

**A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, Metro Parks acknowledges that we operate on the traditional homelands of Coast Salish tribes, who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial and continue to do so today; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma recognizes that Indigenous peoples throughout North America continue to raise their families, care for their elders, practice traditional ways, protect natural resources, speak their languages and exercise their sovereignty on lands and waters they have called home since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Coast Salish peoples—including the Puyallup, Nisqually, Muckleshoot, Steilacoom, and Squaxin Island tribes—have made expert contributions to ecological preservation, culturally appropriate storytelling, artwork and education throughout Metro Parks spaces and programs; and

WHEREAS, historians representing the aforementioned tribes are currently helping to create a better understanding of Puget Sound history, Native perspectives and expertise for a wide audience through Fort Nisqually Living History Museum’s Indigenous Voices Podcast series; and

WHEREAS, this podcast—alongside its predecessor, the award-winning Puget Sound Treaty War Panel series—is an important resource for uplifting Native voices, building respect and understanding among all community members, strengthening our relationships with local tribes, and honoring the rich history of the land on which we steward our park district; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks is committed to demonstrating our core values of equity and inclusiveness, which must include the unique perspectives, needs and interests of the Native community members we serve; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks recognizes there is still much work to be done to build trust, champion equity and dismantle structural racism within our community and organization alongside Native people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners do hereby recognize November 2024 as Native American Heritage Month, honoring the histories, cultures and continued struggle for justice of Native American people within our community, and committing to our continued partnership for a sustainable, equitable future.

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 November 25, 2024.

ATTEST:

Board President

Board Clerk