

## **STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING**

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-5149, FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
DIRECTING THAT WILLAMETTE COVE BE INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF METRO  
PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS ELIGIBLE FOR 2019 BOND FUNDING AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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Date: November 13, 2010  
Department: Parks and Nature  
Meeting Date: December 10, 2020  
Prepared by: Parks and Nature  
Department

Presenter: Marissa Madrigal, Chief  
Operating Officer; Jon Blasher, Director,  
Parks and Nature  
Length: 15 minutes

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### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

The 2019 Parks and Nature Bond includes six program areas and program criteria to guide project prioritization and selection. One such program area – “Taking Care of Metro Parks” – uses bond funds to provide safe, welcoming places to connect with nature, and includes a list of Metro parks and natural areas that are eligible for bond funding. This resolution would add Willamette Cove to the list of Metro parks and nature destinations listed in Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988 (attached as Exhibit A to staff report) and eligible for bond funding.

In addition, the resolution affirms Metro Council’s commitment to passive use recreation opportunities, as well as trail development and habitat restoration, the specifics of which would be determined in a later planning process.

Finally, the resolution directs staff to develop a plan for engaging the public to identify community priorities at Willamette Cove.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Approval of Resolution No. 20-5149 to add Willamette Cove to the list of Metro parks and nature destinations eligible for funding under the “Taking Care of Metro Parks” program area and to direct the development of a public engagement plan.

### **IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

Willamette Cove would be considered in the 2019 Parks and Nature refinement process and considered for bond funding under the “Taking Care of Metro Parks” program area. In addition, the development of a public engagement plan would insure the community is aware of the anticipated engagement process.

## **POLICY QUESTION(S)**

Only those properties identified in Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988 are eligible for “Taking Care of Metro Parks” bond funding. Those properties currently eligible for bond funding are the subject of a bond refinement process, where competing properties and projects are discussed, analyzed, prioritized and scheduled.

Willamette Cove is currently not identified in Exhibit E and therefore not a part of the refinement process. Adding Willamette Cove to Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988 is required for it to be included in the refinement process for consideration of bond funds. The question presented to Metro Council is: Does Metro Council desire to include Willamette Cove in the 2019 Bond refinement process and begin the process of community engagement?

## **POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER**

There are two options for the Council to consider: not approving the resolution or approving the resolution as presented.

### Option 1 – Not approving the resolution:

Not approving the resolution would maintain the status quo. Willamette Cove would not be eligible for “Taking Care of Metro Parks” bond funding.

Only those properties currently identified in Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988 would be eligible for “Taking Care of Metro Parks” bond funding and included in the refinement process. Bond funded improvements and community priorities at other listed properties would not be impacted.

### Option 2 – Approving the resolution as presented:

Approving the resolution would make Willamette Cove eligible for “Taking Care of Metro Parks” bond funding. Willamette Cove would be included in the bond refinement process, where competing properties and projects are discussed, analyzed, prioritized, and scheduled pursuant to bond criteria. Being eligible does not guarantee prioritization or funding. Approving the resolution would also result in Metro staff providing a plan for meaningful community engagement to identify community priorities for the property.

“Taking Care of Metro Parks” bond funding is a finite financial resource. Therefore, approving this resolution would result in Willamette Cove competing with and potentially reducing bond funding from the other properties and projects identified in Exhibit A to Resolution No. 19-4988.

Approving the resolution would also require Metro staff to provide and plan for meaningful community engagement by a date certain. That work effort is not currently planned for or budgeted and would require additional financial and staff resources, or displace other work.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- How is this related to Metro’s Strategic Plan (to be developed in 2019) or Core Mission?
- How does this advance Metro’s racial equity goals?
  - Pursuant to the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond
- How does this advance Metro’s climate action goals?
  - Pursuant to the 2019 Parks and Nature Bond
- Known Opposition/Support/Community Feedback: Metro has not discussed this matter with or otherwise sought regional community input. Community support and feedback has been localized to date.
- Explicit list of stakeholder groups and individuals who have been involved in policy development: N/A
- Legal Antecedents: Resolution 19-498, 2019 Parks and Nature Bond
- Anticipated Effects: This resolution would add Willamette Cove to the list of Metro parks and nature destinations listed in Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988 and eligible for bond funding; affirms Metro Council’s commitment to passive use recreation opportunities, as well as trail development and habitat restoration; and directs staff to develop a plan for engaging the public to identify community priorities at Willamette Cove.
- Financial Implications (current year and ongoing): Approving the resolution would make Willamette Cove eligible for “Taking Care of Metro Parks” bond funding and include Willamette Cove in the refinement process for consideration of bond funds. Approving the resolution would require additional staff resources to comply with resolution directives, which are not currently budgeted. The amount is not currently known.

## BACKGROUND

The 2019 Parks and Nature Bond includes six program areas and program criteria to guide project prioritization and selection. One such program area – “Taking Care of Metro Parks” – uses bond funds to provide safe, welcoming places to connect with nature, and includes a list of Metro parks and natural areas that are eligible for bond funding. This resolution would add Willamette Cove to the list of Metro parks and nature destinations listed in Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988 and eligible for bond funding.

At the time this list was developed, it was unknown when the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) would issue a record of decision for cleanup of the Willamette Cove property. In March 2020, DEQ issued its Staff Report for Recommended Remedial Action for Willamette Cove Update Site. Metro expects DEQ will issue a record of decision selecting a remedial action, following which Metro can begin engaging the

community to establish objectives for passive recreation, equitable access, and natural area protection at the site.

The 2019 Parks and Nature Bond provides that Metro Council may identify new locations that are eligible for capital investments using bond funding provided they meet the racial equity, community engagement, and climate resiliency program requirements described in the 2019 Bond Measure. Willamette Cove meets these program requirements, and as a result Metro Council may elect to add Willamette Cove to the list of Metro parks and nature destinations listed in Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988. The effect of this action is to add Willamette Cove to the list of Metro properties that will be considered in the bond refinement plan, through which Metro staff will meaningfully engage the community and prioritize projects and needs among and between those listed properties. It does not guarantee priority of funding.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Exhibit A to Staff Report, "Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988"