



A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

WHEREAS, April is designated as National Volunteer Month and Earth Month, presenting a perfectly aligned opportunity to recognize Metro Parks Tacoma volunteers who offer invaluable contributions to education, conservation, leadership, and community service throughout our park district; and

WHEREAS, volunteers are essential partners in every aspect of our agency’s ability to serve our community supporting our mission; and

WHEREAS, volunteers represent a critical contingent of the alternative workforce, a concept of workforce development that is on the rise and presents key opportunities for increasing diversity, talent, retention, and cost-effectiveness in our District’s workforce; and

WHEREAS, approximately 2,094 community members invested 73,815 reported volunteer hours representing an estimated total value of \$2,777,658 in 2023, providing a profound impact on the quality of our parks, zoos and programs, the stewarding of our environment, and the well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, these contributions meet a broad range of needs across our District. Volunteers serve as educators in our zoos and conservatory, historical interpreters at Fort Nisqually, coaches for youth sports, environmental stewards caring for our natural areas, advisory council and steering committee members, foundation board members providing advocacy and fund development, and as individuals and groups who provide support to our parks, community centers, zoos, special projects, and programs throughout our community; and

WHEREAS, volunteers will turn out en masse later this month and join together with Metro Parks staff to take part in Parks Appreciation Day service activities at four sites across our District on April 20; and

WHEREAS, the time, talents, and passion of our volunteers provide indispensable support to Metro Parks and play a vital role in our operation as a nationally recognized parks and recreation system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners do hereby recognize and celebrate April as National Volunteer Month and extended our deepest appreciation to the dedicated individuals who give freely of their time to support our spaces, programs, and fellow community members.

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 April 8, 2024.

ATTEST:

Board President

Board Clerk