



**PROCLAIMING AND RECOGNIZING  
COUNCIL MEMBER CATHERINE USHKA  
AS A PARKS CHAMPION**

**Whereas**, Council Member Ushka held many leadership roles prior to beginning her service in elected office, including serving in the U.S. Navy Reserve, deploying after September 11, 2001 and as Chair of the Eastside Neighborhood Advisory Council of Tacoma, where Council Member Ushka joined community leaders to organize surrounding neighbors in support of the South End Neighborhood Council goal for the City to fund a park in southeast Tacoma; and

**Whereas**, Council Member Ushka served eight years, including three years as president on the Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors. Council Member Ushka joined forces with parks and other municipalities in the support of the *whole child* recognizing this work as one of the most important community collaborative efforts we can undertake to achieve transformative and sustainable change for our city; and

**Whereas**, Council Member Ushka was elected to Tacoma City Council in 2017, reelected in 2021 and worked with the council through her leadership on the Parks Policy Committee to secure funding to revitalize Gas Station Park and to transition from City ownership to Metro Parks Tacoma ownership; and

**Whereas**, more than 65,000 people in Tacoma do not live within a 10-minute walk of a park, according to nonprofit Trust for Public Land. This gap in services can be seen in Council District 4, and it has long been a priority for Council Member Ushka to narrow this gap. Thus, the revitalization of Gas Station Park is part of the story of equitable investment in Tacoma's South End and Eastside; and

**Now therefore be it proclaimed**, the Metropolitan Board of Park Commissioners recognize Catherine Ushka as a Metro Parks Tacoma Parks Champion, in celebration of her park advocacy and service above self.

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

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President

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Clerk

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