



# BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Portland Parks & Recreation

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2020-2021

Portland voters passed the Parks Replacement Bond in 2014 calling for an community led oversight committee to review expenditures and provide annual reports.

The Committee continues to receive regular updates from Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R). Meetings are currently held on Zoom. Additionally, information is received via emails and on the Parks Replacement Bond website. The committee receives information in three major categories:

- Adherence to Bond language;
- Fiscal accountability; and
- Transparency

This is the sixth year that the Bond Oversight Committee has the privilege of submitting its report to the City Council. The Committee would like to acknowledge the challenges faced by our city and its resources over the last year, and share our heartfelt appreciation for all that the PP&R staff and that the Bond Program have done to keep our city and its amazing parks here for us in this great time of need.

2021 was a massive year for the Bond as three more Bond projects were finished, and now, only three of the 52 total Bond projects remain!

We are pleased to submit the committee's annual report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Bond Oversight Committee:

- Karl Cheng
- Karen Loper Tracy
- David Staczek
- Brianna Westenskow

## OBJECTIVE 1 - ADHERENCE TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE BOND

Definition: Deliverables are based on the promises contained in the language of the voter's pamphlet.



### BONDS TO FIX PLAYGROUNDS, TRAILS; IMPROVE PARK FACILITIES, SAFETY, ACCESSIBILITY.

**QUESTION:** Shall Portland fix, improve park facilities by issuing bonds estimated to maintain current tax rate; require audits and public oversight? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**SUMMARY:** Measure would authorize \$68,000,000 in general obligation bonds for Portland Parks & Recreation facilities. Because previous bonds are scheduled to be repaid, City's parks bond tax rate is not expected to increase from current rate of \$0.0877 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

**Sixth Year Status:** 49 of the total 52 Bond projects are completed! The three remaining projects; Gabriel Park, Mt. Tabor Yard, and Delta Park Urban Forestry Yard - will be completed or in construction in the upcoming year.

#### Year SIX Project Updates as of June 30, 2021

- **Fix or improve 10 to 20 play areas that were closed, at risk of closure, or deficient**

**STATUS:** 10 playground improvement projects are completed, and the last one is in construction, and will be completed in 2022

- **Fix or improve trails and bridges in parks and natural areas**

**STATUS:** All six trail and bridges projects are completed.

- **Fix or improve swimming pools including Matt Dishman, Peninsula, and Grant**

**STATUS:** All pool projects are completed.

- **Fix or improve restrooms, roofs, structures, and equipment**

**STATUS:** All 24 projects are completed.

- **Fix or improve Pioneer Courthouse Square's failing structures, leaks and cracks**

**STATUS:** Project is complete and opened to the public.

- **Fix or remove barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities**

**STATUS:** 4 ADA specific projects are completed and over 400 ADA barriers have been removed with bond projects

- **Improve Park maintenance facilities to address worker safety and efficiencies**

**STATUS:** Staff facilities at Mt Tabor Yard will be complete in 2023 and Staff facilities at Delta Park will be completed in 2022.

- **Funds are for repairs and other capital costs, not operation. A five-member\* oversight committee will review Bond expenditures and provide annual reports. Bonds may be issued in multiple series; audits required**

**STATUS:** This criterion has been and continues to be met. The Bond Oversight Committee receives regular updates for review and is confident that costs are appropriately spent. Three bond issuances were made, and an audit of the Bond Program performance was completed in 2019.

\* Current committee only has 4 members



## OBJECTIVE 2 - MAINTAIN FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Definition: Maintain fiscal accountability as a core driver. Bond dollars are clearly and separately tracked. Ensure integrity and accuracy of financial statements.



PP&R remains fiscally accountable of Bond dollars with a separate tracking system accessible to all staff, and administrative overhead is lower than 10% total budget goal. Budgets are on target in all categories except pools and maintenance yards. PP&R is confident the Bond contingency fund will cover the cost overruns in those categories and is exploring use of interest earnings to deliver all projects.

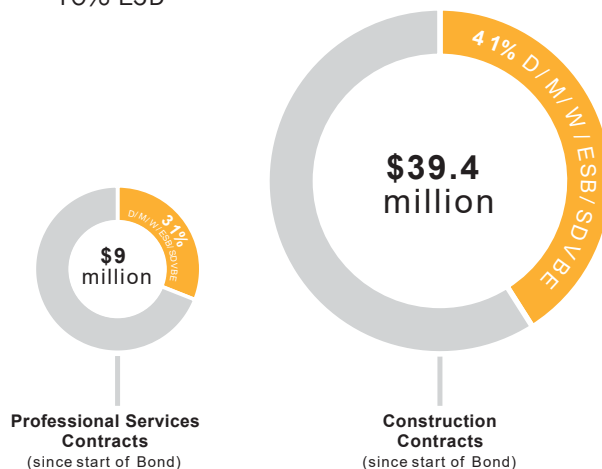
The City encourages hiring Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Minority-owned, Women-owned, Emerging Small Businesses, and Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (D/M/W/ESP/SDVBE - also known as COBID) with a goal of 20% utilization.

- 41% of the value of all Bond project construction contracts have been awarded to D/M/W/ESB/SDVBE firms, with the following breakdown:

- 19% DBE(M) + M
- 18% DBE(W) + W
- 4% ESB

- 31% of the value of all professional services awarded to Bond projects were D/M/W/ESB/SDVBE firms, with the following breakdown:

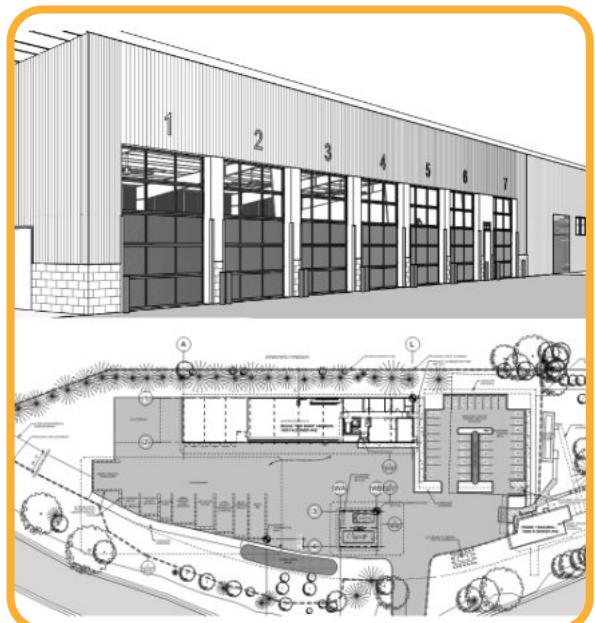
- 11% DBE(M) + M
- 10% DBE(W) + W
- 10% ESB



Gabriel Park



Mt. Tabor Yard



Delta Park Urban Forestry Yard

## OBJECTIVE 3 - BE TRANSPARENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

*Definition: Act in a way that promotes equity, participation accountability and engenders trust.*



The PP&R Bond Team has demonstrated transparency and accountability in a number of significant ways.

**Firstly** by issuing annual reports which are all available on-line, and this year the executive summary will be in both English and Spanish.

**Secondly**, the full performance audit (completed in 2019) is also available on-line and its findings demonstrate the bond program has been successful in delivering on the promises made to the community in Measure 26-159 and in Council Resolution 37085.

And **lastly**, as more projects are completed and the final projects begin construction, the Bond Community Engagement staff have focused on providing regular website updates, construction signage, and social media posts about on-going projects.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the community over the last year. However, Bond-funded playground renovations, accessibility improvements, trail improvements and more remain open and available to support the community's needs during these challenging times.

We are all grateful that we have abundant and well maintained public parks that have given us the ability to meet and gather safely during this trying and difficult time.



Gabriel Park



Creston Park

***The Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) would like to congratulate the PP&R Bond Team on its success over the last 6 years, and the finish line is in sight!***

***Like last year - we would also recommend a final performance audit be conducted after all the Bond projects reach final completion and a report of its findings be submitted to the BOC and the City Council***

***We would also suggest a final public survey and staff survey be taken to gauge the overall success and awareness of the lasting affects of the Parks Replacement Bond.***



Delta Park Urban Forestry Yard

For more information on the Parks Replacement Bond, please visit [parksreplacementbond.org](https://parksreplacementbond.org). If you have feedback or would like to contact the Bond Oversight Committee, please email Elizabeth Specht at [elizabeth.specht@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:elizabeth.specht@portlandoregon.gov) or call 503-823-5561.