



A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the lived experiences and histories of Black people are inextricably woven throughout the history of our nation, state, and local community; and

WHEREAS, February is annually recognized as Black History Month to spotlight the foundational role Black individuals have played in shaping the world as we know it, and to encourage members of our community to explore and understand Black history as part of all of our histories; and

WHEREAS, Black History is recognized throughout our park district in the names of spaces that uplift the legacies of various Black community members who have made important contributions to their community and Tacoma history, including Helen B. Stafford, Judge Jack Tanner, Senator Rosa Franklin, Bob Maguinez, Edna Travis and former Parks Tacoma Commissioner Aaron Pointer; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that equally as important as celebrating Black history is investing in Black futures, which is reflected in our system and strategic plan that was created through engagement with diverse community members and adopted in 2024. This plan, which directs the work of Parks Tacoma for the next six years, outlines priority challenges and ongoing solutions for addressing racism, providing equitable access and development, stewarding welcoming spaces and engaging with community input; and

WHEREAS, Parks Tacoma welcomes community members to celebrate Black History Month with us at People’s Community Center, a space with a deep history and importance to Tacoma’s Black community. On February 1st, the Center hosted a Black History Luncheon with a complimentary meal, cultural performances and discussions led by community leaders. The celebration continues throughout this month with daily Black history-focused trivia and youth activities, as well as the Hilltop Healthy Kids and Families Carnival taking place on February 22.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Park Commissioners do hereby honor February as Black History Month and renew our commitment to uplifting Black history as well as investing in Black futures within our community.

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 February 10, 2025.



Board of Park Commissioners

Andrea Smith, President

Matthew Mauer, Vice President

Alisa Lee