

A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF WELCOMING WEEK

WHEREAS, Welcoming Week began in 2012 as an annual campaign for cities, organizations and communities to “bring together neighbors of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity”; and

WHEREAS, the contributions, cultures and histories of immigrants have played an essential role in the development of our nation and local community; and

WHEREAS, Welcoming Week is an opportunity to celebrate and recommit ourselves to the work of building communities as welcoming spaces for all, including immigrants and refugees; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks is committed to values of equity and inclusiveness to create a park district that is welcoming, non-discriminatory, accommodating and reflective of the diverse experiences, needs and interests of all community members and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Tacoma is a diverse community of individuals and families from countless cultural and national origins who speak a variety of languages, practice a variety of faiths, and have unique needs and interests—as of 2020, 12 percent of Tacoma’s population was born outside of the United States and nearly 18 percent speaks a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of Welcoming Week, Metro Parks works with valued community partners to lead a Welcome Tours and Pass strategy for engaging historically underserved communities facing language barriers and welcome them to our community centers; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the expertise and leadership of our partners at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Esperanza Movil, this Welcome Tour strategy has successfully reached over 100 families from underserved and refugee communities and inspired additional culturally relevant, language-inclusive programming at our community centers; and

WHEREAS, we are grateful to our partners in this work to create a park district that is welcoming, accommodating and enjoyable for community members of all backgrounds and look forward to working together to accomplish this through Welcome Tours, cultural celebrations, language access services and culturally relevant programming.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners hereby honors and recognizes September 13 to 22 as Welcoming Week.

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 September 9, 2024.

ATTEST:

Board President

Board Clerk