

Winter 2025 Parks and Nature quarterly update

Covering bond activities and investments from October-December 2024



BOND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMPLETED: October–December 2024

Staff have completed the following outreach across bond programs in the last quarter:

- The [Blue Lake Park renovation project](#) held two partner cohort meetings (one in person, one virtual).
- Lone Fir Memorial project community advisory meeting
- [Willamette Cove](#) team planned an open house, engaged 100 participants, and held an online workshop targeted for people with disabilities.
- The protect and restore team had 19 conversations with 13 park providers and partners about potential acquisitions.
- Metro staff is having conversations with partners in a subset of District 2 whose population and geography align with the overall bond and program criteria (North Clackamas Parks and

Recreation, Milwaukie, Gladstone and Oregon City).

BOND REPORTING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES COMPLETED: October–December 2024

In November 2024, the oversight committee co-chairs presented [the committee's annual report](#) to the Metro Council, covering activities through June 2024. This was presented in alignment with the presentation of Parks and Nature department's annual report.¹ As part of the annual report presentation, Metro Parks and Nature published the bond evaluation outcomes report, detailing a framework for assessing Metro's investments in community and climate resilience and reporting on progress to meeting bond outcomes.

BOND ACTIVITIES AND INVESTMENTS COMPLETED: October–December 2024

Protect and restore land activities from October–December 2024

oregonmetro.gov/protect-and-restore-land

Our real estate team continues to build relationships with landowners across the region and create a pipeline of opportunities for acquisition in alignment with the target area refinement plans Council approved in 2022. In the last quarter, the team completed four acquisitions including acquisitions in the East Buttes and Willamette Narrows target areas.

To date, the 2019 bond has supported the completion of 31 purchases, totaling 965 acres and 0.52 miles of trail right-of-way across 19 target areas.

See more specific information about acquisitions in the [appendix of this report](#).

¹ See video from meeting [at this link](#) (starts at 1 hour, 44 minute mark)

Local share activities completed from October–December 2024

oregonmetro.gov/localshare

The local share team is working with the region's park providers to submit priority projects for bond local share funding. Most recently, the team has executed an IGA with the City of Milwaukie, is close to finalizing an IGA with Clackamas County, has approved submittals from Gladstone, Rivergrove and Wood Village and is continuing to have productive conversations with jurisdictions across the region.

To date, the bond's local share program has awarded \$31 million to 19 projects across 11 park providers.

Walking and biking trails activities completed from October–December 2024

Since Council approved [12 trail grant awards for \\$19.5 million](#) across the region, the team has finalized nine intergovernmental agreements of the twelve project awards, which will allow project work to advance and submittal of reimbursement requests. One additional contract is close to being finalized.

Take care of Metro parks activities completed from October–December 2024

Progress continues on the health, safety and accessibility improvements at sites in Metro's portfolio including Blue Lake and Oxbow Regional Parks and on plans for the [Lone Fir Cultural Heritage and Healing Garden](#).

In addition, the team continues to engage with community members across the region to help shape bond funded planning and improvements at Metro's developed sites.

The fall engagement push to continue to engage community about Willamette Cove included a series of online focus groups and an online survey that received over 800 responses and builds on the feedback we received from community earlier this spring.

The project to honor the history of those buried at the Lone Fir Cemetery is entering an exciting new phase as the project continues toward its goal of opening by the end of 2026 with opportunities over the coming year for community members to learn about and weigh in on other aspects of the project, including the public art projects and the memorial's permanent name. The team is working with the consultants selected to lead the development of the public art at the site to engage with community members on ideas for the memorial's altar and ways to create connection between ancestors and the living.

See more detail on the status of all bond funded take care of Metro parks projects in the [appendix](#).

Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants activities completed from October–December 2024

The Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants program, which supports projects that increase the

connection to nature at the neighborhood scale, fosters partnerships between park providers and community organizations and is responsible for bringing to life some of the region's most beloved places and spaces, including Gresham's Nadaka Nature Park, Portland's Cully Park, Milwaukie's Riverfront Park, Tigard's Bull Mountain Park and countless others, is preparing for a third solicitation for up to \$7 million with pre-applications due Tuesday, January 21, 2025. The team is doing outreach to partners across the region to identify community-led projects in neighborhood livability, land acquisition, urban transformation and habitat restoration projects that would be a good fit for the program.

To date, the Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants program has awarded \$5.2 million to 12 projects through two grant solicitations.

[Community Choice grants](#) activities completed from October–December 2024

After the [Metro Council approved over \\$2 million in grant awards](#) to 15 projects in western Washington County that were identified and shaped by the community, the team is working with park providers to develop scopes of work for each of the projects. The team is working with partners, park providers and community and conservation organizations in a section of District 2 about launching a second round of community choice grants in 2025.

Large scale community visions activities completed from

October–December 2024

Last month, Metro Council unanimously approved \$10 million of grant funding to benefit fish and wildlife and strengthen community access to nature near Kellogg Creek in Milwaukie. The Kellogg Creek Restoration and Community Enhancement Project has been in the works for years and addresses a more than 150-year-old issue plaguing the creek.

The multifaceted Kellogg Creek restoration project will be a collaborative effort between North Clackamas Watersheds Council, the City of Milwaukie, Oregon Department of Transportation and American Rivers.



Above: Lone Fir Cemetery's Block 14 will be the new location of a memorial marking the historic Chinese section of the cemetery.

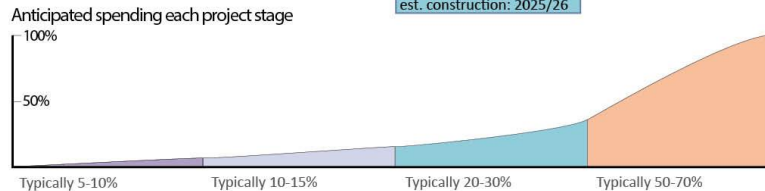
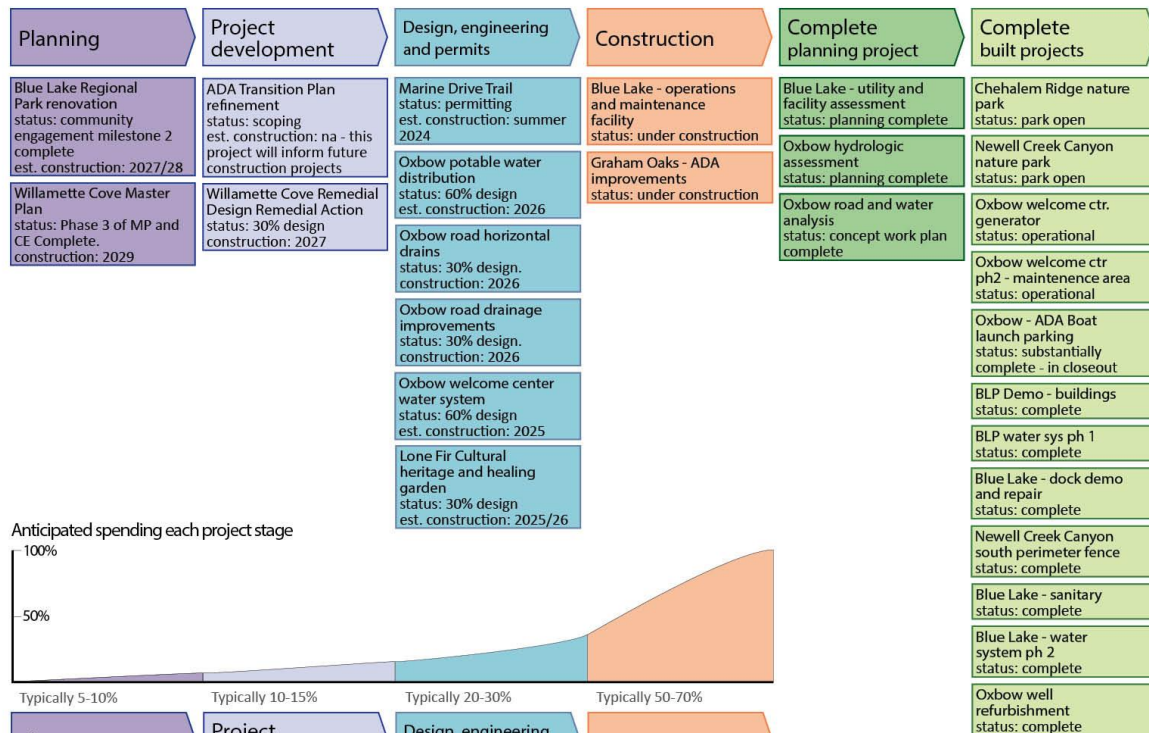
Below: Metro staff and Council members take a moment to celebrate the awarding of \$10 million to the Kellogg Creek Restoration and Community Enhancement project with project partners.



Status of bond funded Metro parks capital projects (take care of Metro parks program)

Take care of Metro parks projects

Project status January 2025



FY25 Q2
Projects are fully or partially funded by 2019 bond.

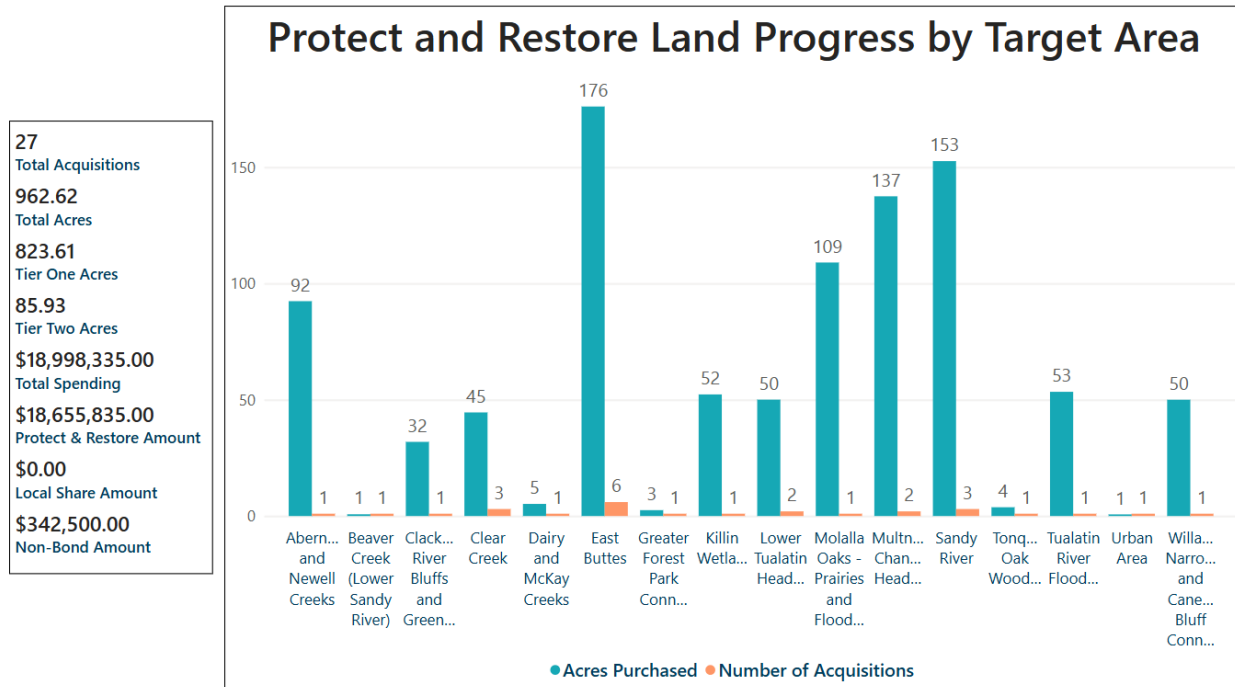
List of capital restoration planned to be funded by the 2019 parks and nature bond

- *Project prioritized based on feedback received from community, partners and stakeholders during bond development (pre-2019) and bond refinement (post-2020)*
- *Future fiscal years will likely identify additional capital restoration projects to be funded by the 2019 parks and nature bond*

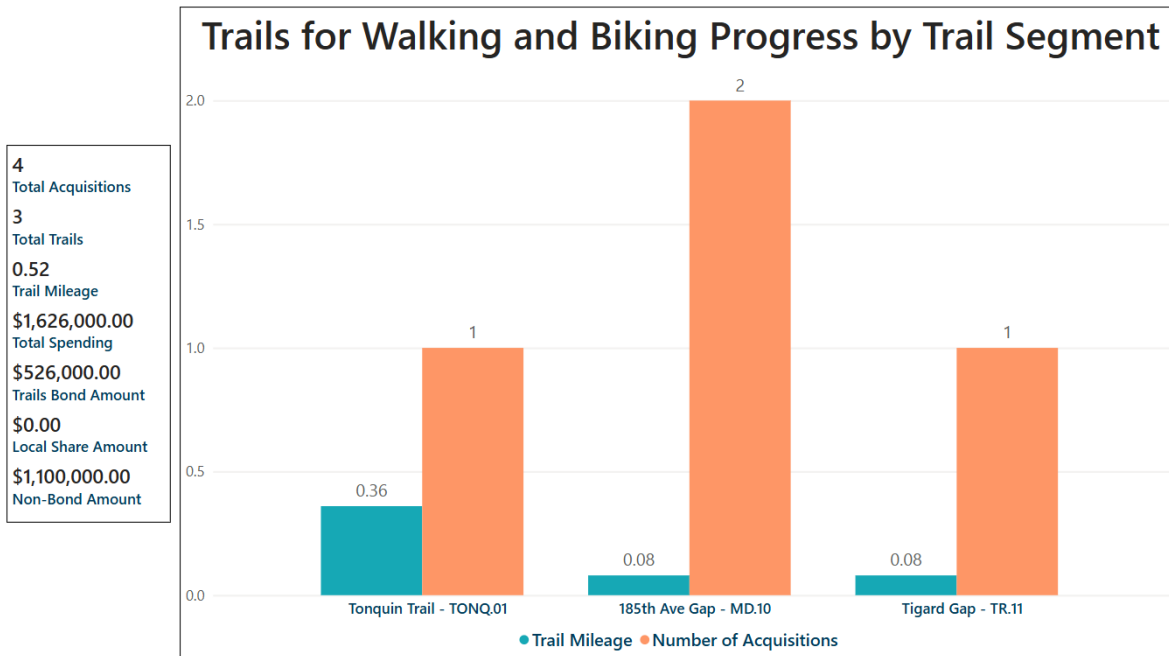
Project name	Description	Anticipated timing of project construction
Roberts Bridge Stream Restoration	The project is located at the Upper Johnson Creek Natural Area in Gresham, Oregon. Goals include the removal of a one-lane vehicular bridge over Johnson Creek paved asphalt driveways, including road fill and base gravel, concrete, and other debris. Restoration actions include the installation of large wood into the stream and floodplain and placement of boulders in-stream. Outcomes will include enhanced water quality, fish habitat and floodplain connectivity.	2024
Beaver Creek Stream Restoration	The project is at the South Beaver Creek Natural Area on Beaver Creek in Troutdale. Restoration includes actions that benefit water quality, fish habitat, and wildlife. This project is being developed to support broader native fish recovery efforts by the Beaver Creek and Sandy River Partnerships. These restoration actions were identified in 2015 during a feasibility study of potential projects on Metro lands along lower Beaver Creek. Restoration work includes removal of an instream weir (small dam), placement of large logs by helicopter, removal of debris from the stream, and stabilizing a stormwater outfall.	2024
Coffee Lake Wetlands Restoration	A large and highly visible wetland restoration project at the Coffee Lake Creek Wetlands Natural Area in Wilsonville. The project will improve wildlife habitat, water quality, floodplain connectivity by dewatering and re-routing two ditches, filling the ditches, grading, and lowering a large central wetland, excavating ponds of varying depths with shallow connector swales, utilizing fill to create hummocks, installation of wood features, and re-wetting the restored wetland, across 31.5 acres.	2024
Quamash Prairie McFee Creek Crossing	This project is located at the Quamash Prairie Natural Area in Washington County. The project will replace a failed culvert structure with a new structure that minimizes impact to riparian and aquatic natural resources. Project will ensure continued safe access to the site for the Indigenous community and Metro staff.	2025
North Fork Deep Creek Restoration	The project is located at the North Fork Deep Creek Natural Area on Deep Creek and North Fork Deep Creek in Boring. Restoration work includes actions that benefit water quality, fish habitat, and wildlife. The project is being developed to support broader native fish recovery efforts by the Clackamas River Partnership. Work includes placement of large logs and brush into the stream by helicopter.	2026

Acquisitions to date by target area and trail segment

Through the policy established in the [2019 parks and nature bond measure](#) and the [target area refinement plans](#) the Metro Council has directed staff to acquire properties in 24 regional target areas and 39 trail corridors that meet the refinement plan goals. Each property varies in size and other features.

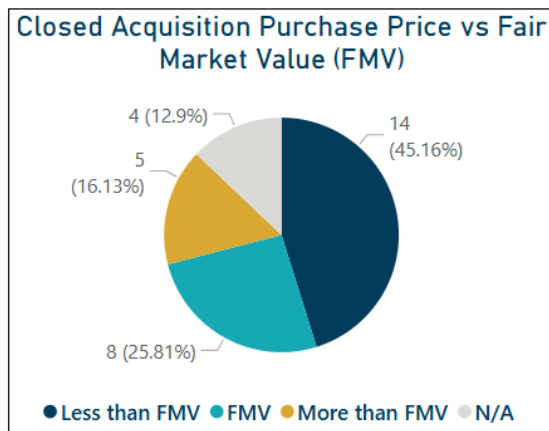


The first chart displays both the number of properties purchased and acres protected in each target area through the protect and restore land program over the lifetime of the 2019 bond. The second chart displays both the number of trail properties purchased and mileage in each trail corridor. Through December 31, 2024, Metro staff have acquired 27 properties totaling 963 acres across 16 target areas, along with 4 trail acquisitions. This number will expand over time as more properties are purchased across all target areas and trail corridors.



Purchase price vs. market value

Most properties purchased to date were at or under fair market value, or an appraisal was not required (i.e., the purchase price was less than \$50,000). This includes all purchases funded through the protect and restore land as well as create trails for walking and biking programs. The Metro Council may direct staff to purchase property at any price, but through the policy established in the Natural Areas Work Plan, the Metro Council has delegated authority to staff to acquire properties for fair market value as supported by an independent appraisal (with the exception of

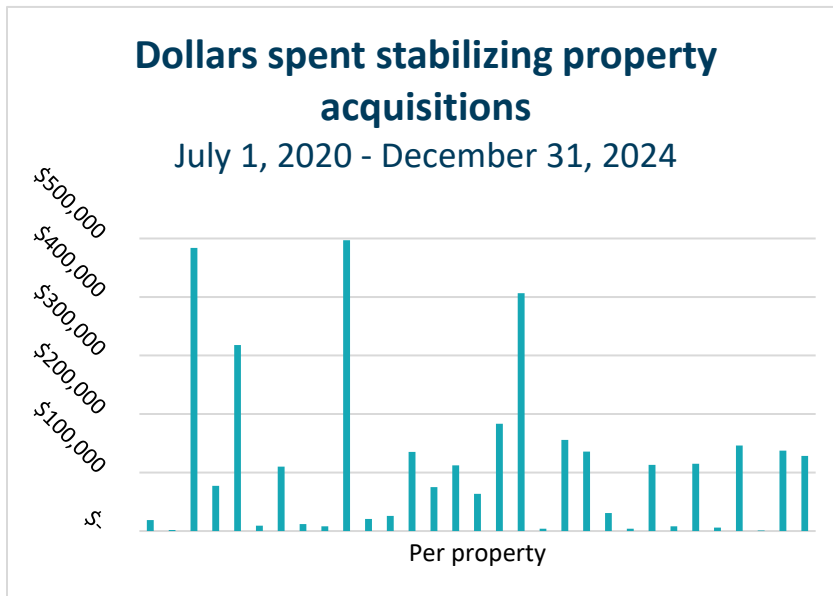


properties purchased for less than \$50,000, which do not require an appraisal). The Chief Operating Officer may purchase a property for up to \$100,000 or 10% more than the value established by an appraisal provided certain conditions are met. The executive steering committee has recommended that staff bring more negotiations to the COO to consider a purchase price within \$100,000 or 10% of the appraised value, so the percentage of properties purchased above FMV is expected to grow over time.

Cost of stabilization to date

Stabilization is one of the four program activities eligible for protect and restore land funds. Stabilization is the phase of management that follows acquisition. During stabilization Metro uses bond funds to address threats that would otherwise compromise the values for which a new natural area is acquired. As no two properties are the same, or have the same conditions present, stabilization plans and costs will vary by property and the conditions present. Metro uses a function-based approach to identify and implement stabilization activities appropriate to each site. Function-based stabilization focuses on actions that protect high ecological function and shift currently degrading conditions to a positive trend leading to Metro to meeting the conservation

objectives for which the property was purchased. Common stabilization actions include natural resource enhancement and property management and security actions. Important ecological functions addressed include key features such as soil erosion control, habitat quality and trend, temperature and flow modification of streams, and public safety.



Progress on climate resiliency

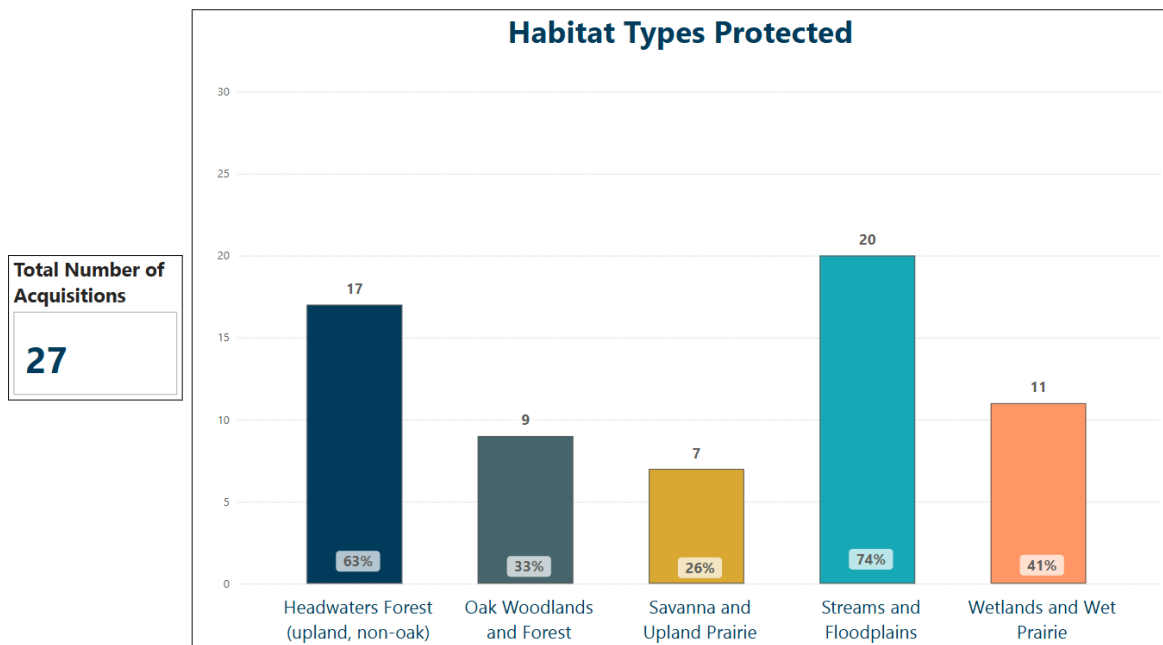
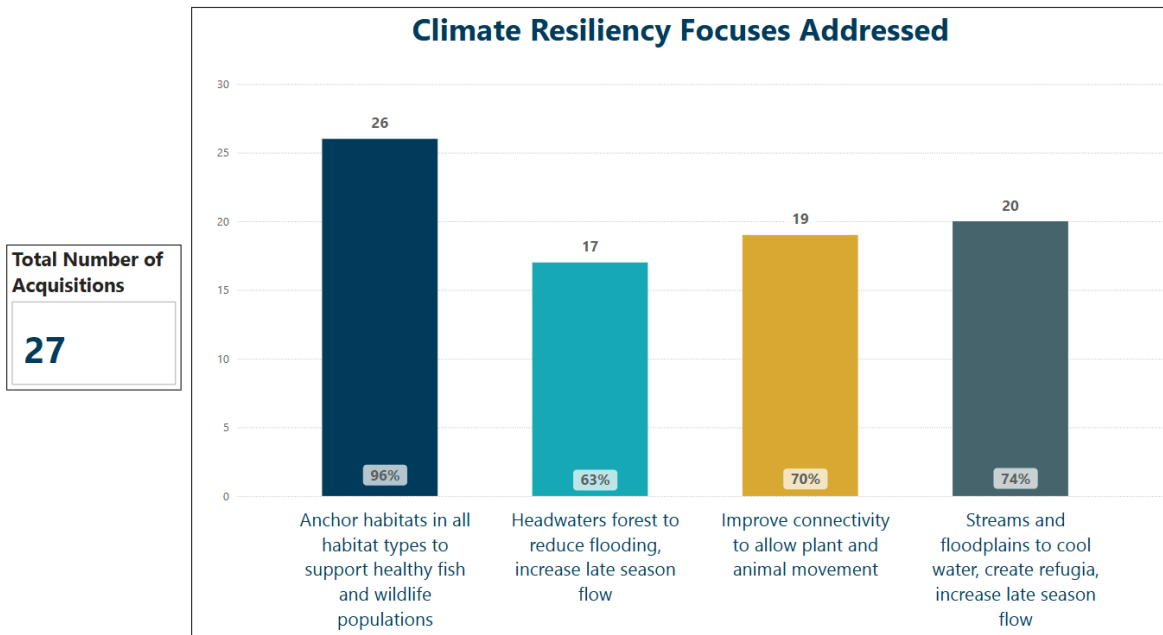
The 2019 bond measure prioritizes increasing the climate resilience of greater Portland’s natural systems. Climate resilience refers to the ability of a system to withstand or recover from changes induced by a changing climate. The overarching strategies for increasing the resilience of natural areas and natural systems to climate-caused stresses are:

- Creating and managing large, healthy anchor habitat sites in all habitat types to support robust plant and animal populations.
- Improving overall habitat connectivity to allow plants and animals to move in response to changing conditions.
- Improving the ability of streams to absorb and store high flows and provide cold-water refugia by protecting, connecting, and restoring headwaters, wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains and stream habitats.

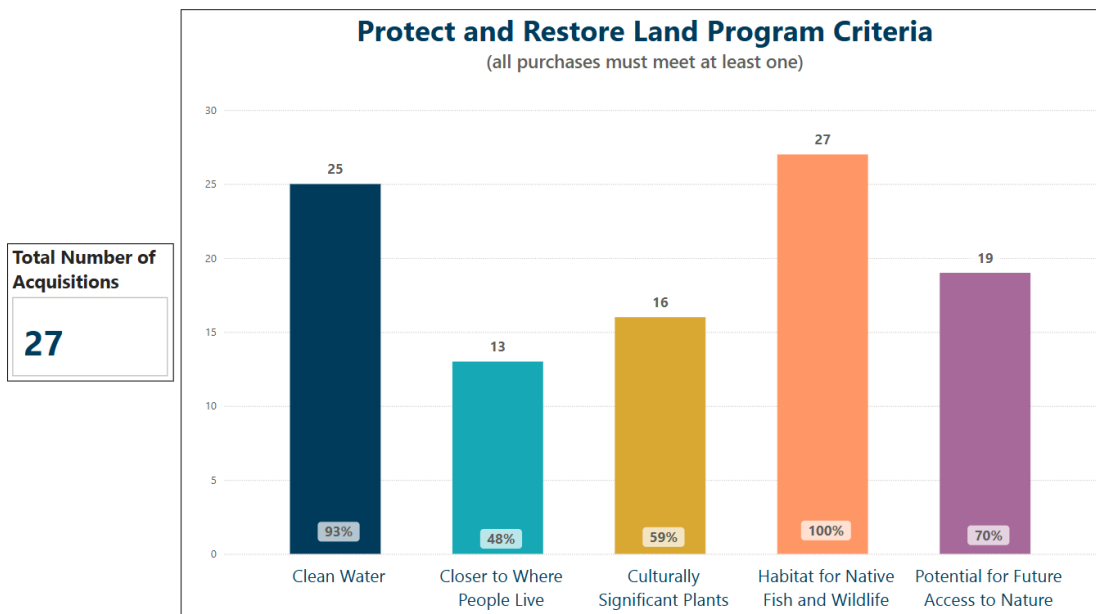
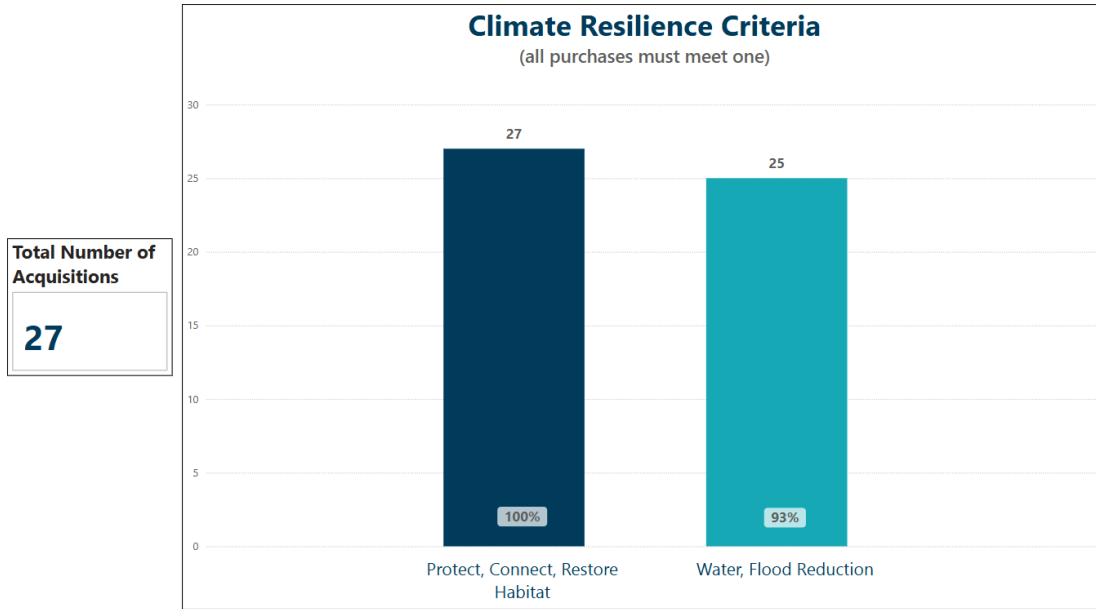


The charts below display how many properties purchased satisfied criteria aligned with these strategies in five primary habitat types.

A property could have one or more features and/or habitat types present and may be represented multiple times within the same chart.



In addition to this more detailed analysis, the bond measure includes a specific requirement that all purchases funded by the bond must satisfy at least one climate resilience criterion listed in the bond measure. The two criterion that can be satisfied by property protection alone are shown in the chart below, along with the number of purchases that meet the criteria.



Constraints

The team is on track to meet acquisition goals for fiscal year 2025. We continue to see the groundwork laid by strategic outreach transition into negotiations and closed transactions, especially for natural areas in the protect and restore land program.

We've been conducting a lot of landowner outreach for the trails for walking and biking program, but the response rate is lower than that of our protect and restore land program, and we are working to discern why that is. Negative perceptions of public safety on regional trails could be a factor, along with our specific methods of reaching out to landowners. We will be thinking creatively about how we can connect to landowners most effectively.

The team, working with the Parks and Nature planning team at Metro, continue to build relationships with local agency partners to better facilitate partnership and real estate transactions in the urban target area and regional trail network. In March 2024 the Metro Council formally stated they support staff contributing to real estate transactions led by partners when the project also met Metro's goals. This removed a large barrier for Metro (previously, Metro was required to lead the negotiation) and has already led to one closed deal with the city of Tualatin.

However, barriers remain regarding working with local agency partners:

- Metro must be willing to work on the partner's timeline and within their capacity to complete these purchases; these timelines can vary.
- Specific to trail gap acquisition – many trail gaps require more planning work to be done regarding trail alignment. If preferred trail alignment isn't clear, the team doesn't know which landowners to engage with nor the required shape and size of easement necessary.
 - The Parks and Nature planning team is working through some of these design challenges, but they don't have the capacity to address all of them.
 - Some partners, such as the city of Hillsboro, have hired consultants to assist with this work and it has been very successful. However, other partners have less capacity to engage or are unable to prioritize this work.

Parks and Nature bond financial reporting through December 2025

2019 Parks and Nature Bond - Forecast *in millions*
as of December 2025

	Actuals FY20	Actuals FY21	Actuals FY22	Actuals FY23	Actuals FY24	Act Q2 FY25	Total Bond Spend
Protect/Restore	155.0						
Personnel	0.0	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.2	1.5	7.8
M&S & Capital	0.1	0.8	5.1	5.3	8.2	4.6	24.1
<i>Admin Cost Allocation</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>7.2</i>
TOTAL	0.3	2.4	8.6	9.3	11.5	7.0	\$ 39.1
Take Care of Metro Parks	98.0						
Personnel	0.0	0.6	1.3	2.0	1.3	0.6	5.9
M&S/Capital/Transfer	0.2	3.1	2.3	2.0	16.3	3.3	27.2
<i>Admin Cost Allocation</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>6.4</i>
TOTAL	0.5	4.7	4.8	5.3	19.6	4.6	\$ 39.5
Local Share	92.0						
Personnel	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.2
M&S & Capital	-	0.0	2.5	1.6	3.7	(0.2)	7.6
<i>Admin Cost Allocation</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
TOTAL	0.0	0.2	2.7	1.9	4.0	(0.0)	\$ 8.8
Trails	40.0						
Personnel	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.3
M&S & Capital	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.7
<i>Admin Cost Allocation</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.5</i>
TOTAL	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7	\$ 2.4
Grants	40.0						
Personnel	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	1.4
M&S & Capital	-	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.9
<i>Admin Cost Allocation</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>1.4</i>
TOTAL	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.4	\$ 3.7
Community Visions	50.0						
Personnel	-	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4
M&S & Capital	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Admin Cost Allocation</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.2</i>
TOTAL	-	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	\$ 0.6
Total Spend	\$ 1.2	\$ 7.8	\$ 17.7	\$ 17.8	\$ 36.7	\$ 12.8	\$ 94.0
Total Admin	0.8	1.6	4.1	4.1	3.3	1.8	15.6
Admin% of Total	66%	20%	23%	23%	9%	14%	17%

