

Thank you for reaching out on the Lone Fir Cultural Heritage Garden and elevating this important issue at this time. The points you make in your letter are compelling, and I appreciate your advocacy. In response to your letter, I've asked staff for an update on the status of Lone Fir Cultural Heritage Garden site, and I wanted to share what I learned. I would also note that other students have contacted us with similar concerns.

I am a strong supporter of this project and am proud to say that the Lone Fir Cultural Heritage Garden is a priority for Metro. Metro remains committed to honoring those buried at Block 14 and bringing to life the vision for this memorial that is important to our community and broader region.

I appreciate the continued focus and leadership of the Lone Fir Foundation as well as the broader community in order to turn this vision into a reality, especially as doing so has taken longer than we all would like. I understand this project is incredibly significant to the community, and Metro is committed to ensuring that the community can be involved in shaping the work ahead.

As you mentioned, the Lone Fir Cultural Heritage Garden is identified in the 2019 parks and nature bond resolution as an eligible project for funding, along with several Metro parks and nature sites that are in need of capital investment. Metro is currently in the process of working with community to develop specific programs and identify parks and nature priorities for investment within the limits of the bond measure requirements.

The 2019 bond measure, designed around the values of clean water, healthy habitat and access to nature, seeks to identify and advance priority projects for funding within each of the six program areas included in the measure. Racial equity, community engagement and climate resiliency are all criteria within the bond. Honoring the historical legacy of this community is important for true equity.

During the bond development process, the Metro Council heard strongly from the community to "take care of what we have" and in response, staff have developed a 5-year parks and nature capital improvement plan that includes high-priority infrastructure investments in our facilities across the region.

The Lone Fir Cultural Heritage Garden is included in the 5-year parks and nature capital improvement plan and Parks and Nature staff have assured me that they are planning to invest at this site. In fact, there is already work underway to do due diligence and other scoping, which is necessary to provide a better sense of what is needed to approach the project

Given this initial work underway, staff should know more about the next steps and engagement opportunities for the Lone Fir Cultural Heritage Garden within the next several months. Staff have shared that they already have an initial update planned in the next month with the Lone Fir Foundation as a key partner in this work.

Again thank you for your attention to this issue.

If you haven't already, please sign up to receive updates about the bond implementation process, which will include information about future engagement opportunities.

If you would like more information, the Foundation is a great resource, or feel free to follow up with Mychal Tetteh, Community Services program director in Metro's Parks and Nature department (Mychal.tetteh@oregonmetro.gov).

Gerritt Rosenthal

Metro District #3