

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Accept Salmon-Safe Certification for the City of Portland (Resolution)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

This resolution would accept Salmon-Safe certification for the City of Portland, demonstrating the City's commitment to responsible watershed health practices throughout its operations. The City will become the first municipality to be certified by the independent non-profit accreditation organization, Salmon-Safe. Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR) was the first municipal park system to be Salmon-Safe certified in 2004. PPR was re-certified in 2012.

As part of Salmon-Safe certification for the City of Portland, five bureaus (Environmental Services, Transportation, Water, Office of Management and Finance, and Fire and Rescue) are committing over the next five years to complete specific assessments and implement practices, projects and activities that further the City's efforts to reduce impacts on federally listed threatened and endangered salmon, assisting in their recovery and at the same time improving watershed health. Bureau efforts will address stormwater and surface water runoff, water use efficiency and wastewater management, erosion prevention and sediment control, pesticide reduction, integrated pest management and water quality protection, chemical and nutrient use, containment and disposal, instream riparian habitat protection and restoration policy and practices, and overall enhancement of ecological function.

The City has a long-standing commitment to equity, prosperity, resilience and health, and seeks to be a model for sustainable practices. The Salmon-Safe certification for the City will augment urban management practices already underway, many of which are ongoing. One example is the Sustainable City Government program, where numerous bureaus are demonstrating exemplary leadership in pursuing sustainable principles and practices in daily operations.

This program is also consistent with and helps to implement City-adopted policies and plans, including the following *Comprehensive Plan* goals and policies:

Goal 7.B: Healthy watersheds and environment – Ecosystem services and ecosystem functions are maintained and watershed conditions have improved over time, supporting public health and safety, environmental quality, fish and wildlife, cultural values, economic prosperity, and the intrinsic value of nature.

Goal 8.B: Multiple benefits – Public facility and service investments improve equitable service provision, support economic prosperity, and enhance human and environmental health.

Policy 4.76 Impervious surfaces – Limit use of and strive to reduce impervious surfaces and associated impacts on hydrologic function, air and water quality...

Policy 7.1 Environmental Quality – Protect or support efforts to protect air, water, and soil quality, and associated benefits to public and ecological health and safety, through plans and investments

Policy 7.7 Water Quality – Improve or support efforts to improve water quality in rivers, streams, floodplains, groundwater, and wetlands through land use plans and investments, to address water quality issues including toxics, bacteria, temperatures, metals and sediment pollution. Consider the impacts of water quality on the health of all Portlanders.

Policy 7.26 Improving environmental conditions through development – Encourage ecological site design, site enhancement, or other tools to improve ecological functions and ecosystem services in conjunction with new development and alterations to existing development.

Policy 8.24 Risk Management – Maintain and improve Portland’s public facilities to minimize or eliminate economic, social, public health and safety, and environmental risks.

Policy 8.36 Context-sensitive infrastructure – Design, improve, and maintain public rights-of-way and facilities in ways that are compatible with, and that minimize negative impacts on, their physical, environmental, and community context.

Salmon-Safe certification will also support City programs and strategies to comply with multiple regulations, including the federal Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The Salmon-Safe certification conditions that the City agrees to implement over the next five years will be addressed through ongoing bureau funding and individual bureau budget requests. The conditions dovetail with the bureaus missions and costs for implementation will be integrated with and prioritized as part of planned projects and programs, including Capital Improvement Plans (CIP), when possible.

The five bureaus worked cooperatively with the Salmon-Safe team over a two-year period to assess bureau facilities, operations and activities and determine the appropriate conditions that could be practically implemented to achieve Salmon-Safe desired environmental outcomes and improvements.

By accepting certification, the City is pledging to seek to fulfill the certification conditions. If a condition appears to be financially prohibitive, the City will re-engage with Salmon-Safe to explore alternate ways to satisfy the intent of the certification conditions. Bureau staff worked with Salmon-Safe to ensure that specific conditions and timelines for implementation were reasonable and could be adjusted if needed to address funding constraints or project delays.

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Several Salmon-Safe certification conditions will be integrated with projects already included in bureau CIPs, such as projects to upgrade Water Bureau and Bureau of Transportation operations facilities. In the case of the transportation maintenance facility, the site master plan has been funded. Additional funding will be needed to construct desired improvements that will come out of the master planning process and will be evaluated through the CIP process. Other conditions will be met through existing resources as ongoing activities such as the bureaus updating the Parks Integrated Pest Management Plan with bureau-specific addendums.

Some certification conditions, however, are not yet reflected in bureau plans. An example Cross Bureau Condition 1, which requires an evaluation, selection and funding of four high-priority City sites for stormwater management improvements. This condition will require BES to first complete assessment of sites, and recommend priority projects. Priority project costs will be determined prior to submittal of budget requests for implementation.

In addition, for the next fiscal year budget, BES anticipates amending or creating a new contract for professional services to supplement existing services by \$75,000 to implement an independent evaluation of recently completed restoration projects (BES Condition 5).

Community impacts and community involvement:

The Salmon-Safe certification program for the City of Portland only applies only to specific facilities, programs, operations and activities of five bureaus within the City. The outcomes of meeting certification-based conditions will benefit all of the public and its livability by reducing impacts that some City facilities, operations, and practices are having on the environment. Certification sheds light on areas where City operations can be improved to enhance watershed health, and in turn, human health. Certification will also increase awareness of how important salmon recovery is to not just the City, but the entire Columbia Basin, as its rivers connect everyone living within it. How Portland conducts business directly impacts resources throughout the entire Willamette River watershed, as salmon pass through the City on their way up to headwater streams, as well as on their way downstream to the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean. Certification by an independent third party provides the community an additional assurance that City operations are working and that Portland can be a model municipality for how other cities can work to improve their critical natural resources.

In recognition of the value of Portland's Salmon-Safe certification to a broader community in the region, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund awarded more than \$35,000 toward the City's Salmon-Safe certification. These funds helped Salmon-Safe carry out its Science Team assessment of the bureaus and work with the City to complete the Salmon-Safe certification process.

Salmon-Safe is taking the lead with the City on making the public aware of the City's commitment to watershed health and salmon recovery through Salmon-Safe certification with upcoming TriMet donated ads on the sides of buses. Media releases on the City Council's acceptance of the Salmon-Safe report and program will also inform the public. The five bureaus will also communicate the benefits of the Salmon-Safe certification program and improving watershed health and salmon recovery as staff implements ongoing related activities over the next five years.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.

☒ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

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