

**Willamette Cove will be closed to all public uses from August 15 to October 31**

The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) is enacting a temporary closure of state-owned submerged and submersible lands at Willamette Cove in Portland.

- Willamette Cove will be closed to all public uses, including boating and swimming, from Saturday, August 15, 2020 through Saturday, October 31, 2020.
- The closure area includes approximately 46 acres along the eastern bank of the Willamette River between River Mile 6.1 and 6.9, between North John Avenue and the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge. A closure area map is available at: [www.oregon.gov/dsl/Documents/WillametteCoveProposedClosureArea.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Documents/WillametteCoveProposedClosureArea.pdf)

**Why Closure is Needed**

DSL, the City of Portland, and the Port of Portland are working to determine how the Environmental Protection Agency's approved cleanup plan will be implemented in the river at Willamette Cove. In order for the EPA-approved plan to be implemented, sediment and water samples must be collected to inform how cleanup will be done. The temporary closure of all state-owned submerged and submersible land within the Willamette Cove in-water project area will allow the necessary samples to be collected and the cleanup to move forward while also ensuring public safety.

**Closure of State Land for Required Environmental Actions**

OAR 141-088-0008 provides that the DSL Director may impose restrictions or close state-owned land if the Director determines that the restriction or closure is necessary to facilitate or protect a remedial action pursuant to an order from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality or the Environmental Protection Agency. Restrictions or closures imposed by the Director must be limited in area, duration, and scope as necessary to address the identified need for the restriction or closure.

**Contact DSL**

For more information regarding the closure, contact Richard Fitzgerald, Portland Harbor Superfund Specialist, 503-986-5260, [richard.w.fitzgerald@dsl.state.or.us](mailto:richard.w.fitzgerald@dsl.state.or.us).