

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE METRO COUNCIL) RESOLUTION NO. 10-4166
FORMALLY ENDORSING THE OREGON)
CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR BILL OF RIGHTS) Introduced by Councilor Burkholder with the
concurrence of Council President Bragdon

WHEREAS, the Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (attached as Exhibit A), sponsored by the Oregon Recreation & Park Association, specifically enumerates the desired outcomes of Oregon children's involvement in the natural world through outdoor education and recreation; and

WHEREAS, outdoor activity is an important and integral part of the health and wellness of members of our community; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve equal access to diverse natural wonders; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to supply outdoor recreation providers with a set of principles to guide access to the these resources; and

WHEREAS, fostering collaboration between involved outdoor recreation agencies and organizations improves the quality and opportunity of access; and

WHEREAS, Metro is a major provider of outdoor recreation opportunities through its operation of regional parks and natural areas, boat ramps and the Oregon Zoo; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the No Oregon Child Left Inside coalition, Metro continues to support national investments in environmental education; and

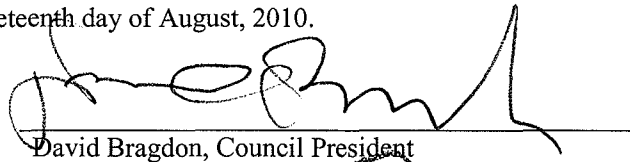
WHEREAS, Metro actively collaborates with the Intertwine Alliance, an extensive and diverse partnership of organizations working to grow and protect the region's network of parks, trails and natural areas; and

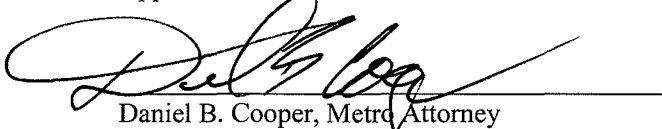
WHEREAS, it is the continued mission of Metro and the Metro Council to increase the quality of life for all of Oregon's children and families; and

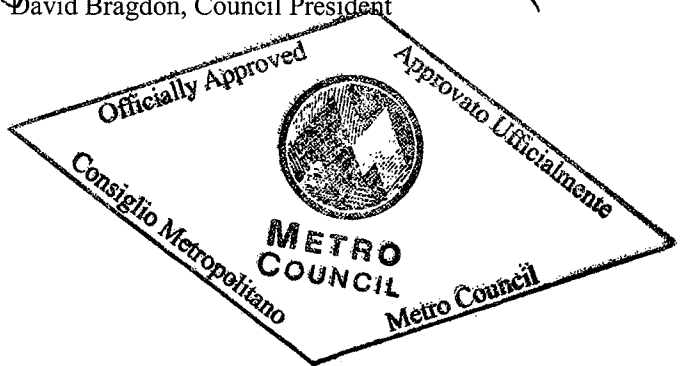
WHEREAS, the Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights specifically aims to ensure the realization of these enumerated principles; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council formally endorses the Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights in pursuance of a healthier and more active community.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this nineteenth day of August, 2010.


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Oregon is a land rich in natural beauty and diverse landscapes from the seashore, to the deserts, mountains, rivers and lakes. Oregonians have long taken pride in our natural environment taking steps to ensure that Oregon remains a thriving community.

It's human nature to care for what we connect to and value. Unfortunately, we have discovered that our families and children are spending less and less time out of doors. This disconnection from nature has serious long-term implications for the health and well-being of our state and to the future stewardship of our public lands.

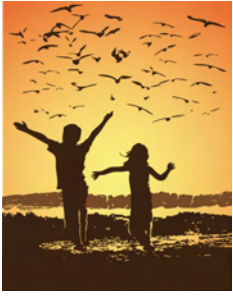
In an effort to foster a newly inspired connection with nature, outdoor and environmental professionals are recommending that every Oregon child and family adopt the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. The outcomes of such experiences will lead to healthier bodies, more creative minds, a clearer understanding of our relationship to our natural world, and the desire to sustain it in the future.

As they grow, every Oregon child should have the opportunity to:

- 1. Follow a trail**
- 2. Go boating**
- 3. Camp out under the stars**
- 4. Learn to swim**
- 5. Walk barefoot on the beach**
- 6. Climb a tree**
- 7. Observe animals in their habitat**
- 8. Catch a fish**
- 9. Play in a nearby park**
- 10. Celebrate Oregon's Culture & History**

A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright reflection on the wet sand. In the foreground, two children are walking on the beach. In the distance, a few more people can be seen walking along the shore. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

The Oregon Outdoors – it's our children's destination, let's show them the way.



Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights



The creation of the Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and program support structure will:

- Result in more Oregon youth and families benefiting from outdoor recreation experiences.
- Create a unifying message for federal, state, county, municipal, non-profit, and for profit agencies and organizations that provide outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Create a united publicity and marketing strategy to the public for all involved agencies and organizations.
- Result in more informal collaborations and formal partnerships between all involved agencies and organizations.
- Compliment the No Oregon Child Left Inside legislation; by creating more opportunities for environmental education and outdoor recreation.
- Promote an increase in family health and wellness.
- Increase future stewardship of outdoor resources.
- Increase the overall quality of life for Oregon's youth and families.
- Highlight the abundant natural resources and recreation opportunities available in Oregon, and stimulate economic development from those resources.

Program Elements

The Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights will unify outdoor recreation providers in the state of Oregon and provide program elements that will result in a unified structure in attracting youth and families to the outdoors. Program elements will include:

- Nature's Passport – an outdoor activity punch card that youth and their families complete as they pursue outdoor activities provided by partner agencies. Nature's Passport is consistent as a promotional tool, but flexible to the variety of activities that individual agencies and organizations provide.
- The Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights resource website, initially housed on the Oregon Recreation & Park Association website, will create a statewide recreation program database (including information from all endorsing agencies/organizations) so that youth and parents can access current Nature's Passport opportunities available in their part of the state.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-4166, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE METRO COUNCIL FORMALLY ENDORSING THE OREGON CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR BILL OF RIGHTS

Date: August 11, 2010

Prepared by: Colin Deverell

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is a document prepared by the Oregon Recreation & Park Foundation enumerating the expected outcomes of children's education of the natural world. While natural sciences taught in the classroom comprise an important component of children's ongoing learning, the Bill of Rights seeks to specify the experiential tenets of a well-rounded exposure to the outdoors. Examples of activity opportunities guaranteed under the Bill include learning to swim, outdoor camping and tree climbing. Each of the experiences listed are linked to integral parts of Oregon's natural wonders and consequently its identity as a whole. Additionally, the Bill of Rights works in conjunction with the Nature's Passport program, an "activity punch card" that children and their families can complete as they participate in outdoor activities. A website dedicated to the program provides a portal to local opportunities to complete the card and fulfill the promises of the Bill.

These experiences are important in forming our children's perception of nature as they grow into adults. Children who value their time outdoors are more likely to be good stewards of the environment in addition to being more likely to pursue continued outdoor activity throughout their lifetime. Providing young people with greater avenues for activity and wellness only enhance our community and help create a sustainable and thriving future.

Exact Text of the Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights:

Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

As they grow, every Oregon child should have the opportunity to:

- 1. Follow a trail*
- 2. Go boating*
- 3. Camp out under the stars*
- 4. Learn to swim*
- 5. Walk barefoot on the beach*
- 6. Climb a tree*
- 7. Observe animals in their habitat*
- 8. Catch a fish*
- 9. Play in a nearby park*
- 10. Explore Oregon's culture & history*

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

This resolution has no known opposition.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

This resolution has no known legal antecedents or potential conflicts.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

This resolution merely formally declares Metro Council endorsement of the Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

4. **Budget Impacts**

This resolution has no measureable budgetary impact.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution 10-4166, For the Purpose of the Metro Council Formally Endorsing the Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.