

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DIRECTING THAT)	RESOLUTION NO. 20-5149
WILLAMETTE COVE BE INCLUDED IN THE)	
LIST OF METRO PARKS AND NATURAL)	Introduced by Council President Lynn
AREAS ELIGIBLE FOR 2019 BOND FUNDING)	Peterson
AND DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN FOR)	
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT)	

WHEREAS, in July, 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 Open Spaces Bond Measure”) with a stated goal of acquiring land in 14 regional natural areas and six of the regional trails and greenways identified in the Greenspaces Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, by Resolution No. 96-2266, Metro authorized the purchase of Willamette Cove with 1995 Open Spaces Bond Measure funding; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, by Resolutions No. 96-2340 and 96-2350, Metro approved a refinement plan and adoption of target area boundaries and objectives for Willamette Cove Target Area used to guide implementation of the 1995 Open Spaces Bond Measure, acknowledging community support for natural resource restoration and passive recreation at the site; 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, following which Metro can begin engaging the community to establish objectives for passive recreation, equitable access, and natural area protection at the site; and

WHEREAS, the Willamette River provides a critical migratory corridor and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead; and

WHEREAS, Willamette Cove has the potential to provide important fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Willamette River holds great importance to several tribes as a natural and cultural resource; and

WHEREAS, Metro has heard from a diverse array of advocates, including the Portland Harbor Community Coalition, Portland African American Leadership Forum, American Indian Movement-Portland Chapter, Audubon Society of Portland, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group, neighborhood representatives, Willamette Riverkeeper, and University of Portland, that there is community support for public access, natural resource restoration, and passive recreation at Willamette Cove, and desire to begin a broad community engagement process; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, by Resolution No. 19-4988, 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, the 2019 Bond Measure includes six program investment areas and program criteria to guide project prioritization and selection; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Bond Measure “Taking Care of Metro Parks” investment area intends to use 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; and

WHEREAS, Willamette Cove is not included in the list of Metro parks and natural areas eligible for 2019 Bond Measure funding; however, Resolution No. 19-4988 provides that Metro Council may identify new locations that are eligible for capital investments using bond funding provided they meet the program requirements described in the 2019 Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, Metro Council has determined that Willamette Cove meets the program requirements described in the 2019 Bond Measure and should be included in the list of Metro parks and natural areas that may be eligible for bond funds; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Bond Measure was crafted to ensure that people of color are part of the decision-making and benefit from public investments in parks and nature, in accordance with Metro’s Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Bond Measure centered racial equity, community engagement, and climate resiliency as necessary criteria for all bond projects; and

WHEREAS, Metro recognizes that Willamette Cove represents a unique and important opportunity to restore ecological health and reconnect the community to the Willamette River; and

WHEREAS, to further the goal and objective for which Willamette Cove was acquired, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Metro Council authorizes and directs Metro Chief Operating Officer to include Willamette Cove as a Metro parks and nature destination listed in Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988 eligible for 2019 Bond Measure funds; and
2. Metro Council affirms its support of and commitment to explore trail development, habitat restoration, and a broad range of passive recreational activities at Willamette Cove consistent with its use as a natural area, for example but not limited to, walking, hiking, bicycling, beach access, wildlife viewing, picnicking, and cultural interpretation; and
3. Metro Council shall convene a work session within 30 days of the issuance of the DEQ record of decision for Willamette Cove to discuss additional and voluntary actions that Metro could take at the site to further improve its environmental condition.

4. Metro staff shall prepare a plan for meaningful public engagement to identify community priorities for future passive recreational opportunities and trail development consistent with protection and restoration of natural resources at Willamette Cove, and submit this plan to Metro Council within four months of the date DEQ issues its record of decision on remedial action.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 10th day of December, 2020.



Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

Exhibit E to Resolution No. 19-4988

Exhibit E

Take Care of Metro Parks

In this Metro program area, Metro will use bond funds to provide safe, welcoming places to connect with nature by completing newer nature parks and maintaining water systems, trails, bathrooms and other amenities at older parks like Oxbow and Blue Lake. All projects must satisfy required bond program community engagement, racial equity and climate resilience criteria set forth in Exhibit A, in addition to the requirements below.

Program activities

- Address capital maintenance, repair and improvement needs at Metro facilities
- Complete nature parks with adopted master plans
- Create new nature parks and access opportunities

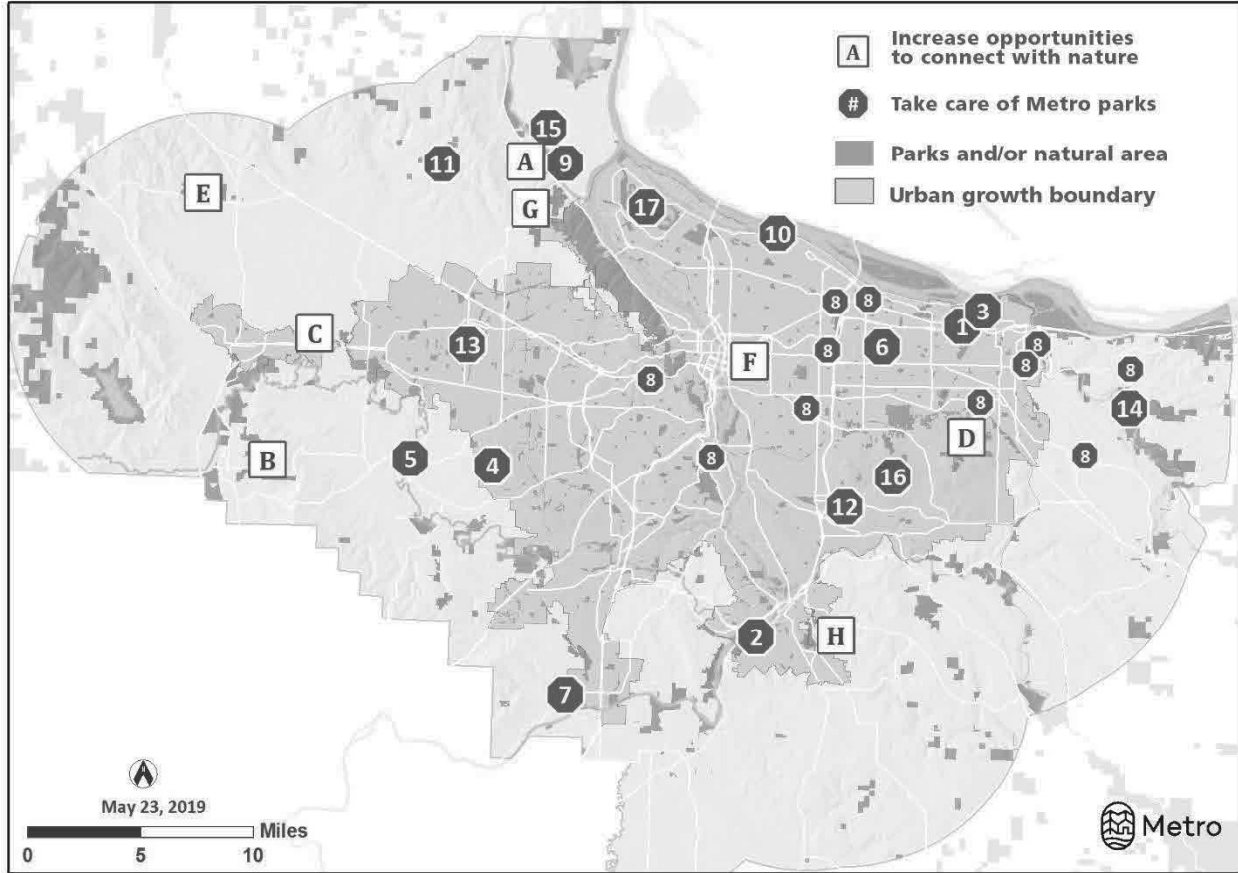
Program criteria

Program investments must satisfy at least one of the following criteria.

- Maintain critical infrastructure and improve visitor experience to ensure that parks are safe and welcoming, particularly those with high visitation and use by communities of color, or places/projects identified by communities of color.
- Improve visitor experience through investing in new or existing park amenities.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations and maintenance of developed parks.
- Provide new or expanded access to nature for people, particularly in proximity to neighborhoods, centers, corridors or transit.
- Provide people with access to water with scenic and/or recreational opportunities.
- Increase access for those living with disabilities through investments in projects using universal design principles and Americans with Disability Act compliance.
- Provide opportunities for culturally responsive public improvements identified by communities of color and/or greater Portland's Indigenous community.
- Provide natural history and site interpretation including compelling and accurate representations of historical individuals, communities and populations.

Metro parks and nature destinations

The following Metro parks and natural areas are eligible for capital maintenance infrastructure and accessibility improvements with bond funding. See map for location information.



1. Blue Lake Regional Park
2. Canemah Bluff Nature Park
3. Chinook Landing Marine Park
4. Cooper Mountain Nature Park
5. Farmington Paddle Launch
6. Glendoveer Golf Course and Nature Trail
7. Graham Oaks Nature Park
8. Historic cemeteries, including Lone Fir Cemetery
9. Howell Territorial Park
10. M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp
11. Mason Hill Park
12. Mount Talbert Nature Park
13. Orenco Woods Nature Park
14. Oxbow Regional Park
15. Sauvie Island Boat Ramp
16. Scouters Mountain Nature Park
17. Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Increasing opportunities for people to connect with nature

The following Metro parks and natural areas have current adopted master plans. Projects in those plans are eligible for bond investments. See map for location detail.

- A. Burlington Creek Forest Natural Area
- B. Chehalem Ridge Natural Area
- C. East Council Creek Natural Area
- D. Gabbert Butte Natural Area
- E. Killin Wetlands Nature Park
- F. Lone Fir Cemetery
- G. McCarthy Creek Forest Natural Area
- H. Newell Creek Canyon Natural Area

The Metro Council may identify new locations for Metro capital investments using bond funding that meet the program requirements described above including capital maintenance, infrastructure and accessibility improvements.

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

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

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"

Written Testimony for Resolution 20-5149

12/8/2020

Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.

Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.

The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

-John Marshall

To whom it may concern at Metro Council:

I am writing to express my concern about toxic waste dumping in Willamette Cove.

1. Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.
2. Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.
3. The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Julie Talcott-Fuller

Thank you for your leadership on the purchase of Willamette Cove following the public bond measure.

Given the small amount of public land along the (Portland area) Lower Willamette River, please continue to be visionary and move to fund the complete removal of toxic material from the full site.

Thank you for your consideration and public service.

Sincerely,
Gail Curtis

To the Portland Metro Council

1. Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.
2. Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.
3. The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Thank you for your consideration,
K. Anne Conrad Antoville & Anthony Antoville

Hi there,

I am writing to share my comments on Willamette Cove.

Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.

Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.

The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Thank you,
Stephan Nance
they/them

This is supposed to be a green space. No toxic waste dump!!!

Cristy Murray

1. Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.

2. Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.
3. The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

These are my opinions concerning Willamette Cove

Sandra Siegner

1. Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump because of its proximity to the Willamette River. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.
2. Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.

Diane Howieson
Portland resident

Re: RESOLUTION 20-5149

I am writing to urge the Metro Council to amend Resolution 20-5149 and commit to a full cleanup of Willamette Cove as an important step in realizing the highest standards of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site initiative.

Willamette Cove was one of only a few areas in the project that was expected to have public access as a Metro Natural Area after the Superfund clean-up is completed.

Metro's commitment to a proactive public process and green space funding are commendable but not enough, since leaving contaminated soil onsite could undermine human and wildlife health and possibly restrict future use of the area.

That said, I urge the Council to support a complete cleanup alternative that will be well worth the investment for generations to come.

Thank you.

Lloyd Vivola

Dear Metro Councilors,

Please support a serious clean up of the 27 acres of Willamette Cove and avoid setting an example of "let's don't and say we did". Just capping the waste is insufficient. This site should become fully safe from toxins and fully open to the public. That's what we expected when Metro bought the property 25 years ago and that's still what's needed. Please also keep the agreements and discussions around these

decisions open and transparent. A lot of us care about cleaning up the Willamette and want to be informed.

Thank your for your consideration.

Ann Littlewood
Portland, Oregon

To the Metro Council:

As part of your commitment to the public trust that elected you and accordingly to the fiduciary use of public dollars with your purchase Willamette Cove, the 27-acre site along the Willamette River,

it's now been over 25 years since the 1996 purchase with Greenspace Bond measure dollars, and because the site is still not open to the public because of contamination issues, I implore you to do

the right thing to create a public natural area and remove all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels.

A partial cleanup is totally unsatisfactory. Do not leave 23,000 cubic yards of contaminated waste on the site by burying it underground beneath permanent caps. Leaching can occur!

Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup and commit to a full cleanup of the site.

For a clean Willamette River,

Lynn Herring

Good morning, these comments are pertaining to the hearing on the resolution for cleaning up Willamette Cove. As a citizen, I'm concerned that the resolution will not clean up toxic soil. We would like to be able to use the greenspace and will not be able to do so unless fully cleaned up. I'm requesting these comments submitted as written testimony.

1. Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.
2. Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.
3. The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Thank you,
Hope Lobkowicz

Dear Legislative Coordinator:

I am writing to insist that Willamette Cove should not be used as a waste dump. This contamination is a threat to humans, shorebirds, waterfowl, wildlife, and vegetation.

Pollutants in ground water and fresh surface waters that flow into wetlands are toxic to plants and animals and accumulate in wetland sediments encouraging invasive species. These threats along with climate change add additional stressors to the environment.

The pollution in Willamette Cove has not been resolved for 25 years and yet it was supposed to be available for public use. It is still not open due to contamination issues.

Willamette Cove deserves a future as a public green space that is fully cleaned, therefore Metro should add an amendment to the resolution to support a thorough cleanup to remove all contaminated soils.

Respectfully submitted,

June Stephens

To Metro:

It is so simple to understand that it is not ok to leave toxic soil contamination at Willamette Cove. You got left holding the ball, and are representing all of us in whatever (so far secret) agreements you have with previous polluters/owners.

We all have to live with the same general cleanup rules: if I buy land with polluted soils, I have to clean it up if I can't get the previous owner to do it. We as a society no longer tolerate this type of pollution, legally or morally, and especially in such a scale!!!

Capping is totally unacceptable for this public, waterfront, 'green space'. It must be cleaned up to human health standards for our use.

Do the right thing! Serve the people, not the polluters. Insist on cleanup, not cap and hide! It will be that much harder if you don't get on it. The seeping and leaking will never end. You are responsible to do this right.

Humans count more than corporate dollars. Quit protecting polluters, open up the process, and create a piece of riverfront we can truly fully use and is restored.

Thank you,
Catherine Arp

Dear Metro Council Decision Makers,

Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro bought Willamette Cove, the 27-acre site along the Willamette River in 1996 with "green space bond measure dollars" to be used as a public natural area. 25 years later, the site still is not open to the public because of contamination issues.

The proposed solution of burying some of the contaminated soil underground beneath permanent caps is insufficient and would leave 23,000 cubic yards of contaminated waste on the site, which would mean the area could still not be opened to the public.

Metro has been hiding behind confidential cleanup agreements and its attorneys in explaining why it cannot support a more aggressive cleanup of this site.

Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove. Leaving contaminated waste on this site will increase public risk and limit public use. Metro should not allow a public natural area to be used as a permanent contaminated waste dump.

Cleanup of PUBLIC sights should not be decided behind closed doors. Metro needs to be transparent regarding what was supposed to be a PUBLIC natural area, but is still not open because of its avoidance of doing the right thing by the people of Portland and anyone visiting our river.

Most Sincerely,

Anna Nicholas
Portland

Please support a complete cleanup of waste in a transparent manner rather than capping and hiding toxic materials. We deserve better from our Metro. Thanks, Marshall C. Goldberg, MD, MPH.

1. Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.
2. Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.
3. The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Thank you for your time,
Stephanie Sandmeyer

Metro should commit to complete cleanup of the Willamette Cove removing all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels.

Then too, the cleanup of these public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. All aspects of the Willamette Cove cleanup must be completely transparent.

Concerned citizen,
Kathryn Sheibley

Dear Madame/Sir,

I am writing to demand that Metro take appropriate steps to clean-up the toxic waste dump at Willamette Cove. This public natural area needs to be contaminate free so that citizens and wildlife can safely enjoy the space.

- Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.
- Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.
- The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Sincerely,

Trine Beach
SE Portland Resident

Dear Metro Council:

Please accept this Testimony on the Future of Willamette Cove from the Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA), the neighborhood which encompasses the Willamette Cove property.

Thank you for taking into consideration feedback from the community in drafting the resolution that you will be considering on Thursday, December 10, regarding the future of Willamette Cove. We appreciate the efforts of the Council to make the Cove eligible for Parks and Nature Bond Funding, to commit to considering development of the area for trails, beach access, and passive recreation, and to commit to seek out meaningful engagement with the community to determine how best to utilize the property known as Willamette Cove.

We would also like to take the opportunity to restate that CPNA is in favor of a full clean up of the site so that the residents of our neighborhood specifically, and the citizens of Portland in general, can enjoy the entirety of Willamette Cove without having to worry about contaminants resurfacing at some time in the future. CPNA believes that a full removal of the contaminated soil will provide a safer environment for the neighbors who live there now and for the people who will discover Willamette Cove in the future.

In light of this stance, we would ask that you consider including language in Resolution No. 20-5149 that would indicate a commitment to discuss further actions Metro could take to improve the environmental

conditions of the property should a determination be made by DEQ and the Port of Portland that toxins will remain on the site as part of their plan for clean-up. An amendment that addressed the concerns of the community and expressed this commitment was proposed by Metro Councilor Sam Chase but it has not been included with the draft being considered on December 10. Please consider including this amendment in the final resolution in some form so the community has confidence that a full clean-up is still a possibility at Willamette Cove.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Best Regards,

Jon Smart
Chair, Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association

Please do not use Willamette Cove as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.

Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.

The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Thank you for your time,

Terrie Burdette

To whom it may concern,

I believe the following and want to see our nature areas available to the public and maintained so as to be clean and safe.

1. Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.
2. Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.
3. The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Sincerely,

Carissa Campos

Testimony for the public meeting
Willamette Cove cleanup responsibility
Irina Phillips, a citizen living in NE Portland

Metro (a public organization) purchased the 27-acre property in the St. Johns and Cathedral Park neighborhoods of North Portland in 1996 using public money from the 1995 natural areas bond measure. The original owner of the site was Port of Portland. Initial plans to redevelop Willamette Cove into an urban natural area and extend the North Portland Greenway Trail were stalled when high levels of contamination were found throughout the site. The current focus is on cleanup efforts.

In 2015, soils with the highest levels of contamination were removed from the upland areas and trucked to a landfill south of The Dalles. But contamination still remains throughout the site and in the river that pose risks to human health and the environment. We are not at the stage of urban natural area for sure. And it is not safe to extend the trail.

Cleanup options range from a maximum of removing all of the contaminated soil to a more reasonable/hybrid approach, where the worst of the contamination would be removed and the rest of the site would be capped with clean soil and monitored to protect the public and wildlife from pollution. The recent experience in other Superfund areas signals that capping does not stay on as designed during severe flooding & earthquake events.

Willamette Cove is one of the few sections of the Portland Harbor Superfund site that is in public ownership, which means that everyone has a stake, and people (citizens of nearby neighborhoods, more broader Portland, but also potential users of the suggested trail) have to define what level of access is safe and consistent with Metro's role in the region. I advocate for the Metro council to release communication with the administration of Port of Portland where they discuss the seriousness of toxic pollution & agree on sharing the cleanup costs. And I also advocate for taking a pause (at least 30 days) after DEQ's record of decision release to listen to the public & decide what is the best for the area, river & the City.

Dear Portland Metro:

Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.

Thank you for making Willamette Cove eligible for the 2019 greenspace bond measure. Please take the resolution a step further and fund a complete cleanup of the site to make it a riverside park that Portland residents can visit safely. There is precious little (almost no) access to the River in metro Portland and any public access is a huge boon. Private, often-contaminated lands, make the banks of the Willamette almost completely off limits south of Linnton. This is a great shame and a huge detriment to the community. A public park at Willamette Cove would be hugely popular and welcome.

Also, as an active member of Portland's birdwatching community, I have noted that it is next to impossible to view the birds in the river between the Fremont Bridge and Sauvie Island. I have heard fellow birdwatchers complain about this fact numerous times. Portland has a thriving birdwatching

community and many members would welcome a public place to view the birds of the river and river edges. Wilamette Cove would be a wonderful start to begin reopening the river to the community and reclaiming at least some of it from decades of industrial use and contamination. I understand that industrial uses are vital to the Portland economy, but some balance with public access and recreation is necessary. Industry and the Port of Portland have both feet on one side of the scale currently. So please help to at least put one finger on the other side.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Many Portland constituents are crossing their fingers and counting on you to make the right decision.

Philip Kline

To the Metro Council:

Back in 1996, Metro purchased Willamette Cove with public bond money to be a public nature area. I want access to the shore of this section of the Willamette River for myself and for future generations. To allow for this, ALL the toxic waste health in this area that is hazardous to humans must be removed.

Also, the plans a agreements that Metro makes should be public and open, so I can trust that I am informed of how this area will be handled.

Thanks for working on this,

Linda Leyva

Willamette Cove and the residents of Portland deserve a clean and ecologically healthy shoreline. Metro can and should commit to a full clean-up of the site instead of kicking this can of contaminants further down the road. Permanent solutions are cheaper in the long run and better for all. My husband and I moved to St. Johns six years ago because this working-class port neighborhood has a beautiful shoreline on the Willamette, lovely parks--including Kelley Point at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia, and a cohesive sense of community. We walk our dogs along the cliffs above Willamette Cove, just three blocks from our house, and wish we dared to walk along the the river where we see many others jogging or strolling or walking THEIR dogs despite the warning signs. We drive across the bridge to Vancouver sometimes to walk along THEIR shoreline on the Columbia and always envy them the progress they've made in establishing trails and parks where we have superfund sites. If they can do it, so can we. It would pay us back many times over and contribute mightily to Portland's appeal to both residents and visitors. The delays have dragged on long enough. Put some people to work and establish greenbelts on both sides of the Willamette AND our side of the Columbia. Willamette Cove is a sweet place to start.

Most sincerely,
Sue and Jim Tarjan

I have been looking over the plan for the Superfund cleanup and am left with the conclusion that this plan will not recover the health of the site. Throwing a few feet of fill on top of toxic waste is like...putting a bandaid on a boil. It looks better but the problem remains. It is likely to emerge again in the future and will require constant monitoring, updating and maintenance. Many Oregonians who once relied upon fish from the Willamette and the from the confluence with the Columbia won't fish here now. Some do anyway. Children living nearby need healthy areas in which to

recreate close to home. (Many, when I taught school in St. Johns, had never been to a natural area even as far from home as Forest Park. They will use this area whether or not it is safe. Isn't that their birthright?) Of interest to me personally is the contention that the groundwater will be safe because Portland citizens have safe water piped from Bull Run to drink. Nope. There are residents on the NW side of the city, many within view of the river who are not provided with Bull Run water. They (we, I'm one of them) depend upon getting clean drinking water from wells, some as deep as 600-700 feet. I am not convinced that the plan you are considering includes adequate science to protect against the contaminated groundwater migrating to create a dangerous water crisis for users. Add to that the fact that we are in an earthquake zone.

Finally, Portland has, over many decades, built a reputation for respecting and preserving the rights of our native animals, insects, plants... the complete array of natural organisms. This plan is not in the spirit of our city or our state.

Paula Sauvageau

Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.

Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.

The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Thank you.

Andrew Frank

I recently moved to North Portland from Minnesota, and was walking my dog around the University Park area---and then I stumbled upon Willamette Cove. "What a beautiful area!" I thought.....trees...water...what could be better for a nice walk?

But then I saw the WARNING signs posted, and quickly retreated--doing research, it seems that the area has been abused and neglected for decades, and that the Metro Council isn't sure if it should all be cleaned up!!

Of course it should all be cleaned up! You and I both know that those "permanent cap" proposals are inevitably gonna start leaking somewhere down the line. The two of us might be dead by then, but for our children, or our children's children, it matters!

Let's do the right thing NOW and clean up the whole thing....and DEFINITELY not add more toxic waste there!

My regards,

Quinn Rivenburgh

Portsmouth Neighborhood homeowner

To Whom it May Concern,

Please let the Metro Council know:

1. Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.
2. Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.
3. The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site.

Thank You, Brett Davis, MPH, CBME

Written Testimony Received after the cutoff for Resolution 20-5149

12/10/20

TO: Lynn Peterson, Metro Council President
Metro Council
FROM: Charles Ciecko
SUBJECT: Resolution 20-5149
DATE: December 9, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments supporting Resolution 20-5149. If approved, this resolution will allow Willamette Cove to be included in the list of Metro Parks and Natural Areas eligible for 2019 bond funds.

As director of Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Dept. during the development and implementation of Metro's first open space, parks and streams bond measure, I had direct involvement with the acquisition of Willamette Cove. An option to purchase this site was secured prior to the election and presented to voters as a specific example of a property to be acquired with bond proceeds upon voter approval. Willamette Cove was always intended to provide an array of recreational opportunities and access to the Willamette River for an historically underserved community.

The delay in moving forward with cleaning this site and making it available for a variety of public uses has been disappointing but finally the time to move forward with plan development and implementation is appropriate and timely.

A partial cleanup which limits future public use of Willamette Cove should be rejected and removal of all contaminants should be pursued at the earliest possible time. This is the only option that will result in realization of the full potential of this important site.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Charles Ciecko

This resolution does not evaluate a full cleanup of Willamette Cove and is therefore insufficient.

Any cleanup decision that allows hazardous soils to be left consolidated onsite is doomed to failure due to the volatile and unpredictable nature of river flooding and the likelihood of a major future earthquake. That option would be unacceptable. Past flood events have exceeded both the current 100 and 500 year flood boundaries.

Because Willamette Cove is a unique site that has great potential to serve both residents and wildlife, it is worth the funding needed to do a full cleanup. That is the only way to create long term safe access.

I urge Council members to reconsider the ordinance and pursue a full cleanup of Willamette Cove hazardous soils.

Thank you,

Barbara Quinn

As an avid birder who spends most of my free time exploring the greenspaces of the Portland area, I strongly believe there would be no better use of the amazing bond measure that we passed in support of greenspaces than to fund the cleanup of toxic waste from Willamette Cove and convert that space into a vibrant neighborhood nature park. This year has shown the need for community greenspaces more than any other. And as Portlanders, we would be doing our community and our future generations a grave disservice if we did not take this opportunity to fully remediate this beautiful area and help it live up to its huge potential.

I also believe that the decision making process on what to do with this piece of land should be transparent to all, so that we are fully invested in the process of a public asset. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimonial on this important issue and have faith that Metro will do the right thing, honor their commitment to environmental stewardship on behalf of all Portlanders.

Signed,

Brodie Cass Talbott

NE Portland

To whom it may concern,

Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump. Metro Council should amend the resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.

Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements. Metro should be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup.

The commitments in the resolution to engage in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are positive steps forward but they are not enough—Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the cove!

Dear Metro Commissioners,

Thank you for taking 3 steps forward in Willamette Cove Resolution No. 20-5149.

- Making Willamette Cove eligible for Parks & Nature Bond funding
- Agreeing to a future public involvement process to determine the future use of Willamette Cove
- Expanding Metro's vision beyond only the North Portland Greenway Trail on the outer edge of the property

Unfortunately, the resolution does not commit Metro to evaluate how to achieve a FULL cleanup of Willamette Cove. Instead, the resolution suggests that Metro supports a consolidation facility and capping over the majority of the contaminated sediment at Willamette Cove. This ignores community priorities and the Confederated Tribes of the Yakima Nation, asking to remove as much of the contaminated sediment from the site as possible. It also sends a clear message to youth that instead of taking responsibility to clean up our mess, we will leave it to them, the next generation, to deal with the toxic waste that Metro and the Port refused to remove. This is irresponsible and far from the mission of Metro.

I urge the council to support Metro Councilor Sam Chase's amendment to add a FULL cleanup conversation back into the resolution. *" Metro Council shall, within 30 days of the release of Oregon DEQ's remedial cleanup action record of decision on Willamette Cove, convene a work session to discuss additional and voluntary actions that Metro could take at the site to further improve its environmental condition; and "*

In addition, Council needs to make transparent the confidential agreement between Metro and the Port related to Willamette Cove to the public.

The communities that live in the north reach of the Willamette River have been displaced, and sacrificed for far too long. Why can't we enjoy the benefits of clean land, water and equitable access to the river without the fear of contamination. We do not want a half-assed job – we want what is fair and just. We want Metro and the Port of Portland to take responsibility for fully cleaning Willamette Cove. To do otherwise is unethical and repugnant.

As a retired teacher who spent over 20 years working with families from north Portland and St. John's and as a youth mentor who understands the desperation of youth who are sick and tired of waiting for our leaders to take bold action, I urge you to commit to a FULL clean up the cove and go down in history as having the foresight to do the right thing.

Thank you,

Jan Zuckerman

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in St Johns for the last 13 years and have spent a lot of time exploring Willamette Cove and it has become one of my favorite places to walk. It is a treasure in the rough. I never take my dogs or my children down there however because of the possibilities of toxic waste exposure. I think it is absolutely imperative that Metro remove all toxic waste detrimental to humans. It is not a sustainable solution to bury the waste. It is only a bandaid. We need to make this a green space for all of Portland to enjoy!

Thank you,
Heidi Scott

Hello,

I am a concerned Oregon citizen writing to you about the resolution for Willamette Cove. I strongly believe that Willamette Cove should not be used as a contaminated waste dump, and that the resolution coming before the Metro Council should be amended to explicitly support a cleanup alternative which removes all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels. Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements; Metro needs to be completely transparent about all aspects of the Willamette Cove Cleanup. The commitments to engaging in a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove and making Willamette Cove eligible for 2019 greenspace bond measure funding are amazing steps forward - but they're not enough! Metro must also commit to a full cleanup of the site, for the site's future and safety.

I was alerted to what was going on at Willamette Cove by Portland Audubon. I would strongly suggest Metro contact Portland Audubon and include their input while considering this resolution.

Thank you for your time,

DeForest Rolnick-Wihtol

A thorough cleanup of the Willamette Cove will be an inspiring new story of this River. Heretofore Metro's nature parks

have not had the distinction of being as dangerously contaminated as this one. The Cove provides Metro with some unique opportunities for outdoor education, for example, a demonstration bioremediation project which could involve community members as stewards caring for this site far into the future, long after caps have degraded or detached and containment cells have started to leak.

I urge Metro to rise to this watershed moment, and put Councilor Chase's resolution amendment for a full cleanup effort back into the resolution. Metro, unlike the city or state, is uniquely poised to actually increase the health of this River, this community. We will not regret it!

Respectfully,

Laura Feldman

Willamette River Advocacy Group

Hello LC,

I live in the cathedral park neighborhood and I'm writing to implore you and those involved to vote for a full cleanup of the toxic chemicals in and around wilamette cove. Oregon prides itself as being a green and naturally beautiful state. Let's not take a half measure here.

Thank you.

Josef Liebhardt

Re: Res 20-5149, and Willamette Cove Generally

Dear Metro President Petersen and Metro Councilors -

On behalf of Willamette Riverkeeper and our hundreds of members in the Portland Metro area, I'm sending this short note encouraging you to approve Resolution 20-5149. It makes a lot of sense to enable Metro to spend bond funds on a portion of the Willamette Cove cleanup, especially since Metro's responsibility represents a small share of the cleanup at this site. Willamette Riverkeeper has worked on the Portland Harbor Cleanup since the 1990s, and personally I've worked on it since December of 2000. We've gotten many hundreds of people on the river in Portland Harbor over the years. While there are many cleanup sites on the 11-mile stretch of the Superfund site, Willamette Cove stands out given it is a site owned by the public, and may provide some level of public access. We believe that Metro must advocate for the most stringent cleanup (see our comments to Oregon DEQ). Removal of contaminants from the site is paramount, and not leaving legacy contaminants based on cost is the right course. This is a basic element of *Environmental Justice*. While the Port of Portland has agreed to do the majority of the cleanup, Metro should be more forceful, and vocal about doing the best cleanup for this site. *The tepid public messaging by Metro regarding a robust cleanup to date is problematic.*

I'd also point out that this site was originally purchased for habitat and open space, and over the last 20 years it has been regularly discussed in regard to the restoration of healthy habitat - which is sorely lacking in Portland Harbor. While some public access is needed, it must be carefully balanced with the original intent of the purchase.

Thank you for your consideration. If you would like an opportunity to see the area from the river at some point, WR is happy to help enable that.

Sincerely,

Travis Williams

Riverkeeper & Executive Director

My daughter and I live not far from Willamette Cove and I am writing to say that it should NOT be used as a contaminated waste dump. This is our beautiful river that we're talking about and Metro Council should be working towards making it a place where our community, our city can enjoy nature, not be confronted with more toxins. I urge Metro Council to unequivocally support a cleanup alternative that will remove all contaminated soil from Willamette Cove.

The clean up of our public spaces should never be covered by secret agreements. The clean up of Willamette Cove should be completely transparent in all aspects.

Your commitments in the resolution to engage the public in the process regarding Willamette Cove's future was a great step, but they aren't enough. Metro must commit to a full clean up of Willamette Cove and to its continued use as a public space.

Thank you!

-Angel O'Brien

North Portland resident

I would like to participate in the meeting today. It is wrong in so many ways to expose toxic sediments and to rivet the soils on site in rain country.

The sediments need to be removed during the river cleanup and transported east - out of rain country.

Hello,

I would like to provide this as testimony regarding the Willamette Cove resolution. I encourage Metro to do everything within their power to set a good example and conduct a full and thorough cleanup of Willamette Cove. Though the three steps outlined in the current resolution are good and should be pursued, they do not go far enough in terms of achieving a full clean up of the Cove. Both the local community and the Yakama Nation have called for removal of as much contaminated sediment as possible. I support the amendment proposed by Metro Councilor Sam Chase to add full clean up language back into the resolution. Finally, the council need to make the confidential agreement between Metro and the Port transparent to the public.

Portland and Metro should be leading the way on environmental stewardship, responsibility, and clean up, not just doing the bare minimum.

Thank you for considering these comments,

--

Ryan Rittenhouse

To Metro Council:

I live on the bluff above Willamette Cove.

Now that Metro is finally taking steps to clean up the cove and the uplands, I strongly urge you to amend this resolution by supporting a cleanup that completely removes all toxic contaminants from the site. Anything short of a full cleanup and removal of all pollutants would be a betrayal of the public's trust and would simply kick the can down the road for another generation to clean up. Please do the right thing. Clean it completely.

Thank you.

Kevin O'Sullivan

Dear Metro,

We have lived in St John's since 1975 and love the river. We have swum in it, boated, and fished as well. My husband and I still go out in our little boat.

We need our regional government to do a full cleanup of Willamette Cove! My husband and I support Metro Councilor Sam Chase's amendment to add a full cleanup discussion back into the Metro resolution. Do not ignore community priorities and especially those of the Confederated Tribes of Yakima Nation which are to remove as much of the contaminated sediments as possible from the site.

All of the deliberations need to be transparent.

Don't do this cleanup on the cheap. Our beautiful neighborhood contains the trash of many decades and counting. It's time for that to stop!!!

Thank you,

Laurie and Dave King

Thank you, Metro, for taking 3 steps forward in the [resolution](#):

- Making Willamette Cove eligible for Parks & Nature Bond funding
- Agreeing to a future public involvement process to determine the future use of Willamette Cove
- Expanding Metro's vision beyond only the North Portland Greenway Trail on the outer edge of the property

2. The Resolution is insufficient, because it DOES NOT commit Metro to evaluate how to achieve a full cleanup of Willamette Cove. The resolution suggests that Metro supports a consolidation facility and capping over the majority of the contaminated sediment at Willamette Cove, ignoring the majority of the community priorities and the Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation, which are to remove as much contaminated sediment from the site as possible.

3. Council should support Metro Councilor Sam Chase's amendment to add a full cleanup conversation back into the resolution:

Amendment On page 2 of the resolution, following BE IT RESOLVED 2, insert:

"3. Metro Council shall convene a work session within 30 days of the issuance of the DEQ record of decision for Willamette Cove to discuss additional and voluntary actions that Metro could take at the site to further improve its environmental condition."

Please please please thoroughly clean up the toxic pollutants!!

Jeff Reznikoff

North Portland resident

Dear Metro Council,

I want to thank you for taking steps to ensure that Willamette Cove is being considered for future funding from the Natural Areas bond. As someone who has direct experience with your agency and the bond measure- I always hoped that the bond measure could benefit a site like this.

Please continue to ensure public engagement on this topic is continuous and in line with some of this agency's already established extensions of outreach and advancing equity.

If Metro has not had the opportunity to do so yet- think about how this site and the engagement on this topic should be extended to the communities of color Metro already engages with, including the Natural Areas Equity workgroup and work done with Indigenous/ Tribal communities, through those established groups and positions as well.

This way the engagement is thoughtful, supported with funds that are earmarked for diverse engagement and inclusive of the community leaders in that work you are already engaging in. This is an opportunity to build on that and bring more people into this collective work.

Someday, hopefully in my lifetime, this site remediated, contamination removed and the process supported.

As someone who has been involved in many rooms that Metro convenes- I will say occasionally we are siloed. This is an opportunity for this agency to be a convener by extending the already established

supported pathways and pathfinders, dedicated to working with impacted communities- and bring this topic before those entities.

Thank you for your leadership, consideration and support,

Jessica Rojas

Natural Areas Equity workgroup member

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

I am submitting written testimony to request full removal of contaminated soil and all contaminants in Willamette Cove.

First, I want to thank Metro, for taking 3 steps forward in the resolution. Those being:

- Making Willamette Cove eligible for Parks & Nature Bond funding
- Agreeing to a future public involvement process to determine the future use of Willamette Cove
- Expanding Metro's vision beyond only the North Portland Greenway Trail on the outer edge of the property

Second, I want to make the point that the Resolution is insufficient, because it DOES NOT commit Metro to evaluate how to achieve a full cleanup of Willamette Cove. The resolution suggests that Metro supports a consolidation facility and capping over the majority of the contaminated sediment at Willamette Cove, ignoring the majority of the community priorities and the Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation, which are to remove as much contaminated sediment from the site as possible.

Third, I want to express my opinion that the Council should support Metro Councilor Sam Chase's amendment to add a full cleanup conversation back into the resolution:

Amendment On page 2 of the resolution, following BE IT RESOLVED 2, insert:

"3. Metro Council shall convene a work session within 30 days of the issuance of the DEQ record of decision for Willamette Cove to discuss additional and voluntary actions that Metro could take at the site to further improve its environmental condition."

Thank you for your attention.

Laura G Turnbull

I am unable to attend today's meeting, but I want to relay my testimony about the future of Willamette Cove. I am an avid recreational user of the Willamette River and care deeply for the river and the people and ecosystems that depend on it.

First, I applaud Metro's expansion of its vision for the area beyond the North Portland Greenway Trail to include a more expansive green area, its action to make the cove eligible for Parks & Nature Bond funding, and its commitment to a public involvement process that will help shape the future use of the Cove.

However, Metro's current resolution on the Cove does not address the priority from the community and the Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation to remove as much contaminated sediment from the site as possible. As written, the resolution suggests that Metro supports consolidation and capping, which are not in line with the demands of most impacted communities. As an organization that claims to prioritize equity, Metro must prioritize these voices of the Confederated Tribes, those represented by the Portland Harbor Community Coalition, and other marginalized communities in decisionmaking.

There is more work to be done. I ask that the council support Metro Councilor Sam Chase's amendment to convene a work session within 30 days of the issuance of the DEQ record of decision to discuss additional and voluntary actions that Metro could take at the site to further improve its environmental condition." A full process is critically important to responsible stewardship of the land and representation of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Maggie Starr

The Resolution is insufficient, because it DOES NOT commit Metro to evaluate how to achieve a full cleanup of Willamette Cove. The resolution suggests that Metro supports a consolidation facility and capping over the majority of the contaminated sediment at Willamette Cove, ignoring the majority of the community priorities and the Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation, which are to remove as much contaminated sediment from the site as possible.

3. Council should support Metro Councilor Sam Chase's amendment to add a full cleanup conversation back into the resolution:

(draft amendment language)

" Metro Council shall, within 30 days of the release of Oregon DEQ's remedial cleanup action record of decision on Willamette Cove, convene a work session to discuss additional and voluntary actions that Metro could take at the site to further improve its environmental condition; and "

4. Council needs to make transparent the confidential agreement between Metro and the Port related to Willamette Cove to the public

In Solidarity,

Charlie

Hello Metro Council,

"Mni Wiconi" Lakota for "Water is Life," water is life for all beings. Clean water is essential for all habitats. Willamette Cove is no exception - it is essential for the biosphere of the North Portland community.

Metro must act in support of the people and environment. Thank you for taking the steps of making the Cove eligible for Parks & Nature Bond funding. This is good use of the people's tax dollars. Making any and all agreements between the Port and Metro as transparent as possible to the Public aka the People, your constituents who pay tax dollars - is good governance, and cost effective.

The Council must support Metro Councilor Sam Chase's amendment to add a full cleanup conversation back into the resolution as follows: Amendment On page 2 of the resolution, following BE IT RESOLVED 2, insert:

"3. Metro Council shall convene a work session within 30 days of the issuance of the DEQ record of decision for Willamette Cove to discuss additional and voluntary actions that Metro could take at the site to further improve its environmental condition."

"Mni Wiconi" Lakota for "Water is Life," you must do this for the health and well-being of your children, your children's children and seven generations. Metro's mission is to safeguard green spaces and liveability by reducing and/or correcting environmental harm(s) either current or past, for the viability of our most precious resources water, land and air - Willamette Cove.

Please be a total champion for Willamette Cove and its biosphere. Step up, stand tall for the children of future generations. My Indigenous elders were stewards of and champions for Willamette Cove. This is your chance, your turn to be a good steward and champion for Willamette Cove. Mni Wiconi!

Thank you for your time, help and support. Much appreciated.

Dear Metro Council,

Everyone in the Metro service area needs equitable access to nature. Where tribes have a strong connection to a place, Metro needs to be especially attentive.

Thank you for making sure that Willamette Cove is eligible for Parks and Nature Bond funding, agreeing to a public involvement process, and expanding Metro's vision beyond the North Portland Greenway Trail on the outer edge of the property. These are very important provisions of Resolution 20-5149. However, the resolution lacks something very important--a commitment to evaluate how to achieve a full cleanup of Willamette Cove. Capping the contaminated sediment does not align with community priorities and the wishes of the Confederated Tribes of Yakima Nation who are calling for the removal of most of the contaminated sediment from the site.

I strongly urge the Council to support Metro Councilor Sam Chase's amendment to add a conversation about a full cleanup into the resolution. The Amendment should be inserted on page 2 of the resolution, following BE IT RESOLVED 2, as follows

"3. Metro Council shall convene a work session within 30 days of the issuance of the DEQ record of decision for Willamette Cove to discuss additional and voluntary actions that Metro could take at the site to further improve its environmental condition."

All people of the Metro area should be able to get close to the water bodies near where they live for recreation and spiritual and cultural reasons. A full clean-up of Willamette Cove is the only way to provide equitable access to a vital natural resource area for diverse populations. I look forward to hearing what you decide.

Sincerely,

Jenny Holmes

I support the talking points from the PHCC and statements from other Willamette River Advocacy Group members.

Among the other issues, Council needs to make transparent the confidential agreement between Metro and the Port related to Willamette Cove to the public.

Thank you,

Mark Whitcomb

Willamette River Advocacy Group

Clean the Willamette

Hello Metro Legislative Coordinator and Metro Council:

I am writing to you because of my concern about a proposed toxic waste dump at Willamette Cove. This is a public natural area which must not be used to store contaminated waste.

I request that the Metro Council amend its resolution to explicitly support a cleanup alternative, including removal of all contaminated soils that exceed human health risk levels from Willamette Cove.

Cleanup of public sites should not be governed by secret agreements and Metro should be transparent in all aspects of overseeing Willamette Cove.

Metro should also commit to a robust public process regarding the future of Willamette Cove in which Willamette Cove would be made eligible for 2019 greenspace bond funding.

Thank you for advocating for the health of the Willamette River.

Dena Turner

Greetings,

My name is Elijah Cetas. I grew up in North Portland, and I'm an organizer with Portland Harbor Community Coalition and the Sunrise Movement.

I want to thank you for making Willamette Cove eligible for Parks & Nature Bond funding, and committing to work with the public to determine the future use of this site.

Water is life.

It is imperative you listen to North Portlanders and the Yakima Nation and commit to a full clean up of Willamette Cove.

North Portlanders lack access to natural areas and parks that other river communities cherish. At the same time, we are overburdened with harm from industrial lands. Living adjacent to hundreds of fossil fuel tanks and the devastating pollution of the Superfund Site, our communities- housed and unhoused - are hurting. Impacted people have the right to access the water, to a health community, and to encounters with thriving ecosystems, fish and wildlife.

Consolidation and monitoring are not true solutions. It means hills of contaminated soil, time bombs waiting to spill back into the watershed. We know that climate change will raise seawaters and bring more extreme flooding that will in time erode and destroy these impermanent caps. The cascadia earthquake - a magnitude 9.0 earthquake - has a one in three chance of striking in the next 50 years.

Without a full cleanup, Metro leaves an enormous debt for future generations.

For only 2 million dollars more in cleanup costs, we can restore this landscape, make it safe for people and wildlife, resilient to floods and disasters, into perpetuity.

As a public agency, Metro is responsible for upholding its treaty obligations to the Treaty Tribes of the Willamette River. The Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation are calling for a full cleanup of this site in accordance with their rights to harvest from usual and accustomed places, which they have held on the Willamette River since time immemorial.

It is unacceptable for this agency to ignore tribal sovereignty and public demands for a full cleanup by brokering a private agreement with another agency, the Port of Portland. These confidential communications must be made public.

Restore the resolution language submitted by Councilor Chase, and commit to a full clean up.

Thank you,

Elijah Cetas

Willamette Cove: Resolution No. 20-5149



Metro Council meeting
December 10, 2020

Willamette Cove Upland Site



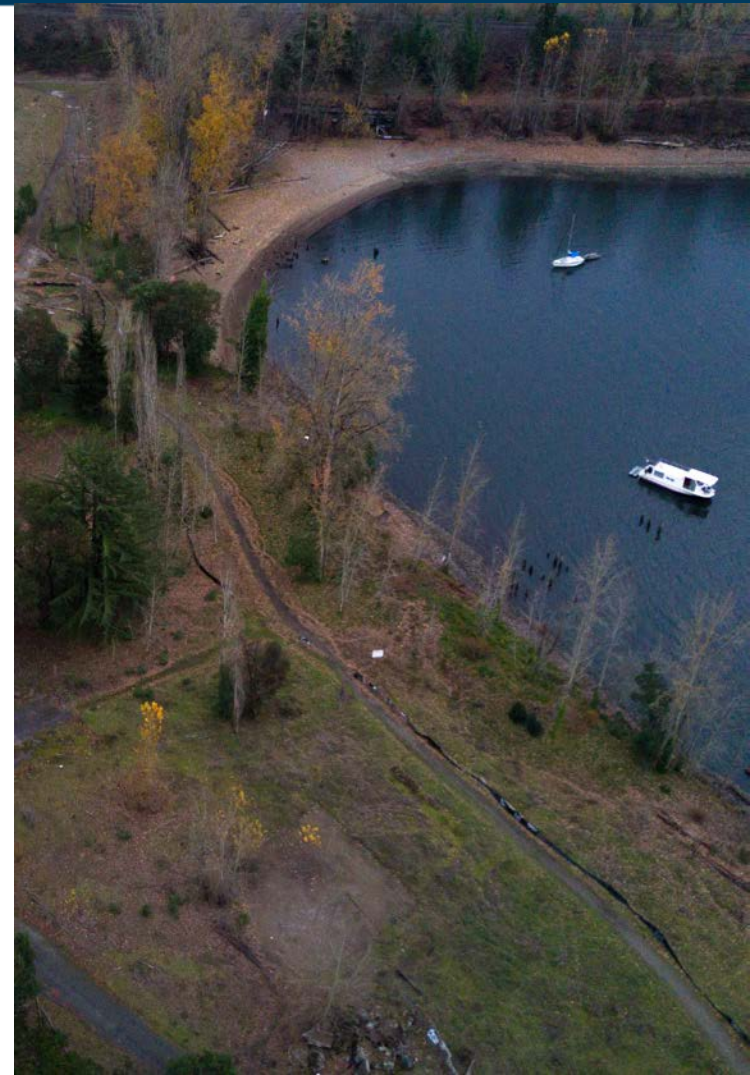
2019 bond program areas

- Land investments and restoration, \$155 million
- Metro park improvements, \$98 million
- Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants, \$40 million
- Local parks and nature projects, \$92 million
- Walking and biking trails, \$40 million
- Complex community projects, \$50 million



Resolution No. 20-5149

- Include Willamette Cove property to Exhibit E of 2019 parks and nature bond resolution
- Affirm support to explore passive recreation, trail development, habitat restoration
- Direct staff to create engagement plan to identify community priorities



oregonmetro.gov

