



A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2022

WHEREAS Metro Parks recognizes that Indigenous peoples around the world have been the caring, unyielding guardians of the Earth since time immemorial, and that Native Americans have a history of living on and caring for this land that stretches beyond living memory, and

WHEREAS Metro Parks acknowledges that the public lands on which we steward park, recreation and zoological experiences are the ancestral homelands of the Puyallup and Nisqually Tribes, and lands with deep significance to other Coast Salish tribes, and

WHEREAS having formally committed to becoming an anti-racist agency, Metro Parks has adopted a land acknowledgement that is one small step towards true allyship and actions that uplift the voices, experiences and histories of Indigenous peoples, and

WHEREAS the State of Washington has declared the last Friday in November as Native American Heritage Day, and local governments around Tacoma celebrate this month as Native American Heritage Month following its establishment in 1990 by President George H. W. Bush, and

WHEREAS Metro Parks recognizes and echoes the words of our President Joseph Biden in his 2022 Proclamation on National Native American Heritage Month that, " Indigenous peoples have persevered and flourished as teachers and scholars, scientists and doctors, writers and artists, business leaders and elected officials, heroes in uniform and so much more," and

WHEREAS Metro Parks honors the many contributions of Indigenous people both past and present to our local history here in Tacoma and Pierce County, and

WHEREAS Metro Parks is grateful to the Puyallup, Nisqually, Muckleshoot, Squaxin Island and Steilacoom Tribes for their storytelling in our parks' signage and the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum Indigenous Voices podcast series,

NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners, we hereby recognize November 2022 as Native American Heritage Month, honoring the presence, stewardship and history of Native American people and committing to continued partnership with them in caring for our lands and restoring equity in our communities.

ATTEST:

Board President

Board Clerk

