

Councilor Stacey Budget Note #1: Willamette Cove Future Funding

FY 2021-22 Council Proposals

For Budget Note Discussion

Councilor	# 1
Stacey	

Budget Note Title:

Willamette Cove Future Funding

Budget Note Narrative:

The Willamette Cove property is made up of 27 acres and approximately 3000 feet of Willamette River shoreline. For anyone that has had a chance to visit this remarkable property it's clear that there are tremendous opportunities and challenges on this site. Metro has worked with partners over the years on several cleanup efforts however contamination remains throughout the site. As the landowner Metro has a responsibility to current residents and future generations to clean up the site and make it safe for a range of passive recreational activities. Metro also has a responsibility to engage with stakeholders at the site including tribes that have historical uses at the site, community groups and neighbors.

In December 2020, the Metro Council voted to include Willamette Cove in the list of projects that would be eligible for funding from the 2019 Parks and Nature bond measure. Since that time, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has selected a cleanup plan for the upland portion of Willamette Cove that would leave some contaminated soil on-site under a cap. While the selected environmental remedy does not have universal support from the community, Metro Council recognizes that a different cleanup may have serious drawbacks including prohibitive costs, and that there are other portions of work at Willamette Cove beyond the uplands cleanup for which the costs are still unknown.

Because the extent of the costs associated with a different cleanup of the upland portion of Willamette Cove are not known in May 2021, the Metro Council directs staff to return in November 2021 and provide a report on the project and receive further direction regarding the type of cleanup the Council will authorize. To ensure adequate funds are at the Council's disposal, the Council directs the COO to reserve \$10 million of beginning fund balance in the Parks Bond Fund for potential allocation by the Metro Council to the Willamette Cove project in the future.