

Intertwine Alliance Partner Coffee, July 2021

Topic

Metro parks & nature bond refinement and implementation

In attendance

Tara Wilkinson, Katie Gavares, Owen Wozniak, Noah Siegel -- The Intertwine Alliance

Nicole Johnson -- 1000 Friends of Oregon

Georgena Moran -- Access Recreation

Caroline Skinner -- Friends of Baltimore Woods & Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park

Monica McAllister -- East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Ross Hoover -- City of Tualatin Parks

Ryan Banning -- Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Cory Eldridge -- Metro Parks & Nature

Katie Dunham -- Portland Parks & Rec

Cathy Sherick - EMACC, parks advocate

Robin Loughlin -- Portland Parks & Rec

Tia Ho -- Finding Mindful Now, community health advocate

Chris White -- Clean Water Services

Marita Ingalsbe -- Friends of Gabriel Park and SW Neighborhood Parks Committee

Micah Perry -- Cascade Policy Institute

Nick Hardigg -- formerly Portland Audubon

Anna Goldrich -- Hoyt Arboretum

Bridget O'Brien -- 1000 Friends of Oregon

Metro parks & nature bond oversight committee members from The Intertwine Alliance are:

- Owen Wozniak, Intertwine Alliance board president & Land Trust Alliance
- Georgena Moran, Access Recreation
- Nicole Johnson, 1000 Friends of Oregon

Oversight committee members' job is to ensure that the allocation of the parks and nature bond complies with three criteria:

- **racial equity**
- **climate resilience**
- **community engagement**

Brief comments from each committee member, then turned it over to the group to find out what's on their minds about bond implementation.

AREAS OF BOND IMPLEMENTATION INTEREST/CONCERN

Disability access

Gentrification. Have real estate folks been involved in the conversation around greening without gentrification? It is a big concern with this investment. (See resource links below.)

Indigenous lands. What conversations have been had around returning land to the Chinook Nation or additional Indigenous trusts?

Public access. Much money has already been spent on land acquisition in the region. What steps are being implemented to allow public access to new and old areas of acquisition? How to balance conservation with access needs like heat relief spaces and good gardens?

Oversight committee member notes that significant money is being spent on existing parks to help maintain access.

Another participant notes many purchased properties are never intended for public access. They are for climate change mitigation. The acquisitions' access points are also managed to match programming capacity.

Metro is the biggest landowner in Clackamas County working for clean water, river banks, to improve the air quality and the overall environment for us. This bond is moving forward with more access than ever before, while ensuring that capacity for operation and maintenance is maintained after original investment.

Connectivity. Baltimore Woods is a natural area in North Portland. Have been hoping for investment in connecting the Greenway trail for a while, would love to see it addressed in the near future.

Southwest portion of the region is really disconnected from a trails perspective. Disconnected from everything except by car. Looking for this bond investment to provide connectivity.

PCEF. How does the bond relate to Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) grants, both in and outside of Portland?

More heat mitigation. A recent New York Times Daily podcast featured Portland's heat dome deaths. This was bad national media. Greenspace can have a role in developing resiliency in our region for future heat waves.

Urban nature development category. Urban nature development is a new category and focus in the bond this time. How is it taking shape, and what goals is it achieving?

Oversight committee member notes that this might be one area where the oversight committee can have significant influence on bond refinement and implementation, can drive strategy down to micro level. Strong area for follow-up.

Metro representative notes: Metro is figuring out the target areas right now. Have had some setbacks and slow-downs during Covid.

Trying to figure out what it means to do restoration work in Lents vs downtown Portland vs Hillsboro.

How does this work connect to the other organizations doing similar work?

Local share. PP&R is currently developing a local share list to develop its application for bond funding. There are so many things to balance - community, climate change mitigation, etc. Are Metro's criteria for funding weighed differently based on what communities are stating their needs are?

Affordable housing. Affordable housing and open space/parks needs and regulations are different across all areas this bond serves. Maybe there is a role to play in incentivising greenspaces around affordable housing that can affect all areas in the region.

Yes! And that connection between regions is what The Intertwine Alliance is designed to do.

Alpenrose. Keep it as open space?

Trees/native plants. Need to make sure all the newly planted trees are properly watered. Maintenance is important. Need programs to care for newly planted trees/plants.

Plant trees on vacant lots?

Portland Bureau of Sustainability is working on ezone map corrections. However, forest areas not connected by streams are not protected. Seems like a short-sighted stipulation when considering carbon sequestering and enhancing connectivity goals.

Future regional funding needs. This bond will not answer all questions and provide all solutions. We should work together with the goal to keep this type of investment going and feasible in the future. Make sure this is not the last regional bond.

RESOURCES CITED IN CHAT

Info about Metro Parks & Nature bond:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/parks-and-nature-bond-measure>

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/parks-and-nature-bond-update-local-share-program-launch-blue-lake-regional-park-improvements>

Upcoming Intertwine Alliance partner coffee dates:

<https://www.theintertwine.org/projects/partner-coffees>

Greening without Gentrification reports:

<https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Greening-without-Gentrification-report-2019.pdf>

<https://www.routledge.com/Just-Green-Enough-Urban-development-and-environmental-gentrification/Curran-Hamilton/p/book/9781138713826>

Oregon Humanities hosting David Truer:

https://oregonhumanities.org/programs/consider-this/consider-this-with-david-treuer/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7-15%20Consider%20This%20with%20David%20Treuer%20outreach%202&utm_content=7-15%20Consider%20This%20with%20David%20Treuer%20outreach%202+CID_0a157365aece5e86a10cb606480605ce&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20more