



**A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION
OF JANUARY AS WHOLE CHILD MONTH**

WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma is committed to supporting a vibrant, active, and engaged community in which the wellbeing of children and youth is a priority; and

WHEREAS, children and families face ongoing challenges related to social-emotional skills, mental health, and childcare access in the wake of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to a report released this year by the Aspen Institute, only 19% of youth in our community meet the 60 minutes of daily physical activity recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, falling below both the state and national average; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks and a network of dedicated partners recognize both our ability and responsibility to work together to support consistent 24-hour wrap-around care, education, and enrichment for children in the classroom, community, and at home; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks and community partners recognize this whole child approach must be anti-racist, trauma-sensitive, and provided by qualified, caring adults; and

WHEREAS, every child possesses unique passions, talents, and curiosities and deserves supportive pathways to explore interests which can open doors to positive social connections, self-knowledge and advocacy, academic success, career opportunities, and physical and mental wellness; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks is proud to partner with Tacoma Public Schools, Greentrike, the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties, as well as numerous other community partners and program providers to engage youth in opportunities to continue learning, playing, and connecting in safe and supportive environments outside of the traditional school day; and

WHEREAS, these partnerships are key to giving youth a diverse variety of enrichment choices to explore and sustaining programs like Beyond the Bell, Club B, Teen Late Nights, and other out-of-classroom experiences; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks wishes to recognize the expertise and dedicated work of all partners, providers, and staff members who show up in the spirit of collaboration to wrap their collective arms around children in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Metro Parks Tacoma joins with Tacoma Public Schools and other community partners in celebrating January as Whole Child Month, affirming our continued collaboration in this important work.

The foregoing proclamation was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regularly scheduled meeting held on January 8, 2024.

ATTEST:

Board President

Board Clerk