

Downtown Advisory Board

October 25, 2018

Ms. Patricia Farrell
City of Salem
Parks Planning and Resource Manager
555 Liberty Street SE, Suite 325
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Draft Riverfront Park Master Plan Update

Dear Ms. Farrell:

Thank you for presenting the draft Riverfront Park Master Plan to the Downtown Advisory Board members at their September 27, 2018, board meeting. Many of the proposed elements of the Plan support goals and objectives of the Downtown Strategic Action Plan and Riverfront-Downtown Urban Renewal Plans which has a primary objective to encourage a variety of river-oriented uses.

Urban Renewal investments have played a critical role in the development of Riverfront Park by providing funds to improve a former brownfields site into a park. Funding was also used to convert the Union Street Railroad Bridge to a pedestrian/bicycle bridge, connecting Wallace Marine Park with Riverfront Park, and again with urban renewal investment to construct the Peter Courtney Minto Island Bridge Trail. The completion of the Peter Courtney Minto Island Bridge and Trail is the last critical link in connecting 1300 acres of parks and more than 20 miles of off-street trails.

As we move forward with the development of the Downtown Salem Streetscape Design Plan, one of the goals of the Plan will be to enhance the connection between Riverfront Park and downtown Salem through downtown streetscape improvements.

We appreciate you keeping the board updated on the Master Plan development and look forward to the future implementation of projects proposed in the Plan.

Cordially,

Downtown Advisory Board

Chair: Jill Munger
Vice Chair: Aaron Terpening