

## Milwaukie Bay Park Final Design

### Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the Milwaukie Bay Park Final Design Project?** The Final Design Project is a joint effort between the City of Milwaukie and the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) to complete improvements envisioned, planned and partially completed for Milwaukie Bay Park over the last decade. A plan for the Park was approved by the City in 2010, serving as the foundation for many agencies, community partners, and local citizens to participate in shaping improvements over the years. Over the last decade, park visitors have seen many park enhancements constructed by the City, including the Klein Point Overlook, new boat launch and landing, auto and boat trailer parking, restroom facility, temporary Trolley Trail connection, a riverside path, river bank stabilization and plantings, and an improved access bridge over Kellogg Creek.

**What is the process and schedule of Final Design?** This summer of 2018 is our initial outreach phase to help guide the update of the plan. The project team will analyze existing information, site conditions, related projects, site history and other aspects that inform an update. In the Fall of 2018, the team will develop Design Alternatives and preliminary cost estimates to present and discuss with the public. By Winter 18/19, the team will advance a Preferred Final Design to bring to the public and local officials. Throughout 2019, the team is scheduled to prepare construction and permit documents, while seeking both approvals and funding. The goal is to begin construction in 2020.

**Where is Milwaukie Bay Park?** Milwaukie Bay Park is a scenic park property near downtown Milwaukie along the Willamette River. It is located just off OR99E/McLoughlin Boulevard between Kellogg Creek to the south and Johnson Creek to the north. In addition to the river, the creeks, and a burgeoning downtown, there are several local parks and natural areas nearby and significant local and regional transportation connections such as the Trolley Trail, Springwater Corridor, MAX light rail, TriMet bus transit, and OR99E/McLoughlin Boulevard.

**What is the project area for the Final Design Project?** While the full park property is almost seven acres, the Milwaukie Bay Park final design process focuses specifically on the approximately 2.5-acre grassy area between McLoughlin/OR99E and the riverside path in the park. This area is also the area least prone to flood waters, as it sits above the river's ordinary high water levels. In the City's previous phases of work, envisioned improvements for this core of the site were not completed. Now the City and NCPRD are partnering to focus on this area, updating the design envisioned almost a decade ago with consideration of other improvements made on the full park site and the surrounding area. The partners look forward to the opportunity to complete this final phase of design and construction.

**Who owns, maintains and manages Milwaukie Bay Park?** The Park property is owned and will continue to be owned by the City of Milwaukie. NCPRD is responsible for maintenance and management of the Park, coordinating with the City on important issues. NCPRD is a service district of Clackamas County that provides parks and recreation programs, facilities and services. The District serves more than 122,000 residents in a 36-square mile area – including the City of Milwaukie. The two agencies are working jointly on final improvements at the Park and will develop agreements on long term management, maintenance, and recreational programming. Because Milwaukie and NCPRD both own park property in Milwaukie and both agencies are involved in maintenance and management on

different sites, it can seem confusing; the partners coordinate on an ongoing basis and work with the Milwaukie Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) to support parks and recreation.

**Weren't designs for the park already approved by City of Milwaukie Council years ago?** This design effort will revisit the park plan approved in 2010 by the City of Milwaukie. Many elements of that plan were completed by the City, such as the boat launch and auto and boat trailer parking. The 2010 planning and subsequent agency reviews provided guidance for other elements, including a children's play area, event gathering space, and water feature. Now, the design is being revised and updated to best incorporate such elements and address priorities such as preserving the redwood tree, having the water feature be interactive, and geese mitigation – to name a few.

**Who makes the decision on the final design for the park?** Ultimately, the Milwaukie City Council and the NCPRD Board will need to approve the final park designs and work together to fund and build the project. The Project Management Group comprised of City and NCPRD staff will make recommendations. A Steering Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Group, and public input will inform the designs.

**How will the project be funded?** This process will update and finalize plans, including cost estimates necessary to build the improvements. The City of Milwaukie and NCPRD will be working together to identify and secure funding; this could include a combination of available local funds, regional and state grants, or other sources. Staff will work on a funding plan once costs are known in 2019.

**Do the City & District partners need permits to build in the park?** An existing Army Corp of Engineers permit is in place until October 2020. The project team is working to meet this deadline. There are still several other agency permits necessary to build improvements, therefore the City and NCPRD will be working with all the permitting agencies over the next 18 months to understand and respond to permitting requirements.

**Will there be additional vehicle parking?** No. The site cannot accommodate additional parking. Providing parking is a trade-off. Adding more parking on the site would mean less recreational area along the river for people. The site is constrained by the Willamette River, OR99E/McLoughlin Blvd, Johnson and Kellogg Creeks, and the Kellogg Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. There is public on-street parking throughout downtown, as well as access from bus and MAX light rail. Many communities with riverside parks in their downtown areas have similar discussions about parking. No additional parking means access into the park must rely on connections from all transportation modes – auto, public transit, bicycle, pedestrian and other mobility devices. The Project team continues to coordinate with the City and other agencies to identify opportunities to foster safe and reliable access to the site.

**Is the boat ramp or the dock changing?** No. The boat ramp and dock were completed in 2015 with significant funding assistance from the Oregon State Marine Board and will remain. During high flows (typically Winter and Spring), NCPRD routinely removes several of the floating dock segments to avoid costly damage from powerful water flows and built-up logs/debris that wash into the river. Segments are then re-installed as soon as it is safe.

**Will there be waterfront access for swimming?** The Milwaukie Bay Park final design process focuses on the grassy area between McLoughlin/OR99E and the riverside path in the park, which is the park area above seasonal high water. The City's bank repair project at the park, which will soon be underway, includes a stepping stone path to provide a clear invitation down to the water while protecting the

sensitive riverbank. Swimming is not prohibited but there are no plans to create a formal sectioned off area with lifeguard facilities at this time.

**Why is “Bay” in the park name?** Many locals may know this park as Milwaukie Riverfront Park, but in 2017 the City of Milwaukie formally changed the name to Milwaukie Bay Park. The name honors historic mentions of the area as a “bay” and recognizes the unique indentation of the shoreline at this special place. The bay-like shoreline can be an important characteristic for those traveling by watercraft.

**Will there be more amenities for light watercraft, such as kayaks, paddleboards, or canoes?** Light watercraft are currently able to put in or remove near the existing boat launch. The City will soon be installing a short-term lock station, so that light watercraft can be locked up on land while vehicles are being moved during drop off/ pick up. This will also provide opportunity for a paddler to arrive by water, lock up their boat, and visit the Park.

**Why isn’t the grass at Milwaukie Bay Park being mowed regularly?** One answer – the GEESE! The grass is currently being left long and dry. This is being done purposefully to reduce damage and mess from geese overcrowding at the park. Geese love short, green grass, but avoid taller grass because it makes it difficult for them to search for food and see predators. A humane Goose Management Service has also been hired to chase geese away during the winter and spring. Geese mitigation will be a strong consideration in this final design phase and just one of the reasons that NCPRD and the City are refining the 2010 park design.

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

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