



Mike Houck

City of Portland



RIVERS OFFICE

Office of Healthy Working Rivers



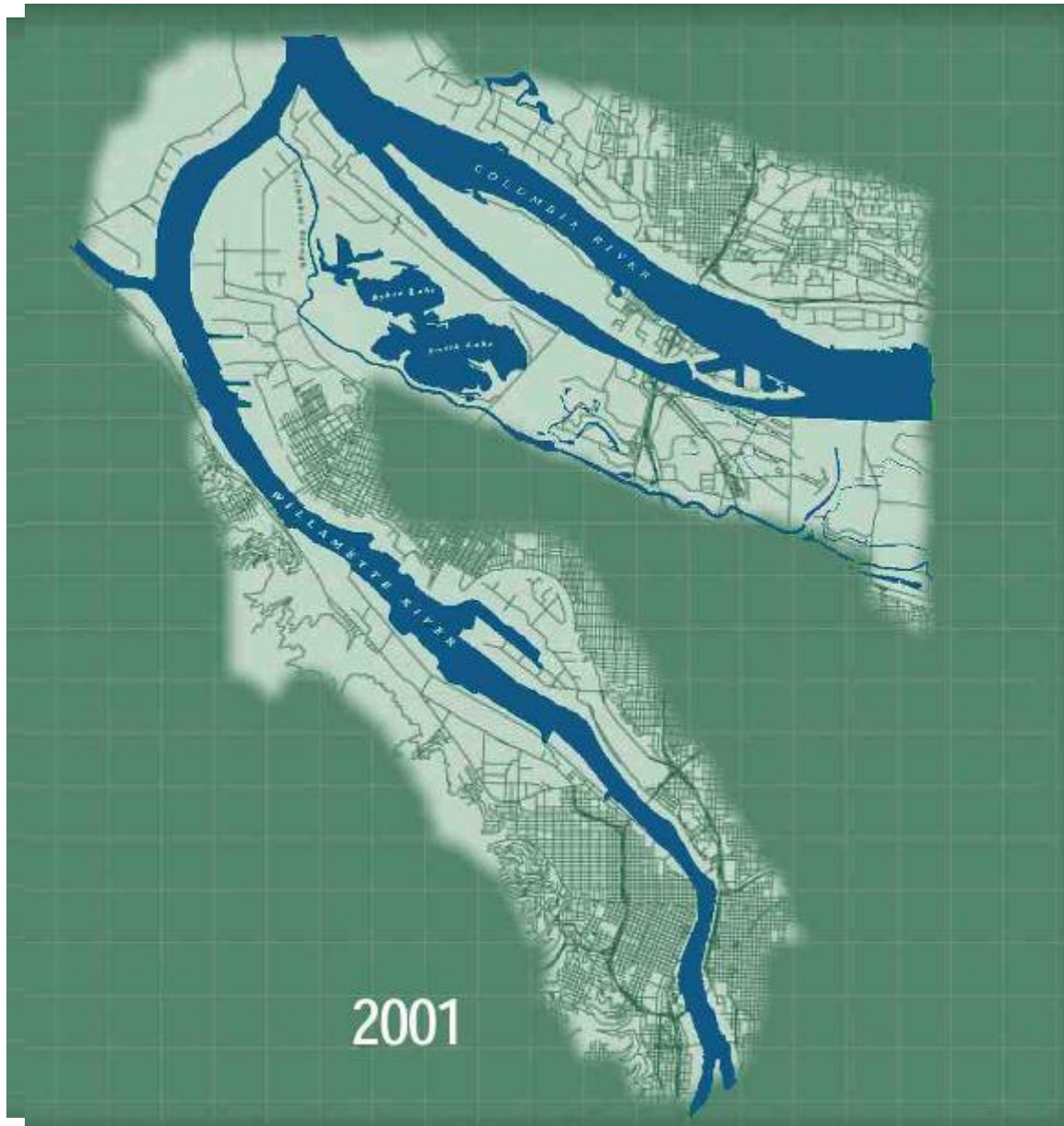
2012 Report to Council





Willamette River Channel

At Portland







Mayor Joe Carson

1938 Water Purification and Prevention of Pollution Law





The Seawall / Harbor Drive / Tom McCall Waterfront Park



RiverPlace



South Waterfront



Zidell

ZRZ property 2012





Stopping sewage overflows



Willamette River's water quality: over past 5 years *from good to excellent*

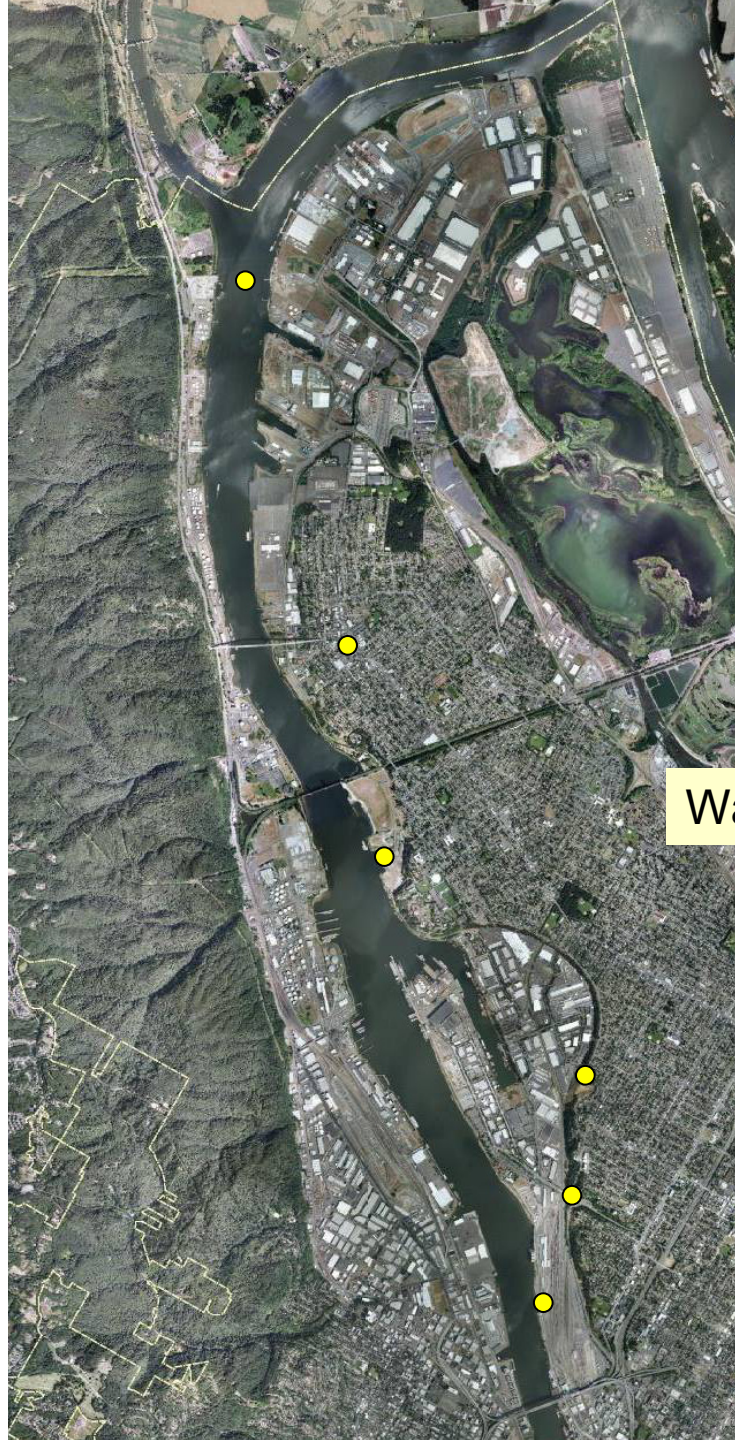
Willamette Water Quality Index*

	'04-05	'08-09
Upstream	87	91
Downstream	85	90

* The Index is based on eight water quality factors, such as temperature and bacteria, as developed by the state DEQ.

Index key:

0-59	=	Very poor
60-79	=	Poor
80-84	=	Fair
85-89	=	Good
90-100	=	Excellent



Superfund & NRDA

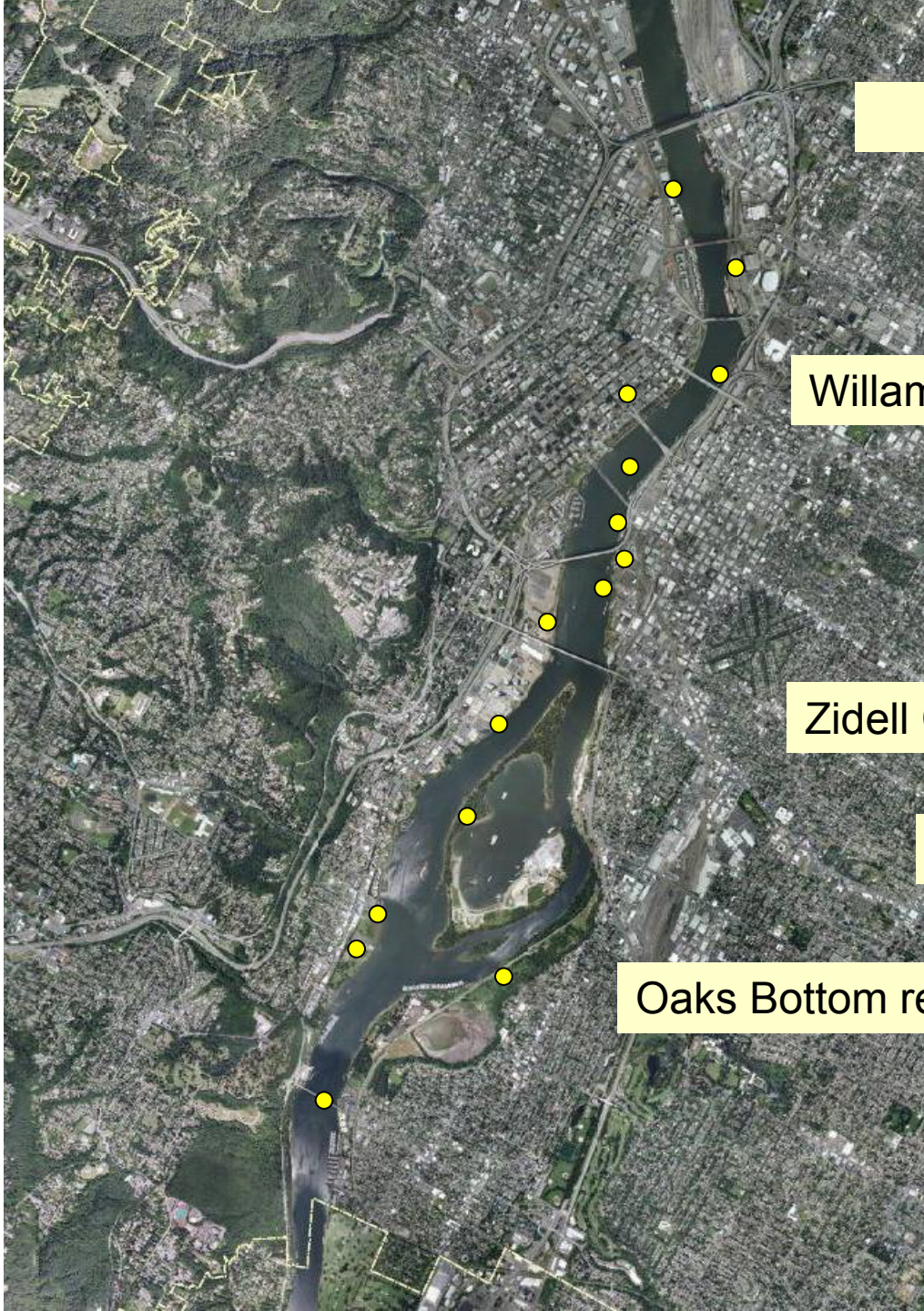
Baltimore Woods

UP river campus

Waud Bluff Trail & NpGreenway Trail

Swan Island/Going to the River

Swan Island Beaches



Centennial Mills

N/NE Quad. /CC2035

Burnside Bridgehead

Morrison Bridgehead

Willamette R. Recreation Strategy

OMSI campus expansion

TriMet bridge

Zidell Clean-up & Redevelopment

South Waterfront Greenway

Ross Isl. re-veg.

Oaks Bottom restoration

Willamette Sailing Ctr.

Willamette Park Redevo.

Sellwood Br. re-build

Actors

City of Portland

- Environmental Services
- Planning & Sustainability
- Development Services
- Development Commission
- Fire & Rescue
- Parks & Recreation
- Emergency Management
- Government Relations
- PBOT

Other Gov't.

- EPA
- National Marine Fisheries
- NRDA Trustees
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Dept. of State Lands
- Coast Guard
- Marine Board
- Mult. Co. Marine Patrol
- DEQ
- Oregon Dept. Fish & Wildlife
- Metro
- TriMet

NGOs

- Willamette Partnership
- Willamette River Initiative
- Willamette Riverkeeper
- Columbia Riverkeeper
- River Network
- npGreenway
- DePave
- Friends of Baltimore Woods
- Johnson Cr. Watershed Council
- Groundwork Portland
- OMSI



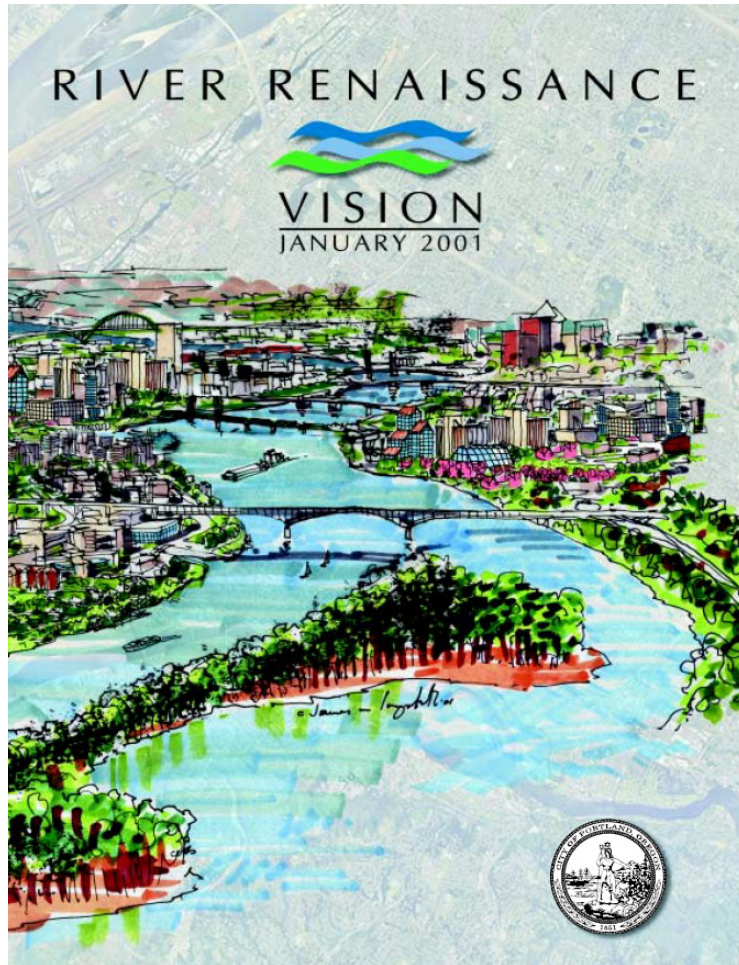
River's edge is complex

an intricate web of law & regulation

- Clean Water Act
 - Section 404
 - Federal NPDES Permit requirements
- CERCLA
- NRDA
- Rivers and Harbors Act
- ESA
 - BiOps & Recovery Plans
- Land Use Goals 5, 9, 15
- Dept. of State Lands' Beds/Banks mgt. plans
- Portland Watershed Management Plan
- Portland Willamette Greenway Plan & River Planning
- Portland's Comp Plan & Design Guidelines

Council Adopts River Vision—Directs Integration

- In 2000, Council directs development of a integrated river work program.
- In 2001, the Council endorses a River Vision -- Resolution 35978



Resolution No. **35978** As Amended

Endorse the River Renaissance Vision as a call to action for the entire community, as a foundation for continuing river-related activities in the City and as a general guide for creating and integrating future plans and actions (Resolution)

WHEREAS, the Willamette River is a dynamic resource that has given shape and character to our city as a natural system, a port, a transportation corridor, a playground, a diverse urban waterfront, and a defining feature of surrounding neighborhoods and districts; and

WHEREAS, 2001 marks the 150th anniversary of the City's founding on the banks of the Willamette River; and

WHEREAS, 2005 will mark the two hundredth anniversary of the Lewis & Clark expedition's arrival in the region and the beginning of urban development in the Willamette River watershed. These anniversaries offer a reason to reflect on the future as we confront today's competing challenges of salmon recovery, hazardous wastes and sewage cleanup, evolving port needs, the pattern of growth along the river, expanding recreational use, and neighborhood access to the river; and

WHEREAS, River Renaissance encompasses the entire Willamette River watershed and its tributaries in Portland with an emphasis on the Willamette River; and

WHEREAS, a broad range of federal, state, tribal, regional and local policies, programs, and regulations affect the Willamette River, and

WHEREAS, Federal level programs address clean water, endangered species, estuary management, navigational channels, transportation funding, hazardous wastes, and flood management; and

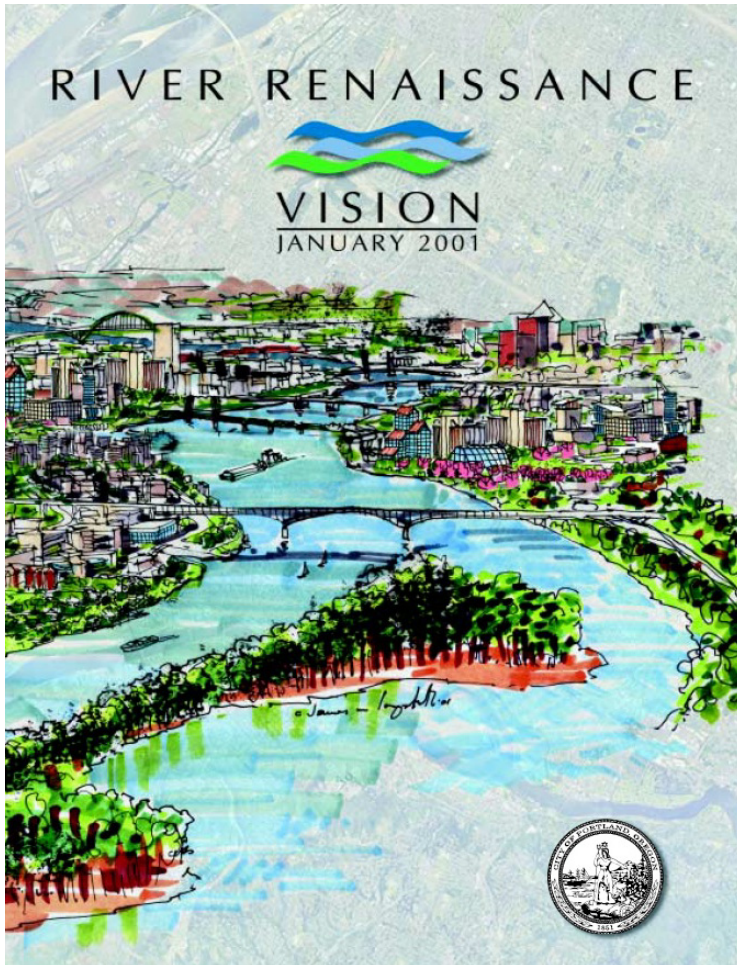
WHEREAS, State initiatives and programs address land use planning, in-water development (including the Lower Willamette River Management Plan), wastewater discharge, watershed planning, hazardous wastes, water use, highways, salmon recovery, and recreational boating. In addition, the Governor's Willamette Restoration Initiative, a collaboration with local governments and other existing groups and programs, oversees the American Heritage River Program for the Willamette River and the preparation of the Willamette Basin component of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds; and

WHEREAS, treaty provisions with Native American tribes affect fish, wildlife, and water quality; and

WHEREAS, Metro's authority includes growth management, regional transportation, regional greenspaces, and Urban Growth Management Functional Plan Title 3 requirements that affect Portland's rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County manages eight Willamette River bridges in Portland; and

Council Adopts River Vision—Directs Integration



OKs 5 River Goals

Assure a

**CLEAN AND HEALTHY RIVER
FOR FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PEOPLE**

Maintain and enhance our

**PROSPEROUS
WORKING HARBOR**

Embrace the river as

**PORTLAND'S
FRONT YARD**

Create vibrant

**WATERFRONT DISTRICTS
& NEIGHBORHOODS**

Promote

**PARTNERSHIPS, LEADERSHIP,
& EDUCATION**

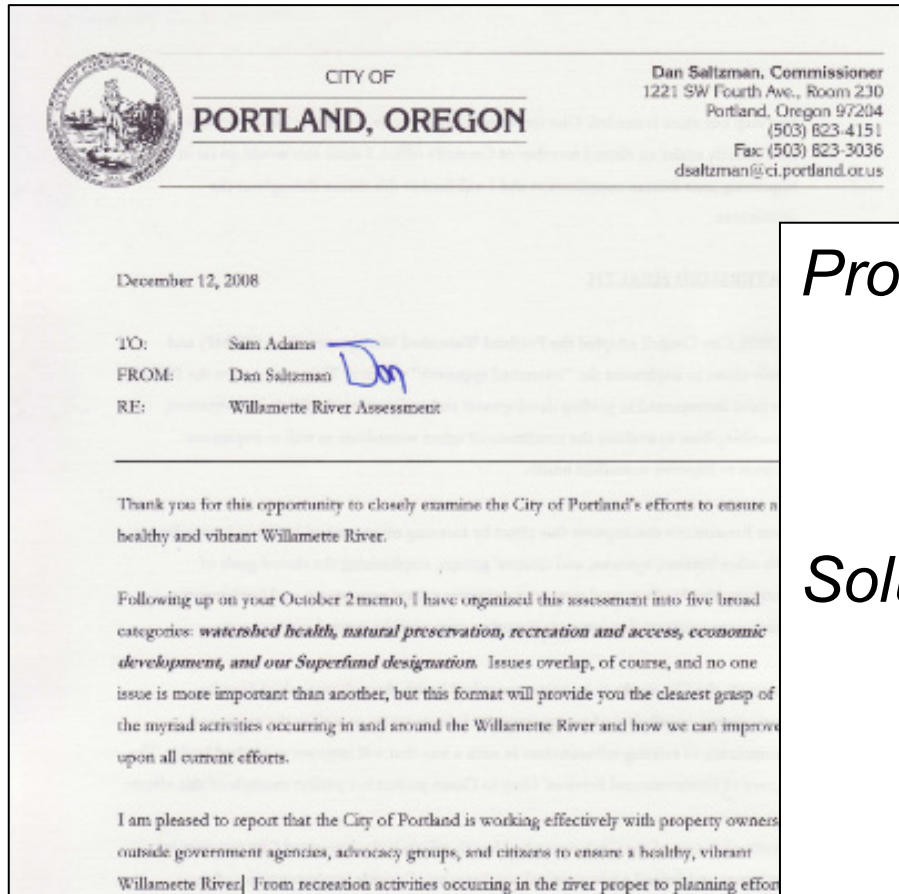
Council Adopts River Vision—Directs Integration

ID's River Renaissance as “umbrella” of the City's core river-related initiatives, targets integration of:

- *The Willamette River Greenway Plan*
- *The City's response to the Endangered Species Act listings*
- *The City's response to the Portland Harbor Superfund listing*
- *The Clean River Plan*
- *Parks' 2020 Vision plan*
- *Willamette River Parks & Recreation Master Plans*
- *River-related urban renewal activities; and,*
- *Ross Island acquisition and restoration*

Council took stock in 2008

*Commissioner Saltzman leads assessment,
makes recommendations*



Problem

- inter-bureau coordination needs to be greatly improved.
- a “silo mentality” is pervasive.

Solution

- bring River Renaissance directly under a Commissioner's office.
- To “bring the focus and direction ... needed on projects and issues regarding the Willamette River.”

Response to Recommendation

- Mayor Adams asks Commissioner Fritz to take the lead;
- Commissioner Fritz develops concept & drafts ordinance



2009: Council creates Office of Healthy Working Rivers

Ordinance 182466

ORDINANCE No. 182466 AS AMENDED Establish the Office of Healthy Working Rivers (Ordinance)

The City of Portland ordains:
Section 1.

The Council finds:

1. The City of Portland is committed to a healthy and vibrant Willamette and Columbia Rivers.
2. By establishing the Office of Healthy Working Rivers the City will ensure continued improvement upon the health and vibrancy of our rivers and all the critical activities surrounding them.
3. This office will improve inter-bureau coordination as it relates to the health and activities surrounding the Willamette and Columbia Rivers.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council directs:

- a. The Office of Healthy Working Rivers is hereby established.
- b. The new office has the direct oversight of a City Council Member.
- c. The office will be staffed with proven leadership from the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Bureau of Planning.
- d. The office will be responsible for:
 - a) Ensuring the City meets both its obligations and intentions in the Superfund cleanup process;
 - b) Protecting and restoring the ecological, transportation, and recreational roles of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers; and
 - c) Rehabilitating contaminated, inactive properties with prosperous working harbor opportunities, and supporting river-dependent jobs.
- e. The Office of Healthy Working Rivers is directed to develop amendments to City Code to establish the duties and responsibilities of the Office of Healthy Working Rivers and bring those amendments to Council.

Section 2.

The Council declares that an emergency exists in order to begin immediate implementation of the new office structure. Therefore, this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Council.

Passed by the Council: January 07, 2009

Mayor Sam Adams
Prepared by:
Michael Armstrong: cop
December 30, 2008

Gary Blackmer
Auditor of the City of Portland
By: /s/ Susan Parsons

Deputy



Rivers Office Ordinance

- **Improving inter-bureau coordination** as it relates to the health and activities surrounding the Willamette and Columbia Rivers;
- Ensuring the City meets both its **obligations and intention in the Superfund** cleanup process;
- Protecting and restoring the **ecological, transportation, and recreational** roles of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers; and
- **Rehabilitating contaminated, inactive properties** with prosperous working harbor opportunities, and supporting river-dependent jobs.

Organization

- Commissioner Fritz chooses to have Office housed at BES for administrative efficiencies
- Rate-payer funded
 - as provided through annual Council budget approval process
 - requires focus on tasks tied to City's legal obligations to:
 - *improve watershed health*
 - *meet Superfund obligations, and*
 - *involve citizens in these efforts*

What We Do

- Track river needs and projects
- Act as City's agent for advancing and balancing river goals
- Promote integrated, systems-based solutions



How We Work

Three modes of service

- *Program Integration & Alignment*
- *Community Engagement*
- *Project delivery*

Four mission areas:

- *River project analysis & facilitation*
 - *transparency*
 - *efficiency*
- *Superfund: citizen information & involvement*
- *Protecting / restoring ecological, recreational, transportation, economic & social river values*
- *Connecting Portlanders with their Rivers*
 - *Education and Outreach on Watershed Health.*

What We've Done (2012)



- Willamette River Recreation Strategy
- West Hayden Island: *Delivered specialized technical assistance for assessing ecological values & prioritizing restoration projects*
- Conducted Superfund study of short-term economic impacts
- Facilitated improved emergency communications on river
- Catalyzed riverside actions: *Big Float; UnRock the Bowl*



1. River project analysis & facilitation

Inside City Government

- Willamette River Recreation Strategy
- West Hayden Island
- Central City 2035
- Comprehensive Plan Update
- River Safety



Willamette River Recreation Strategy
Public Boating Facilities
February 2012



- *United States Coast Guard*
- *Multnomah County Sheriffs River Patrol Unit*
- *Clark County Sheriffs River Patrol*
- *Portland Airport Fire & Rescue*
- *Portland Fire & Rescue*
- *Bureau of Emergency Communications*
- *Vancouver Fire & Rescue*
- *Scappoose Fire District*
- *City of Gresham Emergency Services*



- *Derelict vessels*
- *Emergency communications*
- *Event Safety*
- *Emergency response coordination*



1. River project analysis & facilitation

Inside City Government

- Willamette River Recreation Strategy
- West Hayden Island
- Central City 2035
- Comprehensive Plan Update
- River Safety
- River Projects—Informed activation

- *Portland Parks & Rec*
- *Portland Fire & Rescue*
- *Planning & Sustainability*
- *Environmental Services*
- *Development Services*
- *PBOT*
- *PDC*



Willamette River Recreation Strategy
Public Boating Facilities
February 2012



1. River project analysis & facilitation

Community

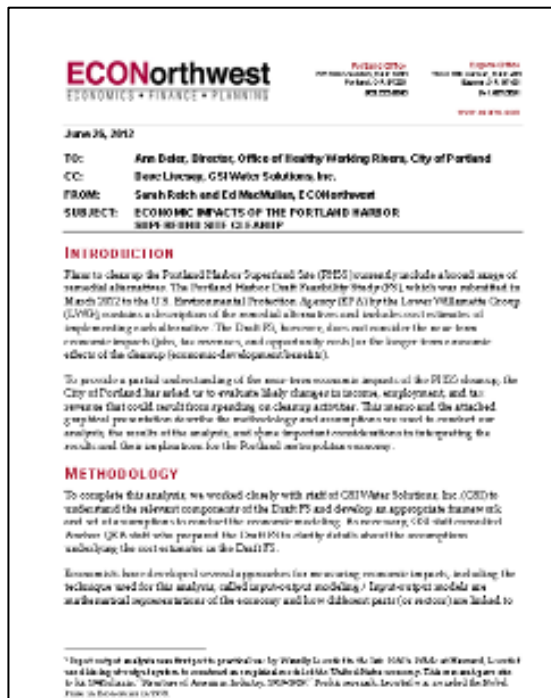
- River Community Forum
- Expanded Columbia River portfolio
 - *Columbia River Treaty Review*
 - *Columbia Corridor Association*
 - *Columbia Riverkeeper*
- Willamette River Initiative / Within Our Reach
- River Rally 2012



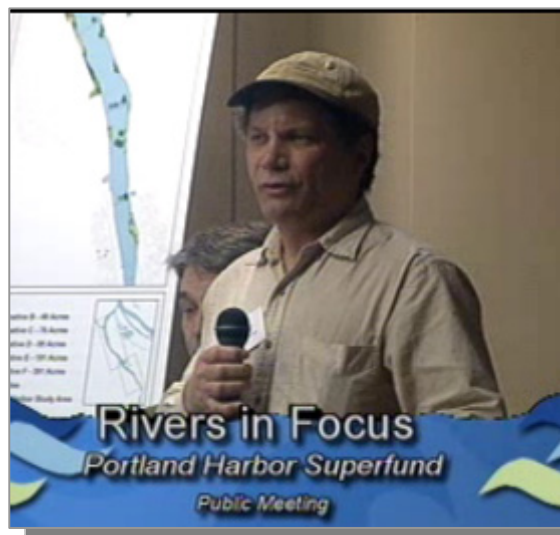
Communities/Stakeholders:

- *City of Milwaukie*
- *City of Oregon City*
- *City of Hood River*
- *City of Vancouver*
- *Lane Council of Governments*
- *City of Albany*
- *Human Access Project*
- *Metro*
- *The Intertwine Alliance*
- *River Network*
- *Willamette Partnership*
- *Willamette Riverkeeper*
- *Audubon Society of Portland*
- *Meyer Memorial Trust-Willamette River Initiative*
- *Columbia Riverkeeper*
- *Environmental Protection Agency*
- *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality*
- *US Army Corps of Engineers*
- *Department of State Lands*
- *Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission*
- *Columbia Corridor Association*

2. Superfund: citizen information & involvement



- Initiated & managed economic assessment
- Maintained City presence with Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group
- Enhanced Superfund coordination in partnership with BES & Mayor's Office
- Provided specialized technical assistance in Natural Resource Damage Assessment process
- Improved public outreach & involvement



3. *Protecting & Restoring Ecological, Recreational And Economic Values Of Our Rivers*



Ecological Values:

Develop tools and understanding to quantify and assess our urban river ecosystem

- Led City's response to NOAA's draft EIS for Portland Harbor restoration
- Key contributor to City's Habitat Restoration Evaluation Method
- Tested Alternative Methods
- Worked with BES to build a Forest Mitigation Framework for West Hayden Island
- Helped create new stream and river mitigation assessment model



3. *Protecting & Restoring Ecological, Recreational And Economic Values Of Our Rivers*

Recreational Values

- Willamette River Recreation Strategy
 - River Swimming
 - Community Boating
 - New community advisory group



3. *Protecting & Restoring Ecological, Recreational And Economic Values Of Our Rivers*



Economic Values

- Multiple Benefits from Ecological and Recreation actions; they generate...
- Economic Values
 - Showcasing Portland's Working Harbor
 - Economic impacts of increased recreation
 - Green jobs through restoration



4. Connecting Portlanders With Their Rivers – Providing Education And Outreach On Watershed Health



“Hands On” Restoration & Clean-Up
Baltimore Woods DePave
River Cleanups
Education
River News Digest
“River Central” Website
River-in-Focus Speaker Series
Celebration
The Big Float 2012
Community Fairs





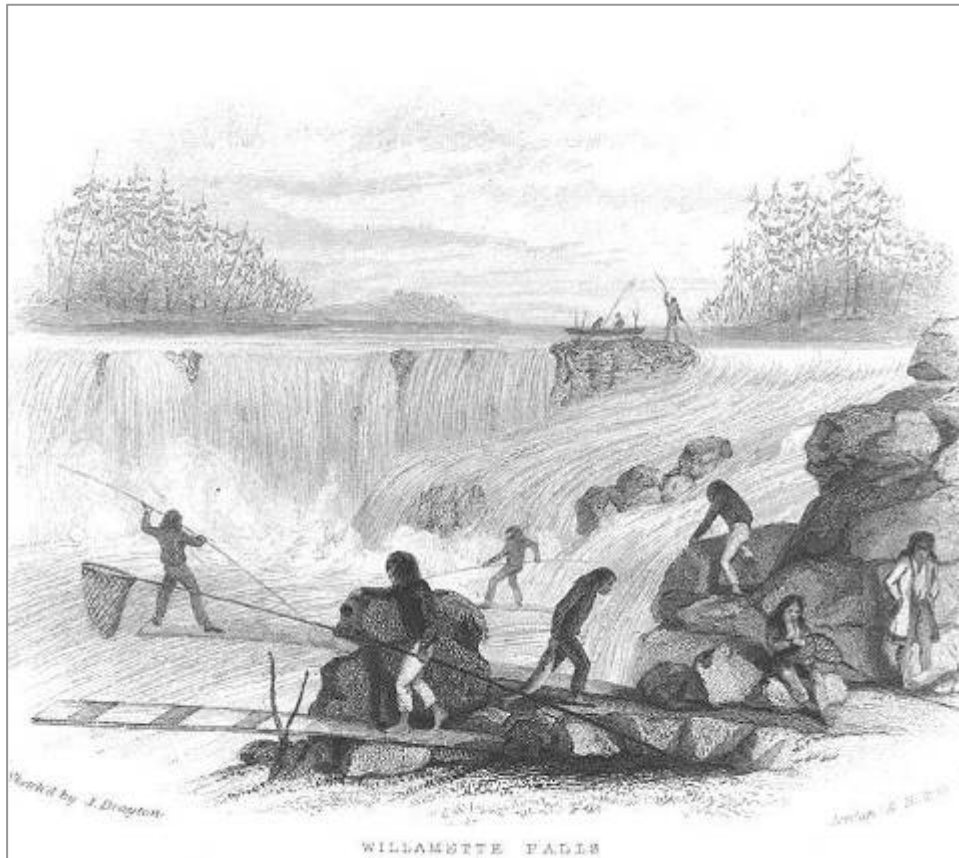
The Year Ahead



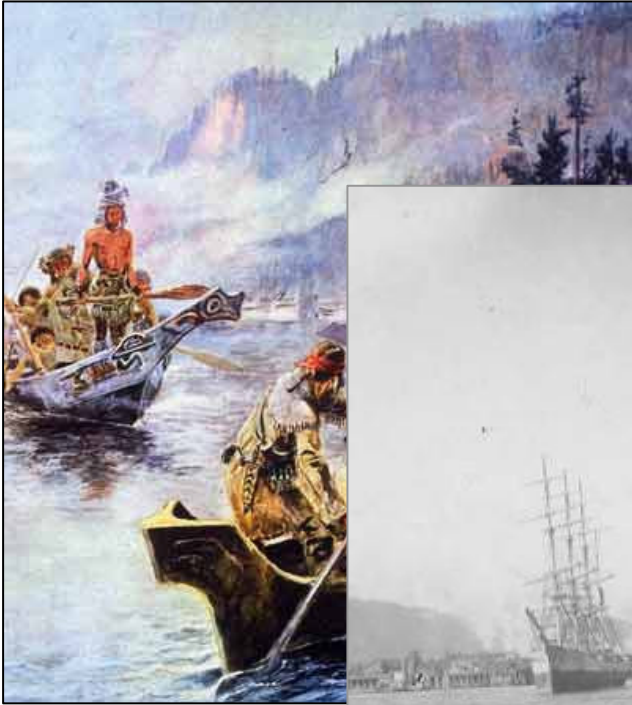
- *Continue advancing City's river goals through improved internal and external integration.*
- *Superfund: Coordinate citizen engagement & facilitate decision-making.*
- *Implement the River Recreation Strategy dock programming, bank fishing, and swimming;*
- *Provide specialized technical expertise & ecosystem service assessment tools on-going habitat assessment tool screening;*
- *Continue engaging Portlanders on river issues Willamette Futures, River News, Big Float, River Taxi*

River as infrastructure

Columbia & Willamette: Portland's original infrastructure



River as infrastructure



River as infrastructure

Ecological Restoration Portfolio Site Locations

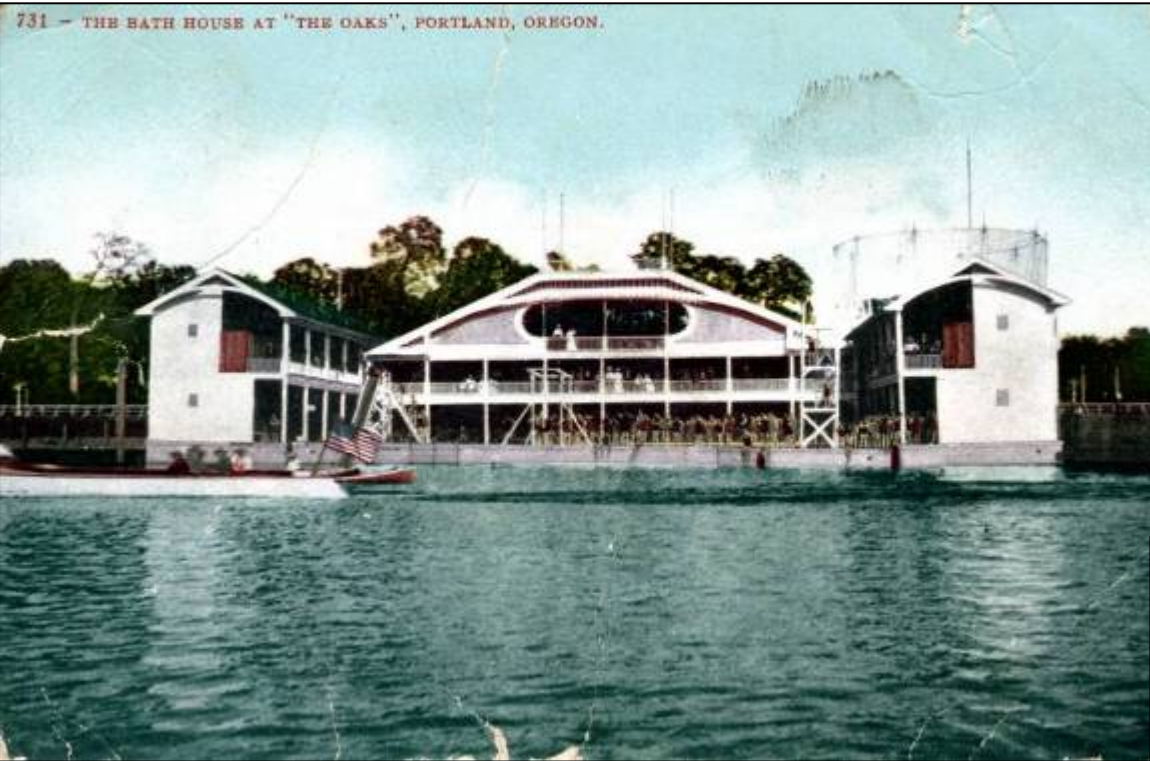
Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council



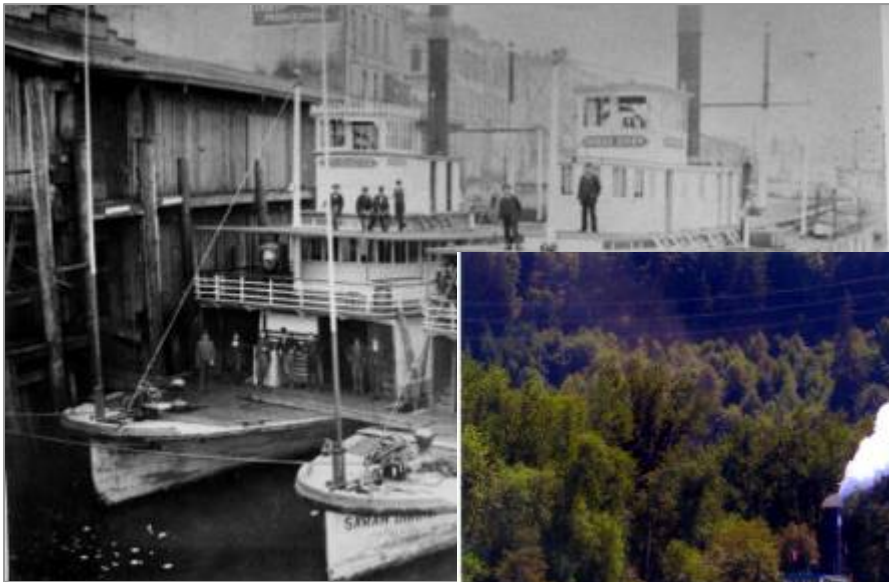
Updated June 2012



River as infrastructure



River as infrastructure



City of Portland



RIVERS OFFICE

Office of Healthy Working Rivers



Port of Portland, Jerry McCarthy