

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING THE) RESOLUTION NO. 26-5561
WILLAMETTE COVE NATURE PARK)
MASTER PLAN) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Marissa Madrigal in concurrence with
Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, in 1992, Metro completed the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan which identified a desired system of natural areas interconnected with greenways and trails and designated Willamette Cove as a greenspace of regional significance; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Metro Area voters approved an Open Spaces, Parks and Streams Bond Measure (“1995 Bond Measure”) with a stated goal of acquiring land in regional target areas, including regional trails and greenways identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Metro authorized the purchase of Willamette Cove (Resolution No. 96-2266) and approved objectives for the site, including natural resource restoration and passive recreation (Resolutions Nos. 96-2340 and 96-2350); and

WHEREAS, the North Portland Greenway and Willamette Cove nature park advance the goals and policies of the City of Portland 2035 Comprehensive Plan for a connected, safe, and accessible greenway corridor in North Portland that supports active transportation, ecological restoration, climate resilience, and equitable access to nature; and

WHEREAS, since its purchase, Willamette Cove has been the subject of an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) remedial action for hazardous waste clean-up on the Willamette Cove uplands (ECVC-NWR-00-26), extending from top of riverbank landward, east and away from the Willamette River; and

WHEREAS, Oregon DEQ intends to issue a remedial action clean-up remedy, consistent with the objectives of natural resource restoration and passive recreation at the site; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, voters in the Metro area approved a Parks and Nature Bond Measure (“2019 Bond Measure”) with a stated goal to fund natural area and water quality protection and to connect people to nature close to home; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, by Resolution No. 20-5149, Metro authorized Willamette Cove to be included as a Metro Parks and Nature destination eligible for funding through the 2019 Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, by Resolution No. 20-5149, Metro affirmed its commitment to exploring future trail development, habitat restoration, and a range of passive recreational opportunities at Willamette Cove consistent with its use as a natural area; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Council directed the COO to reserve a \$10 million allocation for the Willamette Cove project, of which \$1.1 million was used for the Willamette Cove nature park master planning process and engagement; and

WHEREAS, Willamette Cove is the first comprehensive project where Metro established a clear plan for Tribal informal consultation from the outset, building on lessons learned from earlier efforts. It is also the first project where Tribes collaborated directly with Metro on the site conservation plan, helping set a precedent for future planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, to identify desired and appropriate visitor improvements, Metro conducted public outreach over 24 months with Tribes and community, including open houses, workshops, workshops, presentations, and surveys; and

WHEREAS, the Willamette Cove Nature Park Master Plan identifies improvements to balance and enhance natural, scenic, and cultural resources, while providing access for visitors to positively experience the natural area; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council's approval of the Willamette Cove Nature Park Master Plan does not establish final design improvements, is not a final land use decision, and is not binding on local governments, but rather provides recommendations to guide Metro staff as they continue design work; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council:

1. Approves the Willamette Cove Nature Park Master Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A; and
2. Authorizes the COO to take actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 5th day of March 2026.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney