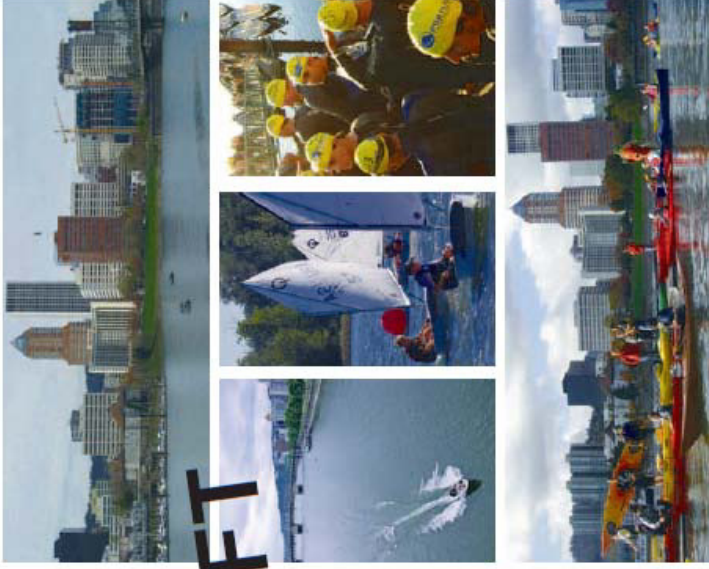


Willamette River Recreation Strategy

DRAFT



Willamette River Recreation Strategy Recreation Framework and Facilities

November 2011



Given...

- *Big Pipe's completion and a cleaner river*
- *Portland Plan, River Plan, Central City 2035 Plan*

...it's a great time to revisit and reaffirm

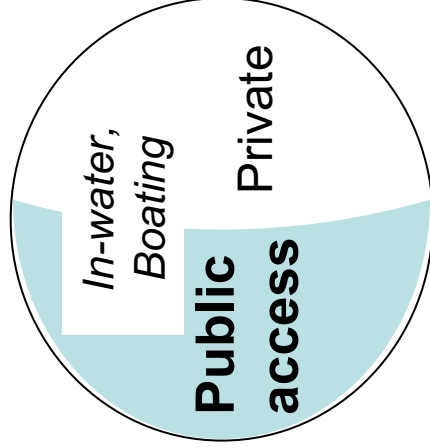
Portland's Willamette River recreation needs



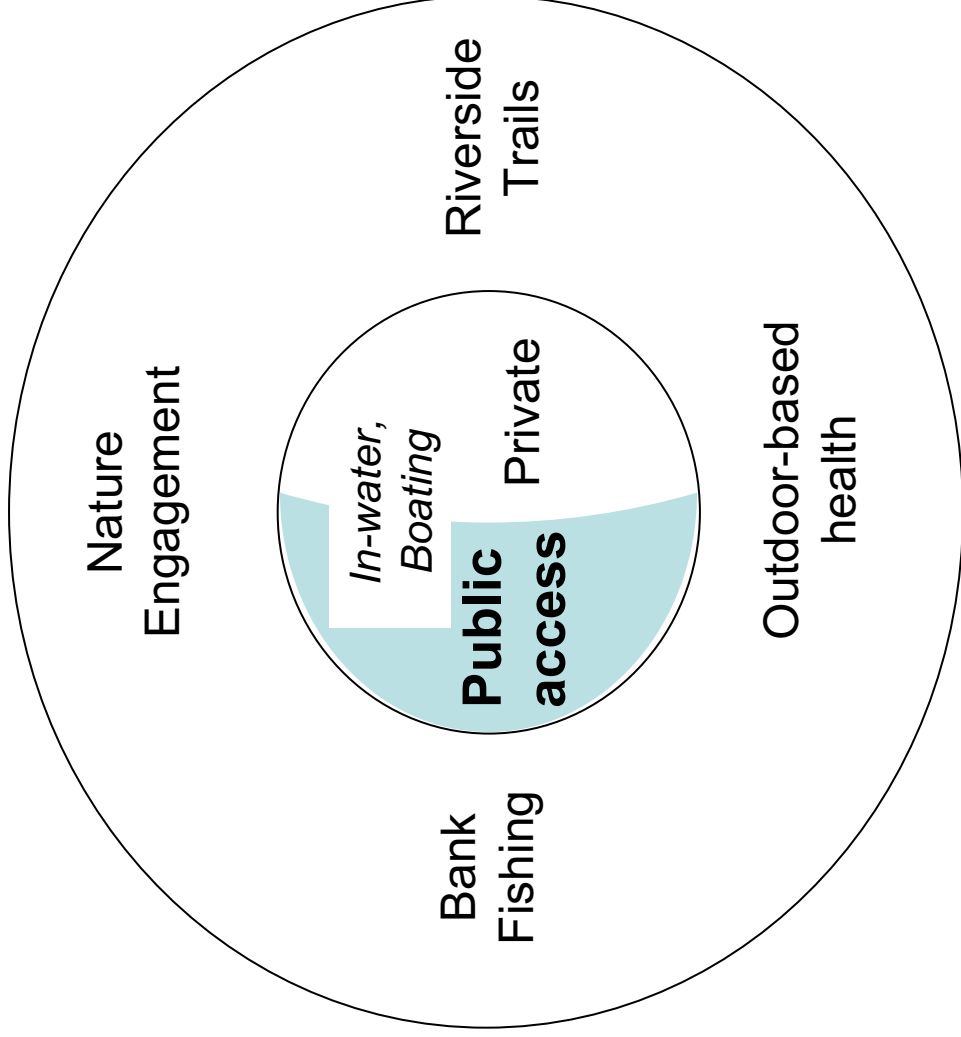
Willamette River Recreation Strategy

- Articulates City's comprehensive vision for River recreation
- Documents recreation uses, trends & needs
- Zeros-in on public facilities
- Stresses importance of serving both recreational & environmental needs.
- Focuses on priority projects & actions for next 15 years.

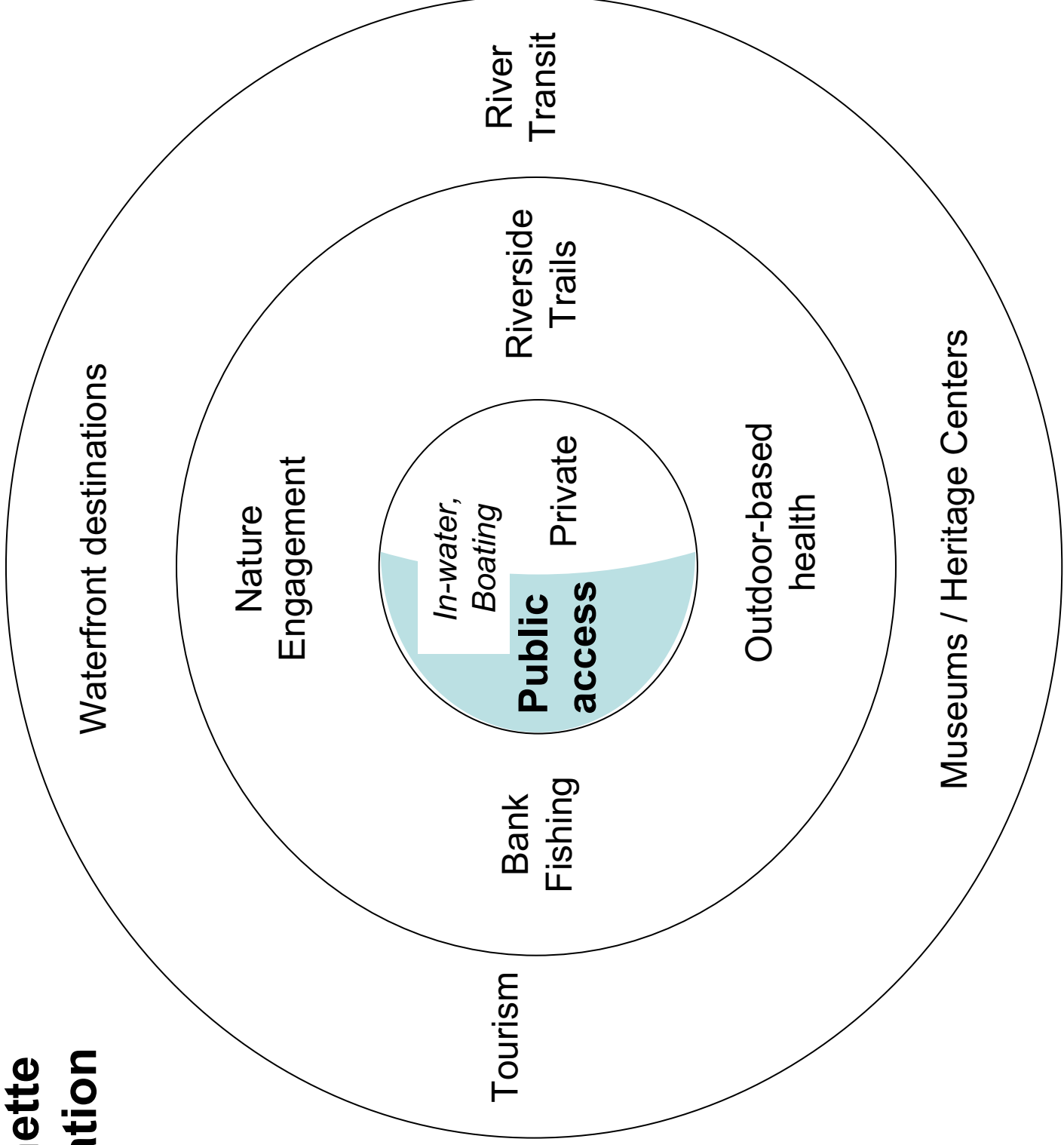
Willamette Recreation



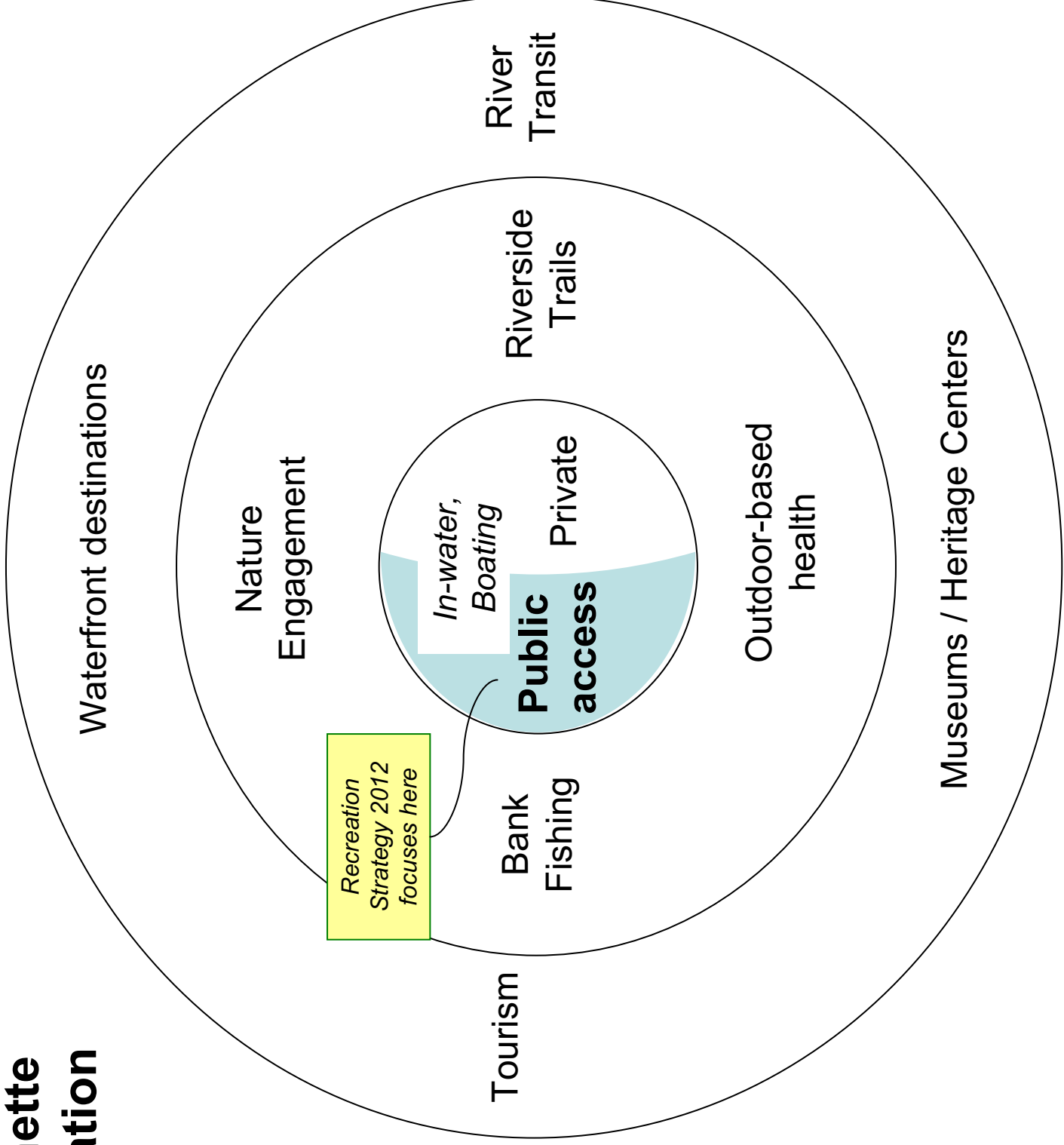
Willamette Recreation



Willamette Recreation



Willamette Recreation



Recreation
Strategy 2012
focuses here

**Public
access**

*In-water,
Boating*

Private

Nature
Engagement

Bank
Fishing

Tourism

Riverside
Trails

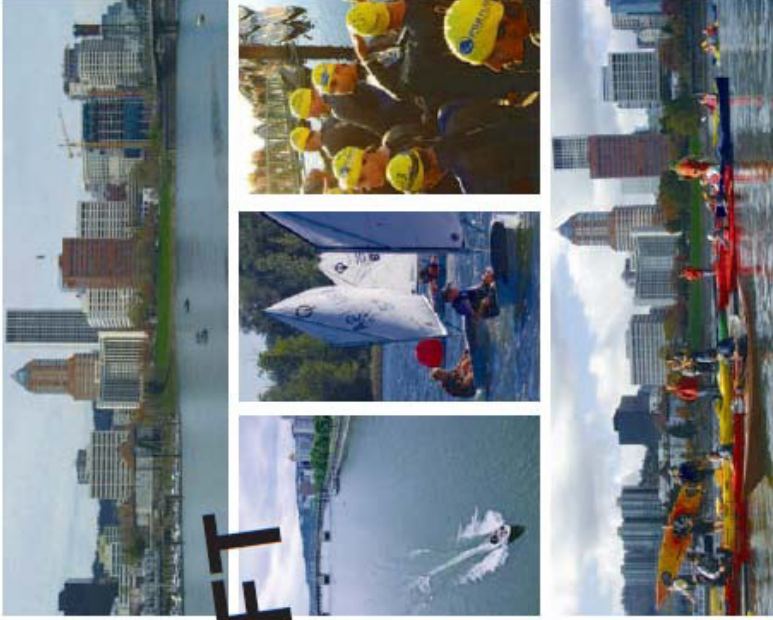
River
Transit

Outdoor-based
health

Waterfront destinations

Museums / Heritage Centers

DRAFT



Willamette River Recreation Strategy Recreation Framework and Facilities

November 2011



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION
Healthy Parks. Healthy Portland

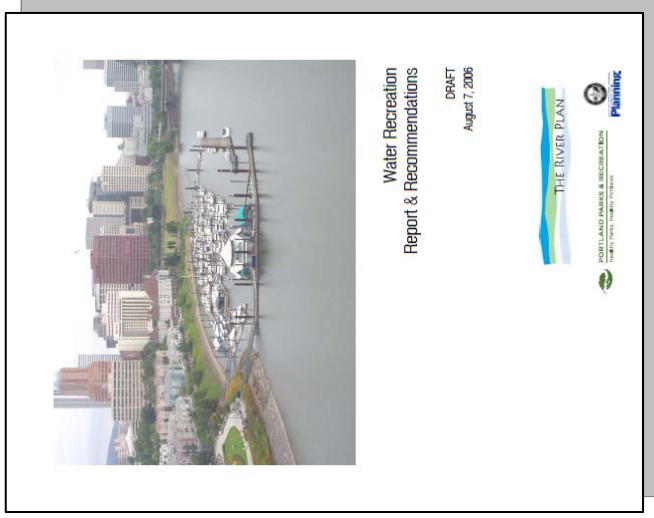


City of Portland, Oregon
RIVERS OFFICE
Office of Healthy Working Rivers



Resources for Shaping Strategy

- 2006 Water-based Recreation Report
- Consultations with Oregon State Marine Board and use of OSMB Triennial Boater Survey
- City of Portland River on-line surveys
 - 1,800 respondents
 - 2,500 comments
- 2 workshops



Public Comment / Responses

Strong agreement:

- *Important to serve full range of river recreation experiences*
- *Take care of the facilities we already have*
- *River recreation and river stewardship can and should work together.*

Revisions

- *River recreation roles*
 - *OSMB, Coast Guard, Mult. Co. River Patrol, Portland Fire*
 - *Public organizations / private providers*
- *Call out river safety more*
- *Clarify that recommendations benefit all users (user equity)*
- *More info on economic impacts*

Public Comment / Responses

Additional recreational desires...

- *More facilities than listed*
- *Greater engagement with private providers (marinas, clubs, businesses)*
- *More riverfront activation (“signature projects”, attractions, services)*

River Recreation Vision and Goals

Vision

A clean and healthy Willamette River is the pride of Portlanders who fish, paddle, sail, pleasure-boat, swim, experience nature, and sightsee on its waters.

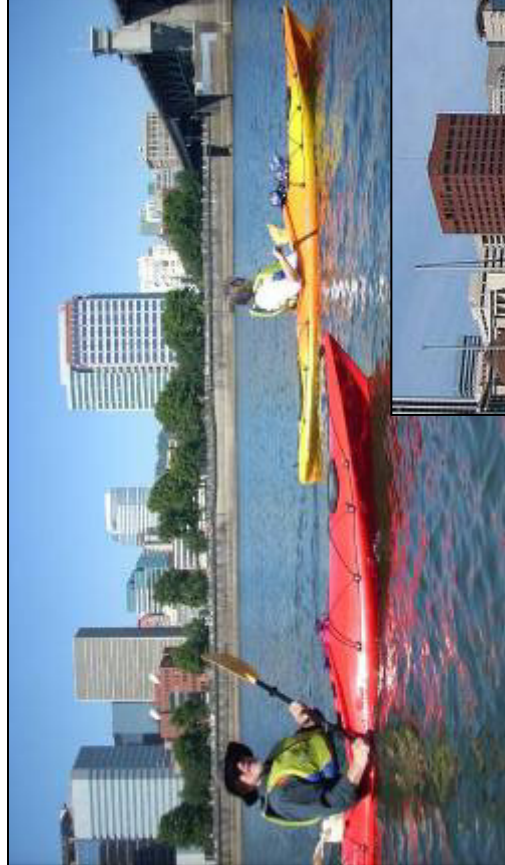
Goals

- **Increase Portlanders' enjoyment of, and direct experience with, the Willamette River.**
- **Bring people closer to the river to foster an improved understanding of river history, economy, and ecology.**
- **Manage recreation in concert with other City priorities to secure a net improvement in river health**
- **Provide for safe, enjoyable, and valuable on-water recreational experiences for all users.**

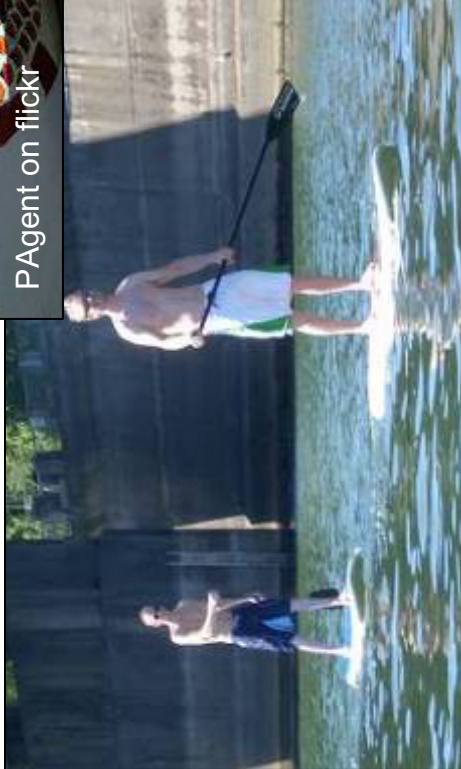
Traditional Uses



Newer Uses



P Agent on flickr



Strategy Summary

- Portland's **PUBLIC** river recreation infrastructure:
 - inspired, but aging, patchwork of facilities....
 - ... built for different reasons,
 - ...at different times.
- To-date, there has been no unifying framework to:
 - guide City investment in maintenance, operations, or expansion;
 - help manage river user conflicts; or
 - track how Portlanders use, and want to use, the River.



Strategy Summary

- re-emphasizes City policy to encourage thoughtful recreational use of the Willamette;
- focuses primarily on public recreational boating and facilities ...;
- ... as a singular community asset that must be managed as a system;
- calls out the regional importance of river recreation in the Portland area
- puts a premium on taking care of the facilities we already have;
- targets a handful of new or expanded facilities in the next 15 years;
- emphasizes the need for new strategies and partnerships to fund improvements;
- establishes a river recreation advisory committee;
- establishes detailed guidelines for building boating facilities that minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat.

Environmental Guidelines (content)

- Integrate dock & facilities planning, citywide;
- Assure existing facilities are well-used before adding new;
- Document purpose/need for new facilities and alternatives considered;
- Avoid high-value habitat;
- Minimize impacts through design;
- Mitigate, inc. by removing overwater structures
 - *City's 2011 GIS-based overwater structure inventory*
 - *Piling inventory on-going*
- Public education

Environmental Guidelines (meaning)

- Getting people to the River is an important priority of the City of Portland.
- We're taking a very careful approach to in-water structures by:
 - making the best use of what we already have, and
 - planning just 3 new dock-related sites in the next 15 years
 - 2 of which are replacements
- When we do build docks, we will be rigorous in siting and design, using latest info from natural resource agencies.
- This is our good faith effort to safeguard our river environment while meeting recreational demand...
- ...and hopefully bodes well for improved program alignment.

Recommendations for next 5 to 15 years



Improve Existing Facilities

- *Willamette Park boat ramp: dredge and repair toe ramp and debris boom*
- *Replace Swan Island boat ramp boarding float*
- *Renovate Cathedral Park boat ramp facility & implement Park Master Plan*
- *Replace dock at Sellwood Riverfront Park*
- *Repair McCarthy Park's non motorized river access path*

Recommendations for next 5 to 15 years



Develop New Facilities for Anticipated Recreation Demands

- *Replace Ankeny Dock in downtown Portland* “By water” destinations
- *Build a new dock in the South Waterfront District*
- *Explore SE Spokane Street light watercraft node*
- *Investigate Staff Jennings site for dock, beach launch, park*
- *Promote Waterfront Park “Hawthorne Bowl” beach access*



Recommendations for next 5 to 15 years

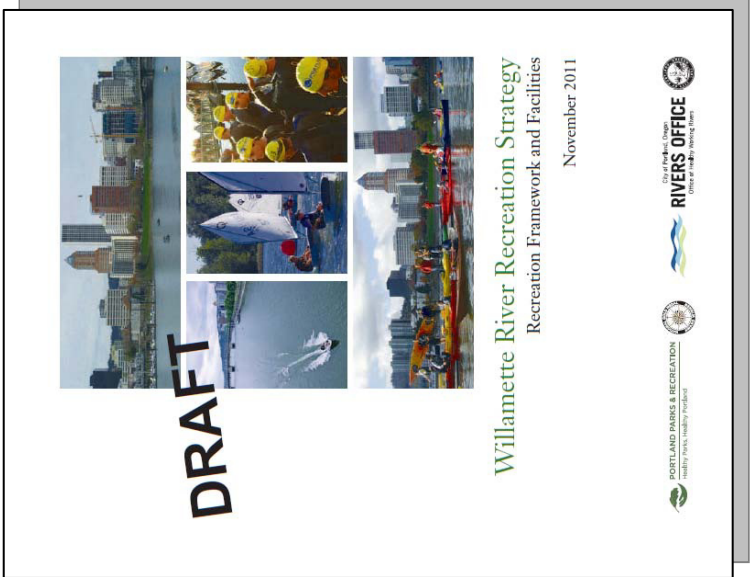


Coordination & Education Needs

- *Enhance waterway enforcement*
- *Improve education & recreation programs (inc. riverbank clean-up, safe boating & river stewardship).*
- *Get better information:*
 - *river use (demand, trends, recreation preferences);*
 - *river recreation economic impacts.*
- *Develop asset management plan; formulate partnership-based funding plan.*
- *Establish river recreation advisory committee.*

Strategy Roles

- Attack the “To Do’s”
- Consult w river rec advisory group



Partnerships

- Capital Improvement Program
- Asset Management

Strategy and Portland Planning



Portland Plan

- 2035 Objective 7:... **All Portlanders can conveniently get to the Willamette and Columbia Rivers**
- Connections for people, places, water and wildlife—Policy: **Locate Neighborhood Greenways to ... make connections to ... the Willamette and Columbia Rivers.**
- 5-Year Action Plan 26: Neighborhood greenways: ... **connect every quadrant of the city to the Willamette River.**
- Coordinated Inter-agency Approach—Policy: Plan and invest in active transportation, **parks and recreation, public infrastructure, watershed health** ...
 - creating this network will require: ...
 - **Maintenance** and preservation of existing transportation, **park and recreation**, and stormwater **infrastructure**,...
 - Continued and expanded support of ... initiatives that support a vibrant network, **environmental stewardship**, and that encourage people to walk, bike and take transit, **recreate**, and make other healthy choices.

Strategy and Portland Planning

- “Above all, partnerships will be the driver of change.”
“Build partnerships”
“The Portland Plan will be implemented through... Collaborative Partnerships.”

Willamette Recreation Strategy Partnerships



Next Steps

City Council: present for acceptance (Feb. 22)

Strategy available on:

www.portlandonline.com/river





SE 4th St

Holgate Slough

Ross Island

SW BOND AV

SW BARBUR BLVD

SW TERWILLIGER BLVD

Ross Island Bridge

Oregon Health Sciences University

SE 6th St

OMSI

SW MOODY AV

Marquam Bridge

South Waterfront Park

Hawthorne Bridge

DOWNTOWN

Morrison Bridge

Waterfront Park

I-405

HWY 26

SW NAITO PKWY