PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: October 28, 2015

TO: Mayor Charlie Hales and City Commissioners

FROM: Mike Abbaté, Director

SUBJECT: Accept northern portion of Ross Island from the Port of Portland

I am pleased to announce that the Port of Portland has donated approximately two acres of the northern tip of Ross Island, depicted on Exhibit A, to the City of Portland. The Port of Portland's donation builds on Portland Parks & Recreation's efforts to restore the island that have been underway since Ross Island Sand and Gravel donated 45 acres of the island to the City in 2007. Since 2007, Parks along with its partners- the Bureau of Environmental Services, Willamette Riverkeeper, the Audubon Society of Portland, Urban Greenspaces Institute, and many volunteers - have been restoring and managing the land for its natural resource values. Portland Parks & Recreation will also manage these two, newly donated acres, resulting in 47 acres now being under City ownership.

Ross Island is an ecological treasure in the city and it has long been the vision of Portland Parks & Recreation and its partners to restore and protect the island for its natural resource value. Restoration efforts have made great headway on returning this portion of the island to a native Black Cottonwood/Oregon Ash forest with a shrub understory. Ross Island provides significant fish and wildlife habitat. In fact, the island has been designated as an "Important Bird Area" by Audubon, and a recent bird survey recorded 44 species of bird. There is also a Great Blue Heron nesting colony on the northern tip that the Port is donating. The island also provides a critical natural area link between the east and west sides of the Willamette River. Protecting land like Ross Island for its natural resource values increases biodiversity in the City.

Portland Parks & Recreation appreciates the generosity of the Port of Portland in donating this important property to the City and recognizes the efforts of its partners in making the vision of restoring the northern portion of Ross Island a reality.

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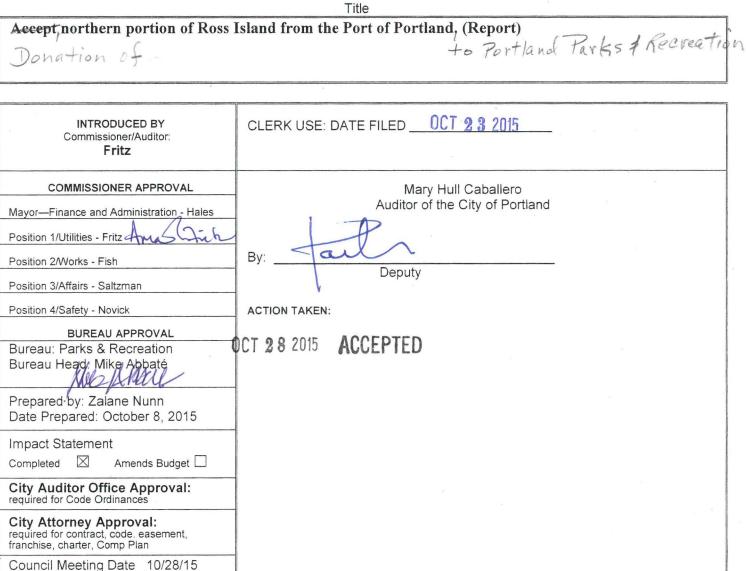
 Sustaining a healthy park and recreation system to make Portland a great place to live, work and play.
 Portland Parks.org



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Agenda No. REPORT



AGENDA	FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:			
TIME CERTAIN ⊠ Start time: 3:30			YEAS	NAYS
Total amount of time needed: <u>15 min</u> (for presentation, testimony and discussion)	1. Fritz	1. Fritz		
	2. Fish	2. Fish	\checkmark	
CONSENT	3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	\checkmark	
REGULAR □ Total amount of time needed:	4. Novick	4. Novick	\checkmark	
	Hales	Hales	\checkmark	