

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release • October 21, 2015

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Port of Portland gifts portion of Ross Island to Portland Parks & Recreation

The Port of Portland announced today it will donate approximately two acres of the northern tip of Ross Island to the City of Portland – a gift that marks the latest development in a decades-long movement by The Intertwine Alliance partners to rebuild and protect the island. Portland Parks & Recreation, which already owns and manages much of Ross Island, will care for the newly-donated land.

The Port of Portland's donation of the Ross Island land builds on Portland Parks & Recreation's restoration efforts, which have been underway since Ross Island Sand & Gravel donated 45 acres of island land to the City in 2007. Stewardship efforts of the island have been a longstanding partnership with Willamette Riverkeepers, Audubon Society of Portland, Urban Greenspaces Institute, and Portland Bureau of Environmental Services.

"For more than 80 years, the island has contributed to the economic growth and natural environment of our city and region," said Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz. "We are excited that the Port, the City and Portland Parks & Recreation are realizing this community vision."

The goal of the Port's donation is to help support the city's overall restoration of Ross Island as a significant resource for fish and wildlife habitat.

"Ross Island is an ecological treasure," said Mike Abbaté, director of Portland Parks & Recreation. "The Port property transfer adds one more piece to our restoration vision for the island, and our City's overall park system."

"This is an example of public and nonprofit leaders working across organizational lines for an outcome that best serves the environment and residents of the region," said Mike Wetter, executive director of The Intertwine Alliance. "It is this kind of collaboration that is, piece by piece, building one of the world's great systems of parks, trails and natural areas."

"We are pleased to put this land in the community's hands," said Bill Wyatt, executive director of the Port of Portland. "It's exciting to be part of the broader coalition supporting the restoration of the island."

Ross Island, the longest of a four-island cluster in the Willamette River, is south of the Ross Island Bridge, and slightly downriver (north) from Portland Parks & Recreation's Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Approachable by boat only, Ross Island is accessible to the public for stewardship activities with Portland Parks & Recreation staff and partners.

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