

LARGE SCALE COMMUNITY VISIONS

\$30 million for green investments in regional transformative projects,

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/large-scale-community-visions>

Large scale community visions program description: The Metro Council created the large scale community visions program to fund regionally significant catalytic investments that re-green communities and connect parks and nature with other community assets such as transportation and affordable housing.

A Metro Council approved program handbook articulates bond and program criteria and requirements for eligible projects. Large scale community visions projects must be capital projects (including real estate acquisitions) owned by a public agency, meaning a building, facility, property or large natural area restoration and must meaningfully engage with communities of color, Indigenous communities, people with low incomes and other historically marginalized communities in planning and development.

Large scale community visions program milestones complete as of June 2024

- Metro Council designated three projects to receive large scale community visions in the pilot round in spring 2023
 - OSU/Trust for Public Land for a significant acquisition in the North Tualatin Mountains
 - OMSI/Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission for the waterfront education park
 - Albina Vision Trust for an acquisition near the Memorial Coliseum
- Metro Council approved updates to program handbook in spring 2024 to strengthen opportunities for catalytic projects to be eligible for funding
- Solicitation for the second round of funding in April 2024
- Completed conversations with approximately 40 organizations about the current open solicitation
- As of end of June 2024, five letters of interest were submitted for initial screening

Looking ahead

As of June 2024, the 2019 parks and nature bond's large scale community visions program has received five letters of intent (LOI) since solicitation for the program opened on April 15, 2024. The current total request of the five LOIs is \$34M, which exceeds the \$10M available in this funding cycle.

The LOIs were reviewed by an internal staff review committee composed of staff from the Parks and Nature department and the Planning and Research department. Staff reviewed the LOIs based on compliance with Council approved bond and program criteria, as well as compliance with bond requirements including the need for the resulting project to be a capital asset in public ownership. Of the five LOIs submitted, three have been invited to submit a full application.

LOI submitters that meet Council approved program criteria and bond requirements will be invited to submit a full application as early as August 2024. The Metro Council will select projects and make all large-scale community vision funding awards by end of 2024. Staff is anticipating soliciting for at least one more round of large scale community visions in the next calendar year.

Markers to determine progress on large scale community visions

- Number of letters of interest submitted
- Number of applications submitted
- Number of awards made by the Metro Council
- Outreach to solicit letters of interest for future rounds
- Reporting from large scale community visions program grant recipients on how they're advancing bond criteria in project development, advancement and activation
- Feedback from entities that submitted letters of intent and applications on the experience of participating in the pilot round

Links to more information about large scale community visions

- [Program snapshot from last annual report](#)
- [Large scale community visions program handbook](#)
- [Metro news story about pilot round awards](#)
- [Program overview video for oversight committee \(September 2023\)](#)