



Nature in Neighborhoods community grants

Nature education grants pre-application handbook

Due October 22, 2024
Submit via ZoomGrants

oregonmetro.gov/grants

*We are leaders in demonstrating
resource use and protection.*

Public service

*We are here to serve the public
with the highest level of
integrity.*

Excellence

*We aspire to achieve exceptional
results*

Teamwork

*We engage others in ways that foster
respect and trust.*

Respect

*We encourage and appreciate
diversity in people and ideas.*

Innovation

*We take pride in coming up with
innovative solutions.*

Sustainability

Metro's values and purpose

We inspire, engage, teach and invite people to preserve and enhance the quality of life and the environment for current and future generations.

If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we've already crossed paths.

So, hello. We're Metro – nice to meet you.

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we can do a lot of things better together. Join us to help the region prepare for a happy, healthy future.

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NATURE EDUCATION AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES GRANTS

For nearly two decades, Metro has provided grants for habitat restoration, nature education and other programs that connect people to nature close to home. Metro’s investments in improving urban ecology, restoring habitat, addressing inequities in the conservation movement, and enhancing economic opportunities and connection back to land for communities of color continues, thanks to the voters’ renewal of Metro’s five-year parks and natural areas levy in 2016 and 2022. These investments are strategically focused to support communities of color and other marginalized communities who have experienced barriers to accessing Metro grant funding.

Funding for 2024 nature education and outdoor experiences grants is set at \$750,000 in total. Grant awards have a maximum of \$100,000 for grants lasting up to three years. The final slate of proposals recommended for funding will include a mix of small, medium, and large grants. These grants are currently offered every other year; this is the first community nature education and outdoor experiences grant opportunity of the 2022 levy renewal.

What’s the timeline?

September 2024	Availability of grant funds announced
September and October 2024	One-on-one meeting opportunities for applicants with program staff
October 3, 2024	Morning Nature education virtual grant workshop 10 -11:30 Evening Nature education virtual grant workshop 5:30 - 7
Tuesday October 22, 2024, 4 p.m.	Nature education pre-applications due to Metro
Thursday October 24, 2024	Review committee orientation meeting 10-11:30
November 14, 2024	Review committee pre-application review meeting 1 - 5
November 15, 2024	Pre-application decisions announced to applications
November and December 2024	Nature education full proposal one-on-one meeting opportunities with program staff
December 10, 2024, 4 p.m.	Nature education full proposals due to Metro
Thursday, January 23, 2025	Review committee full proposal review meeting 1 - 5
Friday, January 24, 2025	Review committee award recommendations announced to applicants
February 2025	Metro Council grant awards
February and March 2025	One on one orientation meetings with grantees; contracts finalized; grant funds available

Who may apply?

Community groups, nonprofits, neighborhoods, individuals, collectives, faith groups and service groups with nonprofit or other tax-exempt status may apply. Metro is not eligible to apply for or receive grant funds.

Nature education and outdoor experiences grants are intended to support community-driven initiatives and programs. Partnerships are key to a competitive proposal. Grants can serve people of all ages and abilities from all backgrounds. Organizations are encouraged to submit applications for projects benefitting, designed by, and led by Black and Indigenous communities, communities of color and other marginalized groups. For example, a project designed by members from historically and continually marginalized communities would demonstrate that they are involved in decision-making, project planning, implementation, outreach activities and evaluation. Past grants have funded programs that serve people at all stages of life from children to elders, including job training and life skills for youth, and outreach and engagement programs for residents from around the region.

All applications must clearly meet the grant program's overall purpose. Priority will be given to applications that meet each of the grant program's three goals.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Partnerships

Nature in Neighborhood grants support partnerships. Successful applications typically feature multiple partners actively engaged in leveraging their skills and financial or in-kind services in order to make the program a success. Partnerships should center racial equity and lead to creative approaches that address multiple social, economic and ecological needs and desires from the community. Therefore, this grant requires at least three partners (including applicant). Applicants may partner in multiple grant applications.

Program

- Programs must address at least one of the program goals (see below).
- Programs require at least three partners. Applicants may partner in multiple grant applications.
- After being awarded the grant, programs must be completed within 36 months.
- Metro allows the use of fiscal sponsors for groups that don't have 501(c)(3) status.

Financial

- Detailed financial information will be requested as part of the full application. If you would like additional information about overhead costs before that stage, please contact Karissa Lowe, Community Grants Program Manager, Karissa.Lowe@oregonmetro.gov, 360-261-4683.

Location

- Programs must take place within [Metro's jurisdictional boundary](#), the Metro urban growth boundary, or directly serve Metro-area residents.
- Programs may be conducted on Metro property by other eligible organizations or individuals by obtaining a Metro [special use permit](#).
- Programs on private land must be able to show a clear public and environmental benefit.
- All programs must have written landowner permission at the time of full application.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application review and selection

Grant recommendations are made by a peer-review team comprised of individuals with backgrounds in nature and environmental education, outdoor programs and leadership, community development and engagement, social justice, racial equity, diversity and inclusion. This group will review applications and make funding recommendations to the Metro Council.

Applications and pre-applications will be evaluated based on the information submitted, responsiveness to the grant's purpose and goals, and the review committee's professional and collective judgment. It is up to the applicant to ensure the proposed program is sufficiently defined so the review committee can understand how well it meets the grant program purpose and evaluation criteria.

The application process has two stages: a pre-application phase and a full application phase. Potential applicants must submit a pre-application that describes how the program meets the purpose of the grant program and is achievable.

Full applications will be accepted from applicants who have been invited to apply. Feedback from the grant review committee about how well the pre-application meets the program purpose and goals may be provided upon request. Information about other funding sources or suggestions for strengthening an application for a subsequent funding cycle may also be provided.

The Metro Council makes all grant awards.

PROGRAM PURPOSE AND GOALS

All applications must clearly meet the grant program's overall purpose. Priority will be given to applications that meet each of the grant program's three goals.

Purpose

Nature education grants support and create partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature.

Goals

Nature education grants prioritize programs that advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion, make communities more resilient to climate change and include greater collaborative partnership. Following the Metro Parks and Nature department Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, Nature education grants fund programs that meet the following equity goals:

Cultural equity

People of all cultures, races and traditions connect with nature and with one another in the region's parks and natural areas.

Examples:

- Build relationships and partnerships for outdoor education and nature based programming by and for people of color.
- Increase the number and improve the experience of visitors, staff and programs at parks and natural areas representing diverse racial, ethnic and cultural groups and other historically and continually marginalized groups. Provide opportunities to communities of color to learn about, guide, and have decision-making power in how agencies and communities manage and care for the land and create opportunities to learn about and care for trails, harvest seeds or plant native plants. Improve accessibility to and within natural areas for elders, people with disabilities and communities of color.
- Increase capacity within organizations that center people of color to lead programs (such as nature education and cultural programming) in parks and natural areas.
- Support cultural programming in parks and natural areas, such as cultural gatherings, storytelling, songs, performances or educational opportunities.
- Increase sense of safety for people of color through outdoor education and nature-based programming that is trauma-informed.
- Center programming for those who are most often excluded from or made to feel unwelcome in parks and natural areas, including people who are unsheltered, people with disabilities, queer and trans people and Black and Indigenous people and people of color.
- Support region-wide nature education diversity initiatives.

Examples of 2022 Nature in Neighborhood grants that support cultural equity

Confluence Outdoors

Confluence

\$30,000

Confluence Outdoors connects Native American students from Hillsboro, Beaverton and Portland with Indigenous educators at the Sandy River Delta for lessons in history, culture, ecology and art. This grant supports outdoor education fieldtrips at the Sandy River Delta in Troutdale, Oregon, one of six Confluence art sites along the Columbia River system.

Culturally Responsive Nature Education

ELSO Inc.

\$100,000

This grant expands and improves the Wayfinders Program, which brings children and youth of color (grades k – 8) into the outdoors for adventurous recreation, environmental stewardship, and nature-based STEM education. Wayfinders builds a foundation of scientific thinking and research, promotes environmental literacy, and exposes students to career pathways in environmental STEM. Environmental justice, social justice, and cultural history are integrated throughout.

Environmental equity

Communities of color in greater Portland enjoy the benefits of conserving land, air and water and equitable access to safe and welcoming parks, trails and natural areas; communities enjoy learning about, helping restore, experiencing and connecting with nature and the region's natural areas.

These grants help address inequities in the conservation movement by providing access to nature and the positive impacts of clean land, air and water to Black communities, Indigenous communities, communities of color and other historically and continually marginalized groups in greater Portland.

You can read how Metro operationalizes racial equity, diversity and inclusion at:

- oregonmetro.gov/regional-leadership/diversity-equity-and-inclusion
- oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/parks-and-nature-investments/equity

Please consider these resources as information only. They are not intended as guidance for your application.

Examples:

- Support outdoor nature programs that include family and community collaboration and culturally specific organizations that center people of color. Specifically support programs that are led by and for these communities.
- Increase hands-on and place-based nature education and programs for school-aged children in local natural areas, with a special emphasis on communities of color and education that centers on existing environmental justice knowledge within communities of color.

- Integrate outdoor nature education with formal, school-based learning and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. Improve teacher education to take students outdoors.
 - Reference materials available at:
 - <http://oelp.oregonstate.edu/sites/oelp/files/oelp-resources/environmental-literacy-plan-2013.pdf>
 - www.pdxstem.org
 - <https://movementgeneration.org/resources/curriculum-tools/>
- Provide social and economic benefits to Black communities, Indigenous communities, communities of color and other historically and continually marginalized communities beyond the specific project scope or original design.
- Support community partnership and nature education programs that include hands-on restoration activities to improve fish and wildlife habitat in local communities, such as planting native plants, harvesting seeds or caring for trails, or through participation in studies, research, or monitoring.
- Provide education to address, repair, and prevent further harm of climate change impacts on marginalized communities.
- Work with and shift power to Indigenous communities to protect, preserve and access culturally significant land; salmon, steelhead and lamprey habitats; and native plants.
- Connect people to their watershed. Teach people about their watershed and watershed health. Learn from people about their watershed and watershed health.
- Increase efforts to better understand residents’ needs related to parks and natural areas, especially those who have been historically and continually excluded from them. From this understanding, increase information, advertising and other promotion so residents can more easily learn where parks and natural areas are located, how to access them or what to do.
- Increase climate change resiliency by addressing water quality and availability, community access to water, urban forest canopy, habitat connectivity, and/or flood control.

Examples of 2022 Nature in Neighborhood grants that support environmental equity

Nature-Based Bike Camps for Low-Income Youth of Color

Community Cycling Center

\$100,000

CCC’s annual Bike Camp teaches youth how to use a bicycle as a safe, healthy, and empowering transportation tool. Our Bike Camps, which include a special nature education focus, center low-income youth of color including immigrant and refugee populations.

Aves Compartidas Portland Expansion

Willamette River-Rio Laja, Mexico Twinning Project

\$100,000

This project connects bi-national watershed communities using a platform of shared migratory bird species, intends to continue and expand its youth migratory bird education program into Portland-Metro. The project is focused on full life-cycle conservation along the flyway using education, engagement, and economic development with rural and urban Latine communities.

Economic equity

Black communities, Indigenous communities, communities of color and other historically and continually marginalized groups will prosper economically from the business of Parks and Nature in greater Portland.

Examples:

- Provide social and economic benefits to Indigenous communities, Black communities, communities of color and other historically and continually marginalized communities beyond the specific project scope or original design.
- Support mentorship, youth corps and job skill development in natural resources, nature education or other nature-related science, technology, engineering or math careers.
- Support worksite tours, career-related learning, youth or adult apprenticeships and paid work and on-the-job-training. Shift power to create possibility for equity in career pathways, hiring, retention, and educational opportunities.
- Include work with Black communities, Indigenous communities, and/or communities of color on anti-displacement and housing security.
- Include workforce development goals for partner organizations or programs, including internships or career pathways programs, advancement of leadership or other board service or community organizing in nature related fields.
- Provide economic opportunities for communities of color and other marginalized communities in the construction of natural area improvements, restoration or community stewardship projects by working with COBID-certified firms and hiring and training a local workforce.¹
- Support equal opportunity for everyone to access and participate in economic opportunities in parks and natural areas.

Examples of 2022 Nature in Neighborhood grants that support economic equity

Wisdom Workforce Development Program

Wisdom of the Elders

\$100,000

WWD interns participate in paid part-time opportunities and hands-on restoration techniques in the field. They are taught Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge (TEK) and cultural arts alongside Western environmental science. WWD helps expand the understanding and cultural competency of our partners as well: The learning goes both ways.

East County Nature Education

Play Grow Learn

\$30,000

Play, Grow, Learn incorporated nature education into their existing young workforce development and farmer's market programming. Youth participants received stipends, and skilled Black leaders were paid to teach what they know to their community. This incentivizes the skill development required for economic success and creates the regular presence that makes it safer and more normal for Black people to be in parks.

CONTRACTING AND AGREEMENTS

Metro staff will work with successful applicants to enter into a contract with Metro, which outlines specific responsibilities and legal obligations of each party, including insurance requirements, reporting and acknowledgements. Unless otherwise amended, the Contract Grant Scope of Work is the Grantee's Nature in Neighborhoods full grant application, including the program or project narrative and budget. Once the contract is signed by all parties, funds become available. Money spent prior to the contract terms are not eligible for reimbursement.

Payment of grant funds

If awarded a grant, the primary applicant (and their fiscal sponsor, if applicable) will enter into a contract with Metro. As part of the contract execution process, the applicant or fiscal sponsor will need to provide proof of general liability insurance and, if applicable to their project, auto and worker's compensation insurance.

Metro made changes to our fund disbursement process for this grant program after voters renewed the levy in 2022. Whereas this program used to be reimbursement based, grantees may now request 50% of grant funds upfront.

Grantees must provide Metro with a full report of how the initial 50% of the grant award was spent before requesting disbursement of additional funds. The Nature in Neighborhoods community grants program manager must review and approve the grantee's spending report before approving a request for additional funds.

Metro reserves the right to withhold the final 10% of a grant award until approval of the final report.

The new fund disbursement process is as follows:

- Fifty percent of funding is disbursed at the beginning of the grant, after the contract is finalized.
- Subsequent funding is disbursed annually, after project and financial reports are reviewed and approved by the program manager.
- Grantees may request additional fund disbursements during the year if needed, but must first report on use of previously disbursed funds.
- Before approving a request for additional funding the program manager will review the grantee's project and financial reports, then either conduct any necessary follow up or approve the request for additional funding.

If you would like more details or have questions about this please feel free to contact Karissa Lowe, Nature in Neighborhoods community grants program manager, at Karissa.Lowe@oregonmetro.gov

Grantee gatherings

Grantees and their teams may be invited to optional gatherings where current and past grantees share successes, lessons learned and opportunities to support and participate in each other's activities.

Evaluating your efforts

Grantees will describe the successes and challenges of their program to Metro staff every six months through the submission of a progress report or a site visit and the submission of one final report at the completion of the grant contract. Site visits to projects may be offered by the grantees or requested by the Program Manager, as appropriate.

INTERESTED IN REVIEWING GRANTS?

Members of the review committee will help to allocate up to \$750,000 in nature education and outdoor experiences grants to community organizations and groups seeking to support and create partnerships in local communities. It's important to have a broad diversity of experience and backgrounds represented. Grant applicants are eligible to serve on the review committee; reviewers must disclose any conflicts of interest.

To apply, submit an email and resume describing your individual background according to the instructions on the [website](#). Metro staff will begin reviewing committee applications in September 2024.

CONTACTS

For more information, visit oregonmetro.gov/grants or contact:

Karissa Lowe, Nature in Neighborhoods community grants, Program Manager,
karissa.lowe@oregonmetro.gov or 360-261-4683

Oriana Quackenbush, Grants and Contracts Coordinator,
oriana.quackenbush@oregonmetro.gov or 503-797-1834 (voicemail only)

GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Application assistance

Applicants are encouraged to contact Metro staff to discuss the proposed program or project, partners and grant criteria. Staff is available to help you make your application as strong as possible. Optional information sessions and office hours to assist you with your grant proposal will be announced on the website and by email. Please email CommunityInvestments@oregonmetro.gov to be added to the email list and notified of upcoming information sessions and office hours.

Online application

Metro accepts applications via the online system [ZoomGrants](#) at oregonmetro.gov/grants or directly at zoomgrants.com/gprop.asp?donorid=2199. The pre-application will be available starting in September 2024 and due by **October 22, 2022 at 4 p.m.**

An email will be sent within 24 hours by Metro staff via ZoomGrants confirming that we have received your pre-application. To ensure that you are receiving emails, please add to your “safe senders list” the email address Notices@zoomgrants.com. If you do not receive a confirmation, please let Karissa Lowe know.

Important notes for working in ZoomGrants

- Each answer has a character limit, which includes spaces. For example, 4,000 characters is approximately one page.
- Answers are saved automatically when you move to another text box.
- Please remove all text formatting before cutting and pasting into ZoomGrants (e.g. bullets, hyphens).
- An applicant may add partners, a fiscal sponsor, or colleagues as collaborators on ZoomGrants. Only the applicant may submit the application.
- For additional detailed questions, use the Help button at the top of the ZoomGrants page, access their ZoomGrants University tutorials at help.zoomgrants.com or contact the Help Desk at Questions@ZoomGrants.com

Review of your pre-application

The grant review committee will use following evaluation questions to review pre-applications.

Program narrative and goals:

- How well does it describe the program and its importance?
 - For example, does it describe how the activity will be organized, best practices, and the importance for the organization and communities?
- How well does it address the grant program purpose and one or more of its associated goals?
 - For example, does it demonstrate how the program aligns to the grant goals?
 - Does the organization’s strategic mission, program expected results and outcomes and plans to evaluate program effectiveness align with the grant goals?

Partnerships:

- How well are strong and active partnerships demonstrated?
 - For example, how are partnerships and collaborations formed, strengthened and/or extended through the program? Are there committed partners and future funding sustainability of the program? How and why have engagement strategies been developed and chosen?
 - Does it demonstrate how partnerships center racial equity and the voices of Black, Indigenous and communities of color?

Organizational preparedness:

- How well does it demonstrate leadership support, organizational capacity and experience, and landowner permission to implement the program?
 - For example, does it describe the skills, knowledge, experience and abilities that relevant staff and partners will bring to the project?
 - For example, does it demonstrate participation in the design and/or support in implementation from the communities it's meant to benefit?

Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:

- Does it help shift power in the types of organizations and individuals prioritized in the region's regional nature conservation and environmental justice efforts, especially Black communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color?
- How and by whom is the need for this proposal being identified?
- Who is designing and delivering programming to communities?
- How is the program culturally relevant or culturally responsive?
- Is racial equity part of the applicants' vision, mission, or objectives?

Location and program reach:

- Does it help the full slate of awarded programs reach communities from around the region?

PRE-APPLICATION QUESTIONS

For your reference, please see below for the questions included in the pre-application.

Program Name

Amount Requested \$

Up to \$100,000 for grants of up to three years

Estimated Match \$

Applicant Information

First Name

Last Name

Telephone

Email

Organization Information

Organization Name

Address 1

Address 2

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Country

Telephone

Fax

Website

EIN (XX-XXXXXXX)

CEO/Executive Director

First Name

Last Name

Title

Email

Collaborators for this application

Collaborators can only edit application data (questions). They cannot submit, archive or delete this application.

Email Address

Editing Access

Status/Invite

Additional Contacts for this Application

Additional Contacts will be copied on all emails sent to the application owner regarding this application. Enter ONLY email addresses separated by a comma. No names. No titles. No phone numbers.

Narrative Questions

1. Program summary (45 words, 255 characters)

Provide a brief summary that describes your program.

2. Fiscal sponsor

If different than the lead organization. If no fiscal sponsor, please write "not applicable".

3. Program partners

Committed partner organizations.

4. Potential partners

Potential partner organizations.

5. Program length

(Select only one)

- One year
- Two years
- Three years

6. Program narrative (up to one page, 4000 characters)

Provide a narrative that describes the program. Explain why the program is important for your community and organization, such as how it fits your organization's strategic plan or mission.

7. Goals (up to one page, 4000 characters)

Describe how the program addresses the Nature in Neighborhood nature education grant's purpose and goals.

8. Partnerships (up to one page, 4000 characters)

Show how partnerships and collaboration with other individuals, organizations and groups in your community will be formed, strengthened and extended through this program. Demonstrate how partnerships center racial equity and the voices of Black, Indigenous and communities of color.

9. Organizational preparedness (up to one page, 4000 characters)

Explain why your organization and your partners have the experience and capacity to conduct the project (e.g. racial equity, centering of most impacted communities, planning, implementation, maintenance, reporting and outreach), including identification of key personnel, their roles in the project and their skills, knowledge, experience, and abilities.

10. Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (up to one page, 4000 characters)

Describe how your program involves and benefits Black, Indigenous and communities of color and/or other historically and continually marginalized communities.

Describe the demographics of the people involved in identifying the need for, designing, and delivering this programming.

How does your organization’s vision or mission address racial equity, diversity and inclusion?

You can read how Metro operationalizes racial equity, diversity and inclusion, in the handbook’s resources section. (Please consider those resources as information only. They are not intended as guidance for your application.)

For demographic data, see [School districts](#) or [Regional Equity Atlas](#).

11. Metro districts

Please select the Metro districts that are impacted by your project. This includes both the district(s) where project work is conducted as well as the district(s) where your program participants live. [Click here to see a map of Metro’s districts](#).

<input type="checkbox"/>	District 1 , which includes Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village, portions of East Portland and the unincorporated communities of Damascus and Boring
<input type="checkbox"/>	District 2 , which includes the cities of Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Happy Valley, Oregon City, Rivergrove, West Linn, a portion of Southwest Portland and unincorporated parts of Clackamas County.
<input type="checkbox"/>	District 3 , which includes portions of Washington and Clackamas counties and the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville.
<input type="checkbox"/>	District 4 , which includes northern and western Washington County
<input type="checkbox"/>	District 5 , which includes Northwest and North Portland, portions of Southwest and Northeast Portland, plus the city of Maywood Park and part of Washington County
<input type="checkbox"/>	District 6 , which includes Southeast Portland and portions of Northeast and Southwest Portland

MAPS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Documents Requested:

Location and program reach (two pages)

Provide a location/vicinity map that shows where the program and/or participating communities are located within the region, such as on Google Maps, [MetroMap](#), [Regional Equity Atlas](#), or the [Regional Conservation Strategy viewer](#).

Demographic form (two pages)

Please download and fill out the Nature in Neighborhoods demographic form, which **will not be used for the review of your grant application.**

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FORM

In order to serve the region's communities as broadly as possible, Metro is conducting a survey to learn whom our grants currently serve and to help improve community access. The demographic information you provide will not be used for the review of your grant application.

1. How did you find out about the Nature in Neighborhoods community stewardship and restoration grants?
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Our Big backyard Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro Employee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend or colleague | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop, meeting or other event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify): |

2. Does your organization consider itself to be a **culturally specific community based organization?** *

Primary Applicant Yes No please specify: _____

3. Please indicate, to the best of your ability, whether your project partners consider themselves to be a culturally specific community based organization:

Co-Applicant	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - please specify: _____
Partner 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - please specify: _____
Partner 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - please specify: _____

*** A culturally specific community based organization meets all of the following criteria:**

- The majority of members and/or clients are from a particular (or multiple) community (or communities) of color, such as: African, African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Latino or Hispanic, Middle Eastern and North African, Pacific Islander and Slavic.
- The staff, board and leadership reflect the community that is served.
- The organizational or programmatic environment is culturally focused and identified as such by members.
- The organization or program has a track record of successful community engagement and involvement with the community being served.
- The community being served recognizes the organization or program as a culturally specific organization or program.

Adapted from: Philanthropy and Communities of Color in Oregon: from strategic investments to assessable impacts amidst growing racial and ethnic diversity. PSU (2010) and the Coalition of Communities of Color website (accessed in April 2021).

4. For the community stewardship and restoration project outlined in your Nature in Neighborhoods grant proposal, do you expect to engage a majority (more than 51%) non-white population?

Yes No

5. If yes, which population(s)?

Asian

American Indian/Alaska Native

Latino /Hispanic

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

African

Slavic

Black/African American

Other (Please specify):

Middle Eastern/North African

6. Please tell us what you based your answer(s) on (e.g. staff input, staff observation, census data, school demographic data, previous project).

7. To inform our evaluation outcomes reporting, Metro would like to learn what demographic information our grant applicants already collect. What demographic data does your organization collect about the population you serve?

Race and ethnicity

Gender

English proficiency

Age

Primary language

Special needs

Geography/location

Other (Please specify):

Income

8. Please tell us about how you collect and use demographic data in your program.

9. We understand that demographic data can be highly personal both for individuals and organizations. Please describe any concerns you would have about sharing your demographic data about participants in programming related to this grant application.

10. Do you have any comments about this survey?

GLOSSARY

COBID - COBID is the abbreviation for the State of Oregon's Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity, created within the Oregon Business Development Department or such state agency, department or entity to which has been delegated the responsibility to certify minority-owned businesses (MBE), women-owned businesses (WBE), businesses that service-disabled veterans own (SDV) and emerging small businesses (ESB). MBE denotes firms that are 51 percent ownership by a racial minority; WBE denotes firms with 51 percent or higher woman ownership, SDV denotes firms that are 51 percent ownership by a service disabled veteran. ESB is characterized as an emerging small business with two tiers; Tier 1 requires firms to have 19 or fewer employees whose average annual gross receipts over the last three years are under \$1,699,953 for construction firms and under \$679,981 for non-construction-related firms. Tier 2

requires firms with 29 or fewer employees whose average annual gross receipts over the last three years are under \$3,399,907 for construction-related businesses and under \$1,133,302 for non-construction businesses. COBID is the Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity, which is the sole certifying authority for the state of Oregon.

Developed areas include industrial, commercial, and residential properties, developed parks, schoolyards, golf courses, cemeteries, airports, and the streetscape. The intensity of development ranges from skyscrapers in urban areas, like downtown Portland, to suburban neighborhoods in surrounding communities. Developed lands are situated such that remnant natural areas are highly fragmented, the tree canopy is only a fraction of historical levels, and many of the region's historical streams, wetlands, and floodplains have been degraded, filled in, or covered over. Nonetheless, these developed areas contain habitat value and biodiversity; a huge diversity of wild animals share even the most developed portions of our landscape. (Regional Conservation Strategy).

Natural areas are defined as protected or unprotected lands that are not developed and that are composed primarily of native habitat components. Most protected natural areas in the region are managed with the primary goal of conserving, enhancing, or restoring native species, the ecological processes that create and maintain habitat, and the ecosystem services that result, such as water quality protection. Examples of protected natural areas include wildlife refuges and wildlife areas, nature preserves, nature parks, and publicly owned parks that retain patches of habitat characteristic of the region. Unprotected privately owned lands may also be considered natural areas if they still maintain their conservation values. These lands may or may not be actively managed, but they are not considered natural lands if they are managed specifically for agricultural or forest production (such lands are considered working lands). (Regional Conservation Strategy).

Natural area maintenance (core stewardship) focusing primarily on vegetation management and weed suppression. Natural areas maintenance or core stewardship addresses basic stewardship to emphasize reducing future maintenance costs through early detection and rapid response to invasive weeds. Work primarily focuses on vegetation management and weed suppression, but may include fences, gates and other basic infrastructure. (Metro Levy Framework).

Restoration projects improve ecological function and create significant improvements in the quality and function of the highest priority sites and habitats. Emphasis is placed on hydrologic restoration focused on water quality and salmon, wetland restoration focused on water quality and wildlife habitat, and prairie and oak restoration addressing priority habitats and species. Projects typically include vegetation management such as treating noxious and invasive weeds and planting native trees and shrubs. They may also include activities such as replacing or removing failing culverts and modifying roads to prevent erosion from reaching streams and water sources. (Metro Levy Framework).

Sustainability means using, developing and protecting resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs and provides that future generations can also meet future needs, from the joint perspective of environmental, economic and community objectives. (Oregon Conservation Strategy).

Stewardship is the responsible use (including conservation) of natural resources in a way that takes full and balanced account of the interests of society, future generations and other species, as well as of private needs, and accepts significant answerability to society (Intertwine Conservation Education Task Force).

RESOURCES

Below is a list of plans to assist in project development.

[Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#) was adopted by the Metro Council in June of 2016 and sets forth goal areas and strategies for the entire agency. The executive summary and the full plan are available online. oregonmetro.gov/strategic-plan-advance-racial-equity-diversity-and-inclusion

Metro's Parks and Nature Department Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan was finalized in March 2019. The department plan builds upon the goals set out by the agency plan and operationalizes them for the work of the department. You can learn more about Parks and Nature's equity work and read an executive summary of the action plan online. oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/parks-and-nature-investments/equity

[Oregon Conservation Strategy](#): The Oregon Conservation Strategy is the first overarching state strategy for conserving fish and wildlife. The Conservation Strategy is an effort to use the best available science to create a broad vision and conceptual framework for long-term conservation of Oregon's native fish and wildlife, as well as various invertebrates and native plants. As a guide to conserving the species and habitats that have defined the nature of Oregon, this strategy can help ensure that Oregon's natural treasures are passed on to future generations. The Conservation Strategy emphasizes proactively conserving declining species and habitats to reduce the possibility of future federal or state listings. It is not a regulatory document, but instead presents issues and opportunities, and recommends voluntary actions that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation in Oregon. dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp

[Regional Conservation Strategy](#): The Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy describes how we can protect our region's biodiversity for the long term. It defines the challenges facing local wildlife and ecosystems and offers a vision, framework, and tools for moving forward collaboratively to protect and restore our natural systems. This document organizes conservation strategies for the Portland metropolitan region by landscape types – natural area, working lands and developed areas – as well as strategies for biodiversity corridors and for species of special concern. theintertwine.org/projects/regional-conservation-strategy

[Regional Biodiversity Guide](#): The Intertwine Biodiversity Guide for the Greater Portland-Vancouver Region, together with mapping and GIS modeling completed specifically for the RCS, provides important tools for conservation practitioners and decision makers: a narrative that describes the composition and patterns of biodiversity across the region, a land cover map at a scale suitable for analysis of urban and near-urban areas, and a data-driven GIS model of conservation priority areas. theintertwine.org/sites/default/files/Biodiversity%20Guide%20for%20the%20Greater%20Portland-Vancouver%20Region_0.pdf#overlay-context=regional-conservation-strategy-data

Watershed Action Plans: Many watershed councils have created Watershed Action Plans. Please research the individual Watershed Councils for more information.

[Restoring Rare Native Habitats in the Willamette Valley:](#) This landowner’s guide describes methods for restoring Oak Woodlands, Wetlands, Prairies, and Bottomland Hardwood and Riparian Forests. appliedeco.org/wp-content/uploads/restoring-rare-native-habitats-in-the-willamette-valley-1.pdf

[Oregon Early Detection and Rapid Response targets:](#) Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) are primary activities of the Weed Control Program. Weeds are listed and targeted for early detection and rapid response activities. The goal is to prevent introduction or find them through early detection efforts and implement control measures to prevent widespread occurrence in Oregon. oregon.gov/oda/programs/weeds/pages/aboutweeds.aspx

[Willamette Basin Restoration Priorities Watershed Summaries:](#) The Watershed Restoration Summaries were developed by local watershed councils and other stakeholders to help identify priorities for restoring fish and wildlife habitat and water quality throughout the Willamette Basin. There are a number of comprehensive planning efforts in the Willamette Basin, including the Willamette Sub basin Plan, the Willamette River Basin Planning Atlas, and other regional habitat restoration prioritization frameworks. This document is not intended to replace these efforts. The intent is to work within the context of these basin-scale studies to produce a locally derived and accepted set of watershed restoration priorities. [nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/web%20stores/data%20libraries/files/Watershed%20Councils/Watershed%20Councils 686 2 Willamette Watershed Council Summaries Dec05.pdf](http://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/web%20stores/data%20libraries/files/Watershed%20Councils/Watershed%20Councils%20686%202%20Willamette%20Watershed%20Council%20Summaries%20Dec05.pdf)

[ODFW's Data Clearinghouse:](#) It provides a centralized accumulation and distribution service for Oregon's natural resource data. The Data Clearinghouse website houses reports, data files, databases, GIS maps and other natural resource information. nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/DataClearinghouse/default.aspx?p=1

[The Intertwine:](#) The Intertwine outlines efforts to broaden regional collaboration and system building, tools to more effectively reach new and diverse audiences and address gaps in program delivery, and establish a clearinghouse of opportunities, research and resources for conservation education providers and users. theintertwine.org

[The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations: Mainstream NGOs, Foundations & Government Agencies:](#) For this 2014 comprehensive report on diversity in the environmental movement, its authors surveyed 191 environmental non-profits, 74 government environmental agencies, and 28 leading environmental grant making foundations to investigate their gender and racial diversity composition, the majority of which state diversification as a “value.” The study included confidential interviews of 21 environmental leaders from diverse backgrounds and experience. diversegreen.org/the-challenge/

[Diversifying the American Environmental Movement:](#) As the nation continues to diversify, the environmental movement is left with one of the greatest challenges it will face this century. In order to become an influential and sustainable movement for generations to come, it needs to successfully

address its diversity crisis. In this essay, the authors, Marcelo Bonta and Charles Jordan, analyze the problem, acknowledge past and current diversity efforts, provide a comprehensive and strategic approach to diversifying, and stress the importance of diversifying in the right way. They provide action-oriented solutions at the movement, organizational and individual levels.

grist.files.wordpress.com/2008/01/05-bonta-and-jordan.pdf

MAPPING RESOURCES

Below is list of mapping resources to assist in project development.

[Regional Conservation Strategy viewer](#): The viewer provides easy access to the data for those without GIS capacity to view and obtain some quick summary statistics about land cover, high value habitat, and protected areas. The full Regional Conservation Strategy documents, GIS data, and modeled outputs are available for download and are an incredibly rich information resource. regionalconservationstrategy.org/site/viewer

[Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory](#) and **[Oregon Explorer](#)**: The Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI) tracks Oregonians' voluntary efforts to restore habitats for salmon and wildlife. With over 14,000 records of projects completed since 1995, OWRI is the single largest restoration information database in the Western United States. The Oregon Watershed Restoration Tool on Oregon Explorer was created to show the locations and information about OWRI projects. oe.oregonexplorer.info/RestorationTool and <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/data-reporting/Pages/owri.aspx>

Landscape America [Conservation Registry](#): Landscape now hosts the Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN) conservation registry. The interactive map viewer to bring together maps, data, photos, and stories and provide tools and resources for strategic conservation planning and priority-setting. landscape.org

[Regional Equity Atlas](#): Using maps, policy analysis, community-based research and other tools, the Equity Atlas project assesses how well different populations across the four-county Portland-Vancouver metro region can access key resources necessary for meeting their basic needs and advancing their health and well-being. By illuminating the region's geography of opportunity, the Equity Atlas is a powerful tool for promoting greater regional equity. It can be used to inform a wide range of planning, policy and investment decisions, such as where to locate new housing, transit, parks, services, infrastructure and other amenities, and where to most effectively target public and private investments. oregonmetro.gov/equityAtlas

[MetroMap](#): This is Metro's web mapping service where you can view and print maps or data specific to your area of interest. MetroMap allows you to view map-based information about a location of your choice. View information on the urban growth boundary, parcel and tax assessment, zoning, political boundaries, planning, flood plain and special districts. The results can be displayed in text-only format or on a map. gis.oregonmetro.gov/metromap

[School districts](#): One source of local demographic data is the neighborhood schools. Each public school maintains data on the percentage of students eligible for the free and reduced lunch

program and students participating in English as a Second Language programs. Demographic statistics on schools can be found in the National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD): nces.ed.gov/ccd/index.asp