

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Willamette Cove Master Plan

July 2024

oregonmetro.gov/cove



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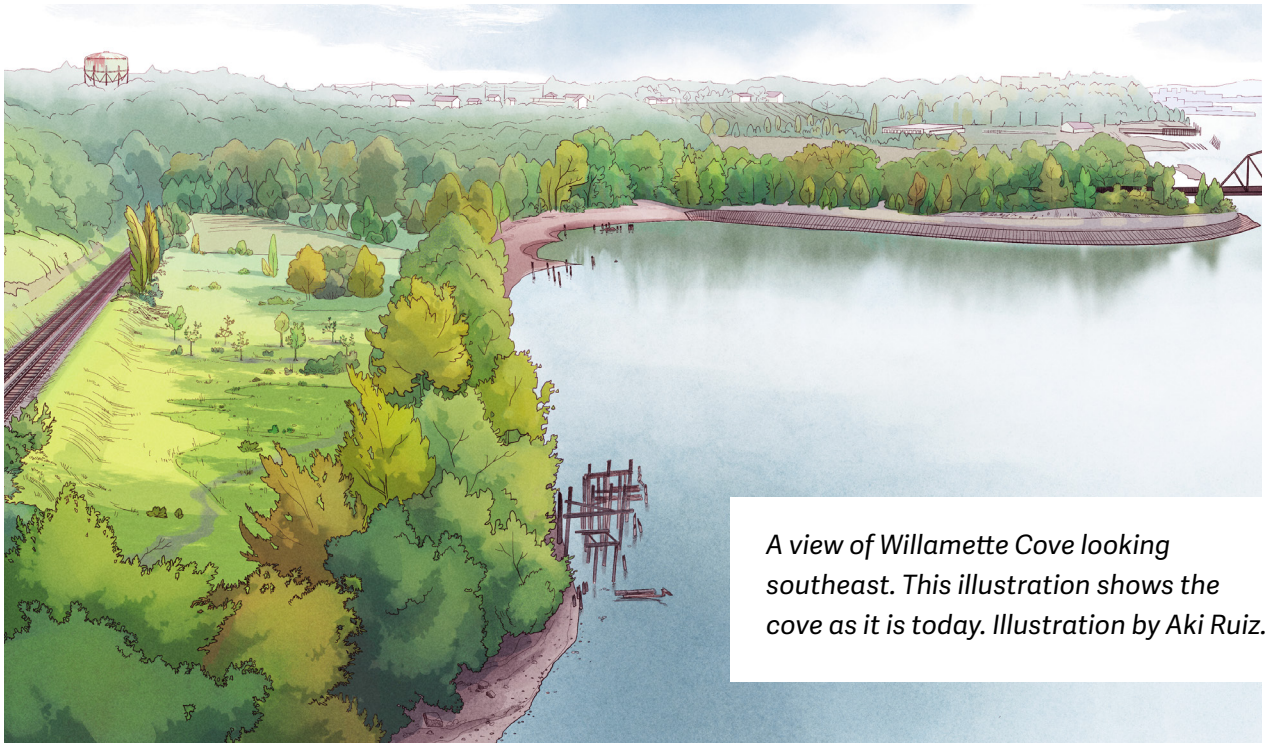
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A view of Willamette Cove looking southeast. This illustration shows the cove as it is today. Illustration by Aki Ruiz.

Executive Summary

This report outlines Metro’s process of community engagement and summarizes key outcomes from the first of the four phases of planning and engagement for the Willamette Cove nature park master plan.

Phase 1 ran from February to May 2024 and included:

- Interviews with community-based organizations
- Online community survey
- Two community workshops

Each activity was designed to gather valuable input from community members that Metro staff will use to design the future nature park.

Learn more about the nature park at: oregonmetro.gov/cove.

Community engagement goals for Willamette Cove

The Willamette Cove master plan will be informed by and reflect the experiences, ideas and concerns of community members and will be designed to reflect their input. In order to do this, the Metro team working on the project have set the these community engagement goals:

- Develop a vision and design concept for the nature park that reflects community priorities and desires.
- Build awareness about the master plan and its purpose; site conditions, constraints and opportunities; and design alternatives.
- Provide the public with clear and transparent information about the site, the planning process, and decision-making.
- Provide ample opportunities for public involvement, input, feedback and relationship building.
- Address barriers to community participation, to the extent possible.
- Understand cultural history and significance of the site, land, habitat and water.
- Build relationships with existing and new partners for the engagement process and future implementation of the master plan.



First in-person community workshop at Cathedral Park Apartments.

What we did: Overview of engagement activities

Interviews with community-based organizations

In February, Metro and the consultant team interviewed community-based organizations representing Indigenous communities, communities of color, youth of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ communities, and environmental advocates to inform the project's engagement approach, understand community priorities and concerns, and establish relationships and partnerships for outreach and engagement. Metro interviewed Latino Outdoors, Bird Alliance of Oregon, Verde, Nesika Wilamut, Portland All Nations Canoe Family, ELSO, Ground Score Association, Aim 4 Access, Blueprint Foundation

Online survey

In April and May 2024, an online survey was available for three weeks to gather input from community members across greater Portland. Metro notified 36,000 residents via postcard mailings to promote the online survey, and the survey received 2,200 responses.

In-person and Virtual Workshop Activities

Metro and the consultant team hosted two identical workshops for either in-person and virtual participation. The in-person workshop was held on May 4, and the virtual workshop was held on May 7. A total of 62 community members participated in the workshops. All participants were compensated for their time and contributions to the project.

Project staff provided background information about the history of the site, the master planning and clean up process, and the opportunities and constraints on the site. Project staff also facilitated two group exercises to gather feedback on project values and initial programming ideas and priorities.



Small group mapping activity at the community workshop.

What we heard: Project values

To ensure the future Willamette Cove's nature park reflects the needs and priorities of the community, it was important to start with an understanding of what restoration and healing means to community members and the values that the project should adhere to moving forward. Community members and leaders of community-based organizations consistently said the planning process and the nature park should:

- Acknowledge and demonstrate accountability for past harms to the land, water, animals and communities dispossessed by colonization
- Be transparent about the decision-making process, timelines, funding, and uncertainties
- Incorporate Indigenous perspectives and knowledge, and center their experience and expertise
- Create access to nature for everyone, particularly for Indigenous communities, Black communities, people of color and people with disabilities
- Center resilient infrastructure, and wildlife and habitat restoration and preservation

Other notable comments we heard from community members that further emphasized these project values include:

- Center habitat and wildlife
- Incorporate traditional Indigenous practices of environmental stewardship, education and culture
- Reconnect the community to the water and land

- Safety information and accessible trails and features for people with disabilities to the water and land
- Foster a sense of belonging and inclusivity
- Understand and mitigate gentrification and displacement risks to residents in the area as the nature park develops
- Be transparent about the development process and clean up of Willamette Cove
- Understanding the environmental impacts of removing and disposing of contaminated soil to another location

“ It would be nice to be fully present in a quiet park. For me, nature is one of the few places where I can feel connected to the earth without all the social constructs that I normally find oppressive.

“ I want to feel that I belong to this community and this area.

“ Not only doing the cleanup, but also that each of us contribute with something.



Map of Willamette Cove existing conditions

What We Heard: Initial Ideas for Site Design

The following summarizes key takeaways for initial site design ideas gathered during the engagement activities. This feedback will inform nature park designs in Phase 2.

Habitat Features

- “Watching birds, fishing, and other wildlife in the water” is the most important type of water access for participants.
- A majority agree that the nature park should largely be for plants and animals to thrive as opposed to allowing more access for people.



Willamette Cove looking West

Nature-based Experiences and Education

- There is strong interest in educational and reflective uses of the park, supported by interpretive signs, storytelling elements, wayfinding, and art by local artists to enhance their understanding and appreciation of both cultural and natural aspects of Willamette Cove.
- Educational and interpretive signs, particularly related to Indigenous history, language, and general ecological information are desired.

Gathering Spaces

- Nearly half of survey respondents imagine using the park for social gatherings and relaxation. Spaces for rest and meditation are important activities for participants as well.
- Many expressed the desire to have traditional, Indigenous healing practices at the site, including a place for ceremony before and after the park opens.

Access and Trails

- 94% of respondents use nature parks for walking or rolling, indicating that paved trails and accessible paths are crucial amenities.
- A small, but significant number of respondents live with a disability that limits their ability to access nature parks and enjoy parks for longer periods of time.
- There is a strong desire for accommodations beyond standard ADA requirements, such as charging stations for power wheelchairs.

Water Access

- Top priorities for water access at Willamette Cove are wildlife observation and connecting with water, followed by recreational activities such as paddling and swimming

Phase 1: Imagining the Park

Phase 1 engagement goals

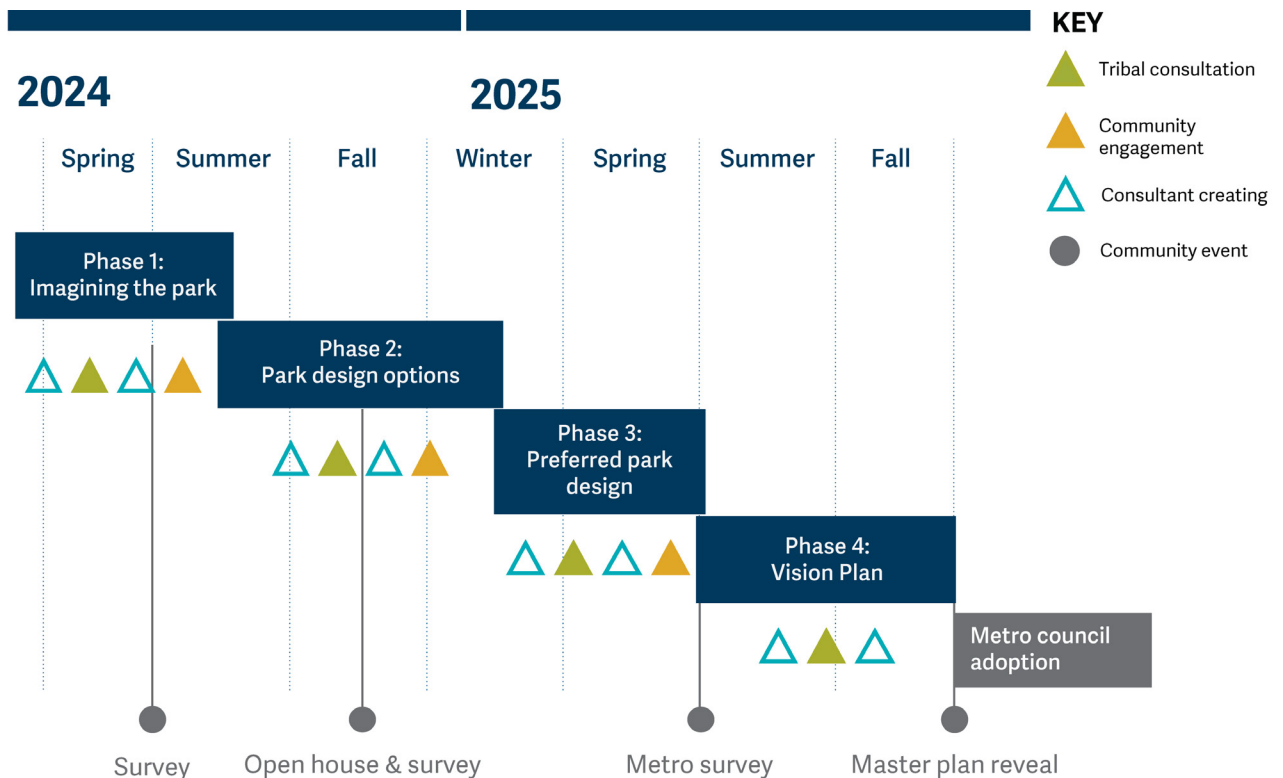
- Build awareness about the master plan, the planning process, and what may or may not be possible on the site.
- Gather feedback about project values and initial programming ideas and priorities for the future nature park.
- Gather community concerns, ideas and priorities for habitat, amenities, and design features to help drive the direction of alternative designs in the next phase.
- Provide in-person and virtual participation options to invite more diverse community members and people with disabilities to share their feedback.

How feedback will influence the next phase of Willamette Cove master planning?

Feedback will be evaluated by Metro, the consultant team and Tribal governments to incorporate into the nature park alternatives.

In late Fall, the project team will present these results for community feedback and further refine the preferred design concept.

Willamette Cove Master Plan Project Timeline



What We Did: Overview of Engagement Activities

Interviews with community-based organizations

In March, Metro and the consultant team reached out interviewed community-based organizations to inform the project’s engagement approach before connecting with the broader public. These organizations represent Indigenous communities, communities of color, youth of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ communities, and environmental advocates and conservationists. The goal for the interviews was to:

- Build awareness and excitement about the project and future opportunities on the site.
- Understand cultural values, significance, and histories of the site and river.
- Listen to values, priorities, concerns, and equity considerations for site programming and design early in the engagement process.
- Establish relationships early with potential partners for future master plan implementation. Identify partners interested in upcoming engagement events, outreach and education.

The project team interviewed nine community organizations that represent different populations in Portland. They include:



Aim 4 Access: A passionate disability-led organization, dedicated to providing education and training that ensures accessibility and inclusion through interdependence.



Bird Alliance of Oregon: Oregon’s passionate and growing community advocating for conservation of Oregon’s wildlife and wild places.



Blueprint Foundation: Empowering Black and Brown youth through culturally responsive mentoring and experiential learning opportunities so they can build their futures and careers focusing on workforce development challenges that disproportionately impact Black community members.



ELSO: Seeking to reduce the achievement gap in STEAMED education and professions while creating a sense of belonging for Black and Brown communities in the natural and built environment.



Ground Score Association: Informal recyclers, waste pickers, canners, dumpster divers, and other environmental workers who create and fill low-barrier waste management jobs for a more inclusive circular economy.



Latino Outdoors: Inspiring, connecting, and engaging Latino communities in the outdoors and embrace cultura y familia as part of the outdoor narrative, ensuring our history, heritage, and leadership are valued and represented.



Nesika Wilamut: An indigenous-led network that focuses on the health of the Willamette River through a social justice lens.



Portland All Nations Canoe Family: Seeking to strengthen Native urban families, build connection to culture, enable healing and protect our waters.



Verde: Serving communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach, and advocacy.

Online Survey

The online survey was the primary opportunity for the community to give input.

The survey had background information about the history of the site, the master planning and clean up process and the opportunities and constraints on the site.

The survey questions aimed to understand respondents values, priorities, and ideas for the future nature park concept.

Postcard mailings notified 36,000 Portland residents in and around Willamette Cove about the project and online survey. The survey was open for 3 weeks from April 22 - May 10.

It received 2,200 responses.

In-person and Virtual Workshops

Metro and the consultant team hosted two workshops for in-person on May 4 from 11:00 AM-1:30 PM and one virtual on May 7 from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM. A total of 62 community members participated in the workshops. All participants were compensated for their time and contributions to the project.

The workshops included the same presentations and activities. Project staff provided background information about the history of the site, the master planning and clean up process, and the opportunities and constraints on the site.

Project staff facilitated two group exercises to gather feedback on project values and initial programming ideas and priorities.

#1 Project Values

Participants reflected on their relationship to Willamette Cove and river including ways to ensure the site is restorative and healing, and important values to keep in mind as Willamette Cove develops into a nature park.

#2 Programming Ideas and Priorities

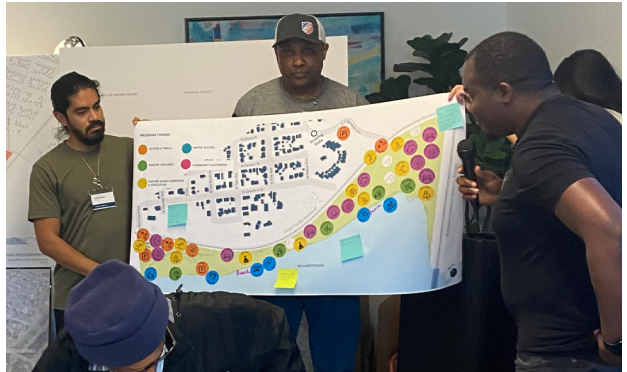
Groups discussed different amenities and features they would like to see on the site. Each group placed dot stickers on a large map of representing 20 different potential ideas categorized under five major themes:

- Habitat features
- Nature-based experiences and education
- Water access
- Access and trails
- Gathering places

Some example ideas provided were bird watching, outdoor classroom, boat launch area, and quiet areas. There were also blank stickers and sticky notes to write in comments.

Each group was asked to discuss the following questions and mark up their maps with their ideas and comments:

- Which features are most important to include at the Nature Park? Why?
- What types of uses and features would spark joy for you and your community?
- How could these features be more inclusive and equitable and meet project values?
- Are there accessibility considerations to be mindful of?



Community members work on a participatory mapping activity at the in-person workshop.



It would be nice to be fully present in a quiet park. For me, nature is one of the few places where I can feel connected to the earth without all the social constructs that I normally find oppressive.

- Workshop participant

What We Heard: Project Values

There is a long history of harms done to Willamette Cove and the larger ecosystem of the Willamette River, including contamination of the land and water and the harm of separating people from nature. The development of a nature park at Willamette Cove is an opportunity to be part of the healing process for the land, water, animals, and people for generations to come. To ensure the future development of a nature park at Willamette Cove reflects the needs and priorities of the greater Portland community, it was important to start with an understanding of what restoration and healing means to community members and the values that the project should adhere to moving forward.

In interviews with community-based organizations, we heard the following values were important to uphold in the development of Willamette Cove.

- Acknowledge and demonstrate accountability for past harms to the land, water, animals and communities dispossessed by colonization
- Be transparent about the decision-making process, timelines, funding, and uncertainties
- Incorporate Indigenous perspectives and knowledge, and center their experience and expertise
- Create access to nature for everyone, particularly for Indigenous communities, Black communities, people of color and people with disabilities
- Center resilient infrastructure, and wildlife and habitat restoration and preservation



Industrial activity at Willamette Cove in 1948

These values were shared in the survey and respondents strongly resonated and agreed with them. Survey respondents emphasized the importance of centering habitat and wildlife, Indigenous knowledge and culture, safety and accessibility to the water and land, and maintaining transparency about the development process and clean up of Willamette Cove.

Workshop participants shared similar values and emphasized the importance of reconnecting with the water and land, incorporating traditional Indigenous practices of environmental stewardship and education, feeling a sense of belonging and inclusivity, considering gentrification and displacement risks to residents in the area as the nature park develops, and understanding the environmental impacts of removing and disposing of contaminated soil to another location.



Feedback about values for Willamette Cove during small group discussions at the virtual workshop.

“

I want to feel that I belong to this community and this area.

- Survey participant

“

Not only doing the cleanup, but also that each of us contribute with something.

- Survey participant

What We Heard: Initial Ideas for Site Design

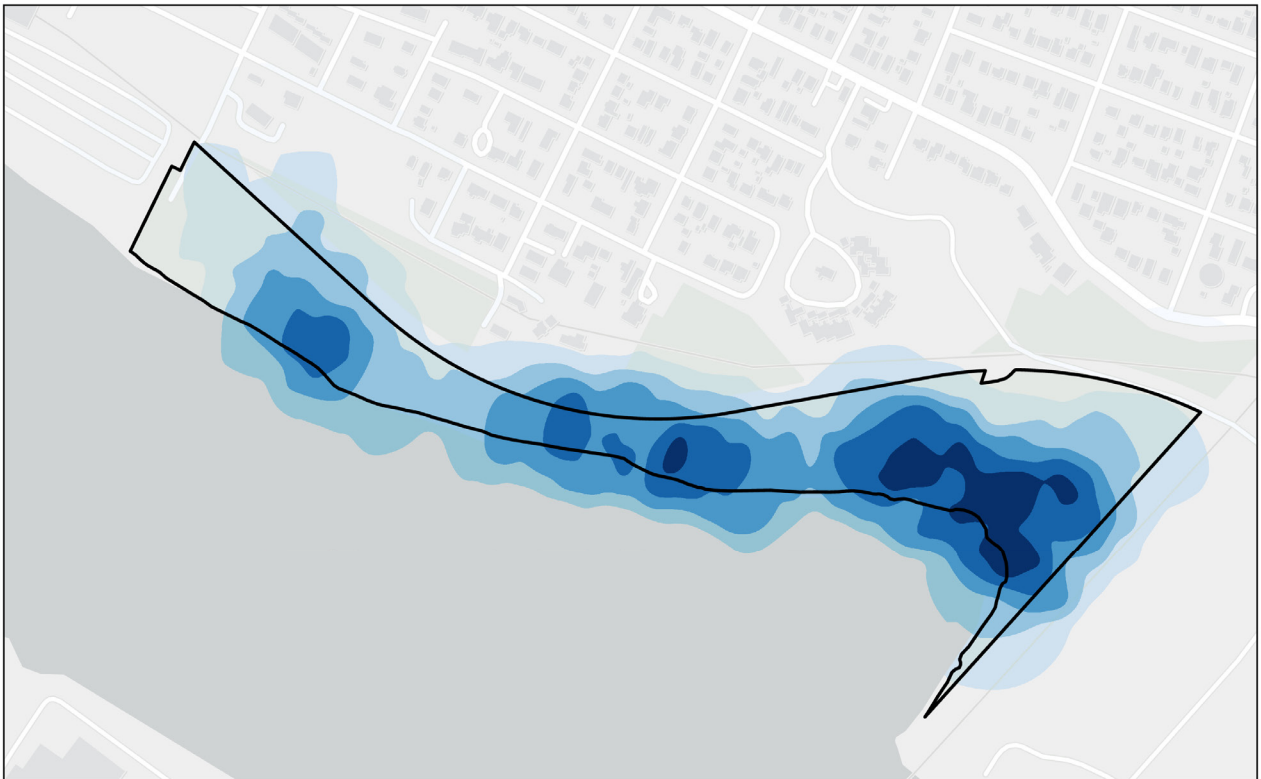
In this first phase of the project, it was important to set expectations with community members about the opportunities and constraints on the site and gather informed feedback about the types of programs, design features, and amenities desired at Willamette Cove.

The key takeaways are organized under five themes that were presented during the workshops: habitat features, nature-based experiences and education, water access, access and trails, and gathering spaces. This feedback will inform nature park designs in Phase 2.



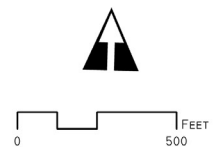
Participatory mapping activity with the community at in person workshop.

Dot Stickers for Habitat Features



The map above shows the density of stickers for habitat features that workshop participants would like to see on the site.

NUMBER OF POINTS WITHIN 250'

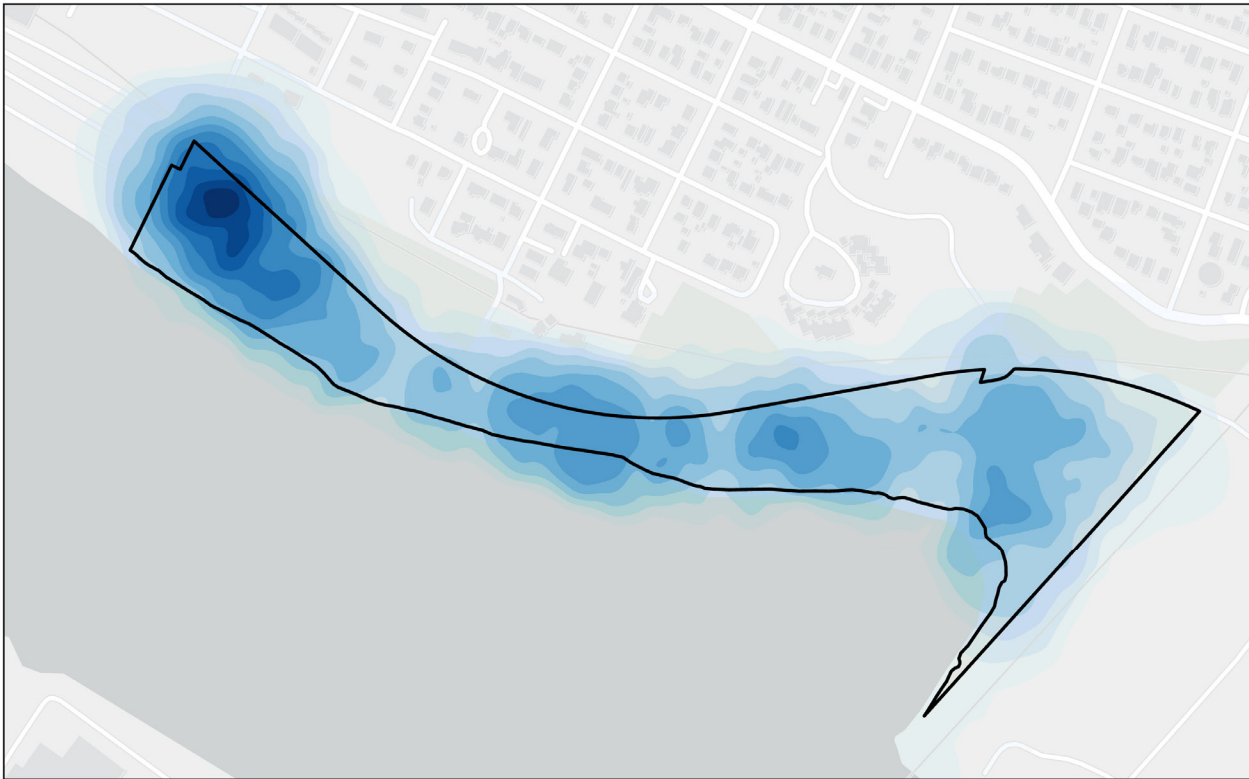


Habitat Features

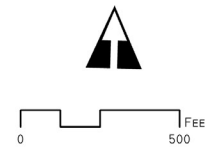
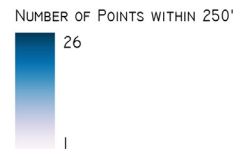
- "Watching birds, fishing, and other wildlife in the water" is the most important types of water access for participants.
- Participants want to see plants and animals thriving over allowing more access for people.
- Aquatic and riparian habitats, with the river and stream-side habitats are at the top choices for conservation efforts at Willamette Cove.
- Woodlands are a high priority as well, while meadow habitats are less prioritized by the respondents.



Dot Stickers for Nature-based Experiences and Education



The map above shows the density of stickers for nature-based experiences and education features that workshop participants would like to see on the site.

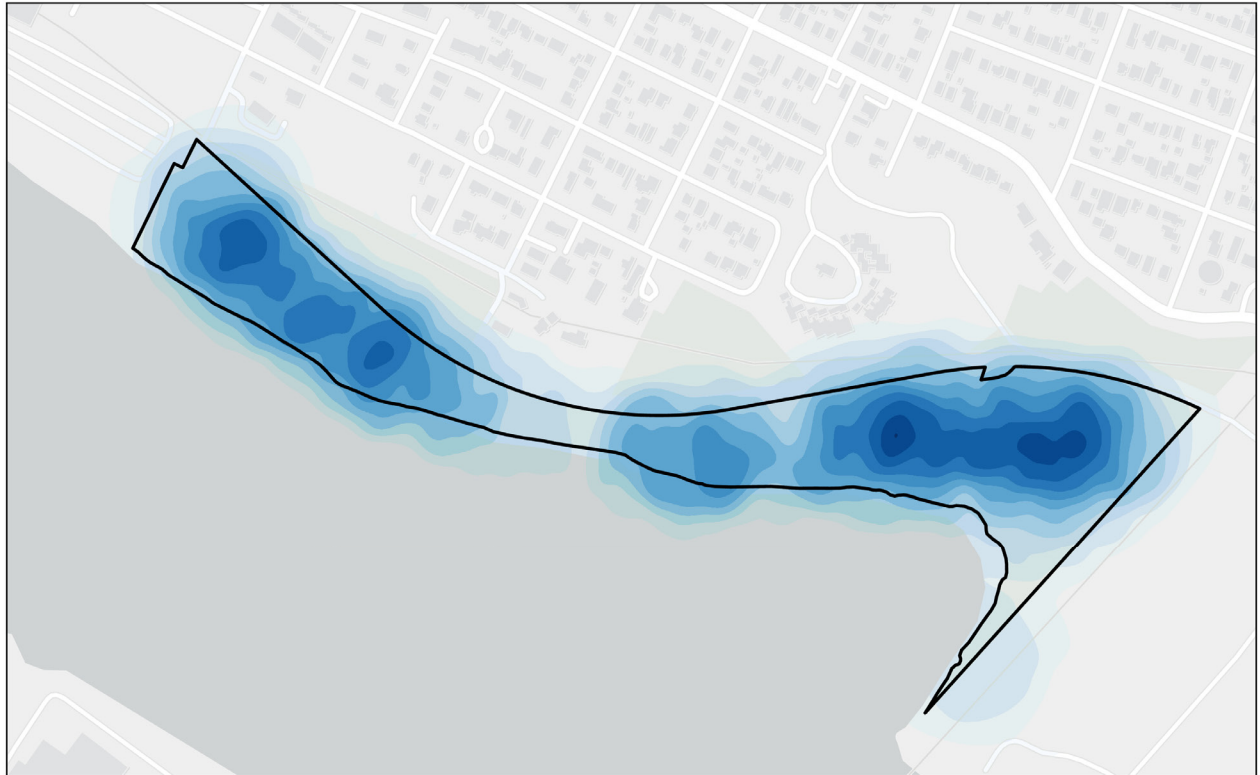


Nature-based Experiences & Education

- Immersive educational experiences are highly desired throughout the park supported by interpretive signs, storytelling elements, wayfinding and art.
- Integrating local art into the park is key to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of both cultural and natural aspects of Willamette Cove.
- Signage related to Indigenous history, language, and general ecological information.
- Wayfinding and interpretive displays were also important, particularly about the site's industrial history and its harmful impacts to the land, water, and habitat, and environmental conservation.
- A small percentage of respondents prefer minimal signage to preserve the natural landscape.
- Incorporating educational and interpretation features that accommodate different disabilities, learning styles, and languages such as audio storytelling and tactile experiences.

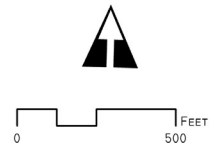


Dot Stickers for Gathering Spaces



The map above shows the density of gathering spaces that workshop participants would like to see on the site.

NUMBER OF POINTS WITHIN 250'



Gathering Spaces

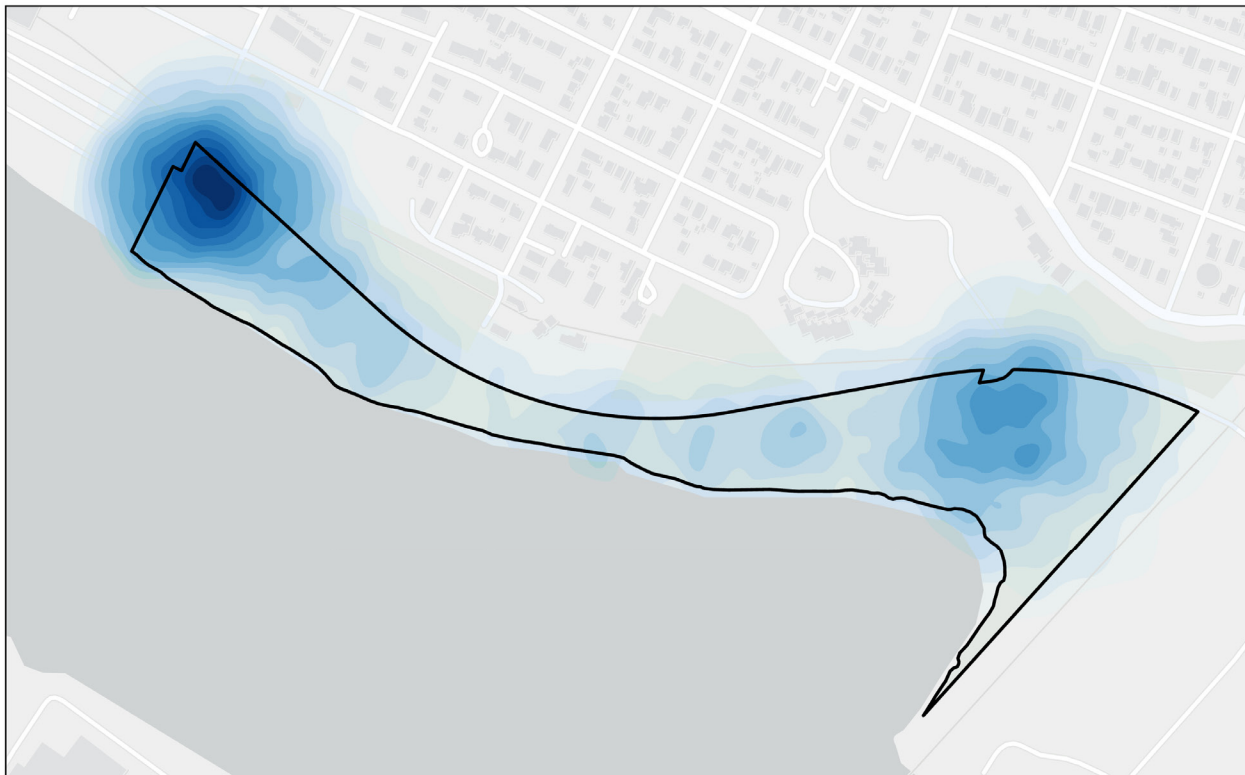
- 60% of survey respondents use parks to spend time with family and friends. 50% imagine using this park for social gatherings, relaxation, and reflection.
- 50% of surveys emphasized that quiet areas for rest and reflection are essential. This calls for amenities that enhance comfort and convenience, such as picnic tables and restrooms.
- It is very important to make space for traditional, Indigenous healing practices at the site, including a place for ceremony before and after the park opens.

“

I believe in having a ceremony to unveil the Willamette Cove and its new transition will be an important marker. [...] to honor and reclaim its new transition of health and care.

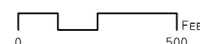
- Survey participant

Dot Stickers for Access and Trails



The map above shows the density of access and trails that workshop participants would like to see on the site.

NUMBER OF POINTS WITHIN 250'



Access and Trails

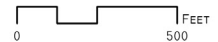
- Most respondents (94%) use nature parks for walking or rolling on bikes. Trails, accessible walking paths, and strong cycling infrastructure are crucial to support these activities.
- 61% of respondents expect to drive to the nature park, and would like parking for their cars. A small share mentioned using ride share services.
- 20% of respondents may use public transit to get to the park, indicating a need for convenient public transportation options and connections to the park.
- Bikes are the majority of rollers but a small share mentioned that they use roller skates, skateboards, scooters or other electric mobility devices.
- A small, but significant number of respondents reported living with a disability that limits their ability to access nature parks, and enjoy parks for longer periods of time.
- Accommodations beyond standard ADA requirements such as charging stations for power wheelchairs are also strongly desired.

Dot Stickers for Water Access



The map above shows the density of water access activities that workshop participants would like to see on the site.

NUMBER OF POINTS WITHIN 250'



Water Access

- Top priorities for water access are focused on wildlife observation and sensory experiences near the water, and recreational activities like boating and swimming.
- There is some interest in more specialized recreational activities like fishing, canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding.
- Some participants expressed the desire to focus on restoration of the River waterfront, hoping that there would be mainly passive activities rather than recreational ones.
- Participants communicated the importance of water access as a climate resilience measure during heat waves.

Other Amenities and Notable Comments

- **Parking:** Parking near hubs is important, and participants are interested in priority parking for ADA and elders only. Parking desires also include infrastructure for bikes, and other vehicles.
- **Access:** Accessible entry points.
- **Comfort amenities:** 67% of participants want comfort amenities like benches and restrooms. Play areas for children, resting areas along trails and dog parks and dog's waste stations were also mentioned.
- **Safety:** Respondents wish to experience peace of mind during their visits and called for various safety measures.
 - **Signs:** People emphasized the need for signs to address various issues, like swimming safety, potential cyclist-pedestrian accidents and natural hazards like flood risks.
 - **Families and women:** Ensuring safety for women and families at the nature park was a specific concern for workshop participants. One person suggested emergency call boxes.
 - **Culture:** There is a call for signs that reaffirm the park as a welcoming place for everyone, regardless of race or background.

Who Participated?

This section provides an overview of the demographics of the survey and workshop participants. It includes information about those who took part in the English and Spanish surveys, as well as the attendees of the workshops.

Survey Demographics

About 60% of survey participants shared their demographic information. This data helps us understand the diversity of the population interested in the Willamette Cove Master Plan development. Below is a breakdown of the respondents' gender, race/ethnicity, age, disability status, and migration status.

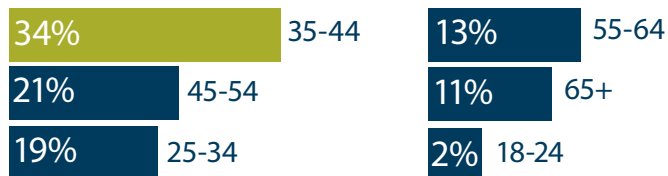
Gender



Race/ethnicity



Age



Disability status



Immigration status



*Asian or Asian American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Slavic, Black or African American, Middle Eastern or North African, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

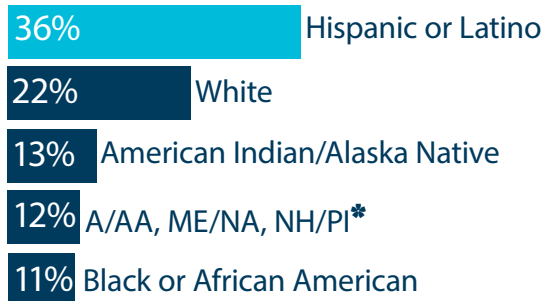
In-Person and Online Workshop Demographics

The in-person and online workshop had 62 attendees, with 40 people (65%) providing their demographic information in the post-workshop evaluation form. Below you'll find a breakdown of respondent's gender, race/ethnicity, age, disability status, and migration status.

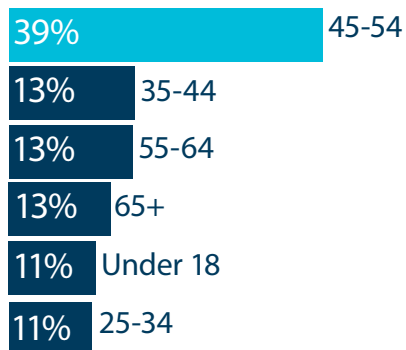
Gender



Race/ethnicity



Age



Disability status



Immigration status



*Asian or Asian American, Middle Eastern or North African, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Appendix

a. CBO Interview Summaries

Interest and significance of the Willamette River and/or Willamette Cove.

- Indigenous cultural significance of the area, and canoeing on the river. Right now the Willamette isn't safe for elders and children.
- Accessible connectivity to nature and recreation for community especially for BIPOC communities and surrounding residents, like Historic Albina.
- Climate resilience. As extreme heat events become more frequent WC provides an opportunity to access cooling via tree canopy and water. Pools in the area have closed recently.
- People that live in and around WC. We need to be aware of historic and ongoing displacement of the area and build an inclusive nature park for BIPOC and marginalized communities.
- Wildlife and habitat restoration. Preservation of urban forest and connected canopy.

Bringing Indigenous peoples back to Willamette River is a dream of our Native community.

-- Renea Perry, Executive Director of Portland All Nations Canoe Family (PANCF)

Potential concerns and questions about previous cleanup and engagement efforts, as well as the future of the site.

- Community involvement and communication with priority communities, such as BIPOC communities, Historic Albina and surrounding residents. Casting a wider net beyond existing partners.
- Safety and education about the reality of the site, consuming plants, fishing, and how to use the river.
- Where is the contaminated soil going? We don't want it to have further negative environmental justice impacts.

- Worried about the urgency, efficiency, and quality of clean-up.
- Accessibility of the site for disability groups, general inclusivity.
- Displacement of houseless individuals.
- Balancing industrial uses with the site like shipping containers.
- Meaningful interactions and stewardship, not just checking boxes.

Displacing houseless folks, without offering long term solutions.

-- Taylor Cass-Talbott and Barbie Weber, co directors and founders of Groundscore

How can Metro advocate for community hopes for this nature park while being clear about the limitations of the project?

- Accountability for past mistakes with Indigenous communities and previous divestment in the area.
- Transparency about funding availability and the decision making process. Being transparent about the project timeline, and any uncertainties.
- Regular and thorough communication with the community about what the public can and cannot do with the site.
- There should be many community engagement methods utilized with a specific focus on reaching out to priority populations.
- Incorporating Indigenous perspectives and centering their experience and expertise (like ITEK).
- Involvement and employment opportunities in the clean up process.
- Activities like storytelling and art

Actively engage with and listen to communities with lived experiences, while also acknowledging limitations in accessibility. [Provide] alternative means of information dissemination.

-- Erin Taylor, Aim 4 Access

What a healing process could look like for different communities.

- Ceremony for Indigenous communities, to lay prayers down and bless the land. Letting Indigenous communities lead and inform.
- Community-led efforts, and involvement through activities like planting and stewardship.
- Creating opportunities for joy and gathering, especially for Black and Brown people.
- Supporting connectivity with the surrounding area, and building on existing trail networks.
- Recognizing and representing different communities with different needs.
- Nearby affordable housing options for displaced populations.
- Balancing human activity with wildlife spaces and protecting restoration efforts.

Healing ceremony for river that is open to public.

-- Sprinavasa Brown, ELSO

Prevent further degradation by human activity and to allow the area to heal.

-- Maritza Oropeza, Latino Outdoors

Initial high-level ideas about desired activities and amenities on the site.

- Accessibility and inclusive design like a sensory garden and clean open spaces with mobile device accessibility.
- Signage and storytelling in several languages including Indigenous languages, and educating the public on historic and cultural context of the site.
- Water recreation amenities, boating access.
- Amenities that connect the community to nature like trails that connect to surrounding areas, play areas, and urban forests.

- Environmental education programs and outdoor classrooms. Low impact activities like scavenger hunt.
- Culturally significant spaces for Indigenous communities to gather like a longhouse, in partnership with Tribes.

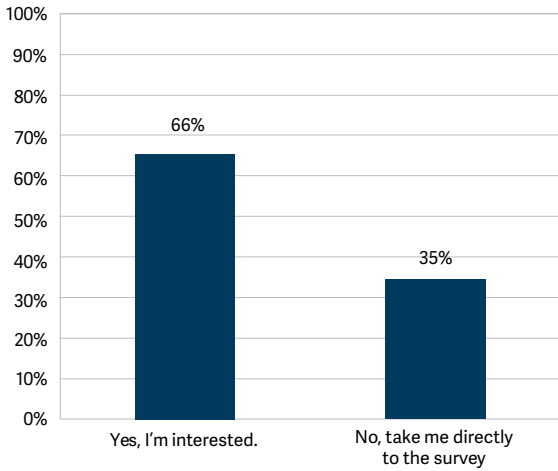
Is calling it a “park” appropriate? You are entering that space knowing that it’s been harmed so know that it needs healing and care; it’s like visiting a sick relative - [we] need to create boundaries but also show that we care about it.

-- Tana Atchley Culbertson, Nesika Wilamut

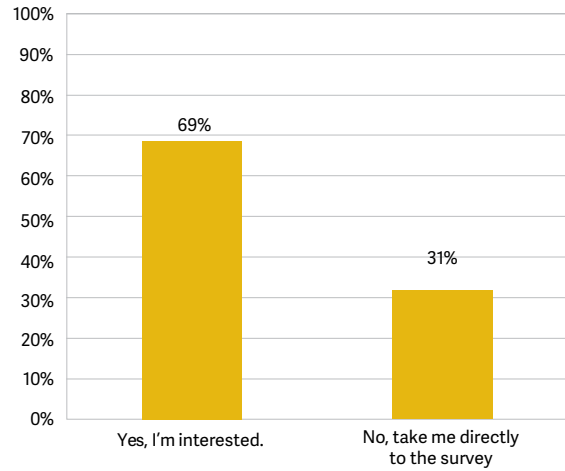
b. Willamette Cove Site Master Plan Community Survey Results

1. Would you like to learn more about the Willamette Cove site and project background before starting the survey?

Survey in English
n=3,055
skipped=5

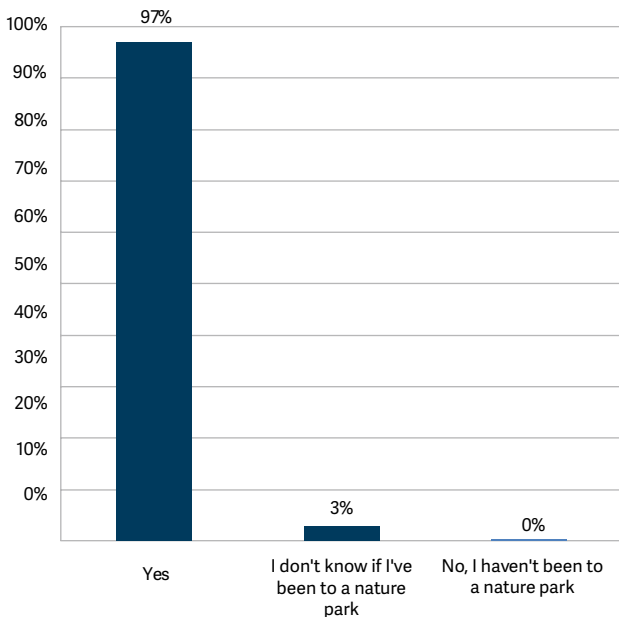


Survey in Spanish
n=13
skipped=0

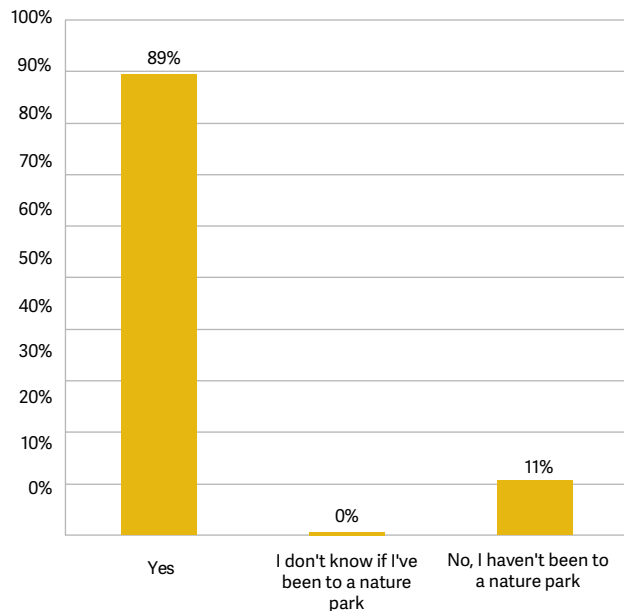


3. Do you ever visit nature parks?

Survey in English
n=2,249
skipped=611

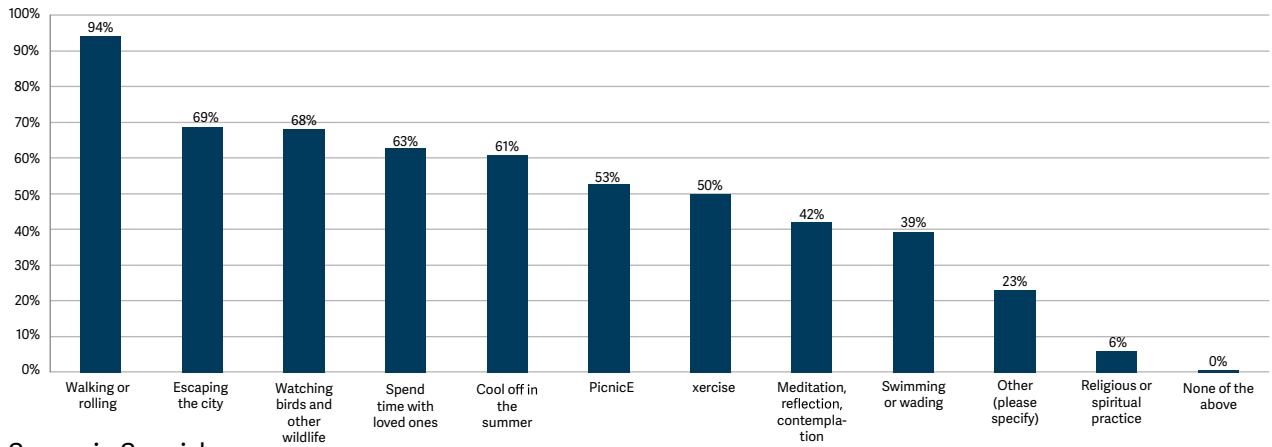


Survey in Spanish
n=9
skipped=4

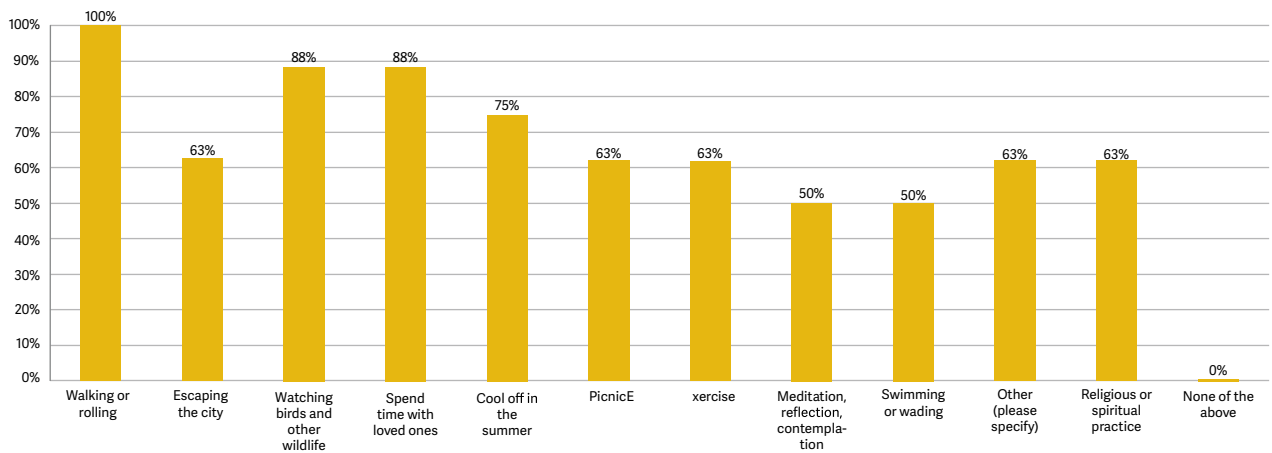


4. How do you currently use nature parks? What do you typically do? (Select all that apply).

Survey in English
 n=2,357
 skipped=703

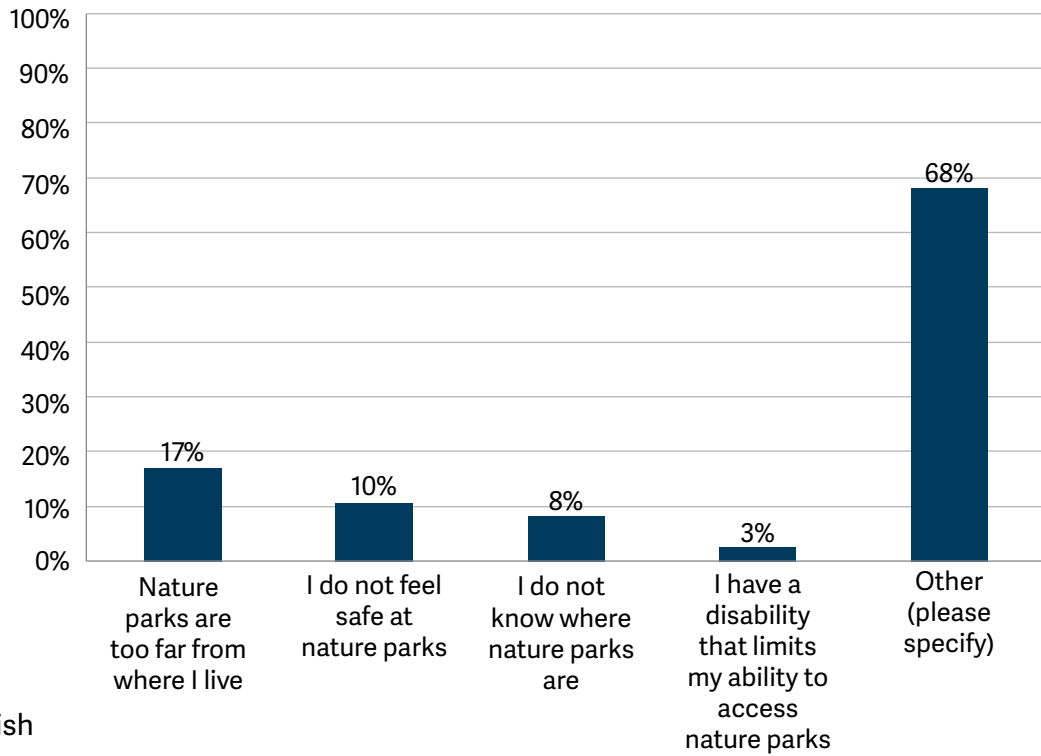


Survey in Spanish
 n=8
 skipped=5

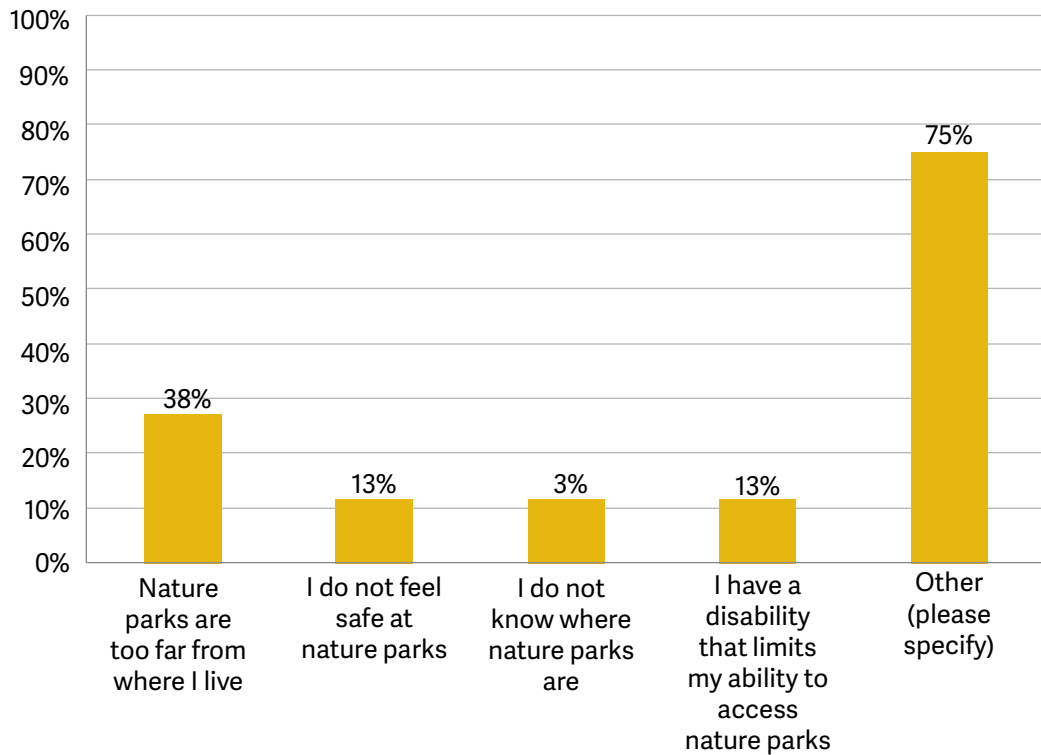


5. If you don't use nature parks? Why? (Select all that apply).

Survey in English
n=2,328
skipped=732

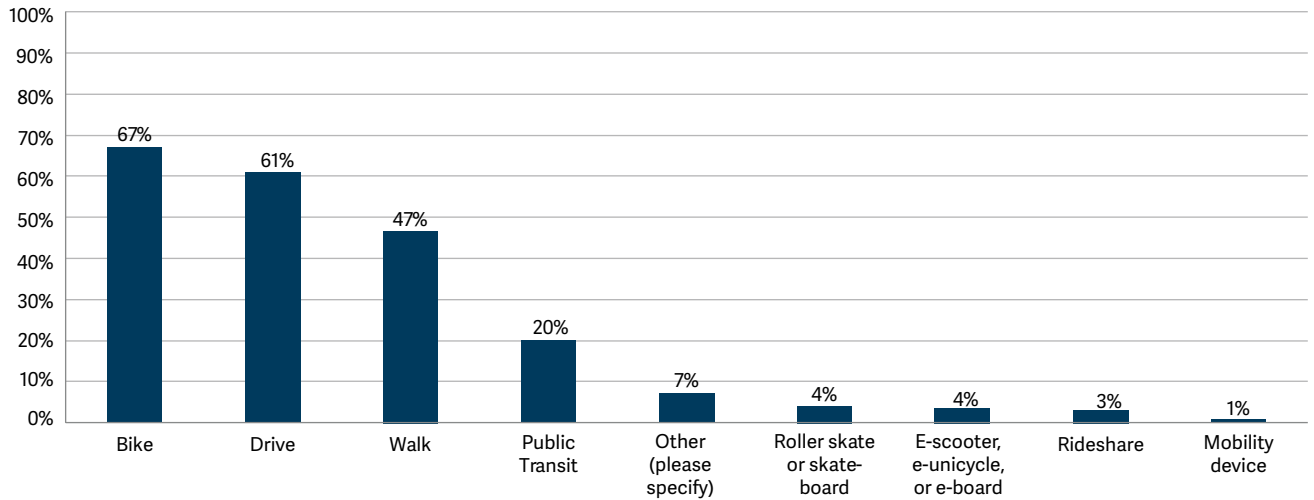


Survey in Spanish
n=8
skipped=5

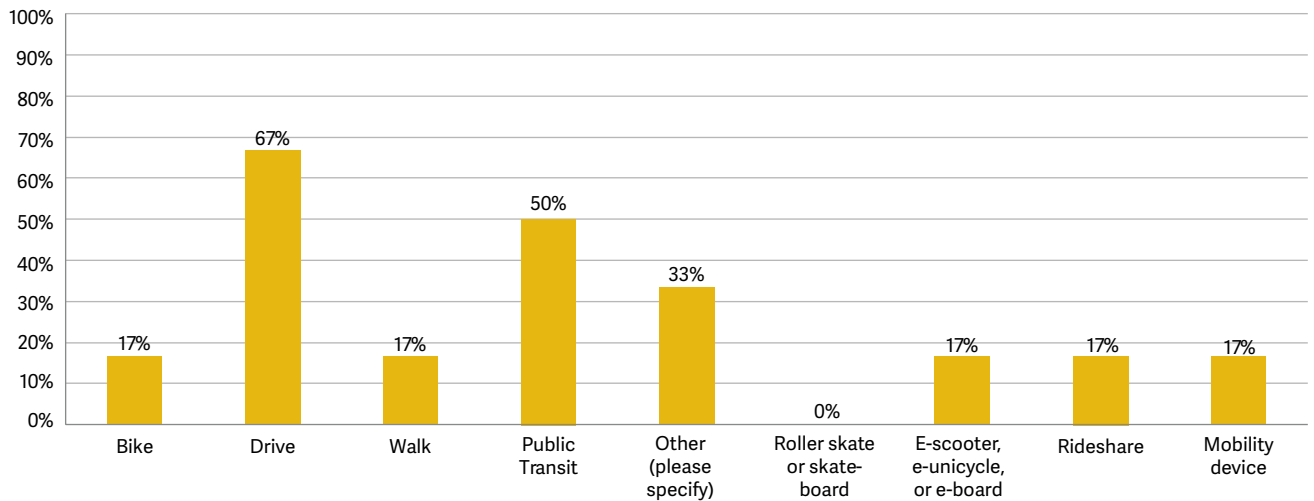


6. We hope you visit Willamette Cove once the nature park is open. How do you anticipate you will travel to the site? (Select all that apply).

Survey in English
 n=2,262
 skipped=798

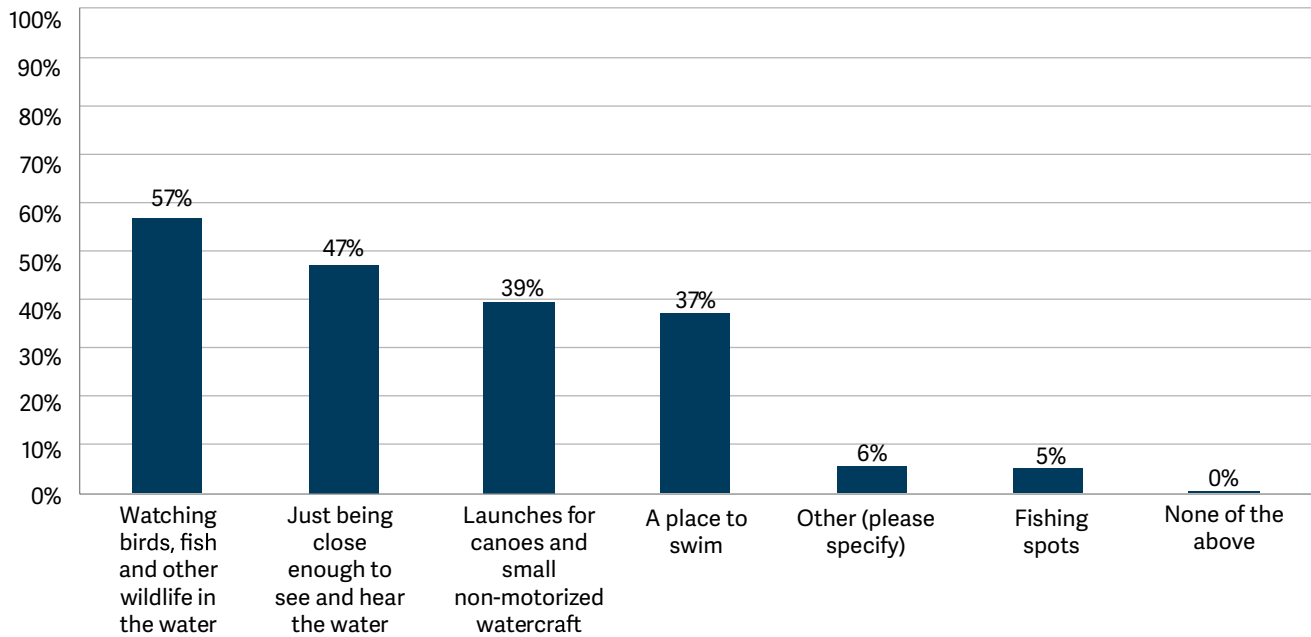


Survey in Spanish
 n=6
 skipped=7

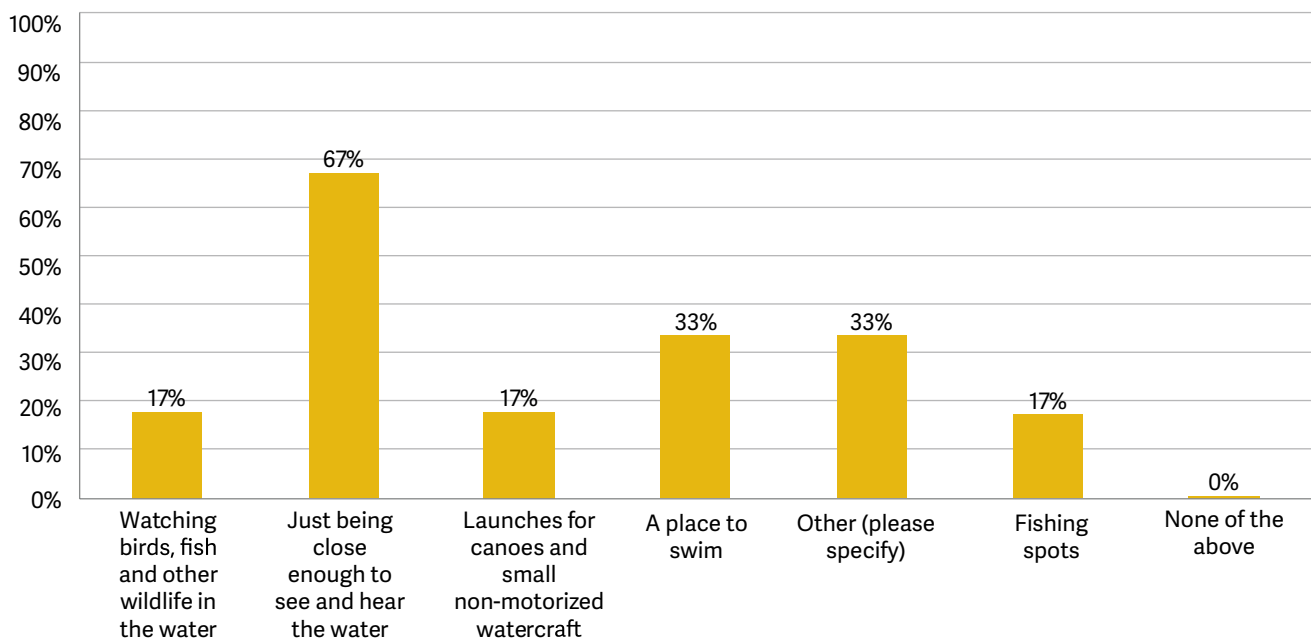


7. Willamette Cove is one of the only places in North Portland where the public can access the Willamette River. What types of water access are most important to you? (To determine our community's priorities, please choose your top two).

Survey in English
 n=2,262
 skipped=798

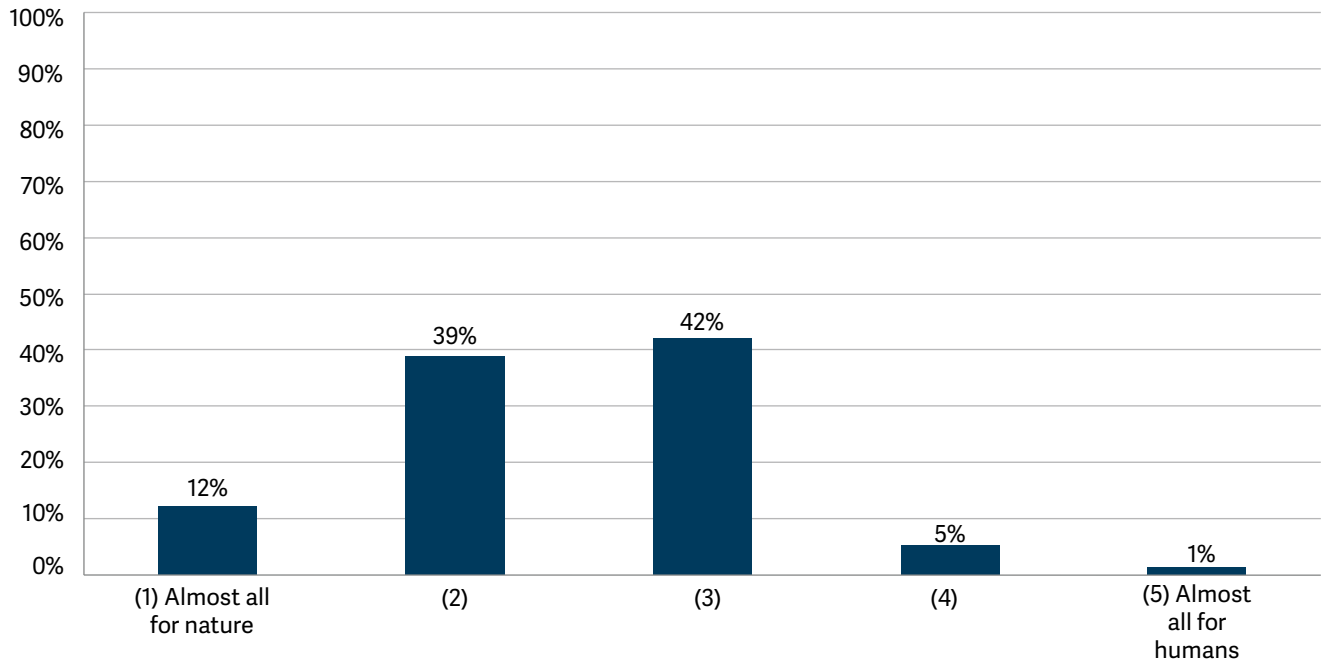


Survey in Spanish
 n=6
 skipped=7

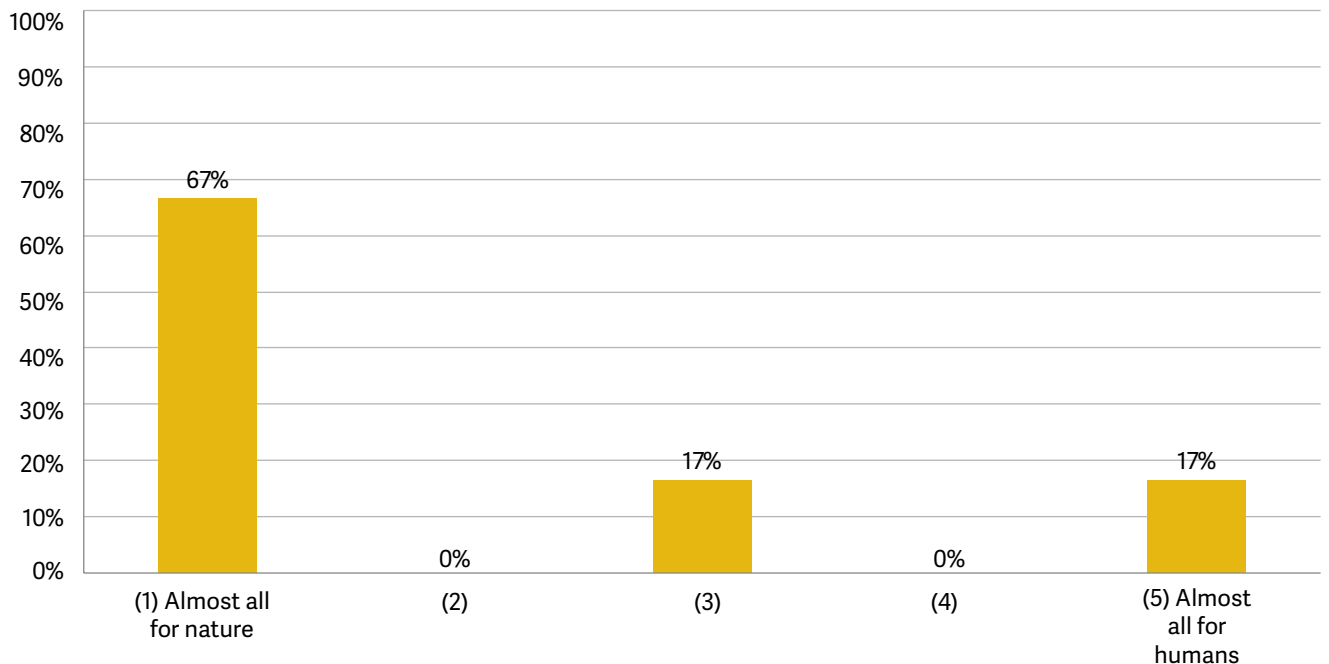


8. Willamette Cove nature park will balance access for people and space for plants and animals to thrive. What do you think the appropriate balance should be?

Survey in English
n=2,262
skipped=798

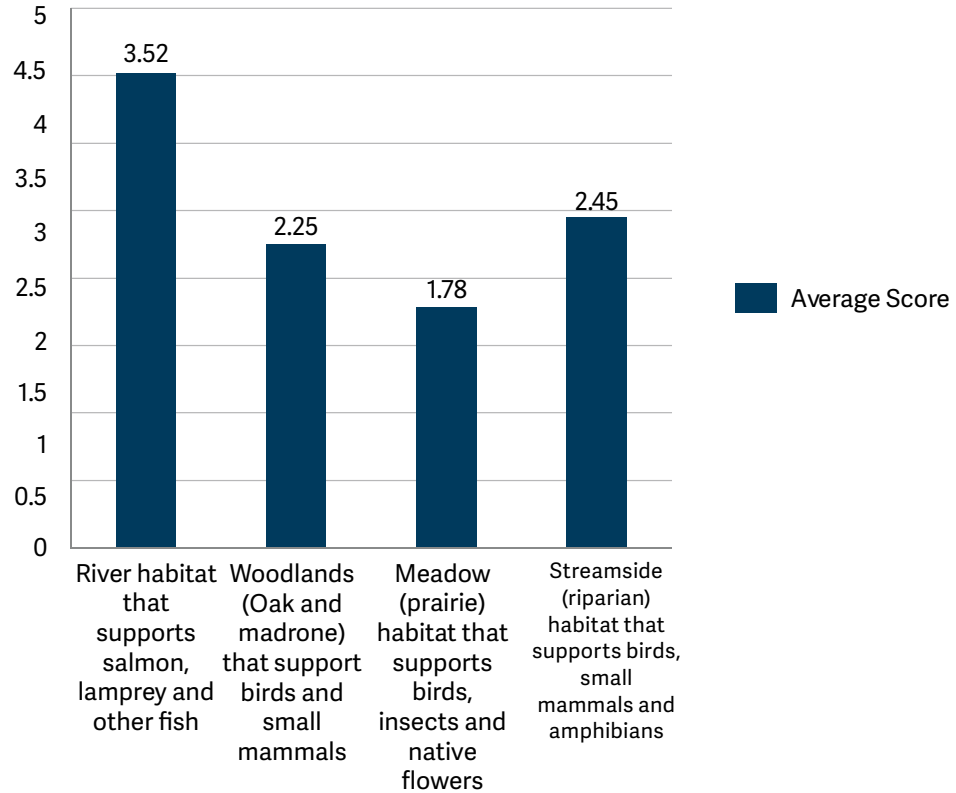


Survey in Spanish
n=6
skipped=7

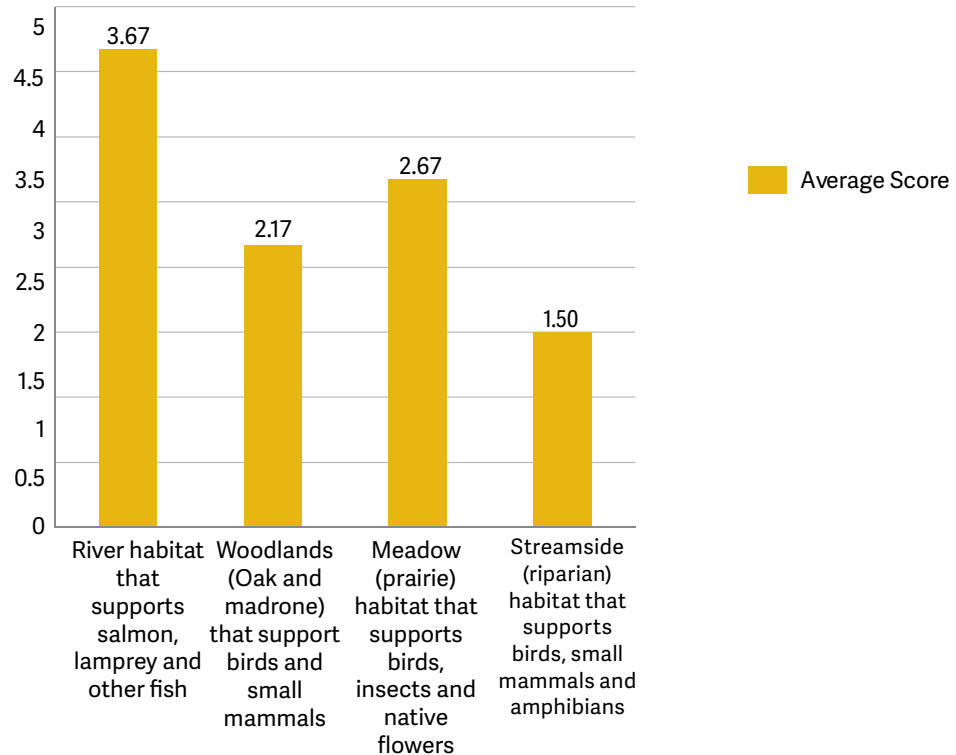


9. Metro has worked closely with multiple Tribes to develop a conservation plan for the nature park at Willamette Cove. There will be a variety of habitats supporting a range of plants and animals. Please rank these habitats in order of which you would like to see prioritized. - Four photos are displayed in a 2x2 grid. From right to left the labels read, "River", "Woodlands", "Meadow", and "Streamside" representing different habitat options.

Survey in English
 n=2,262
 skipped=798



Survey in Spanish
 n=6
 skipped=7



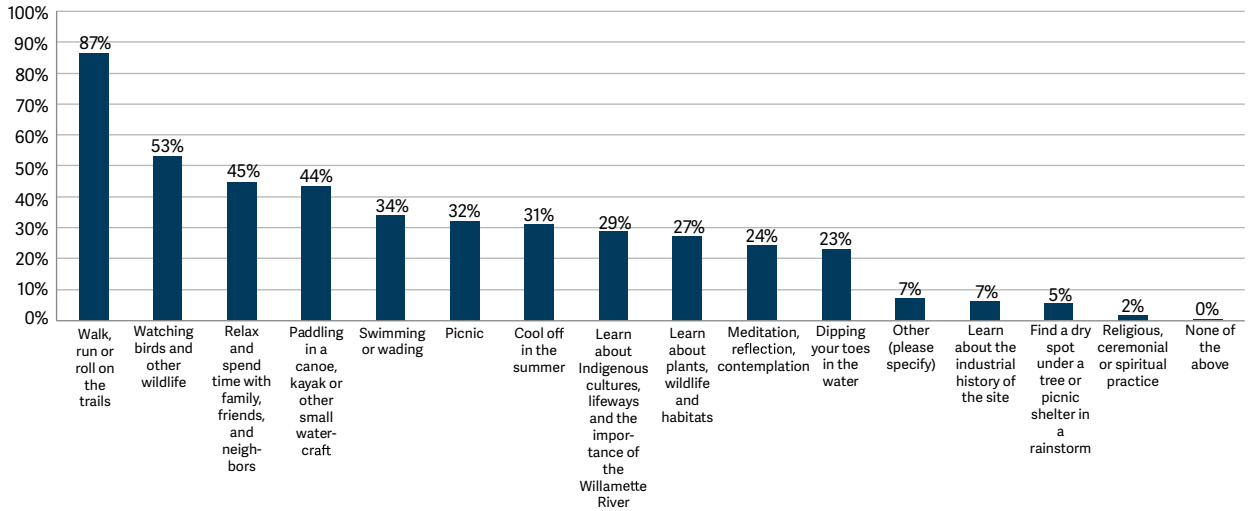
10. How do you imagine using the nature park the most?

(To help us determine our community's priorities, please choose your top 5).

Survey in English

n=2,262

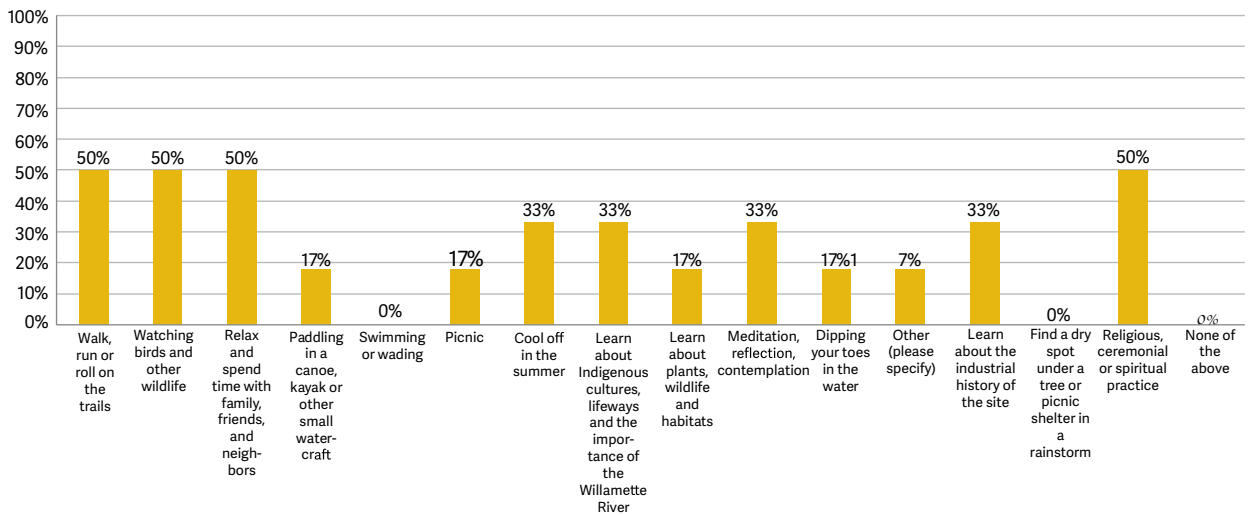
skipped=798



Survey in Spanish

n=6

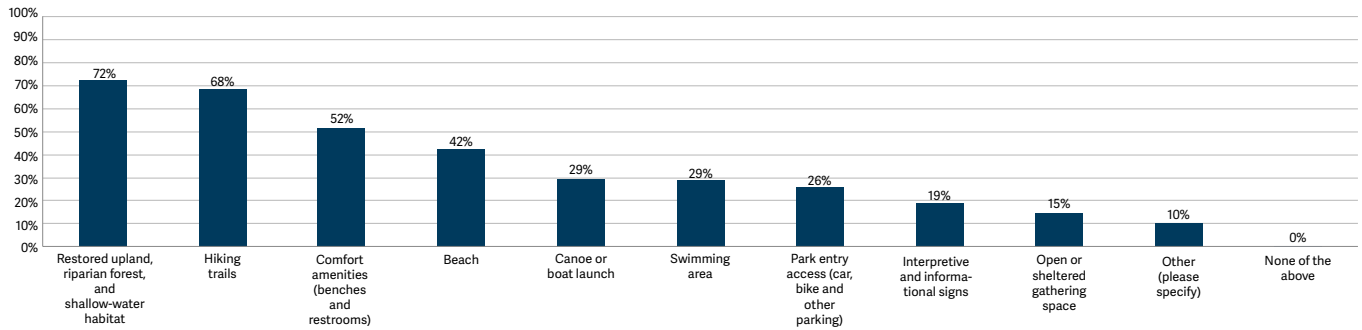
skipped=7



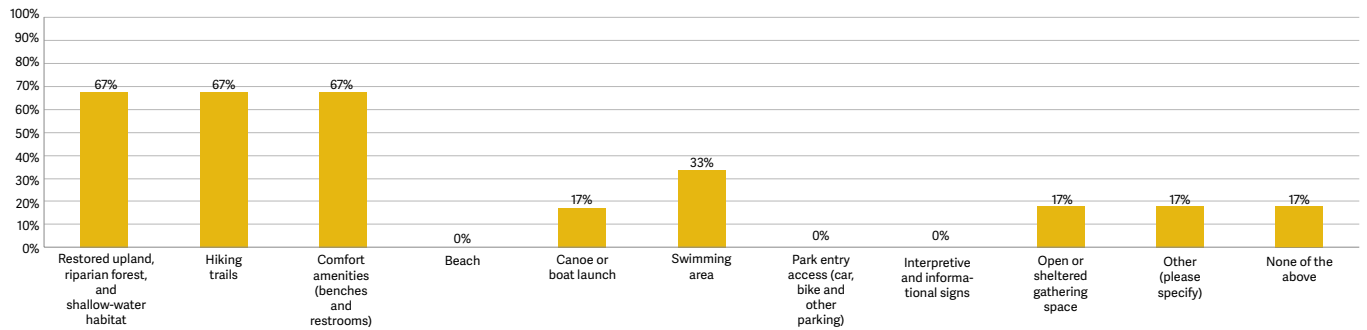
11. There are elements of the nature park that take up a lot of space but are required, like room in the parking lot for emergency vehicles. This can make it hard to fit everything we might want into the park. Which of these park amenities are most important to you?

(To help us determine our community’s priorities, please choose your top 4).

Survey in English
n=2,262
skipped=798



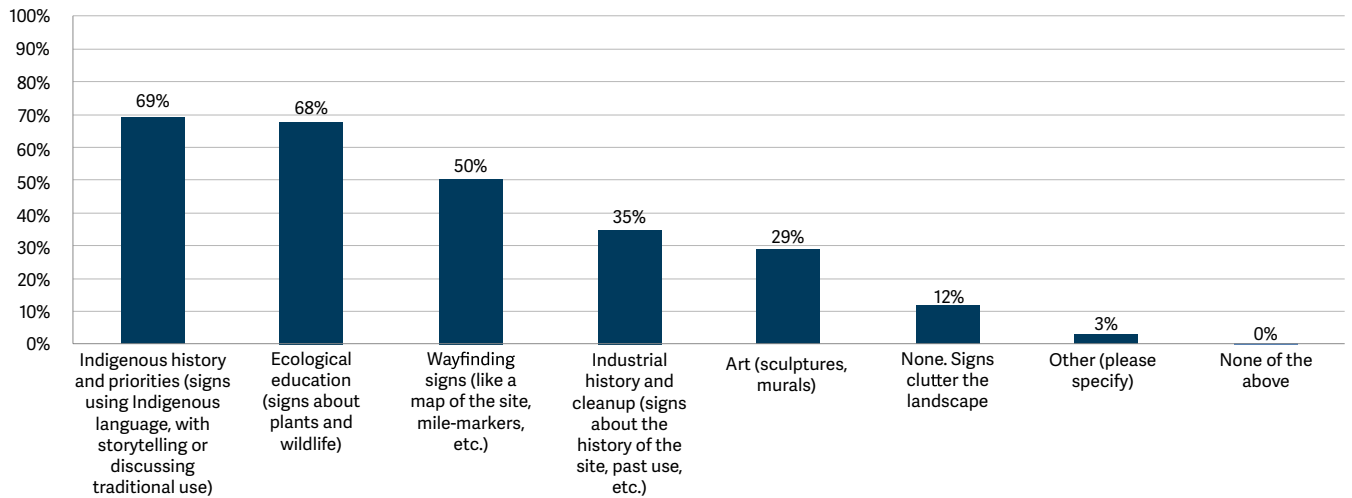
Survey in Spanish
n=6
skipped=7



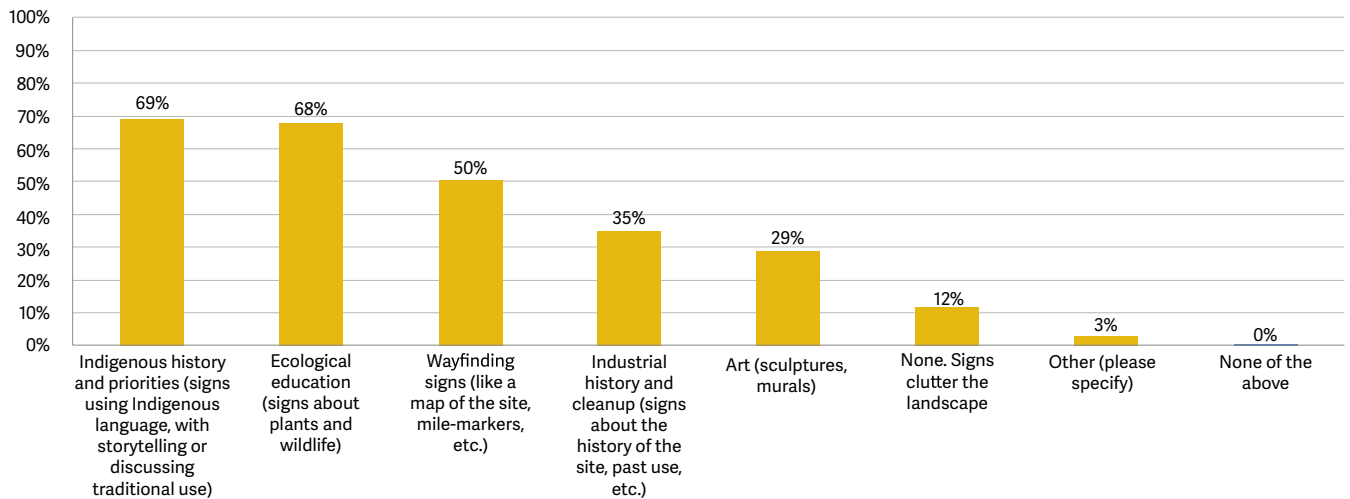
12. Interpretive signs and information can help park visitors understand the landscape, deepen their experience and learn Willamette Cove’s history. Art can enhance the natural beauty of a nature park. Which kinds of information signs would you most want to see at Willamette Cove? Please share your interest in different kinds of information signs.

(To help determine our community’s priorities, please choose your top three).

Survey in English
 n=2,262
 skipped=798



Survey in Spanish
 n=6
 skipped=7



Open-Ended Questions

2. Do these values resonate with you? What other values are important to keep in mind for the site? (Please describe below).

Survey in English
n=1,720
skipped=1,340

Survey in Spanish
n=7
skipped=6

Key Themes & Takeaways

- Affirmation and Enhancement
 - Insight: Many respondents affirmatively agree with the listed values and suggest adding aspects such as safety and land considerations emphasizing the importance of community inclusion.
 -
- Value Resonance and Community Importance
 - Keywords: resonate, values, strongly, absolutely, habitat, restoration, value, accessibility, communities
 - Insight: Strong resonance with current values with a focus on environmental concerns like habitat restoration and accessibility, highlighting the community's central role.
 -
- Access and Environmental Concerns
 - Keywords: access, nature, water, important, river, people, climate, park, recreation
 - Insight: Access to natural resources like water and parks is emphasized, along with the importance of considering climate impacts and providing recreational facilities.
 -
- Project Support and Value Appreciation
 - Keywords: values, agree, important, add, like, project, wonderful, community, listed, appreciate
 - Insight: General support for the project's values with a desire to see additional values considered, showing appreciation for the project's direction and community impact.
 -
- Positive Reception and Transparency
 - Keywords: great, good, project, far, transparency
 - Insight: Positive feedback on the project's approach with a specific call for increased transparency and the inclusion of broader stakeholder perspectives.

Survey in English - Notable quotes related to key themes

- "These values resonate, and I am reassured to hear of the early and prioritized consultation with tribes and communities of color"
- "Yes! I'm particularly interested in ensuring that the park is designed to facilitate and celebrate the customs of our Indigenous communities, as well as being climate-resilient and supporting wildlife"
- "Access for everyone also means making sure there is public transport and bike options to the park"
- "Absolutely. In addition, I would love to see water access for everyone for fishing and swimming. Also, connection to the rest of North Portland via non-car transportation (transit, walking, biking,

rolling)”

- “Yes. It would also be nice to have some sort of public art that resonates with the acknowledgment and accountability”
- “Transparency about the levels of toxins/contamination throughout the project”
- “Accessibility and native planting of plants is important to me - also, safety for women”
- “Climate resilience should include access to the water so people can cool off and swim during heat waves”
- “Honor and acknowledge the past, protect for the future, yet allow careful use for today”
- “Climate resilient infrastructure, wildlife and habitat restoration and preservation that is accessible for all members of the surrounding community”
- “Yes, sounds great. Please include engagement in languages other than English”
- “The values expressed by the historically underrepresented groups resonate with me. I want the park to center around indigenous experience and expertise. I want the emphasis of accessibility be focused around indigenous community members, communities of color, folx with disabilities, and low-income communities. I would also be interested to see the park acknowledge the houseless community use in its design”
- “There are beautiful scotch broom that are magnificent when blooming. I’d like to see those preserved as there is incredible natural beauty happening already. I also think there are some markings of graffiti and color that are quite beautiful and I’m curious if it could be part of a community sculpture to preserve some of the history of markings that took place and not wiped everything out with ‘new development’”
- “Community engagement in every step of the planning process is vital.”
- “Environmental conservation and preserving natural beauty should be key considerations.”

13. Are there amenities, facilities, spaces or any other park element that is culturally important to you and would make your experience at Willamette Cove more meaningful? Are there culturally-specific stories or knowledge that you would like to share about Willamette Cove or the lower Willamette River? (Please describe).

Survey in English
n=743
skipped=2,317

Survey in Spanish
n=3
skipped=10

Key Themes & Takeaways

- **Accessibility:** Importance of making the park accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities.
- **Environmental and Historical Education:** Desire for educational elements related to the history of the area, environmental conservation, and indigenous history.
- **Ceremonies and Cultural Practices:** Interest in having ceremonies and gatherings, particularly those honoring indigenous cultures.
- **Nature and Wildlife Preservation:** Emphasis on preserving natural habitats and wildlife within the park.
- **Amenities for Families:** Requests for family-friendly amenities such as playgrounds and bathrooms.

Notable quotes related to key themes

- “It is important anyone should be able to access the water, accessible features can still exist in a nature park. Water access should be inviting and enjoyable for long periods of time. Any related stories about sewage history. Racism in our city’s development past and present.”
- “The history of industry and how it takes people committing to prioritize our planet to overcome the damage that has been done. Where our salmon population is at now vs what it used to be and how we can support it. The importance of storm water treatment throughout our valley in creating a safe, swimmable, and livable Willamette River.”
- “I believe in having a ceremony to unveil the Willamette Cove and its new transition will be an important marker. I think it would be good to have an indigenous gathering there before the park opens to honor and reclaim its new transition of health and care.”
- “I have never seen more Cedar waxwings in my life than I have at the cove. In fall, with the madrone full of berries, I counted over 200 feasting. The oaks and madrone are truly special. There is also one sneaky pacific yew that is super beautiful.”
- “I would love to see a little educational corner telling the history of St. John’s and that site.”
- “Why must all of the riverfront in Portland be relentlessly developed and overrun with people? Less amenities, more nature, please.”
- “I’m a professional mariner, and I think some art/interpretative signs about Portland’s maritime history would be an interesting addition given the proximity to Swan Island and the site’s historical use as a dry dock. This would need to be balanced with discussion of industrial environmental concerns and colonialism.”
- “Acknowledging somewhere on the site that it is a Superfund site and that it is being maintained to be safe for people.”
- “Potties for kids. Perhaps a small nature playground (no plastic, all wood and recycled stuff, nature-themed, good for kids up to 13 years old).”
- “Disc golf, bathrooms, group gathering sites.”
- “Recognition of tribal history - there’s none of this on the new Vancouver waterfront area, and that is mind-blowing to me.”
- “The importance of river and stream side restoration in helping to recover endangered species: salmon, steelhead, and lamprey.”
- “Want to read about indigenous people from the area.”
- “If there is going to be a non-motorized boat launch, close parking will be essential. Accessible pathways between parking, restrooms, boat launch, and other amenities.”
- “I would love the site to be designed from the perspective of keeping a child engaged.”

14. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about Willamette Cove?

Survey in English
n=928
skipped=2,132

Survey in Spanish
n=5
skipped=8

Key Themes & Takeaways

- **Appreciation and Gratitude:** Words like "thank," "time," "energy," and "can't wait" indicate expressions of gratitude and positive anticipation for the efforts being made regarding Willamette Cove.
- **Simplicity and Action:** Words like "don't," "overthink," "simple," and "action" suggest a desire for straightforward, uncomplicated solutions actions rather than over-complicating the design process.
- **Recreational Activities:** Words such as "fishing," "activities," and "enjoy" point to interests in recreational activities and the enjoyment of the natural environment at Willamette Cove.
- **Preservation and Environment:** Terms like "preserve," "nature," "environment," and "protect" suggest a focus on environmental preservation and protection of the natural beauty and ecosystem of Willamette Cove.
- **Accessibility and Safety:** Concerns about safe access to the water and the importance of consulting with current river users.

Notable quotes related to key theme

- "Thank you for your time and energy put into this project. We are excited to see the outcome and hopeful for what will be."
- "Can't wait to have a spot in North Portland to swim in the river!!"
- "I have seen so many different natural areas working for RID and when I volunteered with the native plant center, and this spot feels so unique and special. Admittedly, I am biased because the cove is close to my home. Thanks for all your work."
- "When planning waterway access it's imperative to consult with current river users, especially the motorized boating community who regularly uses this stretch of river in the summer months. This area is a busy commercial waterway and one of the last places in Portland to enjoy the widest array of towed water sports. Adding additional access points could be a safety issue, particularly for novice paddlers who might not understand how to safely navigate a busy waterway. Groups you could engage on this topic include the Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Families for Boating and SK Rentals."
- "We're hoping the frog ferry makes it down this way, either to the bridge or the Cove."
- "This is a wonderful collaboration and I'm excited to witness the process of this park's development."
- "To honor the indigenous heritage and also to promote the revival of the language, all the signage and interpretive features in this park should include Chinuk Wawa in addition to English, Spanish, Russian, etc. that are currently used by Metro."
- "This sounds lovely. This may not be popular, but can it be a no dog park or at the very least, dogs must be on leashes?"
- "I would prefer it be restored more for natural benefit desperately needed on the Willamette River waterfront and less for peoples' activities other than walking."
- "I think it is important to fully share the history of a site, including the events that contaminated it. I think it is an important story to share about Metro's commitment to improving the region. The city did not focus on this when building Cully Park on a landfill, instead they did a lot to downplay the situation."

- "I think there should be a running/walking path that is long enough for people to set out and not clutter the pathway. Maybe a few miles long or longer!"
- "Excited that Portland is reclaiming former industrial space in the area. Knowing that this is far from pristine from prior use, it seems appropriate that it should be used to expand outdoor recreation access for Portlanders and visitors."

Survey in Spanish -Responses translated

- "Please make this a space that is not overcrowded and that respects the traditions and culture with the fauna and the habitat of the tribes"
- "no"
- "Thank you"
- "Consider electric generators on the bank of the Willamette River and solar panels to make the park self-sufficient in energy consumption"

c. Workshops

In-Person Mapping Activity Results

Table 1 (English)



Table 2 (English)



Table 3 (Spanish)



Table 4 (English)



Table 5 (English)

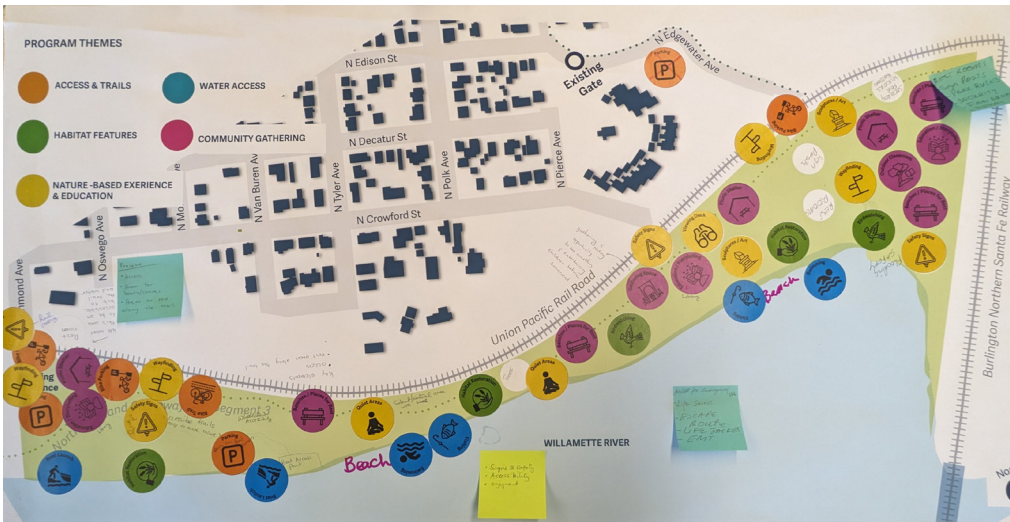


Table 6 (English)



Table 7 (English)



Table 8 (English)



Table 9 (Spanish)



