

## **Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda**

October 16, 2024

4:30 PM

Physical Location

Virtual Meeting Link & Call-In Number

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call - 4:30pm**

#### **a. Announce appointment of new commissioners, Jim Luce and Valerie Striplin, and reappointment of Stephen Wille**

Request: *(List the action needed by Council for the item approval)*

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### **2. Approval of Minutes - 4:35pm**

#### **a. Approval of the September 18th Meeting Minutes**

### **3. Community Communication - 4:37pm**

**\*\*The public is invited to speak regarding any issue. Members of the public testifying are asked to limit testimony to three minutes. There are three ways to provide comments:**

- **In Writing:** Public comments can be submitted in writing (name, address, contact information and comments) via email to [parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us) by 5pm the day before the meeting.
- **Remotely:** Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8311 or email [parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us) by 5pm the day before the meeting
- **In Person:** Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8311 or email [parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us) by 5pm the day before the meeting or fill out a Public Comment form in person prior to the start of the Community Communications portion of the meeting.

### **4. Workshop - 4:40pm**

- a. Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update (40 minutes)**
- b. Vancouver as a Bee City USA (15 minutes)**
- c. High Level Budget Update (20 minutes)**

### **5. Commission and Staff Reports - 5:52pm**

- a. Department Director**

- b. Commission Chair
- c. Evergreen School District
- d. Vancouver Public School
- e. Parks Foundation

**6. Open Discussion & New Business - 5:57pm**

**7. Adjournment - 6:00pm**

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# Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

**4:30 p.m.**

**Vancouver City Hall**

Birch Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

### **Commissioners Present:**

Haygood, Robbins, Wille, Thompson, and Fletcher

### **Commissioners Absent:**

Piland, and Panter

### **Staff Present:**

Perlick, Guzman, Gutierrez, Snyder, Cook, George, Donovan, Meade, Miletich, Stokke, Williams, Brosius, Tubberville, Hull, Lankford-Woo, Heath, Chun, and Nilo.

**Guests:** Dylan Morgan, Amy Zoltie

### **Item 1: Call to Order**

Chair Haygood called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. in the Birch Room at Vancouver City Hall and online via Microsoft Teams. Commissioners Piland and Panter were absent.

### **Item 2: Approval of Minutes**

PRAC approved the August 21, 2024 meeting minutes by consensus.

### **Item 3: Public Comment**

None presented.

### **Item 4: Waterfront Gateway Plaza Master Plan**

Roman Gutierrez introduced the Waterfront Gateway Plaza project, providing background that the project was approved by City Council in October of 2023.

## Members

**Jayne Haygood**

President

**Angilo Fletcher**

Vice President

Jeremy Robbins

Jenny Thompson

Stephen Wille

AJ Panter, VPS

Cale Piland, EPS

Vacant, Parks Foundation

**Parks, Recreation and  
Cultural Services  
Department**

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The 6.4-acre site is located between the Columbia River waterfront and the historic downtown core. Plans include housing, office space, retail, a maker's market, restaurants, and parking, with the Public Plaza as a key feature. Civic plazas were added to Vancouver's Park classifications with the adoption of the 2022-2031 Comprehensive Plan; they are located within high-density residential mixed-use areas and can include commercial and industrial areas.

Burton gave an overview of community engagement, which aimed to inform the public about the project and invite businesses and neighbors to refine the plaza design. Engagement included pop-up tabling events, open house events, and community surveys to collect feedback on site activation and preferred public priorities.

Consultant Dylan Morgan shared a variety of plaza activities with the flexible space and the design evolution. Notable changes from the initial designs include replacing the ramp with a walkway, breaking up large expanses of hardscape to a more human scale, and increasing the tree canopy and planting space.

Proposed materials include brick paving and concrete bands, basalt columns, and wood seats at concrete stadium steps. Morgan shared concept images with an overview of intended public uses of the plaza.

Gutierrez reiterated that this project is a unique partnership with a private developer (Lincoln); the developer is responsible for completing the site design with City direction on the plaza.

The project timeline was reviewed. After PRAC approval in the fall of 2024, construction drawings and permitting will begin in 2025. Construction is estimated in 2026-2027.

An open discussion was held regarding the budget; Perlick confirmed that the budget is still being refined. Fletcher thanked presentors and commended the project. Haygood and Wille asked about parking solutions, and Burton reiterated that the development would include a 500-space parking lot. Street parking has not been defined yet; however, the Economic Development Department is working on a downtown parking assessment.

Haygood supported the preservation and addition of trees, as well as the lighting solutions. She inquired about the placement of public art; Gutierrez confirmed that the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission will help define this. It was confirmed that the project is aiming for restaurant and retail space, as well as flexible space that is pedestrian-focused with room for cyclists.

Wille noted the consideration for historical perspective to be integrated into the project; Gutierrez affirmed that there will be opportunities to explore that lens.

Fletcher moved to approve the Waterfront Gateway Plaza master plan as presented; the motion was seconded by Wille and unanimously approved.

#### **Item 5: Summer Update from the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC)**

Riley Schleiss from Urban Forestry presented an update on behalf of the two cohorts from EYC, representing high schoolers all over Vancouver.

The goals of EYC included: Developing a green workforce; Youth professional development; Tree canopy restoration; and Tending to environmental justice.

Work locations were primarily along the Fourth Plain corridor, in historically underfunded and over-polluted communities.

The tracking tool, Tree Plotter, was used as a GIS tree tracker and health data source. Participants learned how to manage an urban forest, plot spots for potential trees, and estimate tree inventory. In addition, EYC participated in community connections and outreach, meeting new community groups, nonprofits, and nurseries.

In total, 411 trees were established and maintained, with 45.3 cubic yards of mulch applied, 515 gallons of weeds removed, 96 trees pruned, 1030 trees inventoried, and 316 planting sites identified.

Impact on participating youth included an increase in tree identification/inventorying, and in the ability to explain environmental equity. The program successfully introduced youth to potential environmental career pathways and empowered youth to spread their knowledge and presence within the community.

A special thank you went out to acknowledge Hailey Heath and the Naturespaces & Volunteer Programs.

Robbins commented that it is inspiring to see this valid and important work being done. Thompson seconded her enthusiasm to see our youth making a difference through this great program. Wille agreed and commended the program connecting kids to green careers. Haygood asked if there were any opportunities for collaboration going forward with the project. Schleiss confirmed she is connecting with programs in the local school districts, as well as Next Step, which helps young adults who are not in school. This fall there will be more tree planting, and there is a 3-year grant for this program to keep it growing.

#### **Item 6: Pre-Report: Fourth Plain for All Update**

Omar Guzman gave an update on the Fourth Plain for All initiative, with a focus on The Downs and Evergreen Parks.

Perlick shared an overview of Fourth Plain for All and ARPA funding (American Rescue Plan Act), which identifies projects through a community-led process to invest \$25M into neighborhoods near Fourth Plain Blvd. \$7M was invested in Parks. Projects include housing, community building, public health, transportation, economic development, and parks & public spaces. Parks in the project area include 6 neighborhood parks and 3 community parks.

The Downs improvement priorities include a new “leaky roof” picnic shelter, a new half-court basketball court, irrigation, and a security light. Guzman gave an overview of the concept plan endorsed by the committee. Community engagement and design concept preparation will begin in early 2025.

Evergreen Neighborhood Park priorities include playground replacement, new benches, additional picnic tables, a Portland Loo, a half-court basketball refresh or new location, and a lighting upgrade. Community engagement and design concept preparation begins in June 2025.

Next steps: Create a community engagement plan; Park planners explore Evergreen playground theme options to present during community engagement; Keep the investment strategy committee informed on schedule and community engagement.

Wille noted the lighting impact on pollinators, and Guzman confirmed that as a factor to use the latest make/model as a best practice for this project.

**Item 6: Director's Report**

Perlick highlighted that construction notices for Homestead are going out later this week for neighbors who live nearby. We are expecting to start work by the end of the month with construction running through January 2025.

The new Portland Loos at Marshall Park are almost finished. We are going through the final installation checklist to make sure everything is ready for the public. We expect to have them open by the end of next week.

Wintler Park has been closed to vehicle traffic since Sept. 9 to accommodate the Public Works Sewer Interceptor Rehab project. It will reopen to vehicles on Saturday morning. Updated construction schedules are on the City's website.

The water feature at Waterfront Park closed for the season on Sept. 16 for fall and winter weather.

The fitness center at Firstenburg tied with Lakeshore Athletic Club for the best gym or fitness center in the Columbian's Best of Clark County contest. Congratulations to the Firstenburg team!

Save the date for our annual Dia de Muertos celebration on Saturday, Oct. 19. This event has been consistently growing each year and invites people from all backgrounds to commemorate the holiday and learn about this important cultural celebration.

You may have seen a story about the Arts Hub in the Columbian earlier this month. Funding to complete critical building repairs like the roof replacement was requested in the 2025-26 biennium budget. Other funding sources, including grants, are being explored for future building improvements. People can learn more about the project on the City's website.

As a reminder, we expect the citywide budget to be posted in early October. At next month's PRAC meeting, we will be able to share an overview of potential impacts and answer more questions.

**Item 7: Chair Report**

Haygood shared a shout-out to Luepke Center's line dancing instructor. She also received a notice from the Watershed Alliance that they will have their funding removed.

**Item 8: Evergreen School District Report**

None presented.

**Item 9: Vancouver Public School Report**

None presented.

**Item 10: Open Discussion & New Business**

Robbins noted that Oakbrook Park has come back to life now that natureplay equipment has been installed, and he is looking forward to the full remodel soon.

**ADJOURNED**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 11, 2024

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission members

**FROM:** Katherine Kelly, Senior Policy Advisor; Lori Severino, Senior Planner

**RE:** **Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update**

**CC:** Rebecca Kennedy, Community Development Department; David Perlick, Parks and Recreation Director

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### Introduction

The City of Vancouver is one of eight local partner agencies engaged in the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program, which covers a five-mile corridor and seven freeway interchanges in addition to replacement of the I-5 bridge structures over the Columbia River. The IBR Program released the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on September 20 for a 60-day public comment period through November 18. This marks an important milestone in the effort to replace the I-5 Columbia River bridge with a modern, seismically sound structure – planning for which began over two decades ago.

This memo provides an overview of the Draft SEIS contents and process, a brief history of the IBR Program, and a summary of key findings relative to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission's purview. Staff is seeking the Commission's feedback.

### Overview/Preview

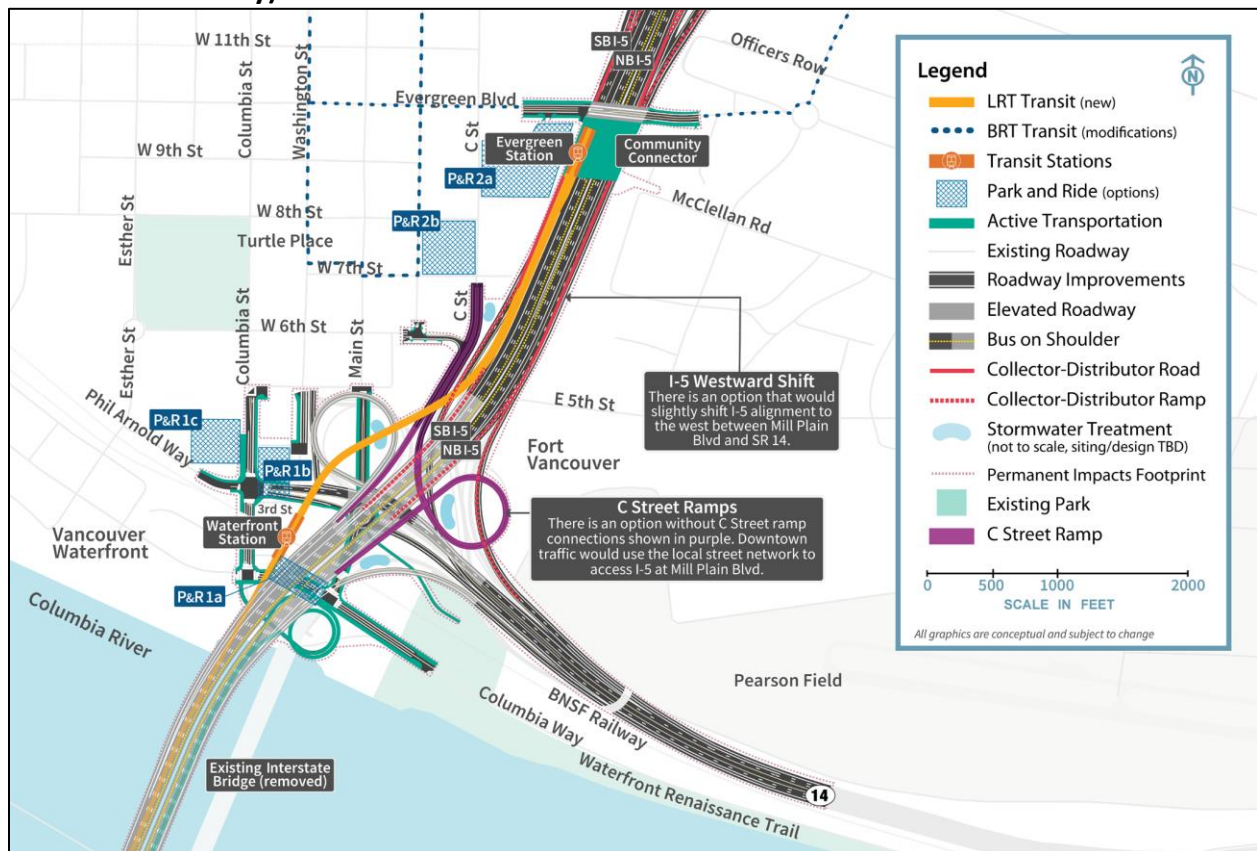
The Draft SEIS analyzes potential benefits and impacts resulting from the design, construction, and operation of a [Modified Locally Preferred Alternative \(LPA\)](#) agreed to by partner agencies in 2022. The primary components of the Modified LPA include:

- replacement bridges over the Columbia River and North Portland Harbor,
- improvements to local streets and seven freeway interchanges,
- extension of light rail service,

- enhanced bus services, including use of shoulder lanes on the freeway for express routes,
- new pedestrian/bicycle facilities such as a shared use path over the river,
- auxiliary lanes (ramp-to-ramp connections), safety shoulders, and
- variable rate tolling.

As shown in Figure 1 below, two light rail (MAX) stations are planned for Downtown Vancouver, including one near Evergreen Boulevard and one in the Waterfront area. Main Street will be extended south to a realigned Columbia Way and to a pathway under I-5 to Old Apple Tree Park. These connectivity improvements will be enabled by space opening up under I-5 due to the Columbia River bridges being constructed at a higher elevation than exists with the current bridge. The Modified LPA also includes a lid over I-5 (referred to as the Community Connector) on the south side of Evergreen Boulevard, adjacent to the light rail terminus station.

**Figure 1: Map of the Modified LPA for Downtown Vancouver (Figure 2-23 in the Draft SEIS Executive Summary)**



The Draft SEIS analyzes multiple design options, including:

- bridge configurations (single level or double level at a fixed height, or with a movable span)
- addition of auxiliary lanes in certain segments of the corridor
- up to two park and ride facilities near light rail stations in Downtown Vancouver

- westward shift of the I-5 alignment through Downtown Vancouver or retention of a centered alignment
- rebuilding or removal of freeway ramps to and from C Street.

The Draft SEIS includes four chapters, 10 appendices, and 27 technical reports, covering the following topics:



For each topic, the Draft SEIS compares the Modified LPA and associated design options to a “no-build” alternative – a scenario in which the IBR Program is not built. Under this scenario, the states of Oregon and Washington would continue to operate and maintain the existing bridge structures and none of the proposed IBR Program improvements would be constructed. For both the Modified LPA and No-Build scenarios, the technical modeling and analysis is projected through the year 2045.

Release of the Draft SEIS marks an important milestone for the IBR Program. It is a necessary step for any project receiving federal funds and subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Act requires assessment and disclosure of effects of proposed actions on natural resource, ecosystem, or human community environments prior to making final design decisions. It also ensures that agencies consider public comments as part of their decision making.

Based on public feedback received on the Draft SEIS and additional analysis, the IBR team in coordination with Program partners will narrow down design options to a single solution for moving forward into construction. This solution, along with all public comments on the Draft SEIS and responses to the comments, will be documented in a Final SEIS. Following the Final SEIS, FTA and FHWA will sign a Record of Decision (ROD) that will allow the IBR Program to begin using federal funds for construction. The ROD is currently anticipated to occur in late 2025.

For detailed information, including the complete Draft SEIS and associated resources, please refer to: <https://www.interstatebridge.org>.

## Background

The IBR Program is a continuation of the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Project, which launched in 2005. Several NEPA documents were prepared for the CRC Project, including a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2008 and a Final EIS and Record of Decision in 2011. The CRC Project was suspended in 2014, but in 2019, the governors of Oregon and Washington signed a [Memorandum of Intent](#) to restart bridge replacement efforts, launching the IBR Program.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are joint lead agencies responsible for overseeing the NEPA process for IBR. Local lead agencies responsible for administering the program are the Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation (ODOT and WSDOT), Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area (C-TRAN), Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (TriMet), Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), and Oregon Metro (Metro). Other local agencies in the IBR partnership are the City of Vancouver, City of Portland, Port of Vancouver, and Port of Portland.

In response to changed conditions in the physical environment, community priorities, and regulations, these partner agencies collaborated to develop the Modified LPA, which is based on the approved CRC Project with some modifications (such as the location of the light rail stations in Downtown Vancouver). Extensive community engagement informed the Modified LPA, including neighborhood meetings, working groups, listening sessions with local organizations and equity priority communities, and two surveys that each received approximately 9,000 responses. The partner agencies endorsed the Modified LPA in in summer 2022. As part of this process, the City of Vancouver adopted a [resolution](#) and [conditions of approval](#) to document the City's interests, policies, and goals for the IBR Program as it moved into the next stage (see Attachment A).

After endorsement of the Modified LPA, the IBR Program began preparing the Draft SEIS for the IBR Program. The Draft SEIS is a “supplement” to CRC’s Final EIS, in accordance with NEPA regulations that allow lead agencies to build upon past work. The Draft SEIS for the IBR Program includes modifications to address changes in the physical environment, community priorities, and regulations since publication of the prior documents. The “Purpose and Need” statement for the IBR Program remains the same as it was with the CRC Project, although the Draft SEIS documents the ways in which these challenges have amplified in the last 10 plus years:



The IBR Program has also placed greater emphasis on climate and equity, as documented in the IBR Program’s [Equity Framework](#) and [Climate Framework](#). An inclusive [public involvement](#) process is also a key part of the IBR Program and includes three advisory groups consisting of community members, leaders from local organizations, and subject matter experts.

Refer to the [IBR website](#) for additional details on the history of the IBR Program.

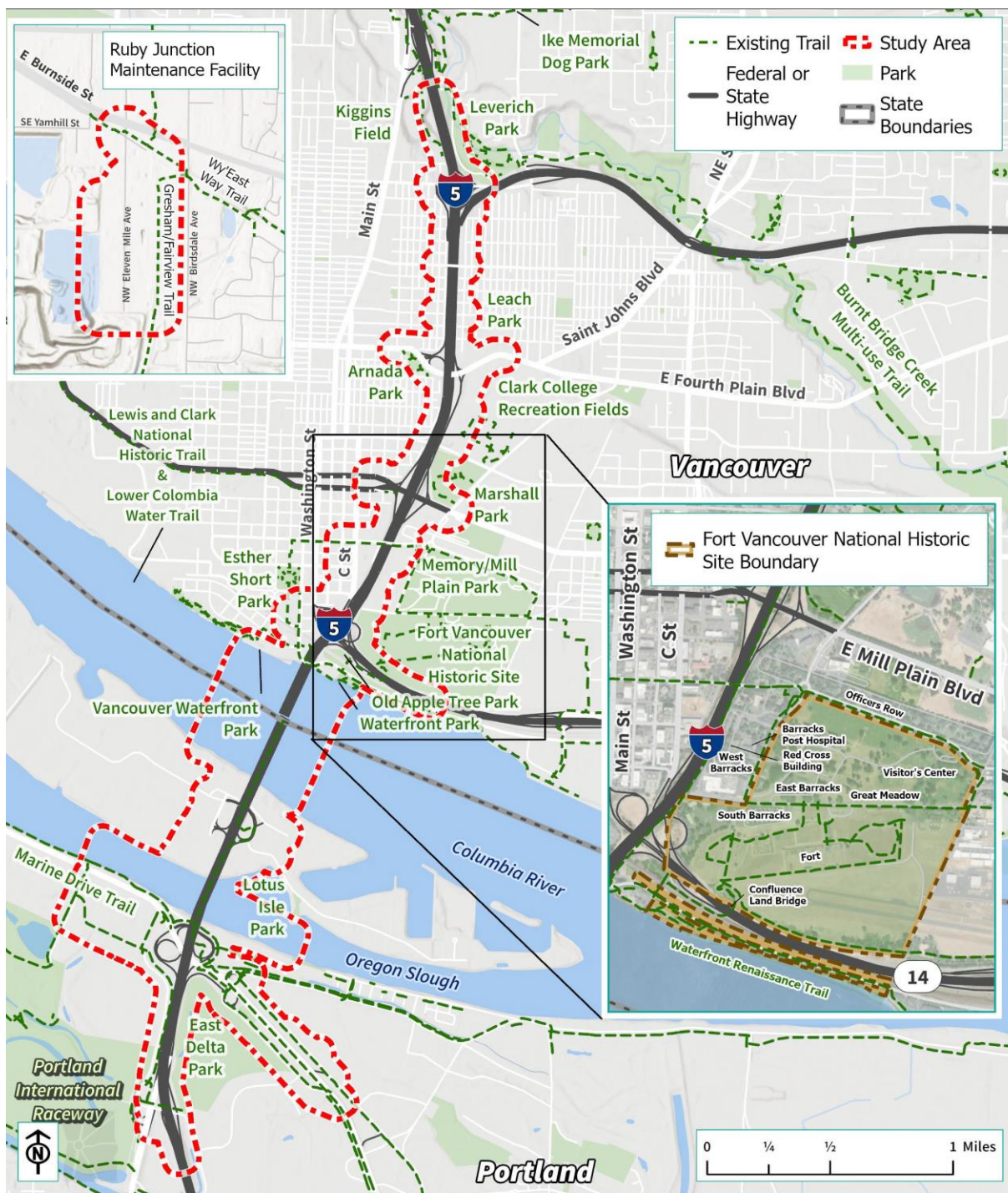
### Summary of Relevant Information and Findings in the Draft SEIS

The Draft SEIS [Parks and Recreation](#) technical report includes information most relevant for the purview of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. In addition, [Chapter 3.21, Section 6\(f\) and Federal Lands to Parks](#) and [Chapter 4, Section 4\(f\) Evaluation](#) address potential impacts to parkland, pursuant to federal regulations.

There are 13 parks and recreation related resources within or near the program area in Vancouver discussed in the Draft SEIS. This includes parks, trails, community centers, sports fields, public docks, and the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, as shown on the Figure 2, extracted from the [Parks and Recreation](#) technical report.

Construction of the Modified LPA would affect parks and recreation resources in the IBR Program area, but implementation of regulatory requirements and program-specific mitigation measures would avoid significant impacts. The following summarizes long-term effects for each resource discussed in the Draft SEIS, followed by a summary of the temporary effects.

**Figure 2: Park and Recreation Facilities within the IBR Study Area** (Figure 3-1 in the Parks and Recreation Technical Report of the Draft SEIS)



**Trails:**

- The connection between the new Columbia River bridges and the Renaissance Trail along the waterfront would be wider and safer than what currently exists, benefiting trail users.
- A new shared-use path would link Main Street and Downtown Vancouver. This would benefit users of the Confluence Land Bridge as they travel through Old Apple Tree Park.
- There would be slightly higher noise levels along waterfront trails with a single-level bridge compared to a double deck bridge due to the lower bridge height.
- Users of the Discovery Historic Loop Trail through Downtown Vancouver would benefit from new and improved intersections, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes, which would enhance safety and overall enjoyment.
- The Modified LPA would permanently realign approximately 2,750 linear feet of the Discovery Historic Loop Trail (2,579 linear feet without the C Street ramps). This includes approximately 1,000 feet of the Columbia River Renaissance Trail beneath the existing bridge. The trail would be realigned along the realigned Columbia Way.

**Community Connector:**

- The proposed lid over I-5 south of Evergreen Boulevard (“Community Connector”) would add to the network of public spaces in the area. Its off-street pathways for active transportation modes (pedestrians, bicyclists, and other micro-mobility modes) will provide an enhanced crossing of the freeway – improving connections between downtown Vancouver and the Historic Reserve and benefitting users of the Discovery Historic Loop Trail.
- The lid would provide some reduction in highway noise when compared to existing sidewalks and bike lanes, which would further enhance the user experience.

**Fort Vancouver National Historic Site:**

- Construction of the Modified LPA would require permanent acquisition of approximately 0.4 acres of land along the southwestern edge of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Two design options would increase this amount slightly: the single-level bridge configurations would require an additional 0.02 acres compared to the double-deck configuration, and two auxiliary lanes would require an additional 0.03 acres compared to one auxiliary lane.
- Noise levels are expected to increase slightly in this park.

**Old Apple Tree Park:**

- Construction of the Modified LPA would require permanent acquisition of approximately 0.08 acres for a new shared-use path that would link Main Street and Downtown Vancouver.
- A permanent airspace easement (less than 0.1 acres) would be needed over the northwest corner of the park for maintenance of the elevated ramp connecting northbound I-5 to eastbound SR 14. The new ramp would be located within 5-10 feet of the park’s northern boundary, closer to the park than the existing ramp. Use of this

easement for WSDOT to perform routine inspections is not expected to affect landscaping on the park property.

- Noise levels from traffic would be slightly lower because the new SR 14 ramp would be higher in elevation than the existing SR 14 ramp.

***Marshall Park and Community Center, Luepke Senior Center:***

- Construction of the Modified LPA would require permanent acquisition of approximately 0.6 acres of land for a retaining wall associated with the elevated exit ramp from I-5 northbound to Fourth Plain Boulevard. This would displace up to four horseshoe pits and trees, including several large sequoia trees that serve as a buffer between the community center campus and I-5. The retaining wall would be located along the border of the parking lot, with a height of up to 20 feet. New plantings, along with existing trees to remain, would provide a vegetated buffer between the park and I-5. Specific tree replanting requirements would be determined by the City of Vancouver Urban Forester during the tree removal permitting process.
- Traffic noise from I-5 is predicted to increase slightly in this area.

***Kiggins Bowl Sports Fields and Stadium:***

- Construction of the Modified LPA would require permanent acquisition of less than 0.01 acres for a retaining wall near the southern access, along the east side of Discovery Middle School.
- There would be no displacement of park use.
- A permanent subsurface easement (~0.3 acres) would extend from the retaining wall to under the access road for the installation of long ties that would anchor the wall into the soil. This subsurface easement would not permanently affect the aboveground use of this area but would limit excavation below a depth that would be determined based on the final design of the retaining wall.

**Mitigation of Long-term Effects:** The IBR Program would be subject to regulatory requirements, best management practices, and mitigation measures to reduce long-term impacts to parks and recreation resources, such as the following:

- If acquired park land includes play equipment or other amenities, replace those features either in the same park or at one nearby.
- In the event that tree removal is unavoidable, replace trees on site and in kind at appropriate replacement ratios in compliance with local requirements and (permitting) processes (e.g., City of Vancouver Municipal Code).
- Evaluate the feasibility and reasonableness of noise mitigation in accordance with WSDOT criteria to shield park visitors and trail users from increased noise levels.

**Temporary Effects:**

- In general, construction would affect park and recreation resources through increased noise, glare, dust, equipment emissions, and vibration when activities occur in or near the resource. The following highlights anticipated effects:

| <b>Resource (area of temporary impact, if provided)</b>         | <b>Construction-related Effects</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Waterfront Park, including trails and public spaces             | Changes in views of the Columbia River, increased noise, and glare from construction lighting - but not likely affected by vehicle emissions and dust.                                                                                |
| Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (~1 acre)                 | Construction activity adjacent to I-5 near the C Street ramp and E Fifth Street and near the Confluence Land Bridge - exact area of impact varies across design options for auxiliary lanes, I-5 alignment, and bridge configuration. |
| Clark College (~4.5 acres)                                      | Construction would affect landscaping (grass and small trees) adjacent to recreation fields but is not expected to affect the recreational user experience.                                                                           |
| Arnada Park (less than 0.1 acre)                                | Construction would affect landscaping (grass and small trees).                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Vancouver Landing at Terminal One (less than 0.1 acre adjacent) | Increased noise during construction and demolition                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Old Apple Tree Park (~0.2 acres)                                | Possibility for debris to enter the park                                                                                                                                                                                              |

- Temporary construction easements to stage equipment and/or store materials are anticipated at the following locations:
  - Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (~1 acre adjacent to I-5 near C St. ramp)
  - Marshall Community Center and Park (~0.4 acres)
  - Old Apple Tree Park (~0.2 acres)
  - Kiggins Bowl Sports Fields/Stadium (~0.01 acres)
- Temporary street closures, detours, and congestion in the program area could delay people traveling to parks or recreational activities. Access effects specific to each resource is summarized in the following table:

| <b>Resource</b>   | <b>Construction-related effects on access</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Renaissance Trail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary detours and trail realignments anticipated.</li> <li>• During long-duration closures of connections between Downtown Vancouver and SR 14, drivers would be diverted to Columbia Way – increasing risks to trail users crossing Columbia Way due to increased traffic.</li> </ul> |

|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Old Apple Tree Park                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases in traffic levels along Columbia Way may affect trail users leaving or entering the park.</li> </ul>                                                                                                    |
| Marshall Community Center and Park     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realignment and/or closure of access points (although access to site would be maintained for the duration of construction).</li> <li>Potential for temporary closures of a portion of the parking lot.</li> </ul> |
| Kiggins Bowl Sports Fields and Stadium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential closure of access point to the stadium/fields (although every effort to avoid this during active school use and a detour to other access points would be provided).</li> </ul>                          |
| Leverich Community Park                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised access and traffic movements on 39th Street during construction of the SR 500/I-5 interchange.</li> </ul>                                                                                                 |

- The program would be subject to regulatory requirements, best management practices, and mitigation measures to reduce construction-related impacts to parks and recreation resources, such as:
  - Protect trees on park property that would be close to construction activities.
  - Restore landscaping to its original condition after construction.
  - Select plants that are resilient or adaptive to future climate conditions for new landscaping.
  - Schedule construction-related closures at public parks and recreation facilities to minimize effects on large events, as feasible.

#### **Section 4(f)**

Section 4(f) require U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) agencies to avoid any use of Section 4(f) property (generally, publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife refuges, and historic sites of national, state, or local significance) unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative to using the land, or unless the impact will be de minimis.

The USDOT has made preliminary determination that the IBR Program would have:

- use with de minimis impact on Old Apple Tree Park
- use with de minimis impact at Marshall Park (including Marshall Community Center and Luepke Senior Center), and
- use with greater than de minimis impact of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Historic District, due to permanent incorporation of land along the southern and western edges of the park area. (Refer to pages 4-52 through 4-58 of Chapter 4 of the Draft SEIS for details).

For all other applicable Section 4(f) properties in Vancouver, the Draft SEIS denotes there would be no permanent incorporation, temporary occupancy, or substantial impairment of the protected activities, features, or attributes of noted parks and recreation sites.

#### **Section 6(f) and Federal Lands to Parks**

Section 6(f) of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act protects parks and recreational facilities that have received funding through this act. The Federal Lands to Parks

(FLP) program helps communities acquire, reuse, and protect federal properties for local parks and recreation. Under both Section 6(F) and the FLP program, converting applicable properties to a non-recreational use requires replacement land of comparable or greater value and recreational utility.

The program area in Vancouver has one Section 6(f) resource (Burnt Bridge Creek Trail) and two FLP properties (Old Apple Tree Park and Marshall Community Center and Park). According to the Draft SEIS:

- the Modified LPA would not convert or adversely impact the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail, and
- permanent acquisition of a portion of land within Old Apple Tree Park and Marshall Park may require providing replacement parkland, which would occur after completion of the Draft SEIS process as the project design is further developed.

### Guidance in Draft SEIS Analysis

The following are guiding principles, plans, and other documents relative to park and ride facilities for reference while reviewing the Draft SEIS and providing comment.

- **City of Vancouver Desired Outcomes** for the Modified LPA:
  - Create new public open spaces under the bridge that serve the region's diverse and growing community, connect Vancouver's waterfront, and integrate with existing and forthcoming open space investments.
- **City of Vancouver Conditions of Approval** for the Modified LPA
  - Recreational and open space design shall be determined in collaboration with Program partners and the community.
  - Community connections shall be designed to connect historical and cultural landscape elements. These include but are not limited to a lid over I-5 connecting Downtown to the Historic Reserve, extension of Main Street, and redevelopment or re-use of land unencumbered by physical structure for the bridge itself or supporting water treatment facilities (5th Street to north bank of the Columbia River).
- **[2023-29 Vancouver Strategic Plan](#)**: The park and ride decision-making process should consider:
  - the City's core values (Livability, Equity and Inclusion, Innovation, Sustainability and Resilience, Trust and Relationships).
  - the strategic outcome for the Vibrant and Distinct Neighborhoods focus area: *Vancouver offers a variety of accessible places and spaces to interact and enjoy nature, art, culture, food, shopping, and community.*
  - the performance measure to increase the number of residents within a 10-minute walk of a park that provides localized cooling through tree canopy cover or vegetative surfaces (CN.PM.1).

- the performance measure to increase the linear miles of paved trails or multi-use paths for walking/biking/rolling, including natural trails in parks, (TM.PM.3).
- [Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Comprehensive Plan](#) goals to:
  - Provide safe and equitable access to parks, natural areas and public arts and cultural spaces for all residents.
  - Provide an interconnected system of park properties and public spaces that support alternative modes of transportation, public health, recreational opportunity and environmental stewardship.
  - Maintain and enhance parks, trails, natural areas, culture and heritage spaces, recreation facilities and community assets to meet identified standards.

## Staff Analysis

The Draft SEIS is based on conceptual designs for the primary components of the Modified LPA. This level of detail is appropriate for this stage of program development and implementation. As a program partner, City staff has been engaged in the planning and design process.

Specifically, City staff has been working with the IBR team to identify and avoid potential impacts to park and recreation facilities. Given the scale of the proposed investments, complete avoidance is not possible. The Draft SEIS analysis reflects the joint effort to minimize impacts, while enabling the proposed investments that will greatly improve mobility, accessibility, and safety along the I-5 corridor – including improved trail connectivity and access to parks and recreation. The report also includes appropriate mitigation to restore affected areas and reduce construction-related disturbances.

City staff has begun a collaborative process with the IBR team to develop a site plan for the Community Connector, the proposed freeway lid adjacent to the future light rail station at Evergreen Boulevard. The process has involved focus groups with community leaders and interested parties in August 2024, the creation of an initial list of guiding principles for the Connector and its surroundings (Attachment A), and submittal of a grant application to help fund construction. As a next step, the City and IBR are planning to conduct community engagement on alternative concepts for the Community Connector. This effort is anticipated to occur in early 2025.

Similarly, staff is engaged in the planning and design process for the Waterfront station area. This area is highly constrained by the Columbia River, existing development, the local street network, the BNSF railroad, and the existing interstate bridge – which bifurcates Waterfront Park. The IBR program presents an important opportunity to enhance the connection between the trails, parks, and open spaces on either side of I-5. Based on the conceptual designs in the Draft SEIS, however, staff has concerns about the ability to achieve the City’s desired outcomes for this space (discussed further below). Staff intends to work with the IBR team to engage the community on the active transportation facilities and public space components, following the Draft SEIS comment period.

Based on this analysis and review of the Draft SEIS findings to-date, staff has developed the following preliminary comments (note that this list is not complete, as staff is still reviewing the technical reports and listening to public comment and feedback from the City's boards and commissions):

- The City appreciates continued collaboration with the IBR team to minimize and mitigate long-term and temporary impacts to parks and trails in Vancouver and to identify and refine appropriate mitigation measures as the design process advances.
- Continue to support a collaborative, community-oriented process for developing a site plan for the Community Connector. Consider and incorporate the guiding principles for the Community Connector and its relationship to its surroundings to inform design decisions in the Evergreen focus area (Attachment A).
- City staff is concerned about design as conceptualized in the Draft SEIS of the shared use path connection on the north side of the Columbia River bridge to the Vancouver waterfront. Based on the graphics and images, columns supporting the helix appear to occupy much of the land under the bridge approaches, undermining opportunities to provide a high-quality connection of Waterfront Park on either side of I-5. Staff is also concerned about the lack of options for shared path users, given the length of the proposed helix ramp. For subsequent design work:
  - Explore alternative designs for this connection that would create more opportunities for high-quality public spaces and trails.
  - Pursue multiple options for connecting the bridge's shared use path to the waterfront, considering the wide range of user groups and their various abilities, needs, and preferences. This includes the potential use of the stairs and elevators associated with the light rail station.
  - Design active transportation facilities to support safety, accessibility, and direct, intuitive connections with the existing network of public spaces, parks, and recreation facilities.
  - Design all spaces under the freeway to promote activation and security.

### **Action, Timeline, and Next Steps**

Staff is requesting feedback from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on the following:

- What are your thoughts about the findings related to parks and recreation in the Draft SEIS?
- What do you think about staff's preliminary comments?
- How do the various design options align with City goals and policies related to parks and recreation?
- Are proposed mitigation measures sufficient to mitigate impacts to parks and recreation resources?
- Any additional feedback?

The Commission's input will inform development and subsequent Council approval of a Final SEIS, which is anticipated late 2025. Staff will provide an update to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission following the Draft SEIS comment period and subsequent milestones.

Commission members have the option to submit comments on the Draft SEIS as individual community members, but should clarify that they are not commenting in their role as Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission members. Please refer to the [Draft SEIS website](#) for information on the commenting process.

**Staff Contacts:**

Katherine Kelly, Senior Policy Advisor, Community Development Department,  
[Katherine.Kelly@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Katherine.Kelly@cityofvancouver.us)

Lori Severino, Senior Planner, Community Development Department,  
[Lori.Severino@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Lori.Severino@cityofvancouver.us)

**Attachment(s):**

- A. City's initial list of guiding principles for the Community Connector and its surroundings

## Attachment A

The following is the City of Vancouver’s initial list of guiding principles for the Community Connector and its surroundings:

### **Desired Outcomes, based on community and stakeholder input to date:**

- Reconnect the east and west sides of I-5
- Provide a safe, well-maintained public space that integrates the Downtown and Historic Reserve
- Reflect local culture, history, and the needs/aspirations of the existing community
- Coordinate the design with the development of the transit station, Library Square site, and other surrounding uses
- Support a new “mobility hub” within the Downtown “transit district” (with safe, convenient transfers between modes)
- Build a resilient, adaptable structure (work in a variety of weather, allow change over time)

### **Place-making Principles**

- There is an integrated design for the Evergreen Station, the Community Connector, Library Square site, the interface with the Historic Reserve, and the surrounding street network – strengthening the connection between the two sides of the freeway.
- Together, the spaces create an inclusive hub for Vancouver – where community members can gather and all people feel welcome and safe.
- The spaces provide a visual and symbolic “gateway” to Vancouver and the State of Washington – celebrating the local culture of today and honoring the many histories of the surrounding area and the city’s people.
- The spaces integrate a pedestrian-oriented corridor that aligns with 9th Street and supports active uses and special events.
- The spaces promote stronger regional connectedness.

### **Transportation Principles**

- The Connector serves as an important active transportation corridor that supports walking, biking, and micro-mobility.
- Local bus and BRT connections to and from the Evergreen light rail station are safe, convenient (short), and accessible to all transit riders.
- Wayfinding through the space is intuitive – with direct routes and clear sight lines to key destinations.

- Bus turning and through movements support efficient transit operations, while minimizing interference with pedestrian movement.
- Facilities needed to support transit operations are integrated into the space in ways that minimize conflicts with pedestrian flows and sight lines.

### **Design Principles**

- Transportation facilities are strategically located and designed to promote safety – separating faster moving modes from slower moving ones and gathering places.
- The use of “Crime prevention through environmental design” (CPTED) principles promote security by providing “eyes” on public spaces.
- The space, including any landscaping, is designed to:
  - be flexible and adaptable (with evolving uses over time);
  - be cost effective to build and maintain;
  - promote environmental sustainability (low carbon materials and methods);
  - be resilient to weather events; and
  - provide visual, noise, and air quality buffers from the freeway and transit guideway.



CITY OF  
**Vancouver**  
WASHINGTON

# Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program

*Draft Supplemental Impact Statement (DSEIS):  
Parks and Recreation Analysis*

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting  
October 9, 2024**

Katherine Kelly, Policy Advisor  
Lori Severino, Senior Planner  
Community Development Department



# Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of Draft SEIS
- Key findings related to parks and recreation
- Discussion



# Program Schedule

Release of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)  
for a 60-day public comment period (Sept. 20 – Nov. 18)



*Schedule will be updated as needed to reflect program changes and timeline.*



# Modified Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)



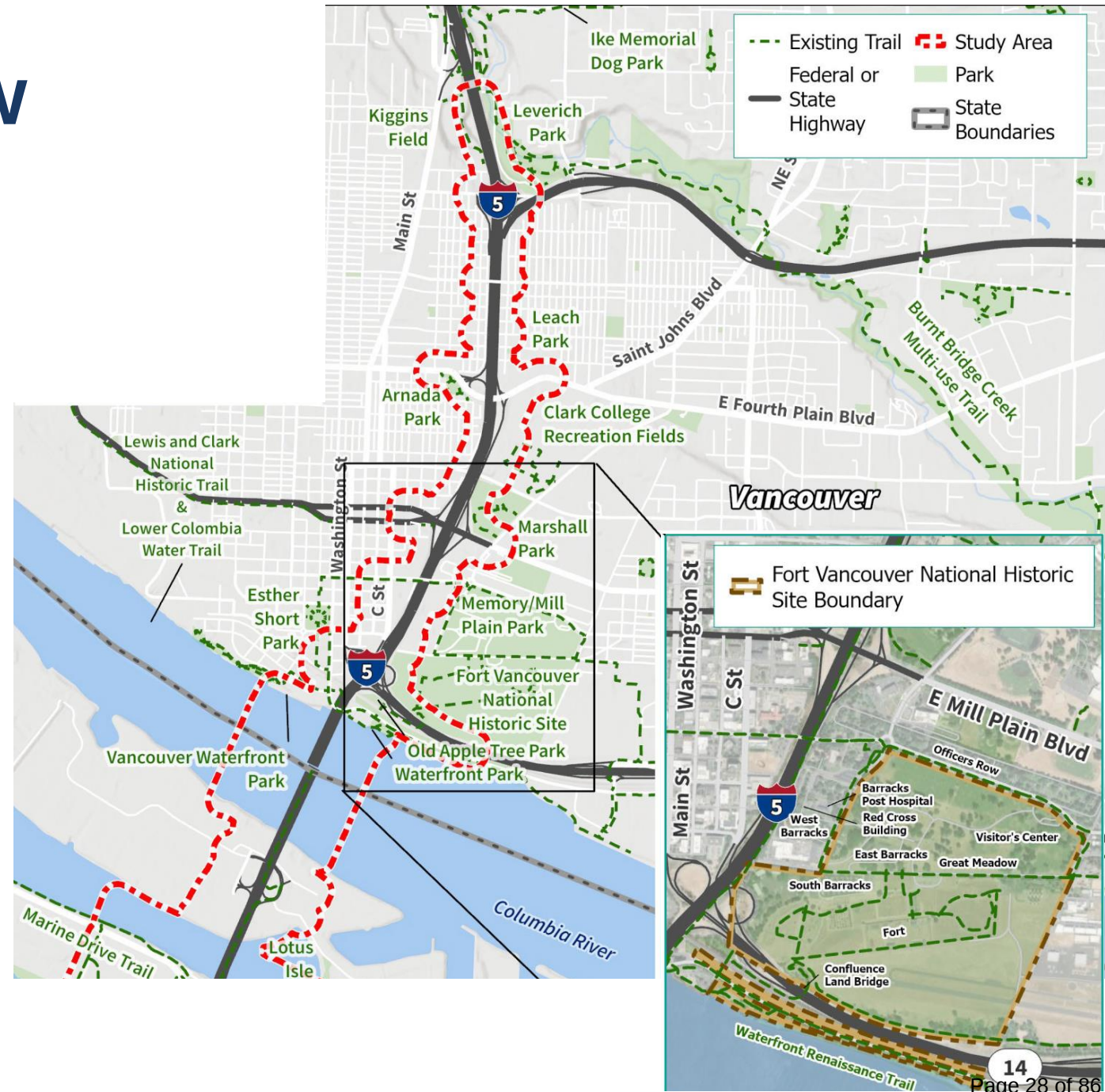
# Downtown Vancouver



# Draft SEIS Overview

## Existing Facilities in Vancouver

13 resources listed within or near the program area – including parks, trails, community centers, sports fields, public docks, and the Fort Vancouver National Historic site (NHS)



# Relevant sections of the Draft SEIS

## Chapter 3

- Parks and Recreation
- Section 6(f) and Federal Lands to Parks Program

## Chapter 4

- Section 4(f) Evaluation

### *Cross-references to:*

- Acquisitions and Displacements
- Transportation
- Visual Quality
- Noise and Vibration
- Neighborhoods and Population
- Equity



# Key Findings of the Draft SEIS

## Parks and Recreation

Construction of the Modified LPA would affect parks and recreation resources in the program area, but implementation of regulatory requirements and program-specific mitigation measures would avoid significant impacts:

- If acquired park land includes play equipment or other amenities, replace those features either in the same park or at one nearby.
- In the event that tree removal is unavoidable, replace trees on site and in kind at appropriate replacement ratios in compliance with local requirements and (permitting) processes (e.g., City of Vancouver Municipal Code).
- Evaluate the feasibility and reasonableness of noise mitigation in accordance with WSDOT criteria to shield park visitors and trail users from increased noise levels.



# Key Findings

## Trails

- Wider and safer connection between the interstate bridge and the Renaissance Trail along the waterfront
- New shared-use path between Main Street and Old Apple Tree Park
- Slightly higher noise levels along waterfront trails with a single-level bridge compared to a double deck bridge due to the lower bridge height.
- Permanent realignment of ~2,750 linear feet of the Discovery Historic Loop Trail (slightly less without the C Street ramps) – including ~1,000 feet of the Renaissance Trail (to run along the realigned Columbia Way).
- Users of the Discovery Historic Loop Trail would benefit from new and improved intersections, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes – including the Community Connector.



# Key Findings

## Community Connector (lid over I-5 south of Evergreen Blvd.)

- Off-street access and path for active transportation modes (pedestrians, bicyclists, and other micro-mobility modes) will provide an enhanced crossing of the freeway.
- The lid would provide some reduction in highway noise when compared to existing sidewalks and bike lanes, which would further enhance the user experience.
- The Connector will also improve connections between downtown Vancouver and the Historic Reserve and add to the network of public spaces in the area.



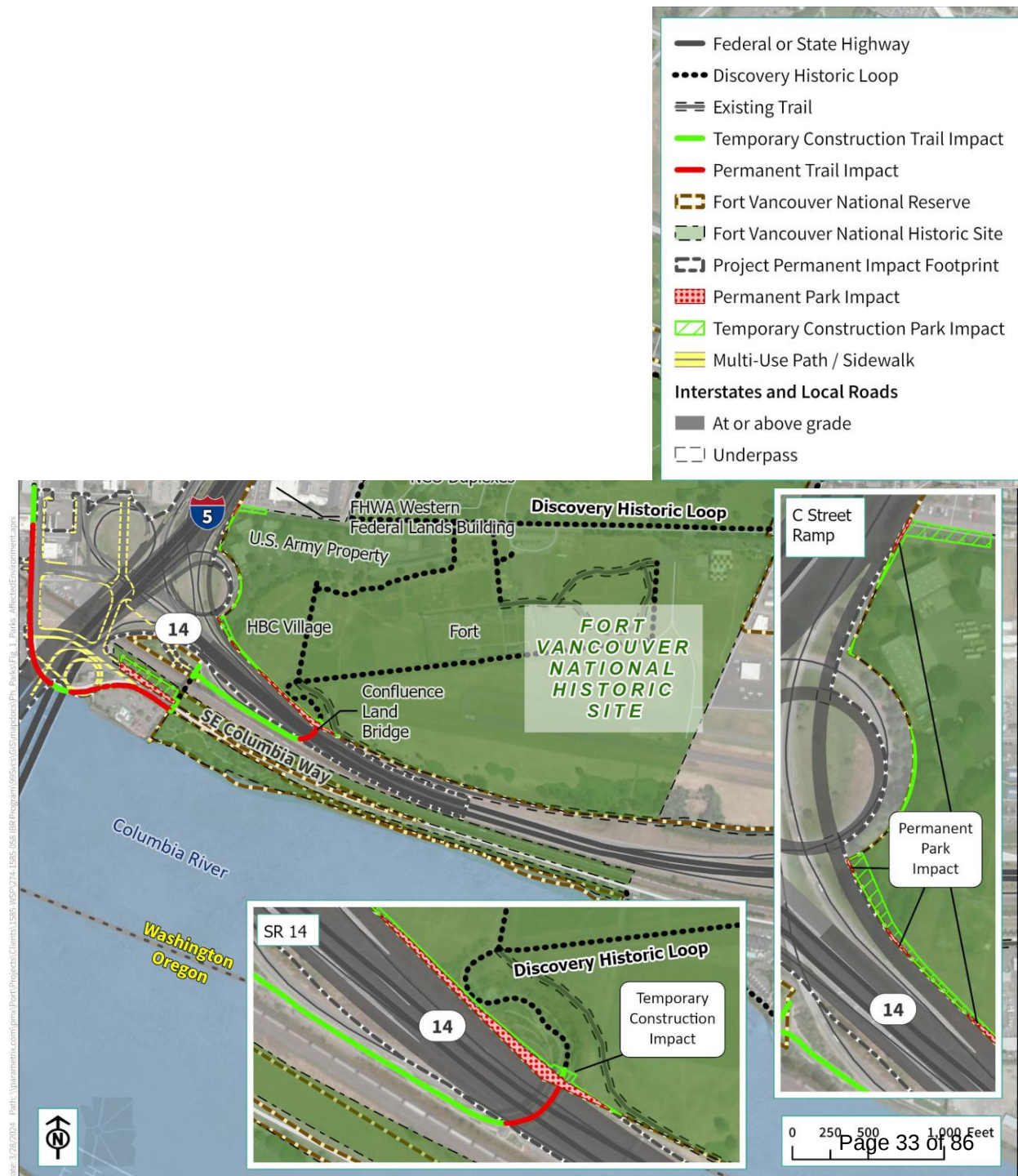
# Key Findings

## Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Construction of the MLPA would require permanent acquisition of land along the southwestern edge. The exact amount would depend on the Design Option:

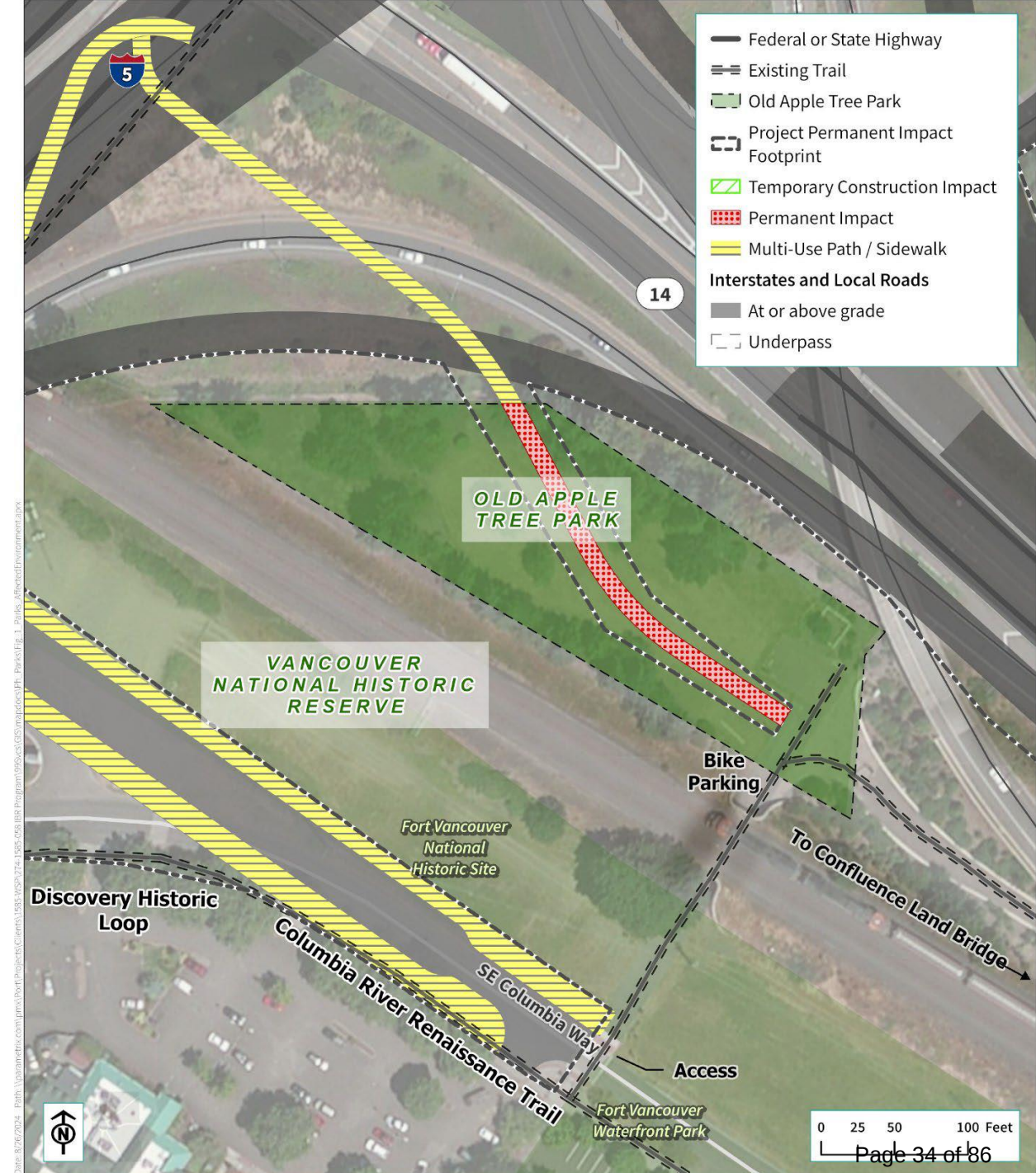
| Option                              | Acres        |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Double deck,<br>one auxiliary lane  | 0.4          |
| Single-level,<br>one auxiliary lane | 0.42         |
| Two auxiliary lanes                 | + 0.03 acres |

Noise levels would increase slightly



# Old Apple Tree Park

- Permanent acquisition of ~0.08 acres for a new shared-use path that would link to Main Street in Downtown Vancouver.
- Permanent airspace easement (less than 0.1 acres) over the northwest corner of the park for maintenance of the elevated ramp connecting northbound I-5 to eastbound SR 14.
- Slightly lower traffic noise levels because the new SR 14 ramp would be higher in elevation than the existing SR 14 ramp.



# Key Findings

## Marshall Park and Community Center, Luepke Senior Center

- Permanent acquisition of ~ 0.6 acres of land for a retaining wall associated with the elevated exit ramp from I-5 northbound to Fourth Plain Boulevard.
  - Displacement of up to 4 horseshoe pits and trees.
  - Replacement plantings would be determined by the City of Vancouver Urban Forester.
  - New and existing plantings would provide a buffer between the park and I-5.
- Traffic noise levels from I-5 are predicted to increase slightly.



# Kiggins Bowl Sports Fields and Stadium

- Permanent acquisition of less than 0.01 acres for a retaining wall near the southern access, along the east side of Discovery Middle School.
  - No displacement of park use.
- Permanent subsurface easement (~0.3 acres) to anchor a retaining wall.
  - No effects on the aboveground use of this area, but would limit excavation.



# Key Findings

## Temporary Effects

- In general, construction would affect park and recreation resources through:
  - increased noise, glare, dust, emissions, and vibration when activities occur in or near the resource
  - temporary closures, detours, and congestion that could delay users traveling to parks or recreational activities
  - temporary construction easements to stage equipment and/or store materials at: For Vancouver NHS, Marshall Community Center and Park, Old Apple Tree Park, and Kiggins Bowl Sports Fields/Stadium
- The program would be subject to regulatory requirements, best management practices, and mitigation measures to reduce construction-related impacts to parks and recreation resources, such as:
  - Protect trees on park property that would be close to construction activities.
  - Restore landscaping to its original condition after construction.
  - Select plants that are resilient or adaptive to future climate conditions for new landscaping.
  - Schedule construction-related closures at public parks and recreation facilities to minimize effects on large events, as feasible.



# Section 4(f) Preliminary Determination

Federal requirement to avoid significant impacts to parks and recreation

The USDOT has made preliminary determination that the IBR Program would have:

- use with de minimis impact on Old Apple Tree Park
- use with de minimis impact at Marshall Park (including Marshall Community Center and Luepke Senior Center), and
- use with greater than de minimis impact of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Historic District, due to permanent incorporation of land.



# Section 6(f)

## Federal requirement to replace parkland converted to non-recreational use

Resources in the program area:

- Section 6(f) : Burnt Bridge Creek Trail
- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP): Old Apple Tree Park and Marshall Community Center and Park

Findings:

- The Modified LPA would not convert or adversely impact the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail.
- Permanent acquisition of a portion of land within Old Apple Tree Park and Marshall Park may require providing replacement parkland, which would occur after completion of the Draft SEIS process as the project design is further developed.



# Relevant City of Vancouver Provisions for the MLPA

## Conditions of Approval

- Recreational and open space design shall be determined in collaboration with Program partners and the community.
- Community connections shall be designed to connect historical and cultural landscape elements. These include but are not limited to a lid over I-5 connecting Downtown to the Historic Reserve, extension of Main Street, and redevelopment or re-use of land unencumbered by physical structure for the bridge itself or supporting water treatment facilities (5th Street to north bank of the Columbia River).

## Desired Outcomes

- Create new public open spaces under the bridge that serve the region's diverse and growing community, connect Vancouver's waterfront, and integrate with existing and forthcoming open space investments.



# Community Connector

Collaborative process with IBR to develop a site plan

## Completed:

- Developed an initial list of guiding principles
- Co-hosted focus groups with community leaders and interested parties in August 2024
- Submitted a grant application to help fund construction

## Next step:

- Conduct community engagement on alternative concepts in early 2025



# Staff's Analysis and Preliminary Comments on the Draft SEIS

- The analysis of long-term and temporary impacts to parks and recreation reflect the program's effort to minimize impacts, while enabling the proposed improvements.
- Continue to support the collaborative, community-oriented process for developing a site plan for the Community Connector. Consider and incorporate the guiding principles for the Connector and its surroundings to inform design decisions for the Evergreen focus area.
- Concerns about the shared use path connection from the new bridge to the waterfront (i.e., piers taking up too much space, accessibility and desirability of the helix ramp to the full range of future users).
  - Explore alternative designs for this connection that would create more opportunities for high-quality public spaces and trails.
  - Pursue multiple options for connecting the bridge's shared use path to the waterfront, considering the wide range of abilities, needs, and preferences.
  - Design active transportation facilities to support safety, accessibility, and direct, intuitive connections with the existing network of public spaces, parks, and recreation facilities.
  - Design all spaces under the freeway to promote activation and security.



# Discussion

- What are your thoughts about the conclusions related to parks and recreation in the Draft SEIS?
- What do think about staff's preliminary comments?
- How do the various design options align with City goals and policies related to parks and recreation?
- Are proposed mitigation measures sufficient to mitigate impacts to parks and recreation resources?
- Any additional feedback?



# Draft SEIS Comment Period

<https://www.interstatebridge.org/DraftSEIS>

## How to submit comments:

- Public hearings:
  - In-person open house in Vancouver: **Oct 15**
  - In-person open house in Portland: Oct 17
  - 2 virtual events: **Oct. 26 and Oct. 30**
- Online comment form
- Email
- Voicemail
- Physical mail

## How to Engage:

### IBR-led

- Virtual Community Briefings
- Office hours with IBR staff
- Advisory Group Meetings
- Table at Vancouver events: Dia de Muertos on **Oct. 19** and Downtown Farmer's Market on **Oct. 26**
- Neighborhood Association and CBO outreach

### City-led

- Presentations to City of Vancouver Commissions
- City table at Old Apple Tree Festival on Oct. 5
- Social media and newsletter outreach



# Thanks!

## Staff contacts:

Katherine Kelly, [katherine.kelly@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:katherine.kelly@cityofvancouver.us)

Lori Severino, [lori.severino@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:lori.severino@cityofvancouver.us)





# Bee City USA

Presentation to Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

**Jamie Beyer**  
Urban Forestry  
Commission  
October 16, 2024



**Kyle Roslund**  
Board Chair  
Vancouver Bee Project



# Agenda

- Why Do We Care?
- What is Bee City USA?
- Bee City Commitments
- Request Support



85%

of flowering plants  
require a  
pollinator to move  
pollen thus fertilize  
the flower



## Why Do We Care? Plant Reproduction



1 in 3

mouthfuls of food  
and drink we  
consume

>\$30 billion

value of crops in  
North America



## Plant Reproduction



Globally: Up to 40% of pollinator species may be at risk of extinction in the coming years.

North America: More than a quarter of bumble bees species are in decline



## Pollinator Declines



Climate change is affecting ranges globally. Here ants are invading and consuming wildlife in cloud forest never before exposed to these marauders.

#### Fire

Global warming elevates fire risk. Fires in Australia, Amazonia, and California burned an unprecedented >5 million hectares of forest in 2019.

Arctic sea ice is declining precipitously, arctic-alpine and other cold-adapted communities are contracting, while sea-level rise threatens coastal ecosystems.

#### Storm Intensity

Climate changes bring stronger, more frequent storms and hurricanes; more fire-igniting lightning; and damaging flooding.

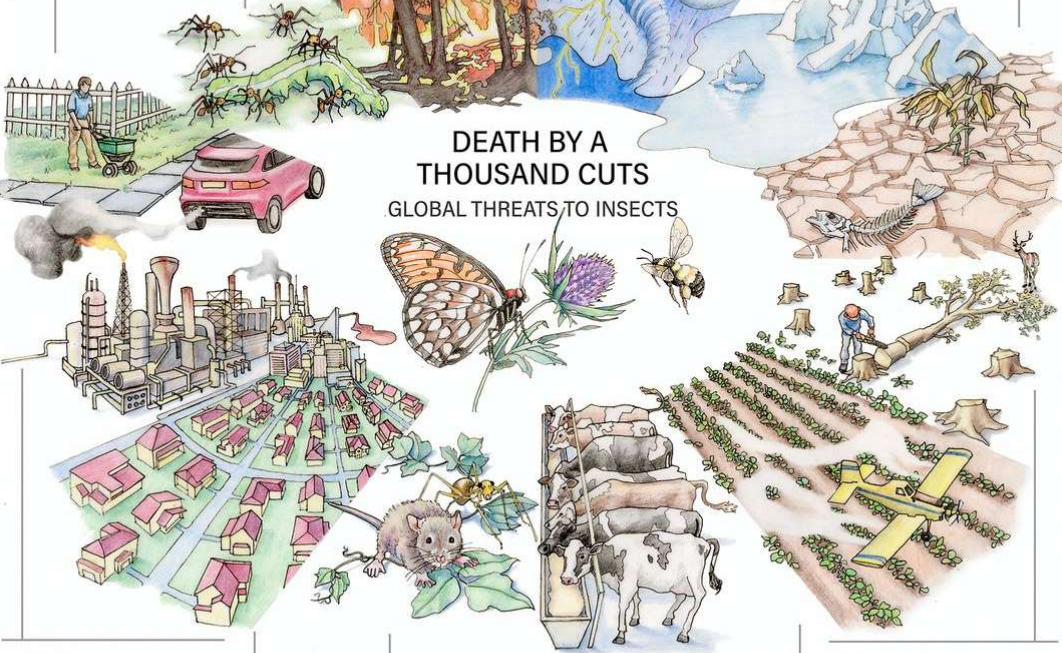
#### Droughts

Periods with diminished precipitation are becoming longer, more frequent, and warmer, with grave consequences for all life.

#### Nitrification

Fertilizer and products of fossil fuels combustion are nitrifying the planet, challenging the biotas adapted to low-nutrient conditions.

## DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS GLOBAL THREATS TO INSECTS



#### Pollution

Chemical, light, and sound pollution of water, air, and soil are impacting plant and animal life worldwide.

#### Introduced Species

Global trade is accelerating the movement of pernicious plants, animals, and pathogens to new regions—often with devastating consequences.

#### Agricultural Intensification

Industrialized agriculture, with its attendant increases in scale, monoculturalization, nutrient input, and pesticide use, is

#### Deforestation

The tropics lost 11.9 million hectares of forest in 2019, mostly to agriculture.

#### Insecticides

Modern, industrialized agriculture, with its increasing reliance on chemical insecticides, has led to

#### Urbanization

Our global population of 7.8 billion, spread planet-wide, comes at great

# Pressures on Pollinators

- Pesticide Use
- Climate Change
- Air Pollution
- And Many More





## Pollinators are Struggling and Need Our Help

Bee City USA is about bringing communities together to sustain pollinators, in particular the more than 3,600 species of **native bees** in this country, by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites, and reducing the use of pesticides.

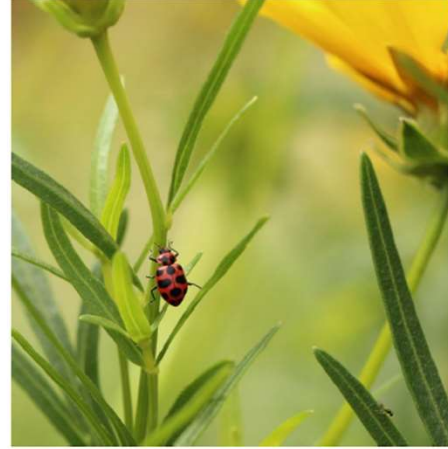




Increase the availability of native flowering species



Provide appropriate nesting substrates



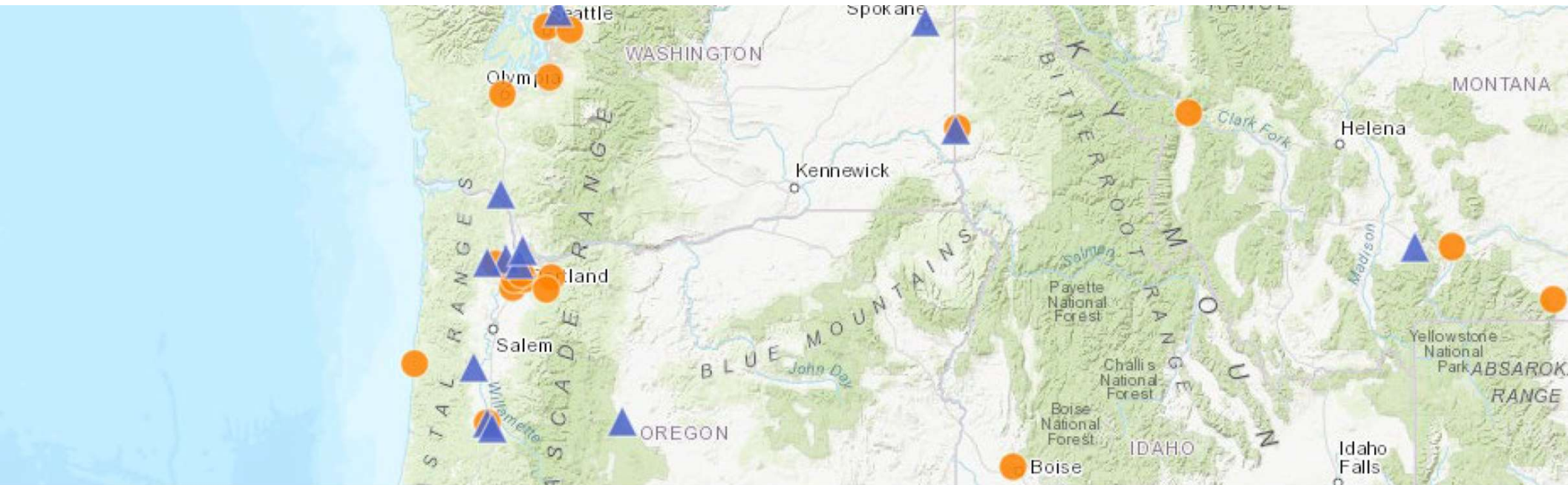
Find alternatives to harmful pesticides



Educate and spread awareness

## Introducing Bee City USA





## Bee City USA

- Over 200 cities
- Almost 200 campuses
- In 46 states + DC and Puerto Rico



# NW Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA Affiliates



## **Washington Cities**

Bellingham  
Puyallup  
Sammamish  
Seattle

## **Idaho Cities**

Garden City  
Lincoln County  
Moscow  
Mountain Home  
Shoshone  
Twin Falls

## **Oregon Cities**

Ashland  
Estacada  
Eugene  
Gold Hill  
Hillsboro  
Lake Oswego  
Medford  
Newport  
Phoenix  
Sandy  
Talent  
Tualatin  
West Linn  
Wilsonville

## **Washington Campuses**

Clark College  
Gonzaga University  
Lower Columbia College  
UW Bothell/Casc. Coll.  
Western WA University

## **Idaho Campus**

University of Idaho

## **Oregon Campuses**

Central OR Comm. Coll.  
Lane Community College  
Oregon State University  
Pacific University  
Portland Comm. College  
Portland State University  
Southern OR University  
University of Oregon

# Bee City USA Benefits

- Community Building
- Improve Food Production
- Healthy Neighborhoods
- Support Local Businesses
- Part of a National Network
- Expert Support
- Local Support for Bees and other Pollinators



# Bee City USA Commitments - Application

- Application and Resolution by City Council with fee
- Need Department Sponsor and Committee - Naturespaces
- Commitments Include Habitat Project and Outreach Each Year
- Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Annual Renewal and Report



# Bee City USA Commitments – Establish a Committee

- A City Committee or Subcommittee that advocates for pollinators in Vancouver.
- Urban Forestry Subcommittee with ~12 members



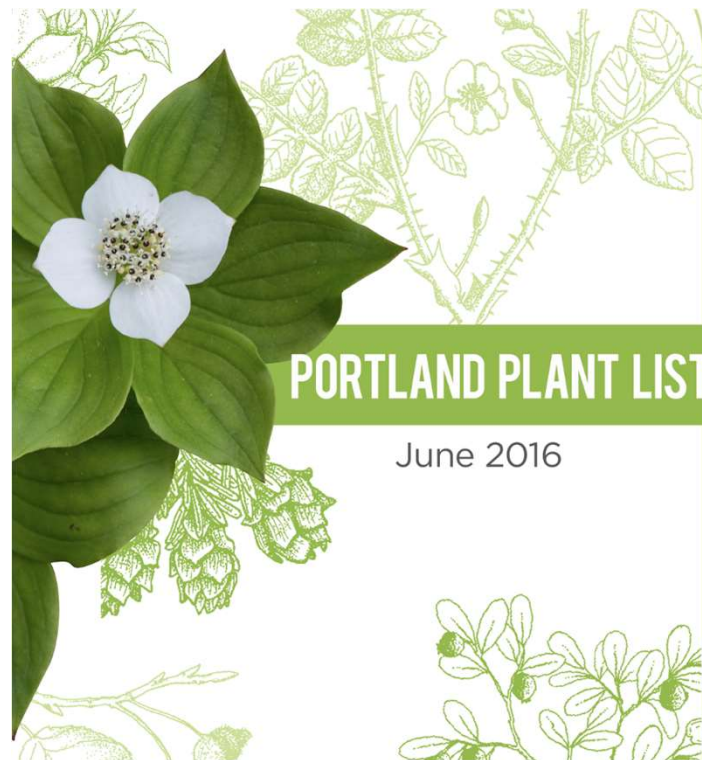
# Bee City USA Commitments - Habitat

- Create and Enhance Pollinator Habitat on Public and Private Land.
- Tracking new habitat through Bee City USA website.



# Bee City USA Commitments – Native Plant List

- Portland Plant List & WA Dept. of Agriculture Pollinator Forage List



| Plant Species     | Common Name                  | Wild Bees | Bumble bee species | Honey bees | Butterflies | Butterfly larval host | Hummingbirds | January |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------|
| <i>viriflora</i>  | Small flowered blue eyed Mar | x         | x                  |            |             |                       |              |         |
| <i>tanii</i>      | Rattan collinsia             | x         | x                  |            |             |                       |              |         |
| <i>andiflora</i>  | trumpet                      | x         |                    |            |             |                       |              |         |
| <i>inctoria</i>   | Golden tickseed              | x         |                    |            | x           |                       |              |         |
| <i>sa</i>         | Kousa Dogwood                | x         |                    |            | x           | x                     |              |         |
| <i>s</i>          | Cornilian cherry             | x         |                    |            | x           | x                     |              |         |
| <i>allii</i>      | Mountain dogwood             | x         |                    |            | x           | x                     |              |         |
| <i>cea</i>        | Red osier dogwood            | x         |                    |            | x           | x                     |              |         |
| <i>ilana</i>      | Hazelnut                     |           |                    | x          | x           | x                     |              | *       |
| <i>nuta</i>       | Beaked hazelnut              |           |                    |            | x           | x                     |              | *       |
| <i>ouglasii</i>   | Black hawthorn               | x         | x                  | x          | x           | x                     |              |         |
| <i>spp.</i>       | Hawthorn                     | x         | x                  | x          | x           | x                     |              |         |
| <i>ninata</i>     | Long-leaved hawksbeard       | x         |                    |            | x           |                       |              |         |
| <i>igera</i>      | Bearded hawksbeard           | x         |                    |            | x           |                       |              |         |
| <i>media</i>      | Gray hawksbeard              | x         |                    |            | x           |                       |              |         |
| <i>entalis</i>    | Western hawksbeard           | x         | x                  |            | x           |                       |              |         |
| <i>inata</i>      | Meadow hawksbeard            | x         |                    |            | x           |                       |              |         |
| <i>arba</i>       | Slender hawksbeard           | x         |                    |            | x           |                       |              |         |
| <i>nulticaule</i> | Spring gold                  | x         |                    |            |             |                       |              |         |



# Bee City USA Commitments – Reduce Pesticide Use

- Integrated Pest Management Plan with Outreach and Education.
- Opportunity to update.



*THE CITY OF VANCOUVER'S*

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by:  
City of Vancouver  
General Services - Engineering and Operations

Original: January 2005  
Update: November 2010



# Bee City USA Commitments – Outreach & Education

- Provide Events to Engage and Educate the Community
- 2025 Pollinator Festival



# Bee City USA Commitments – Public Acknowledgement

- Publicly acknowledge the Bee City USA affiliation with Signs and an online presence.
- Vancouver's Bee City USA hosted by Vancouver Bee Project.



# Bee City USA Commitments – Report and Renewal Fee

- Annually report and renew and report on the previous year's activities.
- Tracking new and enhanced habitat.





# We Request Your Support

- Committee Vote of Support for the Bee City USA Initiative
- City Council Meeting October 28 and provide Support During Public Comment



# Discussion & Thank You





## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 9, 2024

**TO:** Vancouver Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

**FROM:** The Pollinator Subcommittee a joint committee of City of Vancouver Urban Forestry Commission and Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, and Vancouver Bee Project- a Community Based Organization

**RE:** Request for Support in Designating Vancouver as a Bee City USA

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The Pollinator Subcommittee is a joint subcommittee comprised of members from the City of Vancouver Urban Forestry Commission, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, the Vancouver Bee Project, and local experts who support and provide advice on approaches to strengthening pollinators and pollinator habitat. Together, we are working to promote the health and well-being of native pollinators in our city.

**We request the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Commission's support to the make Vancouver a [Bee City USA](#).** A draft Bee City USA resolution will ultimately be presented and approved by City Council after the Bee City USA application process has been approved. By supporting the Bee City USA process you move towards joining a growing network of cities across the United States dedicated to protecting pollinators and their habitats. This commitment will act as an affirmation of current actions and guide for future actions that support sustainable landscapes for people and pollinators.

Becoming a Bee City USA will not be a drastic change; it is a recognition of the progress the city and community have already achieved. The Bee City USA designation guides continuous improvement. It gives us an opportunity to continue enhancing our efforts and to rally the community in support of pollinators, but it also acknowledges that we've been on this path for some time. Vancouver is well on its way, and Bee City USA is simply a celebration of all we're doing—and will continue to do—to support a healthy, thriving environment for pollinators and people alike.

### **Supporting Native Pollinators is Crucial**

Pollinators, including bees, butterflies, birds, beetles and other insects, play a vital role in our local ecosystems and agriculture. They are responsible for pollinating nearly 75% of

flowering plants and 35% of global food crops. However, due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change, many pollinator populations are declining at an alarming rate.

Supporting native pollinators is crucial for several reasons:

- **Biodiversity:** Native pollinators contribute to a healthy, diverse ecosystem, which supports plants, animals, and human populations.
- **Food Security:** Many fruits, vegetables, and nuts depend on pollination, directly impacting food availability and agricultural stability.
- **Environmental Health:** Protecting pollinators ensures the health of our natural landscapes, which in turn benefits water quality, air quality, and climate resilience.

### **Community Support: Strong and Growing**

We have found community support for continued actions toward pollinator conservation:

- Over **1,100 people** have signed our **Change.org** petition supporting Vancouver becoming a Bee City USA.
- In the past year, Vancouver Bee Project has participated in or provided over **70 events** and workshops while engaging over **72,000 people**, provided educational programming to **16 schools**, provided enough free native wildflower seed to plant over **4 acres of pollinator habitat**, provided over **1,000 free native pollinator plants** to community members, and providing over **700 volunteer hours**.
- **The Urban Forestry Commission** unanimously approved support to make Vancouver a Bee City USA and the **Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission** will be asked to support the designation on October 16, 2024.
- The public's engagement with the City's Naturespaces program highlighting a strong community commitment to sustainable landscapes. Over the past 18 months, nearly 3,000 community members have been connected to the program. **589 volunteers contributing a remarkable 2,300 hours of service**. Their efforts resulted in the installation of nearly **4,300 native and pollinator-friendly plants**, the **removal of 231 cubic yards of invasive species**, and the **distribution of 313 yards of soil-building mulch**—an investment valued at approximately \$68,500.

Moreover, the demand for Naturespaces is evident, with **16 requests for new sites** documented over the past two years. Currently, the program maintains an inventory of **11 sites, encompassing an estimated 7 acres of pollinator-friendly landscapes**. These areas not only support pollinator health but also promote climate resilience and help mitigate the urban heat island effect. By providing accessible green spaces, Naturespaces fosters community connections to nature, enhancing the quality of life for residents and pollinators.

- Local businesses, schools, and community organizations have expressed interest in participating in pollinator habitat projects and are excited to see Vancouver host a **Pollinator Festival in 2025**.

### **Synergy with City Initiatives**

Becoming a Bee City USA aligns with several of the city's strategic commitments including-Vibrant and Distinct Neighborhoods, Climate and Natural Systems and High Performing Governments. Additionally, this work connects with climate and environmental initiatives of the city:

- **Climate Action Framework:** Protecting pollinators contributes to climate resilience by promoting biodiversity, supporting carbon-sequestering plants, and enhancing green spaces.
- **Urban Forestry Initiatives:** Pollinator-friendly habitats enhance tree canopy goals by incorporating native plants that improve ecosystem health. Afterall, most trees are pollinator plants too.
- **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Comprehensive Plan:** Encouraging pollinator habitats within parks and public spaces aligns with the city's mission to create sustainable, community-friendly environments and is synergistic with the goals of the Naturespaces Program.
- **Stormwater Management Plan:** Pollinator-friendly gardens help with natural stormwater filtration and improve the health of green infrastructure by increasing plant diversity and soil health.

Bee City USA would further advance the city's commitment to environmental sustainability and enhance Vancouver's reputation as a forward-thinking, eco-conscious community.

### **Bee City USA Requirements and Our Plan**

The Bee City USA designation highlights current achievements and demonstrates a commitment to ongoing efforts in pollinator preservation. Four of the five required actions are already underway and by completing the final action, *Adopt a Bee City USA Resolution*, the city will affirm its dedication to sustainable practices and continue to engage the community in supporting pollinator-friendly initiatives. This resolution can pave the way for future projects, educational programs, and partnerships that further enhance habitat and protect these vital species.

To become a designated Bee City USA, Vancouver must meet the following requirements.:

1. **Establish a Pollinator Committee:** Vancouver already has the Pollinator Subcommittee within Urban Forestry, a partnership between city commissions, Vancouver Bee Project, and local experts, in place to lead efforts. This network of organizations are committed to supporting and sustaining this designation alongside the City of Vancouver.

2. **Adopt a Bee City USA Resolution:** After the Bee City USA application is approved Vancouver City Council will be asked to formalize Vancouver's commitment to pollinator protection through a Bee City USA resolution.
3. **Create and Enhance Pollinator Habitats:** We plan to track and expand pollinator gardens in parks, schools, and public spaces across the city, with a focus on native plants. Work to expand habitat on public parks and spaces is already underway by programming within Urban Forestry and the Naturespaces Program. The habitat creation and enhancement will be tracked through a Bee City USA website hosted by Vancouver Bee Project.
4. **Reduce Pesticide Use:** The city already has an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan. We will collaborate with city stakeholders like the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, the Grounds Department as well as local stakeholders to implement pollinator-friendly pest management strategies that reduce the use of harmful pesticides.
5. **Public Education and Outreach:** The Naturespaces Program, Water Resources Education Center, Vancouver Bee Project and Pollinator Subcommittee will continue offering workshops, educational materials, and events to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators.
6. **Celebrate Pollinators:** Vancouver will celebrate National Pollinator Week annually, with activities and events that engage the community in pollinator protection. Signs celebrating the Bee City USA designation, and a website hosted by Vancouver Bee Project will also be used to communicate the designation and provide pollinator-specific resources.

We are excited about the opportunity to make Vancouver a Bee City USA and are confident that it aligns with the city's environmental goals and has strong community support. **We respectfully request your support to move forward in the process to become a Bee City USA.** When we have completed that process with [Xerces Society](#) we will then ask Council to formally approve a resolution to join the Bee City USA movement and lead the way in pollinator conservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Pollinator Subcommittee a joint committee of:  
City of Vancouver Urban Forestry Commission  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission,

The Vancouver Bee Project



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** Oct. 4 , 2024

**TO:** Vancouver Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission  
Vancouver Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

**FROM:** David Perlick, Director; Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

**RE:** **Release of City Manager's Proposed 2025-26 Budget**

**CC:** Stacey Donovan, Kirsten Hull, Alicia Nilo

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### Background

Under the City Charter, the City Manager prepares and recommends an operating budget and a capital improvement program budget for consideration and adoption by the City Council. The City is legally required to adopt a balanced budget, where our expected revenues are equal to our planned spending.

Vancouver's budget is developed biennially. Programs are reviewed based on the Strategic Plan and City Council priorities through a collaborative process with all departments. The proposed budget assigns resources by finding efficiencies, being innovative and focusing on the community's priorities.

The City is facing a gap of \$43 million that needs to be closed over the 2025-26 biennium. This gap was created by several factors including significant inflation, rising labor costs and a softening of Citywide revenues due to slowing growth. Due to the size of the gap, every department in the City will contribute to closing it.

### Overview of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department Budget

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) took a strategic look at every program and service we provide to identify potential budget gap strategies. Decisions about program and service impacts were made by weighing community benefit, financial viability and program

alignment with the City's strategic plan. We also explored whether similar programs are available to the community through other sources.

The final recommendation to the City Manager involved a combination of program and service reductions and new revenue sources.

The recommended budget also includes appropriation of capital revenues available to continue progress on park and facility development projects.

### **Next Steps and Role of the Commission**

The proposed budget is under review, and those recommendations will not be final until the budget is adopted by City Council on Nov. 18. Once adopted, program and service changes included in the budget will happen during the 2025-26 biennium, with some starting as early as Jan. 1, 2025.

I will provide a budget update at upcoming PRCS commission meetings to discuss the specific budget packages that will impact the work of each commission and the department.

- Culture, Arts and Heritage on Oct. 10
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on Oct. 16

The City Manager's proposed budget and the schedule for City Council budget workshops and meetings are available on the City's website at [Budget 2025-26 -The City of Vancouver, WA.](#)

### **Staff Contact**

David Perlick, david.perlick@cityofvancouver.us



# 2025-2026 Recommended Budget Overview

**David Perlick**

Director

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

October 16, 2024



# Agenda

- Overview of the budget approach and steps to date
- Summary of the recommended PRCS budget
- Next steps and adoption schedule

# Citywide Approach

## Projected budget deficit in the biennium

- Deficit of \$43m in general, street and fire funds
- Resulting from inflation across all costs and softening of many revenues
- Each department tasked with developing gap strategies including reductions, reorganization and revenues
- Process guided by strategic plan and core Council priorities
- A variety of revenue options have been considered and incorporated into the budget approach





# Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Budget Overview

- Parks Division
- Recreation Division
- Cultural Services and Events Division
- Administrative Division

# Staffing Impacts

## Across Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

- Variety of changes, including reductions and new positions
- Eliminate vacancies to minimize impact on existing employees
- Reduction of 4.5 FTE
  - Three positions (2.0 FTE) are currently filled, resulting in layoffs
- Additional 3.0 FTE created to support council priorities and new initiatives
- Result is a net 1.5 FTE reduction for the department



# Fee and Residency Impacts

## Across Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

- Updated cost recovery policy to prioritize services for Vancouver residents
- Raise all fees by ~10% to address increased operating costs and inflation
- Minimize subsidy for non-residents
  - Fees increase from 15% higher to 25% higher than residents
- Maintain the recreation scholarship program, limited to Vancouver residents



# Parks and Trails Division

Primarily funded through the capital budget

- Focus on completing priority capital projects
  - Community parks (Oakbrook, Shaffer, Bagley, Vancouver Innovation Center)
  - Neighborhood parks (Fruit Valley, ongoing playground replacements)
  - Fourth Plain for All Park Improvements (The Downs, Evergreen)
  - Economic Prosperity and Housing Projects (Waterfront Gateway Plaza, The Heights Grand Loop and Plaza)
- Other acquisitions
- Trails program



# Parks and Trails Division

Primarily funded through the capital budget

- Add staff capacity to achieve this work
  - Maintain all existing positions
  - Reclassify a position focused on trails planning
  - Add two construction management positions, aligning with citywide focus to advance capital projects
- Reductions in the Grounds Maintenance budget will impact park service levels for restrooms, garbage collection, etc.; in discussion with Public Works



# Cultural Services Division

Primarily funded through the operating budget

- Maintain core services and special events with strategic reductions/leaning
- Continue support of Vancouver Arts & Music Festival in 2025
- Complete the design process for the Vancouver Arts Hub
- Adopt a new sales tax that is committed to arts and culture in Vancouver
- Add staff capacity to achieve this work
  - Maintain all existing positions
  - Add a position to support review and management of permitted events



# Recreation Division

Primarily funded through the operating budget

- Preserve community center hours for drop-in use
- Maintain high-use amenities including pools and fitness centers
- Continue high priority programs including swim lessons, senior clubs, youth day camps and Access to Recreation
- Reduce, eliminate or contract out other programs, including adult sports, homeschool, teen late night, teen camps, adult dance classes and open climbs
- Eliminate fleet vehicles, impacting senior hikes and day camp field trips
- Reduce monitoring and customer service support
- Reduce staff capacity based on program and service changes



# Administrative Division

Primarily funded through the operating budget

- Eliminate vacant Recreation Services Manager position
- Eliminate vacant support staff positions
- Reduce funding for supplies, services and travel



# 2025-26 Budget Review and Implementation





# Next Steps

- City Manager's Recommended Budget Published – Sept. 30
- Budget Overview Workshop – Oct. 7
- Operating Workshop – Oct. 14
- **Capital & Ordinances Workshop – Oct. 28**
- **First Reading – Nov. 4**
- **Public Hearing & Adoption– Nov. 18**



# Questions and Discussion

