:** Make ADA improvements at up to eight developed parks to provide increased access to nature – prioritizing sites with high equity scores, transition plan scores, and known level of service gaps. Park sites could include Hancock, John Luby, Lincoln Parks, and more.
- **ESPC Phase II, Existing Lighting Conversion, \$2M:** Convert existing park pathway lighting at up to 30 parks to provide standardized LED for energy efficiency - while meeting City of Portland bird-friendly and climate action goals.
- **Natural Areas Access, Pathway, and Sign Renovations, \$3.5M:** Renovate and provide new improvements to boardwalks and trails, make ecological restoration improvements, address ADA issues, and provide new educational signs. Sites in consideration include Whitaker Ponds, West Lents Flood Plain, Oaks Bottom, Columbia Slough, and others.

- **Neighborhood Parks Restroom Roof Renovations, \$2.25M:** Renovate deteriorating park restroom roofs at up to 5 parks with a focus on sites with high equity scores. Work may address additional site-specific issues such as ADA, site furnishings, and plumbing needs. Park sites could include sites along the Springwater Trail and at Kelly Point, Johnson Creek, and Wilshire Parks.
- **Trail Bridge Replacements, \$2.75M:** Repair or replace up to 8 trail bridges throughout the system. Project sites under consideration include bridges on the Springwater Corridor and at Colwood Natural Area, Whitaker Ponds Park, Alder Ridge Natural Area, Forest Park, Marshal Park, Woods Memorial Park, Hoyt Arboretum, and Marquam Park.

PP&R will share the final approved list with the community and each project will have outreach tailored to the needs of each specific project.

### **Issues/Concerns/Opportunities**

The majority of the \$31.8M of Local Share funds (68%) is targeted toward helping to address the Major Maintenance backlog in PP&R's natural areas and developed parks. Expansion opportunities are focused on projects in historically underserved communities and in areas that have current Level of Service gaps. As an example, Wilkes Headwaters, provides equitable access to natural areas in East Portland and meets the criteria expressed in the Handbook. The Columbia Boulevard bridge provides a safe crossing to the St. Johns Prairie project, a key part of the 40-Mile Loop network. Both projects provide an opportunity to leverage other grant funds.

### **Policy Questions/Considerations**

Accessing Local Share dollars will be similar to applying for a grant in that proposed projects must be approved by Metro, meeting the Local Share Handbook criteria, while also addressing high priority needs of Portlanders and the Bureau. The community engagement process helped to clarify the priorities of historically marginalized communities and the broader Portland community. The proposed final project list balances these interdependent issues with a priority for the community needs expressed at the Focus Group meetings.

The final project list will need to be approved by Portland City Council and by Metro Council and will become an attachment to an IGA between the two agencies.

### **Public Involvement Process**

PP&R has facilitated extensive racial equity-focused community engagement work in recent years, and the Metro Local Share process presented an opportunity to further develop the resulting body of knowledge to ensure we are meeting the needs of the communities we serve and stewarding the land and assets for which we are responsible, centering inclusivity and accessibility, as well as racial and environmental justice.

The fall 2021 community engagement process included eight focus group meetings with eight cultural/language communities. The meetings were held in a variety of languages. Meetings included the below listed groups:

- Mobile home residents (English/Spanish)
- Spanish speakers (Spanish)
- Vietnamese speakers (Vietnamese)
- Black community members (English)
- Russian speakers (Russian)
- Chinese/Cantonese speakers (Cantonese)
- Akateko (Mayan Indigenous language) speakers (Akateko)
- Native/Tribal community members (English)

The online community survey was posted in Spanish and in English from November 4 through November 30, 2022. The survey received 1,346 total responses, of which the English-language survey received 1,337 responses, and the Spanish-language survey received nine responses.

Full reports on the survey and focus groups are available at [portland.gov/parks/local-share](https://portland.gov/parks/local-share). An executive summary is provided here as an attachment.

### **Next Steps**

PP&R's next steps to secure funding and begin project work include finalizing an IGA with Metro. Refined project application materials will be made for each proposed project and will be included in the IGA. Staff will provide the applications for the single site projects and will make those applications first for inclusion in the IGA. Concurrently, the multiple sites projects will be further refined, and those sites included in the IGA as an amendment. This amendment process has been reviewed with Metro and is supported by their Local Share Program Manager.

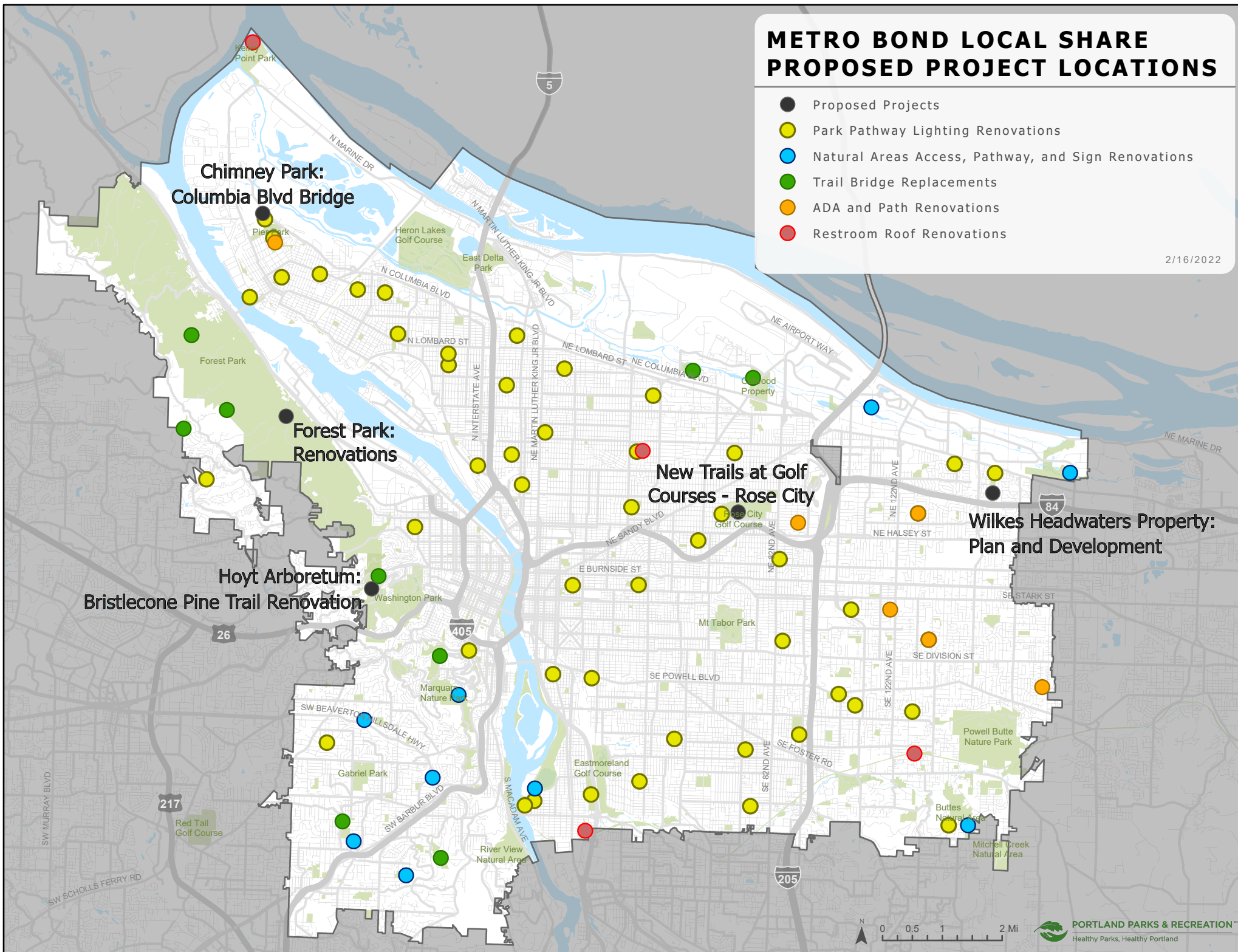
### **Attachments**

1. Local Share Final Draft List February 2022
2. Local Share Project Distribution Map April 2022
3. Local Share Allocation Distribution April 2022
4. Community Input Executive Summary, Fall 2021

# METRO BOND LOCAL SHARE PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATIONS

- Proposed Projects
- Park Pathway Lighting Renovations
- Natural Areas Access, Pathway, and Sign Renovations
- Trail Bridge Replacements
- ADA and Path Renovations
- Restroom Roof Renovations

2/16/2022



**February 2022 Metro Local Share List  
Allocation Summary**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Proposed Allocation</b>
Columbia Blvd Crossing	\$3,000,000
Forest Park Renovations	\$3,000,000
Golf Course Trails	\$2,000,000
Hoyt Arboretum, Bristlecone Pine Trail	\$3,000,000
Wilkes Headwaters	\$4,000,000
ADA and Path Renovations	\$3,000,000
ESPC Phase II, Lighting Conversion	\$2,000,000
Natural Areas, access, pathway, sign renovations	\$3,500,000
Neighborhood Park Restroom Roof Renovations	\$2,250,000
Trail Bridge Replacements	\$2,750,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,500,000</b>
<i>percent of allocation</i>	

Allocation Distribution			
Underserved Community Expressed Priority	Existing Asset	New Asset	Improved Access to Nature
		\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000		
\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000		\$3,500,000
\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000		\$2,250,000
\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000		\$2,750,000
<b>\$20,500,000</b>	<b>\$19,500,000</b>	<b>\$9,000,000</b>	<b>\$26,500,000</b>
71.93%	68.42%	31.58%	92.98%

Safety Issues Addressed				
Pedestrian Use	Fire, & Life Safety	Visibility	Building Stability	Site Activation
\$3,000,000				
\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000			
\$2,000,000				
\$3,000,000				
				\$4,000,000
\$3,000,000				
		\$2,000,000		
\$3,000,000		\$500,000		
			\$2,250,000	
\$2,750,000				
<b>\$18,250,000</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,250,000</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>
64.04%	5.26%	8.77%	7.89%	21.92%



# PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION: METRO BOND LOCAL SHARE

## FALL 2021 COMMUNITY INPUT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### Engagement Process Overview

In the fall of 2021, Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) launched an engagement process to help determine community needs and priorities for how to invest in the City's Local Share of Metro's 2019 Parks and Nature Bond. The Local Share program gave PP&R access to \$31.8 million for projects that meet Metro's funding criteria. Funding criteria includes protecting habitat, connecting people to nature, and addressing racial equity and climate change.

PP&R's list of potential projects that meet Metro's funding criteria totaled more than \$57 million. The goal of the engagement process was to help PP&R staff understand what types of eligible projects best meet the community's priorities and needs. The processes used to gather community input focused on understanding community needs and values when experiencing and accessing local and regional parks.

Input was collected in two primary ways:

- Online survey in English and Spanish
- Eight online focus groups targeting specific cultural/language communities

Full reports on the survey and focus groups are available at [portland.gov/parks/local-share](https://portland.gov/parks/local-share). This executive summary is an overview of the engagement process and highlights some of the themes heard from these two sources of input. Input from the survey and focus groups will help inform PP&R decisions on a final project list to recommend to Metro and City Council in early 2022.

### Survey Overview

A six-question online survey with additional demographic questions was open from **November 4 to November 30, 2021**. The survey was promoted through many channels including:

- Focus group meetings hosted by Verde and Community Engagement Liaisons
- East Portland Parks Committee meeting 11/4/2021
- Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting 11/4/2021
- PACCO newsletter (Philippine Chamber of Commerce)
- PP&R's Facebook, Nextdoor, and LinkedIn accounts postings
- PP&R's webpage posting
- Email to PP&R's main email list

The survey was provided in Spanish and in English and received **1,346 total responses**. The English-language survey received **1,337** responses, and the Spanish-language survey received **nine** responses.

## Focus Groups Overview

A major focus of [Metro's Local Share Program](#) is ensuring that meaningful community engagement is used to shape the local share investments. PP&R recognized from past efforts that online survey efforts are useful in hearing from a large number of community members in a quantifiable way, but they typically only reach a portion of the Portland community. Frequently, communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes, and people with Limited English proficiency do not engage with this format. Given that, PP&R worked with Verde and Community Engagement Liaisons to design a series of focus groups targeting these communities and held in a conversational format to draw out these communities' priorities for the Metro Local Share funds. This work was done by side by with the design of the online survey, so that both input methods used similar themes and questions.

A total of eight focus groups were held, and each was about 1 ½ - 2 hours long online via Zoom. Verde led the outreach and meetings with mobile home residents, Akateko speakers, Spanish speakers, and Black community members. PP&R contracted with Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs) to lead focus groups with Native/Tribal community members and Chinese, Russian, and Vietnamese speakers. All participants received a gift card for their time and participation. The focus groups were organized by cultural/language affiliation. For the groups focused on a specific language, the presentation and discussion were led in that language, and the group leader provided notes in English for PP&R after the meeting. PP&R staff attended all of the focus groups to be a resource to help answer questions.

A total of 67 participants attended the eight focus groups:

1. November 4 – Mobile home residents (English/Spanish)
2. November 10 – Spanish speakers
3. November 11 – Vietnamese speakers
4. November 16 – Black community members
5. November 17 – Russian speakers
6. November 20 – Chinese/Cantonese speakers
7. November 24 – Akateko (Mayan Indigenous language) speakers
8. November 29 – Native/Tribal community members

All of the focus groups followed the same format designed by Verde, starting with an intro question about participants' favorite park or natural area in Portland. A presentation about the Metro Local Share funding was provided to introduce participants to the Metro and the Bond. The presentation

outlined Metro's criteria for how the funding can be used and PP&R's list of potential projects by category. This matched the information provided on the webpage.

Following the presentation, the group leaders led a conversation with the following questions:

1. What is your (and/or your family or communities)' relationship with land and nature?
2. What does access to nature mean to you? (Follow up if people have a hard time with this question: How do you define a natural area?)
3. What would make a natural area or park feel welcoming and safe for you and your community? follow up: What amenities would help you be able to spend more time at a park or natural area?
4. From the slides of the projects that were shared, what is one priority project for you/your community? What is a project that is not your priority for this round of funding?

## Themes From the Survey and Focus Groups

Overall, participants in the online survey said that **better trails, parking** and **habitat restoration** were their top priorities. English survey participants were also concerned about issues related to the **houseless, safety**, and **cleanliness** whereas Spanish survey participants were concerned about **safety** and more **accessible**, better **maintained** parks.

For the open-ended online survey comments in English, issues related mountain biking trails, the houseless, safety, access and cleanliness were the most common themes. Additional frequent themes in the open-ended English online survey comments include updating restrooms, more trees and shade in parks, maintaining trails, and issues related to dogs. Open-ended online survey comments in Spanish included concerns about park maintenance, invasive blackberry bushes, working restrooms, lighting, safety, and dogs. One participant commented, "Parks are nice, but the people who enjoy them don't represent the people of Portland."

For the focus groups, **safety** and **lighting** were the top themes. Every group mentioned safety as a major priority – this included better lighting and feeling like a park is cared for and clean. **Restrooms** were also a big priority for nearly all participants, especially if they are well maintained, accessible, and clean. Better **accessibility** for people with disabilities and families using strollers was also a high priority across the groups, as many visit the parks with elders and young children. **Restoration** and **conservation** were also shared themes across the groups. A member of the Chinese group noted: "don't overdo the park, maintain its natural ecology." A participant in the Native group observed that we cannot always restore natural areas to what they once were, but we can enhance them.

Destination parks such as Forest Park are appreciated, **but many noted that having nature accessible close to where they live is a higher priority** as they do not always have the time or transportation to go to places farther away.

River access and boating was a low priority across the online survey and the focus groups. Many in the focus groups noted that they do not have access to boat. Trails and others ways to access nature without special equipment were preferred.