



Oregon State Marine Board
Janine Belleque, Boating Facilities Program Manager
PO Box 14145
Salem, OR 97031

OSMB Waterway Access Grant Cover Letter
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership – Big Canoe Paddle Access Project

Dear Ms. Belleque,

As an organization committed to helping people access the waterways within the lower Columbia watershed in non-motorized boats, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (Estuary Partnership) appreciates the Oregon State Marine Board's ongoing commitment to nonmotorized boating. We were thrilled to receive and successfully implement a prior Waterway Access Grant project and are very excited to submit our Big Canoe Paddle Access Project for Cycle One Board consideration.

The Estuary Partnership is a 27-year-old, bi-state, National Estuary Program, non-profit focused on protecting and restoring the lower Columbia River through habitat restoration, ecosystem monitoring, toxics reduction, riparian plantings, environmental education, and on-water experiences. Our mission is to restore and care for the waters and ecosystems of the Lower Columbia River, for current and future generations of fish, wildlife, and people. Our on-water work includes development and coordination of the 146-mile Lower Columbia River Water Trail and paddling experiences for youth and adults on our Big Canoes.

The Big Canoe Paddle Access Project will provide approximately 360-480 youth and adults with a 3–4-hour nonmotorized boating experience that focuses on paddling skill development, waterway safety, and on-water fun. The project will educate and introduce a diverse community of people to the basics of paddling, waterway and paddle safety, and increase their paddling enthusiasm as they experience the many benefits of non-motorized boating. Ideally, we are creating future non-motorized boaters – as we believe they are great advocates for protecting and restoring our region's waterways. This project expands our Summer Big Canoe program to reach additional communities in Columbia and Clatsop Counties by providing paddle programs at nearby waterways, as well as continuing to deepen current community partnerships in the Portland Metro area who are not eligible participants through other funding sources due to geographic specifics.

In addition, this project will support our Summer Recreation Leader positions which provide a workforce development opportunity into the paddling field, help diversify the paddling leadership community, and provide participants with paddle leaders they can identify with. We recruit Summer Recreation Leaders through our community partners, and many attend a paddle with us as an initial spark to their enthusiasm for boating and sharing that with others.

Paddles will take place on the Estuary Partnership's two, 29-foot Big Canoes. These 14-passenger (two staff and 12 participants) are an inclusive, easy, and fun introduction to nonmotorized boating. The Big Canoes are

incredibly stable, their length and width less intimidating to new paddlers than smaller canoes and kayaks, and the ability to sit near friends and/or trusted leaders provides encouragement and security. The Estuary Partnership has provided over 27,000 youth and adults with Big Canoe trips since 2008, and our 10-person Community Programs Team has extensive paddling experience and participates in annual on-water and canoe specific safety training. Our team has experience leading trips for all ages and backgrounds, and most importantly have the skills and attitudes to help participants feel safe and welcomed. Our summer on-water program prioritizes serving populations with limited access to water safety and non-motorized boat access to the region's rivers, particularly people living in low income and rural areas and communities of color.

We are excited to share multiple letters of support for this project, and to expand our geography outside of the Portland area to provide folks in lower Columbia River communities with nonmotorized boating opportunities. We know from years and years of previous work that there is a great demand for accessible and inclusive paddle programs both in smaller communities in our study area and within Portland Metro.

As the Executive Director of the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership I have the delegated authority to submit this application to the Marine Board. If awarded, we are willing to enter into a grant agreement with the Marine Board for this educational project and acknowledge we have the staff and programmatic bandwidth to complete this project in full within the biennium (by June 30, 2025). We will also renew our OSMB Oregon Outfitter Guide Registration and provide the Marine Board with a Certificate or Liability Insurance. Attached please find our completed application and relevant supporting documentation.

We appreciate the opportunity to apply for this grant which will help youth and adults from overburdened communities experience non-motorized boating, learn about non-motorized boating safety, and experience the joys of water travel and boating. Please contact our Education Programs Manager Valerie Pufahl (vpufahl@estuarypartnership.org) if you have any question about our organization or this project.

Sincerely,



Elaine Placido
Executive Director



Boating Facility and Waterway Access Grant Application for Education and Outreach

FOR OSMB USE ONLY		Grant number: 1719
Biennium: 23-25	Date Received: 3/13/23	

Refer to the Boating Facility and Waterway Access Grant Procedure Guide for information on education and outreach

1- APPLICANT PROJECT TYPE AND LOCATION <i>(All applicants must complete)</i>	
Applicant or entity name: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Phone number: 503.226.1565
If different from above provide Assumed Business Name:	
Applicant mailing address: 400 NE 11 th Ave.	City, State, Zip Portland, OR, 97232
Physical address: 400 NE 11 th Ave.	City, State, Zip Portland, OR, 97232
Type of Government Applicant:	
<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Port <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Government <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Parks District <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
Type of Private Entity Applicant:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit 501c3 or 501c4 <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Limited Liability <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership Foreign Limited <input type="checkbox"/> Business Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Liability Partnership Business Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Limited Liability Company	
Name of Project Manager: Valerie Pufahl	Title: Education Programs Manager
Email: vpufahl@estuarypartnership.org	Phone: 828.713.1965
Name of Fiscal Point of Contact: Connor Kerns	Title: Cost Accounting Coordinator
Email: ckerns@estuarypartnership.org	Phone: 503.500.5352
Project Name: Big Canoe Paddle Access Project	
Brief project statement <i>(1-4 sentences describing scope of project)</i> The Estuary Partnership will provide fun, engaging, educational, and meaningful on-water paddling trips in our 29-foot Big Canoes to a wide range of diverse, underserved community groups who have greater barriers to accessing non-motorized boating experiences. The Big Canoe Paddle Access Project will expand the Estuary Partnerships Big Canoe paddle program by delivering 20 paddle programs over two summer seasons, reaching between 360-480 youth and adults. Paddles will take place across a strategic multi-county geography, including 50% in the Portland Metro area, and 50% in lower Columbia communities such as St. Helens, Rainier, Westport, and Astoria. In addition, this project will produce an updated version of our orientation videos, tailored to the communities we serve and highlighting lower Columbia locations; as well as support hiring and training two Summer Paddle Leaders to provide a workforce development pathway into paddling leadership and to help diversify the pool of non-motorized boating guides and leaders.	

List the waterbody(ies) and approximate river miles where activities will occur?
 Willamette River, Coffenbury Lake, Scappoose Bay, Westport Slough (see attachment of launch point images and locations)

Project type, check all that apply:

- Education – Training
- On-Water Opportunity
- Equipment Purchase

2- PARTICIPATION FEES

Describe any fee a participant will pay to participate in the activity or program.
Our programs are no-cost/free to participants and partner groups

Is the fee refundable upon completion of the activity or program?

N/A

Are there scholarships available to reduce financial barriers to participation? N/A

3- PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING- (All Applicants Must Complete)

A - ADMINISTRATIVE MATCH *Not eligible for Grant Reimbursement*

	Applicant	Other	Marine Board	TOTAL
Administration	\$	\$	N/A	\$
Pre-agreement expenses (<i>complete table below</i>)	\$	\$	N/A	\$
Permit fees	\$	\$	N/A	\$
Legal fees	\$	\$	N/A	\$
Other (specify) _____	\$	\$	N/A	\$
Total Administrative Match	\$	\$	N/A	\$

Pre-agreement Expenses and Match (*include documentation*)

Item Description	Value
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

B- PROPOSED FORCE ACCOUNT MATCH

<i>Complete tables below for each</i>	Applicant	Other	Marine Board	TOTAL
Force account labor	\$	\$	N/A	\$
Force account equipment	\$	\$	N/A	\$

Force account materials or supplies	\$3,928.80	\$	N/A	\$3928.80
Total Force Account Match	\$3,928.80	\$	N/A	\$3928.80

Force Account Labor			
Staff	Other	Labor Description	Value
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$

Force Account Equipment			
Owned	Donated	Equipment Description and Purpose	Value
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$

Force Account Materials or Supplies			
Owned	Donated	Material or Supply Description and Purpose	Value
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use of Estuary Partnership Big Canoes, Truck, Trailer, paddles, PFDs, video equipment, etc. for the purpose of implementing the Big Canoe paddles and orientation video updates	\$3928.80
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$

C- PROPOSED CASH MATCH				
	Applicant	Other*	Marine Board	TOTAL
Training fees	\$4,320.40	\$	\$	\$4,320.40
Materials or Equipment Purchased	\$2,000	\$	\$2,000	\$4,000.00
Rental fees	\$	\$	\$	\$
Participation fees	\$	\$	\$	\$
Consultant <i>(attach copy of contract)</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Other: Staff time to implement programming, mileage, launch fees, parking fees, project management, 10% MTDC (see budget details in attachment)	\$12,784	\$	\$37,632.80	\$50,416.80
Total Cash Match	\$19,104.40	\$	\$39,632.80	\$58,737.20

D-TOTAL PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING				
	Applicant	Other	Marine Board	TOTAL
Total Administrative Match (from A)	\$	\$	N/A	\$
Total Force Account Match (from B)	\$3,928.80	\$	N/A	\$3,928.80
Total Cash Match (from C)	\$19,104.40	\$	\$39,632.80	\$58,737.20

GRAND TOTAL	\$23,033.20	\$	\$39,632.80	\$62,666.00
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E- "OTHER" SOURCE, TYPE AND AMOUNT OF (NON-APPLICANT) CONTRIBUTIONS			
Grant/Loan Agency or Organization	Name of Grant/Loan	Approved Y/N	Amount
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$

Cash Contributions by	Amount of Contribution
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

4- PROJECT NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION – *(Applicants requesting funds for education, educational support or to increase opportunities for underserved communities to experience non-motorized boating)*

This section is your opportunity to sell your project. Do not assume that Marine Board staff will know the answers to the questions. You have project knowledge and experience that must be conveyed in your responses. Provide clear and concise responses to the questions.

A. Describe the goal, need and anticipated outcomes of the project or program.

The Estuary Partnership's Big Canoe Paddle Access Project will provide fun, engaging, educational, and meaningful on-water paddling trips in our 29-foot Big Canoes to a wide range of diverse community groups who have greater barriers to accessing non-motorized boating experiences. The project will meaningfully expand our paddle programs to 340-480 additional individuals, through 20 paddle trips experiences in the 2023 and 2024 summer seasons. This expansion focuses on lower Columbia River communities in Columbia and Clatsop Counties, where 50% of our project's programming will take place. The additional 50% of our programming will focus on continuing to serve long-time partner communities with greatest needs, serving underserved youth and adults in the Portland Metro area, specifically groups who are not eligible through other secured funding due to being outside the specific geographic areas of service (Metro Central boundaries, Washington County, and communities living/interfacing directly with the Portland Harbor Superfund Site). Our project centers the experience of the first-time boater with marginalized identities including but not limited to; youth and adults from communities of color, Indigenous communities, culturally specific groups, LGBTQ+ youth and young adults, rural summer school and community center programs, as well as rural and smaller communities with limited access to non-motorized boating opportunities.

The project will achieve multiple goals, address numerous needs, and deliver many meaningful outcomes. Each is addressed below.

-- Goal: Provide 360-480 youth and adults from diverse, underserved communities, rural communities, and other communities that lack nonmotorized boating experiences with the opportunity to explore and experience the lower Willamette and lower Columbia Rivers in an experiential and meaningful way, that promotes on-water learning and safety, community building, and opens the world of nonmotorized boating to each participant. The Estuary Partnership will work with a wide range of community groups such as

Friends of the Children PDX, Girls Inc., Rose Community Development's Lents Youth Initiative, Lower Columbia Q Center, Blueprint Foundation, People of Color Outdoors, St. Helens Community Center, Rainier High School, and many others.

-- Need: For boating to continue to grow as an activity that can be safely accessed by more folks in our communities, more diverse populations need first-time access to boating experiences. Many people, particularly people from diverse and low-income communities, have never had an on-water boating experience of any kind. Without access to opportunities, many of these folks may think of boating as white, expensive, and out of reach – instead of accessible, affordable, and open to all. With few organizations actively engaged in providing people from these communities with well-scaffolded, beginner-friendly nonmotorized boating opportunities, there remains a challenge to alter this perception. Without more opportunities, more experiences, and more education, people from these communities will continue to be underrepresented in the boating community.

-- Anticipated Outcomes: Around 360-480 participants will have an opportunity to access Oregon's waterways on a boat. During their generally 3-4 hour paddle, participants will see their community from a new perspective, learn about nonmotorized boating safety, and have a fun, positive, real-world boating experience that will also increase the likelihood they go boating in the future.

-- Goal: Make it easy for participants to have a great, first-time boating experience. Make it fun, educational, no cost, provide lunch and snacks, and ensure that participants see some of their identities reflected in their paddle leaders.

-- Need: At first glance, boating can be expensive. Even nonmotorized boating requires a boat, room to store a boat, a way to transport a boat, a paddle, life jacket, proper clothing, funds for parking and launch, and other costs. Even though opportunities exist to minimize these costs – the perception of high costs limits interest and participation and contributes to the perception of exclusivity. On the water boating experiences that are inviting, inclusive, and inexpensive (or free) can help overcome the real and perceived barriers around the high cost of boating. It is also important, welcoming, and encouraging for participants to see their identities reflected in their guides or paddle leaders. To make that happen, workforce development opportunities are needed to bring more diverse people into nonmotorized boating leadership positions.

-- Anticipated Outcome: Participants will have a unique, on-the-water nonmotorized boating experience that provides all necessary equipment and training at no cost. Participants will learn about boating resources – such as on-water rental businesses, and other opportunities that can help them access future boating opportunities. We will prioritize securing rental discount coupons for program participants through local rental business such as Next Adventure Scappoose Bay and Alder Creek Canoe & Kayak. Finally, paddlers will feel safer and more comfortable because they'll see people of diverse identities in paddling leadership positions.

-- Goal: Teach project participants about boating safety – particularly nonmotorized boating safety.

-- Need: Most project participants will be first-time. Without experience, many people are fearful of moving water, or lack solid swimming abilities to increase comfort and confidence. Providing more people human-powered boating opportunities, means creating welcoming and beginner-friendly programming that promotes overcoming those fears with a significant focus on providing people with the education and knowledge they need to be safe on the water. Our staff thread the essential needle of providing encouragement, education and awareness that helps people understand the safety issues while feeling empowered with the experience and knowledge to have fun, and to be safe.

-- Anticipated Outcome: Participants will become proficient at basic paddling techniques and learn about: life jackets and how to wear them; safety gear; float plan forms; the dangers of cold water and wind; waterway rules and navigation aids; and the importance of sober boating. Participants will leave the project feeling that they have the skills and knowledge to go paddling safely.

-- Goal: Provide a workforce development opportunity into nonmotorized boating leadership to two individuals from partner communities to help bring more diverse people and voices into paddling

leadership/guide positions.

-- Need: More diverse representation (people of color and other marginalized identities) is needed in paddle sports and nonmotorized boating leadership/guide positions, which remains to be overwhelmingly cis-gender and white. Guides and leaders from various backgrounds and identities will provide role models for young people, help participants and communities of marginalized identities feel more comfortable, and provide important new voices and perspectives.

-- Anticipated Outcome: The Estuary Partnership will hire, train, mentor, and supervise two Summer Recreation Leaders to work on the project. Summer Recreation Leaders will get Red Cross First Aid and CPR certified, go through the Estuary Partnership's annual on-water Canoe safety training, practice steering from the back and leading from the front, and generally be engaged in all aspects of the project. At the end of the summer – each Summer Recreation Leader will have gained more than a hundred hours of on-water paddling experience, guiding and leadership experience – skills that they will be able to translate to future job opportunities or recreational leadership careers.

-- Goal: Create a memorable experience that connects people to the waterways where they live.

-- Need: We have the remarkable fortune to live in a region with amazing waterways and boating opportunities – however, people with greater barriers to access may never consider recreational boating if they know little to nothing about their local waterways or have little to no understanding of how to safely access them.

-- Anticipated Outcome: People of marginalized identities and overburdened communities with limited resources will have the opportunity to go paddling in an exciting and beginner-friendly craft, will learn about water safety, as they experience and learn about Oregon waterways, and discover how accessible, fun, and rewarding paddling can be. The uniqueness and the educational value of the Estuary Partnership's on-river Big Canoe trips are significant. Being on the water provides a vantage and connection that cannot be replicated from the riverbank. Two Estuary Partnership staff are on each canoe – they guide the canoe and provide paddling and safety instruction. Our staff also provide ecological information, as they are well-versed in seeing and identifying wildlife, answering local knowledge, river history and culture questions, and making the experience fun and memorable. The Estuary Partnership provides all paddles, life jackets, binoculars, bird guides, and safety equipment for the duration of the paddle experience. Paddlers work together to propel the canoe, learning teamwork, paddling techniques, and water safety; with each paddle stroke they gain confidence and experience.

--Goal: Update current orientation video for paddle programs to provide more information and orientation specific to summer groups in the areas where our programs will take place.

--Need: Providing an informative and welcoming point of entry to paddling through an accessible orientation video helps individuals have access to information about paddling, safety considerations and gear, and paddling conditions – all things that can decrease anxiety about engaging a new experience. Videos provide audio and visual representations of locations where people may paddle, access and launch points, equipment that will be provided, and the general feel of our staff and Big Canoe experience. This provides people of various abilities, identities, and experience the opportunity to opt into the experience with greater understanding of what they are likely to encounter and have the opportunity to ask questions in advance that promotes greater inclusivity for folks with disabilities or anxieties about on-water or generally new experiences.

--Anticipated Outcome: Our current orientation video is tailored to elementary school groups that primarily paddle in the spring and fall of the school year. We will create an updated version of this orientation video that centers the experience of our summer paddle programs and the diverse community groups we serve. A summer-specific version of this video will also highlight more of the locations where we lead Big Canoe paddle programs and increase and tailor safety information and considerations for environmental conditions related to heat and sun exposure, as well as a more robust orientation to safety equipment.

B. Describe if your project or program is identified in any education, business, strategic, or other plans?

2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Executive Summary names 5 primary demographic and societal changes. Our project and Big Canoe programs directly address 4 of the 5 issues:

Issue 2: Increasingly diverse population

Our project and overall Big Canoe program is specifically designed to engage community groups that are led by and/or serve people of color, low-income participants, LGBTQ+ communities, and individuals from various identities and backgrounds.

Issue 3: Lack of youth engagement in outdoor recreation

Most of our project participants will be children and youth from diverse and overburdened communities. Our project will also expand our program impact to rural community groups in Oregon counties with fewer paddling programs and resources.

Issue 4: Underserved, low-income population

Our project will provide paddle programs at no-cost to participants, offering a free, beginner friendly, on-water experience for low-income communities and individuals.

Issue 5: Health benefits of physical activity

All project participants will be engaged in physically paddling our Big Canoes together. Our Big Canoes make for a fun and inclusive physical activity, where many paddlers make light work, while also allowing for enthusiastic paddlers to bring increased effort. Our project aims to increase education, exposure, and enthusiasm for non-motorized boating, so various points of entry for physical effort and ability is a priority and inherent in paddling our Big Canoes.

The Estuary Partnership's Big Canoe Paddle Access Project aligns with the Estuary Partnership's bi-state, Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the lower Columbia River – most specifically Action 13: Create and implement education and volunteer opportunities for citizens of all ages to engage in activities that promote stewardship of the lower Columbia River and estuary; and Action 14: Identify and improve public access to the river.

The Estuary Partnership is also charged with developing an Equity Plan due to receiving federal funding, which centers the EPA's Environmental Justice screening as well as our own criteria for environmental justice that are evident in the communities within our region. We are currently in the final stages of developing this plan, which centers an increase in the benefits of our work towards the most overburdened communities in our study area (Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean).

The Estuary Partnership also has a guiding Strategic Direction that centers providing the benefit of our work to under-resourced communities, communities with greater barriers to access natural areas and outdoor recreation, and communities of color. Our Big Canoe program is one of the primary avenues to accomplishing these organizational goals in meaningful ways.

The focus on paddling safety also aligns with the OSMB's nonmotorized boating and paddling education goals. Participants will learn about trip planning, safety gear, wind tides and currents, and the Waterway Access Permits system.

C. Describe who is the target audience, how you will engage the community to participate and how the project or program is providing opportunities to underserved communities.

The target audience for the Big Canoe Paddle Access Project are youth and adult participants from various direct-service provider and community groups, comprised of Indigenous and people of color, culturally specific groups, such as LGBTQ+ and immigrant and refugee community groups, as well as low income or environmentally and economically overburdened populations – all communities that have

difficulty accessing non-motorized boating. The Estuary Partnership will engage our target audience by continuing to deepen and tend our current partner relationships we have developed over years of collaboration, as well as expanding outreach to organizations that serve our target participant groups in Clatsop and Columbia Counties to continue to meaningfully expand the geography of the reach of our Big Canoe paddle opportunity.

We will additionally collaborate with our target audience and our new and long-term community partners to help recruit candidates for our two Summer Paddle Leadership positions. This approach best ensures that our participant groups see their identities reflected in our guiding staff and promotes increased diversity of backgrounds and pathways into outdoor recreation and paddle sport leadership positions.

Once partners are confirmed, the Estuary Partnership and each partner will collaboratively design and implement the paddles. The project will have multiple benefits for each partner, specific to their group and populations they engage. Our paddle programs provide an easy-to-integrate, unique, educational experience for summer camp programs as well as special events or outings for groups to engage an on-water experience to expand skills, knowledge, access, and build community. Our Big Canoe programs are engaging for partner organization staff as well as the youth or individuals they serve, providing a memorable, new, and exciting experience for partner staff alongside participants. Our paddle programs also provide a unique team building, leadership development, and bonding experience.

As almost all paddle participants will be new to on-water recreation, the stability of our Big Canoes, our Educator's skill at helping people feel safe and welcome, and the shared nature of group paddling help overcome concerns participants may have and build on-water confidence. The Big Canoe Paddle Access Project is specifically designed to provide opportunities for those with limited access to on-water recreation and non-motorized boating. One additional way we will meet the first-time boater, is through enhancing and updating our current program orientation videos (*see links for current videos in the program information attachment*). We understand how important it can be for prospective participants to see themselves reflected in the boating experience. Our current videos are targeted to elementary school groups, so creating a new version that is more youth and community group specific, highlighting the various locations where participants may paddle, summer-specific weather, water, and safety conditions, and expanded information about safe paddling will provide a more robust and participant specific point of entry to first time boaters.

Most of the organizations we partner with have priorities to help provide their communities with basic needs, community building, increasing support systems and structures. None of the groups we work with are focused on providing non-motorized boating opportunities as their primary priority – meaning that the Estuary Partnership, through providing Big Canoe programs, is able to expand, deepen, and support the daily efforts and missions of our community partners by providing an opportunity they could not provide due to the extensive barriers, including – equipment, funding, knowledge, peer leaders, misinformation, transportation, and lack of experience. The Estuary Partnership is committed to supporting our current and future partner communities to overcome these barriers by providing access, equipment, training, and experience. We believe that trips in our Big Canoes can open up people's hearts and minds to boating and that the information we provide can help them to overcome many barriers.

Additionally, the Estuary Partnership will work with local rental shops (Alder Creek, Next Adventure, and Portland Kayaking) to provide discounts for nonmotorized boat rentals to our trip participants after completing their paddle program with us. These discounts can help participants feel welcome at the rental shops, connect participants with paddling retail businesses, create additional community connection to the boating community, and further build their interest in nonmotorized boating.

Over the years of our programming, we have learned how important providing food to program

participants is, as food insecurity is a growing problem. As part of the project, and as another way that the project will overcome barriers, the Estuary Partnership will provide healthy lunches or significant snacks for each trip. Through previous trips we have learned that a lightly “catered” lunch break builds community, provides time for education and to answer questions, and generally enhances people’s experience in a meaningful way. We have budgeted \$4,000 (or \$200 per trip) for this purpose, 50% (\$2,000) of this we are providing as match.

D. Describe how waterway and boating safety is incorporated into the project or program.

The Big Canoe Paddle Access Project and all Estuary Partnership Big Canoe trips have a significant focus on safety. As an organization we know how important boating safety is and we have extensive safety protocols and training procedures for staff that lead Big Canoe trips (for example our Big Canoe staff have Oregon Boaters Education Cards and go through an annual on-water safety training that includes a variety of skill-based activities and rescue scenario practice). We have been providing Big Canoe trips since 2008 and have an unmatched on-water safety record.

Our Big Canoes often function like floating classrooms. Like other classrooms, this allows us to focus on a variety of different subjects depending on the funder’s priority and our community partners interests and needs. For the Big Canoe Paddle Access Project the Estuary Partnership will focus the education on paddling skill development, paddling safety, and paddling fun – with the idea that the project will create a cohort of people who know the basics of how to paddle, how to do it safely, and who are excited to experience the many benefits of nonmotorized boating into the future. Specifically, we hope to inspire and create future nonmotorized boaters. We believe boaters uniquely understand, care for, and will help protect and restore our region’s waterways.

The Estuary Partnership will include the following key safety messages as part of the project.

- How to paddle: proper form, turning, stopping, loading and unloading, etc.
- Life jackets: requirements, proper fit, use, importance, etc.
- Equipment needs: proper clothing, drinking water, boat and paddle type, communication devices, throw rope, whistle, bailing device, etc.
- Float plans: how to develop a float plan and the importance of sending it to a responsible party.
- Weather: particularly the wind-wave connection, heat, storms, and other factors.
- Water temperatures: the disconnect between air and water temperatures and hypothermia risks.
- Waterway rules and navigation aids (specific to each project location)
- Tides and currents: most people don’t know the lower Willamette and lower Columbia Rivers are tidal, how strong the tides can be, and or the combined effect of outgoing tides and fast currents.
- Basic self-rescue maneuvers: what to do in the event of a capsize, etc.
- The Waterway Access Permit system: the purpose and mechanics of the waterway access permit system.
- Sober boating: the dangers associated with drinking while boating.

We feel strongly that participants will leave their program experience feeling that they have the skills and knowledge to safely paddle on the Willamette River, and the slower, back-water areas of the lower Columbia River.

(The Estuary Partnership understands that the OSMB may have specific safety messages or priorities. We are willing to adjust or integrate our safety messages to align with OSMP priorities.)

E. Describe the specific actions, materials or equipment that will be completed or donated by the applicant. Include any time, availability, or other limitations for these contributions and how that is factored into the overall project.

To implement the Big Canoe Paddle Access Project the Estuary Partnership staff will work with committed partner groups and continue to build relationships and recruit new groups in Columbia and Clatsop Counties and the Portland Metro area to create meaningful paddle experiences for each community. Our staff work collaboratively with partner groups to develop paddles with group leaders, including, schedule trips, developing trip educational and safety materials and curriculum, coordinate meal purchase and delivery for each trip. Our Estuary Partnership Environmental Educators and Summer Recreation Leaders will lead each trip and follow up with community leaders post-trip to receive feedback and ways to continually improve the participant experience.

The Big Canoe Paddle Access Project will fund 20 Big Canoe paddle trips. Each trip will include both of the Estuary Partnership's two, 29-foot Big Canoes. Four Estuary Partnership staff will lead each trip – two in each canoe, one at the bow and one at the stern. Approximately 9-12 youth or adults will paddle in each canoe – 18-24 per trip, or approximately 360-480 total participants throughout the project (we typically provide a range to account for unexpected participant absences which leads to occasionally not full boats). Each trip will be approximately 3-4 hours including teaching time on land, loading and unloading, on water time, and lunch/snacks.

The Estuary Partnership will provide all gear necessary to implement the project including our two Big Canoes, and the truck and trailer necessary to transport them to and from the launch site, paddles, life jackets, whistles, and food for project participants. Each canoe includes bird guides and binoculars, hand pumps, bailing buckets, throw ropes, float throw cushions, and other necessary safety gear. This project would add up to an additional 10 paddle programs to our 2023 summer season, making a total of 46 paddle programs between June and September. We have the staff, schedule, and gear capacity to operate 50 or more paddle programs during the summer season. Any additional trips for this project will be completed in the Summer 2024 program season, providing leverage to secure additional funding for our paddle programs to reach as many or more participants/groups in 2024.

Community groups will contribute to the project in multiple ways. One through the time spent with Estuary Partnership staff planning and coordinating trip goals and logistics, but most substantively community groups will contribute by organizing and or providing transportation to and from the launch site for project participants. Organizing transportation can be a significant amount of work and money, particularly with increased costs due to driver shortages and fuel costs. Community groups will also pay any launch site parking costs associated with parking their vehicles at sites.

F. For any products, materials or equipment obtained as part of the grant. Describe the useful life and how it was determined.

We expect the only products, materials, or equipment purchased as part of the project will be the lunches/snacks purchased by the Estuary Partnership for each program. All other equipment, products, or materials to be utilized are already owned by the Estuary Partnership.

G. Does the proposed project or program occur at a public recreational boating facility? If yes, describe the frequency of use, number of participants and any agreements or permissions you have with the facility owner.

Yes, the Big Canoe Paddle Access Project will take place at multiple public boat launches in the lower Willamette and lower Columbia River. Specific sites will be determined in coordination with the community groups we work with as part of the project, though we expect approximately 10 trips to take place in the Portland metro area and approximately 10 trips at lower Columbia sites. Each trip would engage four Estuary Partnership staff and 18-24 participants.

We expect that many of the Portland Metro trips will likely take place on the lower Willamette River and utilize the City of Portland's Willamette Park Boat Ramp. While the paddle trips outside of the Portland area are likely to utilize a variety of public ramps such as Metro's Sauvie Island Boat Ramp, the Port of Columbia County's Scappoose Bay Marina, Scipio's Goble Landing, the City of Rainier's Rainier Boat Ramp, Clatsop County's Westport Boat Ramp, and Oregon State Park's Coffenbury Lake Boat Ramp.

The Estuary Partnership has previously used all these boat launch sites without problem and/or incident – and using these ramps for Big Canoe trips requires no special permission or agreements with site owners. The two Big Canoes are on a standard trailer, we work hard to minimize time on the ramp, particularly during busy periods, and we pay all required parking and launch fees. Most site owners are excited to have our Big Canoes onsite and in their community.

H. Describe past performance on OSMB grants. If you have not received a previous grant from OSMB describe past performance with Oregon State Parks, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife or other state agency awarded grant.

The Estuary Partnership received a OSMB Waterway Access Grants in 2020 and 2022 and successfully completed each project on time, and within budget prior to deadlines. Through the 2020 project, we delivered 16 trips and reached 240 participants from 15 community groups. In 2022, we delivered 18 Big Canoe trips, serving 321 participants from 15 community groups. The Estuary Partnership has also successfully completed two earlier OSMB "Let's Go Boating" grants (one in 2014 and one in 2009). The Estuary Partnership has received dozens of OWEB grants over the years, as well as hundreds of other federal, state, local, and foundation grants. The Estuary Partnership has completed all reporting on time and all project deliverables, with no financial, reporting or programmatic concerns by the funder at closeout. The Estuary Partnership maintains internal tracking protocols to ensure that assistance agreements are implemented within the agreement's timeframe, and according to the developed scope of work. We consistently meet or exceed grant, contract, federal, state, and other applicable requirements and submit program and financial reports on-time.

I. Describe the project implementation and completion timeline.

Upon notice of funding (July 2023)

Work coordinating with community groups for the 2023 summer season would begin as soon as we receive notice of funding (July 2023). As we currently have 38 Big Canoe programs with secured funding for the 2023 summer, we anticipate completing 10 or fewer OSMB funded programs in the 2023 summer – allowing us to deepen and develop partnerships to complete the remaining programs in the summer of 2024.

July – Sept 2023

On-board and train 2023 Summer Recreation Leader. Coordinate with community groups to schedule and implement up to 50% of the total number of programs. Develop a script and outline for updated orientation video and capture video of paddles in various locations to create updated versions of our Big Canoe program intro and orientation to paddling videos. Receive partner feedback on-going and continue to develop strong partnerships with communities. Track program numbers, budgets, and goals.

Oct 2023 – April 2024

Collect data from the 2023 Summer for annual reporting and to determine remaining goals/needs for the project for Summer 2024. Based on remaining project goals to be achieved (likely 10-15 trips), continue partnership development, specifically with community groups in Clatsop and Columbia Counties to ensure 50% of our OSMB programs benefit communities in those counties beyond the Portland Metro area.

Review and plan 2024 Canoe Team paddle safety and risk management training. Complete video revisions, ready to be shared with current, former, and prospective partner groups.

March – May 2024

Continued correspondence for coordination with community groups to schedule Summer 2024 programs. Complete annual Canoe Team paddle safety and risk management training. Recruit and hire Summer Recreation Leader for 2024.

June – September 2024

Implement remaining paddle programs (likely 10-15 total). Receive partner feedback on-going and incorporate learning. Track program numbers, budgets, and goals.

October 2024

Review Summer 2024 programming. Collect data for annual reporting. Determine any outstanding project goals. If project is fully complete, create a final report to submit to OSMB to share stories and success of the project.

January – March 2025

If any outstanding project goals remain, coordinate any final details or programs with community groups.

May – June 2025

Implement any remaining programs and submit final reporting to OSMB by the deadline.

5- PUBLIC SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION (All applicants must complete)

Identify specific public support and opposition to the proposed project:

Note: this section is part of the grant ranking criteria-include emails and letters with application

	<u>Supporters Name</u>	<u>Opponents Name</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent landowners:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> User groups:	Combined letters of support attached	
<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood association		
<input type="checkbox"/> Local government:		
<input type="checkbox"/> State/federal government:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislator/congressional:		
<input type="checkbox"/> General Public		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):		

6- OREGONBUYS

Provide your Oregon Buys vendor ID number _____

If not currently registered, the applicant must be registered before signing any potential grant agreements

7- APPLICATION SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION *(All applicants must complete)*

Applicant Signature and Certification

Application is hereby made for the activities described above, together with attachments. I certify that I am familiar with the information contained in the application and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this information is true, complete, and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority, including the necessary requisite property interests, to undertake the proposed activities.

I also certify that the Applicant's governing body is aware of this request and has authorized the person identified as the official representative of the Applicant to act in connection with this application and subsequent project as well as to provide additional information as may be required.

By signing below, I affirm the Applicant's intention to enter into a Cooperative Facility Grant Agreement and agree to comply with Oregon State Marine Board's program rules, policies, and guidelines as well as all applicable federal, state, and local laws relating to this proposal, additional conditions applicable to an approved Boating Facilities Grant, and the resulting project.

E. Elaine Placido, DPA
 Print/Type Name
E. Elaine Placido
 Applicant Signature

Executive Director
 Title
3/11/2023
 Date

ATTACHMENTS *(Are the following items attached to this application?)*

Required For:	Education-Outreach
Cover letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Photos	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Cost estimate or quotes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Consultant contract	If applicable
Pre-agreement documentation	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Letters/emails of support	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Informational Brochure and/or website	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Education or Business Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Photos

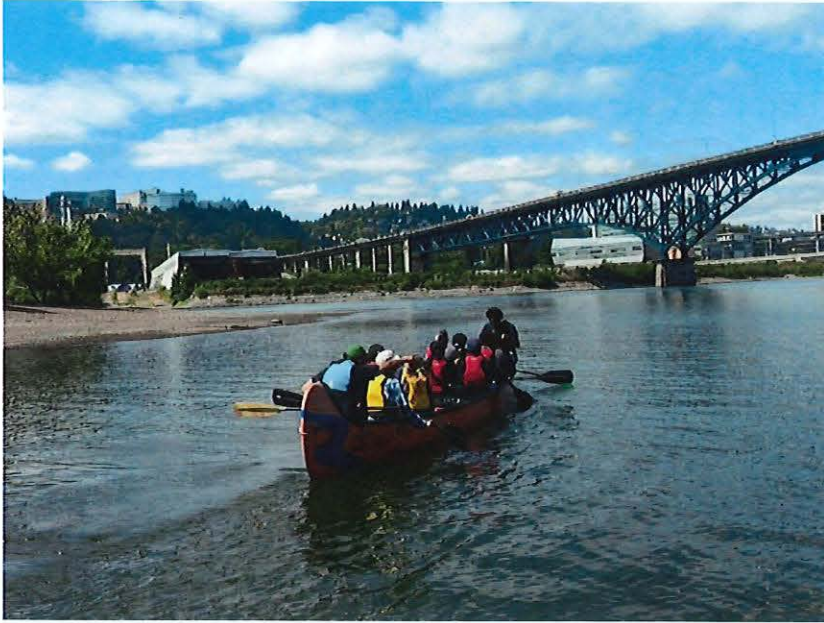
Bienstar/Audubon Coffenbury Lake



North Coast Q Center Coffenbury Lake



Ross island Friends of the Children



Linnton Community Center Scappoose Bay



Green Work Force Academy Ross Island



Verde Ross Island



Cost Estimate

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership – Big Canoe Paddle Access Project

Budget Summary

The Estuary Partnership's Big Canoe Paddle Access Project is entirely focused on planning for and implementing the project. As such all project elements are focused on recreational, nonmotorized boating. The budget includes time for the Education Programs Manager to manage the project and support partnership development (match), for the Financial Accounting Coordinator to submit invoices and reporting (match), for Estuary Partnership Environmental Educators, and Summer Recreation Leaders to plan and implement each paddle, for our Education Coordinators to work with community partners to grow relationships and plan group logistics, and for our Educators with video expertise to capture additional footage of groups and program locations to update our program and safe paddling orientation videos to best meet our summer program groups.

Each paddle includes four well-trained Estuary Partnership staff. Planning time includes recruiting and relationship building with community groups, planning trip logistics with group leaders, Big Canoe logistics, travel, launch and landing/set up, and a 3-4 hour paddle.

Grant funds are also requested for mileage for travel to sites and parking and launch fees. 10 paddle trips are budgeted with mileage distances to locations in Columbia and Clatsop Counties, and 10 paddle programs are budgeted with mileage distances to Portland Metro launch sites.

In addition to staff time noted above, the Estuary Partnership is providing the following as match:

- 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs
- \$2,000 in food (paddle lunches/snacks \$200/trip, 10 trips, 50% of total food costs for project)
- Canoe Safety training for our staff
 - Plus additional training and mentorship for our Summer Recreation Leaders
- Summer storage for our Canoes/Trailer/Truck
- 16 hours of Educator time for video editing and production

Pro-rated materials and supplies include utilizing the Estuary Partnership's two 29-foot Big Canoes, trailer, truck, PFDs, paddles, canoe gear, and video equipment. This calculation was configured by combining estimated value of items based on their age and dividing that by the number of trips this project will provide. Our Big Canoes are incredibly unique, so a comparable rental option does not exist in our area – and rental costs for comparable PFDs and paddles would make this calculation significantly higher. We are happy to provide additional information upon request about our materials, supplies, and boating equipment used for our programs.

Additional funding we have secured for our Big Canoe Program in 2023 includes:

- Metro Central Enhancement \$24,158.34
- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District \$19,648.58
- City of Portland BES Portland Harbor \$33,524.13

These funds will provide 36 paddle programs to specific communities within *very precise geographies*. Our OSMB request would fund an additional 20 programs to communities within geographies that are *not eligible* in the above funding, which enables us to expand our programming from St. Helens to Astoria (communities within Columbia and Clatsop Counties) as well as continue to serve communities within the Portland Metro area that are *not within* the geographic boundaries of our current awards.

OSMB Waterway Access Grant - Education & Outreach 2023-2025 Budget Detail

Budget Line Items	Estuary Partnership Cost Share	Marine Board Grant Request	
Personnel: Project Planning and Management <i>Project oversight, long-term planning, partnership development, staff supervision, risk management, training, etc.</i> Education Programs Manager 50/hours	\$3,059.00		
Personnel: Big Canoe Safety Training Summer Rec Leader training 20 hours each Canoe Team training (7 staff @ 8 hrs each)	\$1,072.40 \$3,248.00		
Personnel: Project Delivery <i>Recruitment, partner coordination, curriculum development, logistics coordination, travel, food procurement, leading paddles, community follow up, video footage + update orientation video.</i> 1 Education Coordinator 80 hours coordination 2 Environmental Educators 90 hours each 1 Environmental Educator 30 hours for video project 2 Environmental Educators 160 hours each 2 Summer Recreation Leaders 90 hours each Educator time for video production 16 hours	\$945.00	\$35,732.80	
Personnel: Financial Management <i>Contract administration, fiscal reporting, invoicing, etc.</i> Financial Accounting Coordinator 20/hours	\$1,040.00		
Travel <i>Mileage to and from boat storage and launch site</i> 2200 miles for 10 Columbia/Clatsop Co trips (avg) \$1,375.00 200 miles for 10 Portland Metro trips \$125.00 <i>Launch and landing site fees (\$10/launch) (\$200.00)</i> <i>Site parking fees (\$5.00 x2 for each paddle) (\$200.00)</i> <i>Canoe/Trailer/Truck storage (4 mos/year, 8 mos total) \$300/mon.</i>	\$2,400.00	\$1,900.00	
Project Supplies: Food for Participants <i>Food for each of the 20 trips \$200/trip</i>	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Project Supplies: Big Canoes, Paddles, PFDs, Video equipment <i>Pro-rated portions of equipment costs</i>	\$3,928.80		
10% Modified Total Direct Cost	\$5,340.00		
Project Totals:	Estuary Partnership \$23,033.20	Marine Board \$39,632.80	Total Costs \$62,666.00

Letters/Emails of Support



Boating Facilities Section Manager
Oregon State Marine Board
PO Box 14145
Salem, OR 97309

RE: Waterway Access Grant

Dear Review Committee,

Consejo Hispano is pleased to support Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's application to the Oregon State Marine Board's Waterway Access Grant for 2023-2025.

Consejo Hispano is a community-based organization that serves the Hispanic/Latinx communities of Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties in Oregon, and Pacific county in Washington. Our mission is to support the wellbeing of Latinx communities by ensuring people can provide for themselves and one another, build intergenerational wealth, and stay connected to their culture. We provide programs and services that aim to foster resilient, prosperous, and powerful communities in which youth and their families can flourish.

Most of the families we serve are low income, have multiple jobs, and rarely have the opportunity to spend time in nature. We're always happy to promote free or affordable programs that encourage healthy practices, physical activity, and respect for our natural resources. The Estuary Partnership offers safe, free, on-water experiences that don't require specific skills or equipment, which is a valuable first step in creating river access for everyone. Their bilingual staff can provide our communities with a fun and educational introduction to paddling with a spotlight on safety skills and inclusion.

We urge the Waterway Access Grant Review Committee to support Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's proposal.

Sincerely,

Diana M. Niño

Outreach & Special Projects Manager

diana@consejohispano.org

www.consejohispano.org

1373 Duane St. Astoria, OR 97103



of the Pacific Northwest

Boating Facilities Section Manager
Oregon State Marine Board
PO Box 14145
Salem, OR 97309

RE: Waterway Access Grant

Dear Review Committee,

Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest is excited to support Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's application to the Oregon State Marine Board's Waterway Access Grant for 2023-2025.

The Girls Inc. mission is to inspire all youth to be strong, smart, and bold. The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl inclusive environment, and research-based programming equips young people to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, and grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Informed by youth and their families, we also advocate for legislation and policies to increase opportunities and rights for all girls.

Our Eureka! program with Girls Inc. recently went on a trip with the Lower Columbia Estuary during our summer camp session. Girls Inc. Eureka! is a 5-year STEM magnet program for 8th – 12th grade youth, that empowers them to see themselves as an important part of the future workforce. During the Eureka! program, youth participate in a variety of exciting lessons and activities that explore STEM through inquiry-based, critical thinking and hands-on activities in a college campus environment. This trip with the Lower Columbia Estuary was a fantastic fit and experience for our program, as many of our youth come from lower income communities and don't get the opportunity to be out on the water. The team made our experience very inviting to all ages and experience levels!

We encourage you to support the Estuary Partnership's proposal to coordinate and lead educational canoe programs for youth and adults for the 2023 summer season. The programs will focus on educating groups about the importance of protecting fish & wildlife habitats and impacts to water quality, as well as paddling skill development and river safety for people from diverse communities. Members of our program have limited access to outdoor spaces, and the recreation and educational experiences this program provides.

Sincerely,

Sara Fenton

Sara Fenton
Eureka! Program Manager
Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest



Boating Facilities Section Manager
Oregon State Marine Board
PO Box 14145
Salem, OR 97309

RE: Waterway Access Grant

Dear Review Committee,

The Lower Columbia Q Center [LCQC] is excited to support Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's application to the Oregon State Marine Board's Waterway Access Grant for 2023-2025.

The LCQC is a non-profit resource center providing outreach, education, and charity for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and allies of the Lower Columbia region of Oregon and Washington. We partner with other organizations in the community to provide support, resources, and fun opportunities, especially for queer youth.

Through this program, we will be able to deepen our partnership with the Estuary Partnership by bringing together queer youth, adults, and families to co-create paddling experiences along local waterways and rivers. Youth in our program have limited access to local waterways and rivers and the recreational experiences they provide. A safe, free, on-water experience that does not require specific skills or equipment is a valuable first step in creating river access for everyone. This program will engage our community in a unique recreational and educational experience that exposes participants directly to local waterways that may be the spark that starts a love of paddling.

The Estuary Partnership's canoe programs will provide our community with a fun and educational introduction to paddling with a spotlight on safety skills and inclusion; we urge you to support their proposal.

Sincerely,

Benedetto DeFrancisco

Benedetto DeFrancisco [they/he]
Program Coordinator
The Lower Columbia Q Center



March 9, 2023

Boating Facilities Section Manager
Oregon State Marine Board
PO Box 14145
Salem, OR 97309

RE: Waterway Access Grant

Dear Review Committee,

ROSE Community Development and the Lents Youth Initiative are excited to support Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's application to the Oregon State Marine Board's Waterways Access Grant for 2023-2025.

The Lents Youth Initiative is a paid summer internship program for young people ages 14-21 in SE Portland, particularly focused on BIPOC and low-income youth. We aim to provide youth with knowledge about Environmental Justice, social justice, and leadership skills to be active changemakers in their communities. The past few summers, the Estuary Partnership has graciously provided an educational canoe trip for our summer interns. The youth had the opportunity to learn about the environment and ecosystems along the Willamette River and their importance as they relate to the rest of environmental health in Portland.

We urge you to support the Estuary Partnership's proposal to coordinate and lead educational canoe trips on the Willamette River. These on-water trips will provide students a fun and educational introduction to paddling while focusing on safe boating and skill building. Youth in our program have limited access to the Willamette River and the recreation and educational experiences it provides. Free, low-barrier, on-water experience that do not require specific skills or equipment is a valuable first step in creating access for all people. Observing wildlife, paddling as a team, and practicing safe boating on their local waterway can be a transformative experience.

The Estuary Partnership's canoe trips will provide our community of youth a fun and educational introduction to paddling with a spotlight on safety skills and inclusion. We look forward to working with the Estuary Partnership to customize a paddling experience that responds to the needs, ages, and interest of our community. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Meza".

Ana Meza
Co-Executive Director
ROSE Community Development
ana@rosecdc.org | 503-568-1626

Boating Facilities Section Manager
Oregon State Marine Board
PO Box 14145
Salem, OR 97309

RE: Waterway Access Grant

Dear Review Committee,

As a former mentor with Friends of the Children, I am excited to support Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's application to the Oregon State Marine Board's Waterway Access Grant for 2023-2025.

Friends of the Children is a non-profit organization providing professional long-term mentoring services to youth in the Portland Metro area. We provide a mentor to youth before they enter their first grade year, and they will have a mentor through the end of high school. Youth we serve work on developing core assets, such as perseverance and grit or self-management, delaying parenthood until after high school, graduating or earning a GED, and avoiding involvement with the juvenile justice system. Our overall goal is for youth to break cycles of generational poverty.

We elected to organize an outing with the Estuary Partnership because we saw an avenue for our youth to work as a team, investigate their interests in the natural world, and test their physical limits in a safe environment. Since we work with youth from first through twelfth grades, it was important to us that youth across this age range be able to participate. Because our youth often come from homes where they do not have opportunities to engage in supplemental, hands-on educational activities, we specifically sought out an organization such as the Estuary Partnership because we saw their program as providing an experience that our youth may not be able to otherwise participate in.

The Estuary Partnership's canoe programs will provide our community with a fun and educational introduction to paddling with a spotlight on safety skills and inclusion; we urge you to support their proposal.

Sincerely,

Doug Rogers
Program Manager
Friends of the Children

Informational Brochures and/or Website



Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership Big Canoe Program

Program Video Links and Information

Intro video for school groups: <https://youtu.be/qKBrOBmQZN4>

- A goal/activity in our budget and project is to create an updated version of this video that better meets our summer groups who are various ages from children to adults and come from various backgrounds, communities, partner groups, and locations. Additionally, it will allow us to capture footage from paddle programs at locations in Columbia and Clatsop Counties to better promote this opportunity to groups within those communities and safe access considerations to those locations.
- The updated version of this video will highlight Oregon State Marine Board and Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District as funding partners that made this production possible.

360 Canoe Program Video: <https://youtu.be/YACnjgx5Ojs>

- This video highlights a 2021 summer paddle on the Willamette River with City of Portland's Youth Conservation Corps and gives a good introduction to paddling our Big Canoes. This particular paddle program was made possible by a grant through East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District in 2021 and we were able to provide two paddle programs for new Youth Conservation Corps youth in 2022 through our Oregon State Marine Board award.

Canoe Program website page: <https://www.estuarypartnership.org/our-work/education-programs/summer-programs>

Photos from 2022 Big Canoe Programs

On the following pages, this series of photos are all from our prior OSMB WAG grant for summer 2022. The project provided 341 participants with a meaningful, nonmotorized boating experience where participants learned about paddling, on-water safety, and the waterway they paddled on. The photos highlight the stability, capacity, and unique, fun nature of the Estuary Partnership's Big Canoes.



Lower Columbia
Estuary
Partnership

Year in Review

2021-2022 Highlights

Restoring ecosystems, growing
knowledge, and connecting
with communities to care
for the Columbia River.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

THIS HAS TRULY BEEN A MONUMENTAL YEAR FOR THE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.

After nearly a decade of planning, the Steigerwald Reconnection Project is winding down. The project has been a resounding success, demonstrating how ambitious, large-scale restoration projects can also deliver on community goals like improved flood protection, greater recreation access, and good-paying local jobs. We owe a great deal of appreciation to the dozens of project partners who worked hard and believed in our mission to make this project happen.

As big as the Steigerwald Reconnection Project was, there was a lot more that we accomplished. After more than a year of creating virtual lessons and experiences, our Education Team was so excited to be back in person with students. There was still a lot of ingenuity that went into this school year. Creating new lessons and adapting old lessons to be taught outside allowed us to reach students safely.

Another huge milestone within our organization this year: we finalized our three-year Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan and developed our three-year Strategic Direction, which lays out four overarching strategic initiatives: Engagement and Representation; Authentic Collaboration; Building Capacity; and Climate Resilience. These documents are now our guides, along with our Management Plan, as we work today and plan for the future.

We continue to advance our knowledge of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and promotion of First Foods. At Steigerwald, we focused on bringing back wapato by hand-harvesting and planting 30 pounds of wapato

seed and 2,000 bulbs. We also planted 14,000 pounds of other native plant seeds, many of which have traditional ecological values. These areas will hopefully be accessible to Tribal harvesters in the years to come. And ten staff members attended the Confluence Field School, which used storytelling by Tribal members to teach us about TEK, Tribal sovereignty, and more. It was a powerful and humbling experience. We are still early in our journey, but we are eager to listen and learn more.

Looking toward the coming year and beyond, we are grounding ourselves in our new values and mission to restore and care for the waters and ecosystems of the lower Columbia River and estuary. We have ambitious plans for the East Fork Lewis River, a critical salmon-bearing stream and wild steelhead gene bank, as well as a project that will clean up stormwater entering Baker Bay in Ilwaco, Washington. And Educators are planning another busy school year while also nurturing partnerships that help build the green workforce and connect diverse communities to their watershed.

We are so grateful for all the partners, funders, and individuals who make our work possible – and enjoyable! – and who work every day to make a difference for the lower Columbia River.

Thank you,



E. ELAINE PLACIDO, DPA

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY TO THE COLUMBIA

Community members volunteer with us to plant and steward native trees and shrubs along streams and in floodplain habitat to help shade and cool streams, improve water quality, and create habitat for birds and other wildlife. Volunteers contributed time and energy at Sandy River Delta and Scappoose Veteran's Park in Oregon, and Burnt Bridge Creek, Hidden Glen Park, Salmon Creek, and Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Washington.

*2021-2022
Volunteer stats*

695 volunteers involved in planting trees, mulching, and other activities to support watershed health

16,175 trees planted by volunteers



BIG CANOE PADDLES

Paddling uniquely connects people to their river. Our two 29-foot,

12-passenger Big Canoes allow us to provide community groups, summer camps, and schools with a new on-water perspective. Participants learn water safety skills, get place-based education, and enjoy a fun, team-focused experience.

*2021-2022
Big Canoe stats*

571 people paddled our Big Canoes to learn about our rivers

Two Blueprint Foundation mentors were paid summer Recreation Leaders. Each gained experience with environmental education, recreational leadership, paddling, water safety, and other important work skills while also providing a peer mentor to members of the BIPOC community who paddled the Big Canoes with us.



CONNECTING KIDS TO THE COLUMBIA

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. We give them a solid foundation of watershed science through classroom and schoolyard lessons and educational and service-focused field trips. While most students were back in their classrooms this past year, the ongoing impacts of the pandemic brought different opportunities to connect with students and teachers. New lessons created this year - Detritivores: Nature's Recyclers and Introduction to Watersheds: Walkable Floor Map - can take place indoors or outside in the schoolyard. We offer 18 distinct curriculum bins free for educator check out, and additional lessons are available for free on our website.

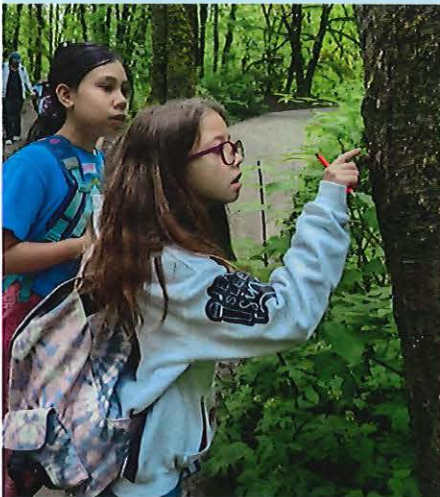


*2021-2022
School year stats:*

2,639 students received lessons and/or a field trip

8,759 trees and shrubs planted by students

17 truckloads of non-native plants removed by students



BUILDING THE GREEN WORKFORCE

In 2021-2022, four VetsWork interns worked with us. Each VetsWork member gained valuable experience with ecological restoration, monitoring, and education, and completed important field work such as stewarding native trees and shrubs, hand-harvesting wapato seed, and cutting invasive reed canarygrass. NOAA and the Mt. Adams Institute supported our work with VetsWork.



"A new world had been opened to me from a personal and professional standpoint. I am immersed in the many wonders the Pacific Northwest has to offer, from the breathtaking lushness of the forests to its many happy critters big and small. Every day I am in awe and am learning. I help children feel a sense of ease in nature while also respecting its beauty and importance. I help protect native plants and work to ensure their survival. I still have very much to learn but I am very excited by what lies ahead."

ALEX APELIS
2022 VetsWork Technician

RESEARCH & MONITORING

We have a long-term monitoring program that tracks habitat conditions at numerous sites along the lower Columbia River. Monitoring sites include relatively undisturbed reference sites as well as recently restored areas that help us gauge the effectiveness of restoration actions.



One site we have monitored since 2013 is on the Wallooskee River floodplain in Youngs Bay. The site is owned and managed by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and located in Clatsop County. The 200-acre tidal reconnection project was constructed in 2017 and restored tidal flooding to the site. Our monitoring work showed that the site shifted dramatically from an agricultural field to a functioning tidal wetland in just three years after the restoration.

SEE THE RESULTS
estuarypartnership.org/wallooskee

In another ongoing project, we have collected monthly water quality data from several lower Columbia River and Scappoose Bay tributaries in Columbia County since 2017. In partnership with the Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District, we monitor stream temperature, turbidity, E. coli, pH, and dissolved oxygen. Local leaders are using these data to understand issues facing the streams and take action to improve their water quality.

SEE THE RESULTS
estuarypartnership.org/columbiaco



RESTORING HABITAT

STEIGERWALD LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Washougal, Washington

On May 1, 2022, Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge reopened to the public after completion of the largest restoration project ever along the lower Columbia River. The \$32 million Steigerwald Reconnection Project restored habitat, increased flood protection for neighboring landowners, and reconnected Gibbons Creek and the lands of the refuge to the Columbia River for the first time in generations. Within weeks of the old levee being breached, scientists spotted salmon using the floodplain for the first time in nearly 60 years. And in June 2022, the restoration project had its first test as the Columbia River reached a 5-year flood stage and over 600 acres of the refuge were successfully inundated as intended, benefiting fish, birds, and plants at the site and downstream.

Since the reopening, people have flocked to the refuge to enjoy the new trails, see migrating birds, and experience the floodplain at work.

Impressive outcomes of this enormous and successful project include:

- 965 acres of floodplain reconnected to the Columbia River
- More than 100 acres of wetlands created
- 250 acres of riparian habitat reforested
- 510,000 trees and shrubs planted
- 14,000 pounds of native seeds planted
- Add 19% increase in Columbia River floodplain habitat between Bonneville Dam and the Willamette River
- 1.1 miles of new trail added
- 160 acres added to the Refuge through a Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust property acquisition and transfer to the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- 1.6 miles of new setback levees constructed to protect the Port of Camas-Washougal Industrial Park, the City of Washougal wastewater treatment plant, and private residents
- 50% larger parking lot
- \$40,000 in pumping costs saved by the Port of Camas-Washougal annually on average
- 550 family-wage jobs generated
- \$75 million added to the local economy



Partners
restored an
additional
3,289.5 acres
of habitat.

WOODARD CREEK

Skamania County, Washington

Woodard Creek is a salmon-bearing stream that has been affected by road development, wildfire, and timber harvest. The Upper Woodard Creek Restoration Project improved a stretch of the creek north of State Route 14 by adding large wood felled from nearby US Forest Service land and planting conifers in its riparian zone.



1 mile of
creek restored

220 pieces of large wood
placed by helicopter

15 acres of habitat
reforested with
native conifers

WHO WE ARE

OUR CORE VALUES

- Mutual Benefit
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Science and Stewardship
- The Courage to Change

Our New Mission:

To restore and care for the waters and ecosystems of the lower Columbia River for current and future generations of fish, wildlife, and people.



The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership is a nonprofit and a National Estuary Program, tasked with caring for the lower Columbia River and estuary. The lower Columbia River stretches 146 river miles from the mouth of the river upstream to Bonneville Dam and includes 28 communities, nine counties, and three million people in

Washington and Oregon. This area is the historic and traditional homeland of numerous Indigenous tribes and nations who continue to steward the river today.

Our staff and board are scientists, educators, farmers, conservationists, government representatives, business owners, restoration practitioners, and recreationalists dedicated to the lower Columbia River. We are supported by dozens of businesses, public and private grantmakers, and individuals.



THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

The National Estuary Program is a place-based program authorized under 1987 revisions to the Clean Water Act to create collaborative, locally-driven programs to address issues facing our nation's estuaries. The Columbia River estuary is one of 28 "estuaries of national significance" across the United States. These critical estuaries feed us, drive our economy, nourish abundant wildlife, and house vibrant communities. The States of Oregon and Washington and the US EPA established the Estuary Partnership in 1995 to tackle issues facing the lower

river through focused studies, regional coordination, and on-the-ground projects to improve water quality and habitat.

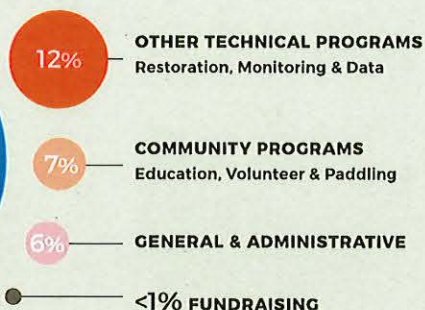
In 2021-2022, we raised \$17.80 for every \$1 from the federal US EPA National Estuary Program. A large proportion of this reflects investments of many partners in the massive restoration efforts at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, funds that go right back into the regional economy through contracts with local engineering, construction, and native plant establishment firms.

FINANCIALS

DONATED VOLUNTEER INVESTMENTS

	Hours	Value
Board Members	245	\$14,670
Scientists and Technical Experts	2,696	\$92,768
Student Service Learning	9,972	\$149,580
Parent and Teacher Volunteers	2,012	\$60,259
Planting and Community Volunteers	2,780	\$69,148
Other Goods and Services	-	\$8,625
TOTAL	17,705	\$395,050

WHERE 2021 FUNDS WENT*



*preliminary, unaudited



In 2021-2022,
we raised **\$17.80**
for every **\$1** from the
US EPA National
Estuary Program.

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STEIGERWALD
RECONNECTION PROJECT

Education or Business Plan



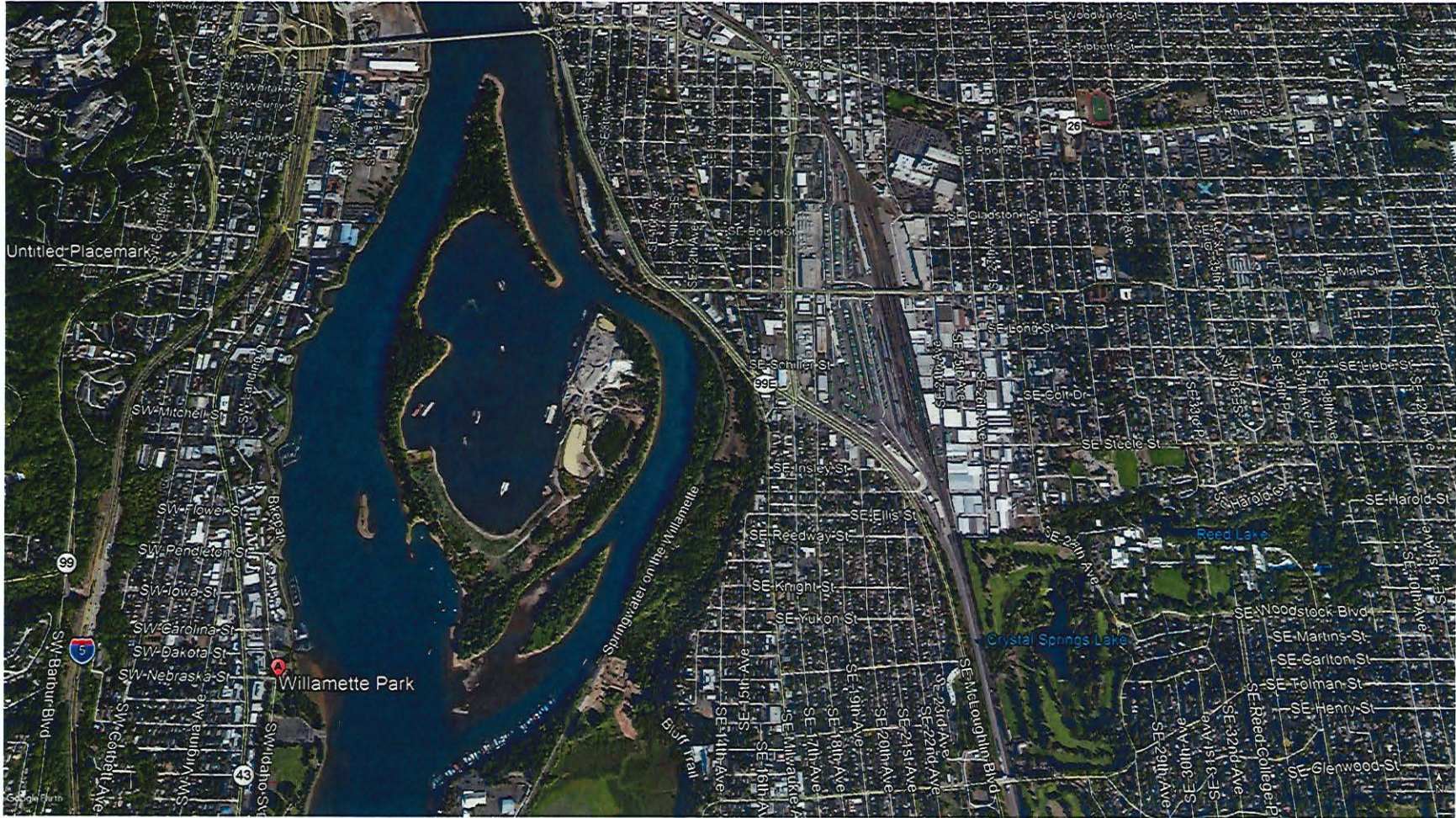
**Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership – Big Canoe Paddle Access Project
OSMB Waterway Access Grant Education and Outreach Project Application**

The City of Portland’s Willamette Park Boat Launch will be one of the launch and landing sites for the project. The Estuary Partnership’s two 29-foot Big Canoes sit on a two-canoe trailer. The Estuary Partnership utilizes the boat ramp to put the canoes in the water, and the loading docks to load the canoes. Our launch and landing process is very fast and we work hard and quickly to minimize our time on the ramp and at the dock.

Aerial Photo of Project Site (Willamette Park Boat Launch and Willamette River)



The Willamette River is the heart of Portland almost all community residents are familiar with it from a distance (a bridge, a seawall, a building). Few have an opportunity to actually experience the river in-person, on-the-water. Paddles in this area typically include a circumnavigation of Ross Island provides calm waters, a unique mix of wild and urban views, and the type of paddle that can be easily and safely replicated.

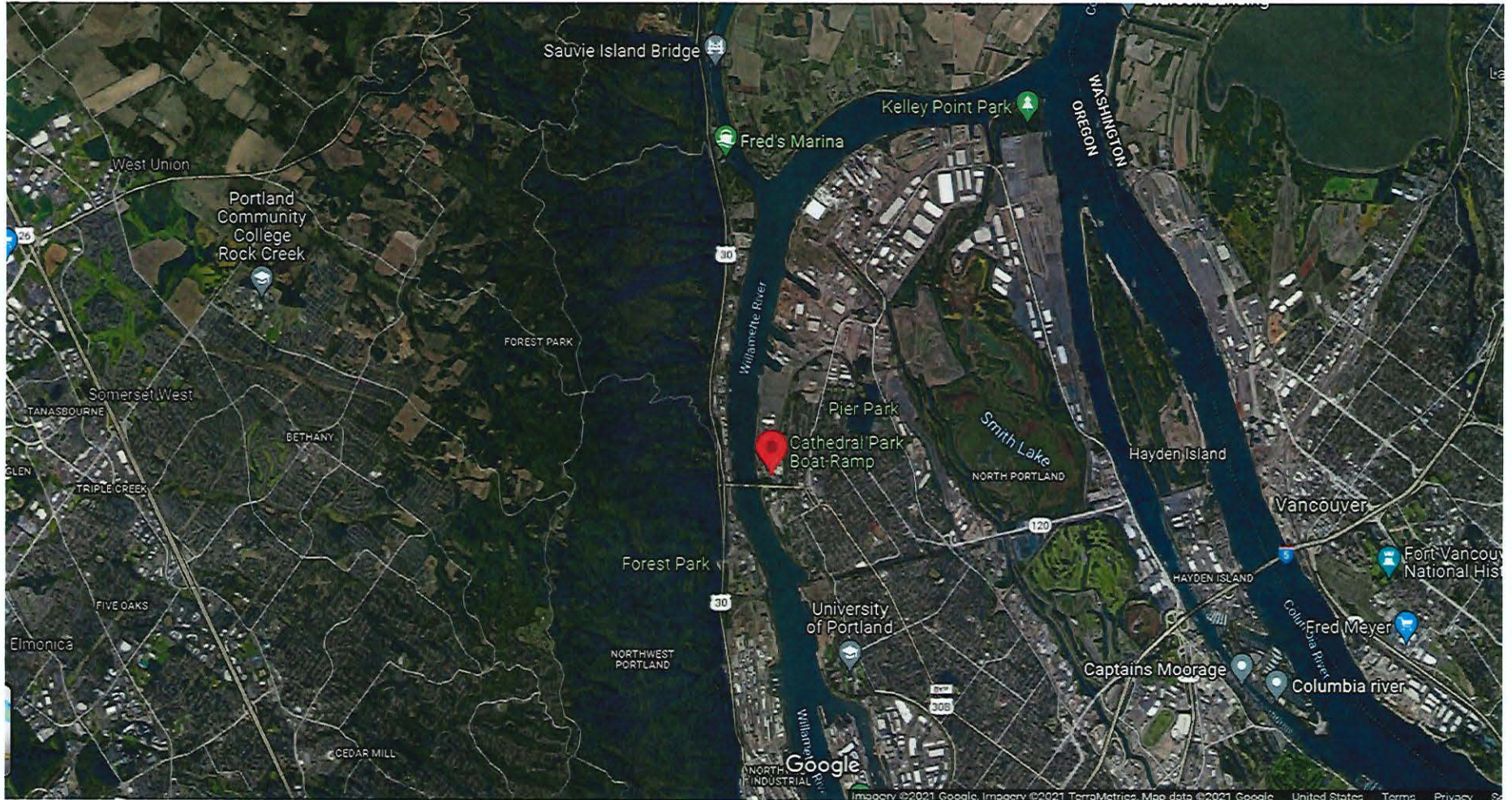


Aerial Photo of Potential Project Site (Cathedral Park Boat Ramp)

Cathedral Park provides easy access to the lower Willamette River and is the closest boat ramp to the North Portland community.

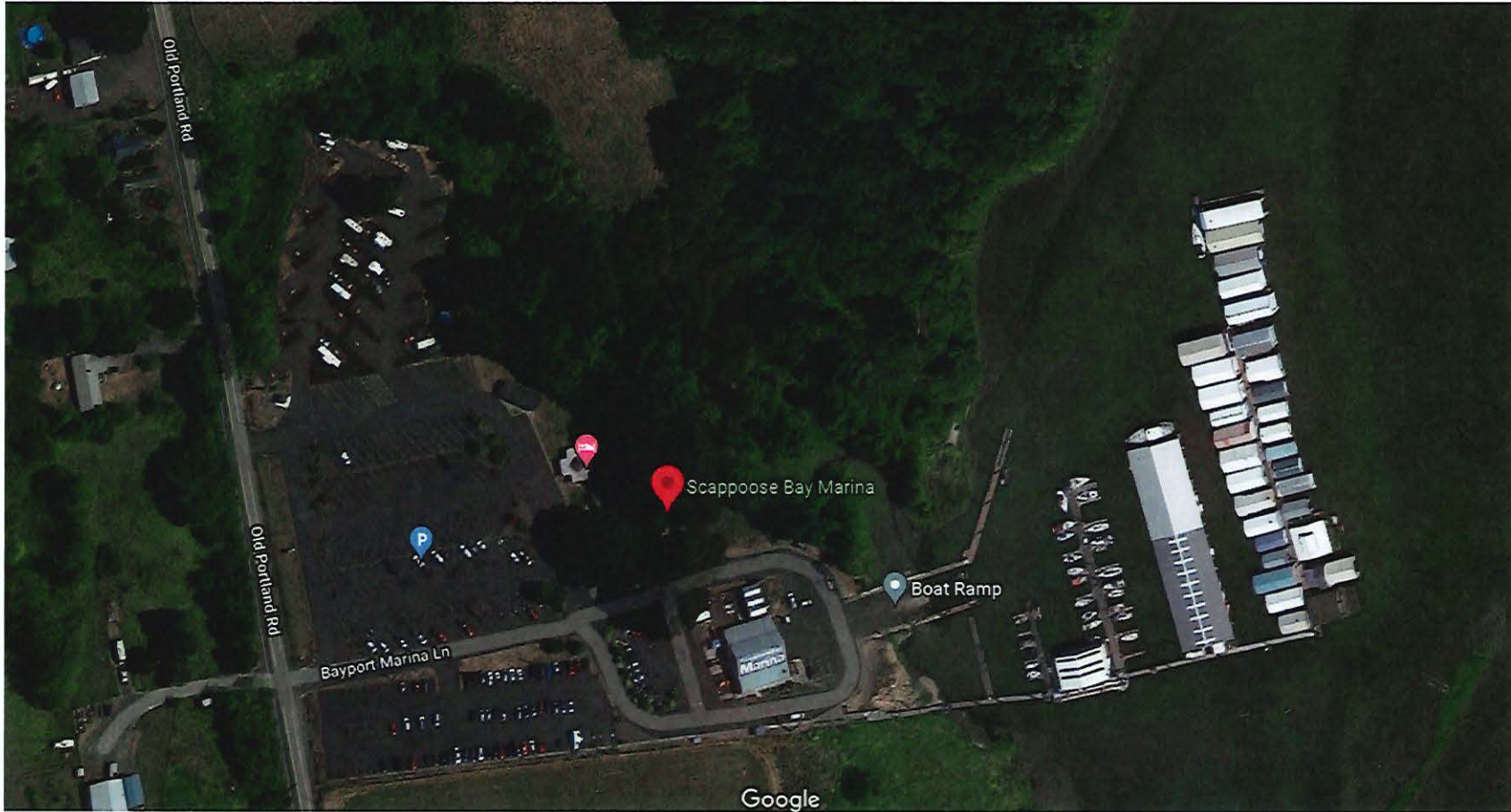


The lower Willamette River provides an interesting highly urban and developed paddle opportunity. Paddlers can guide by large ships, see Portland's industrialized waterfront, and view shorelines that otherwise completely inaccessible.

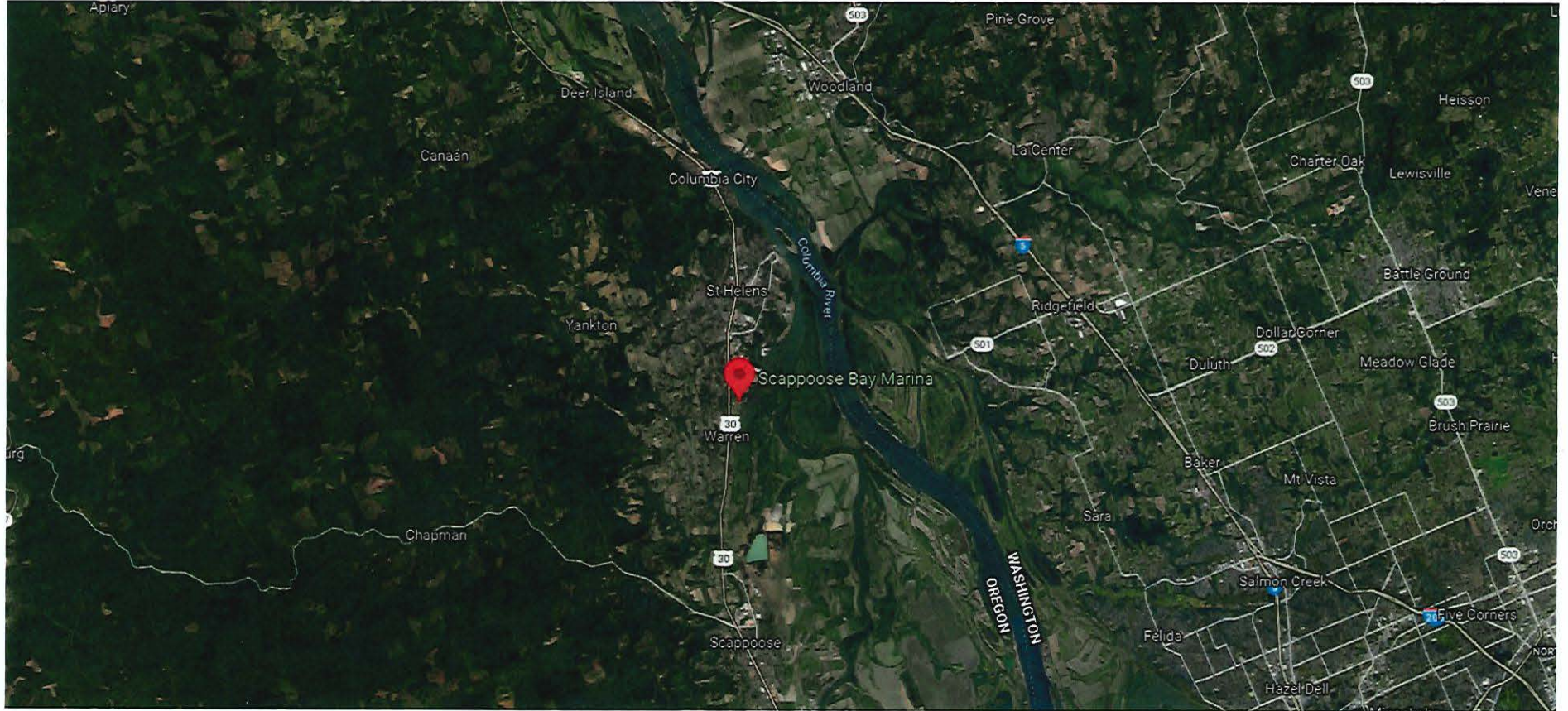


Aerial Photo of Potential Project Site (Scappoose Bay Marina)

Scappoose Bay Marina is a full service boat ramp operated by the Port of Columbia County. It creates easy access to the more sheltered water of the Scappoose Bay, however more ambitious paddlers can paddle out of the bay into the main channel of the Columbia.

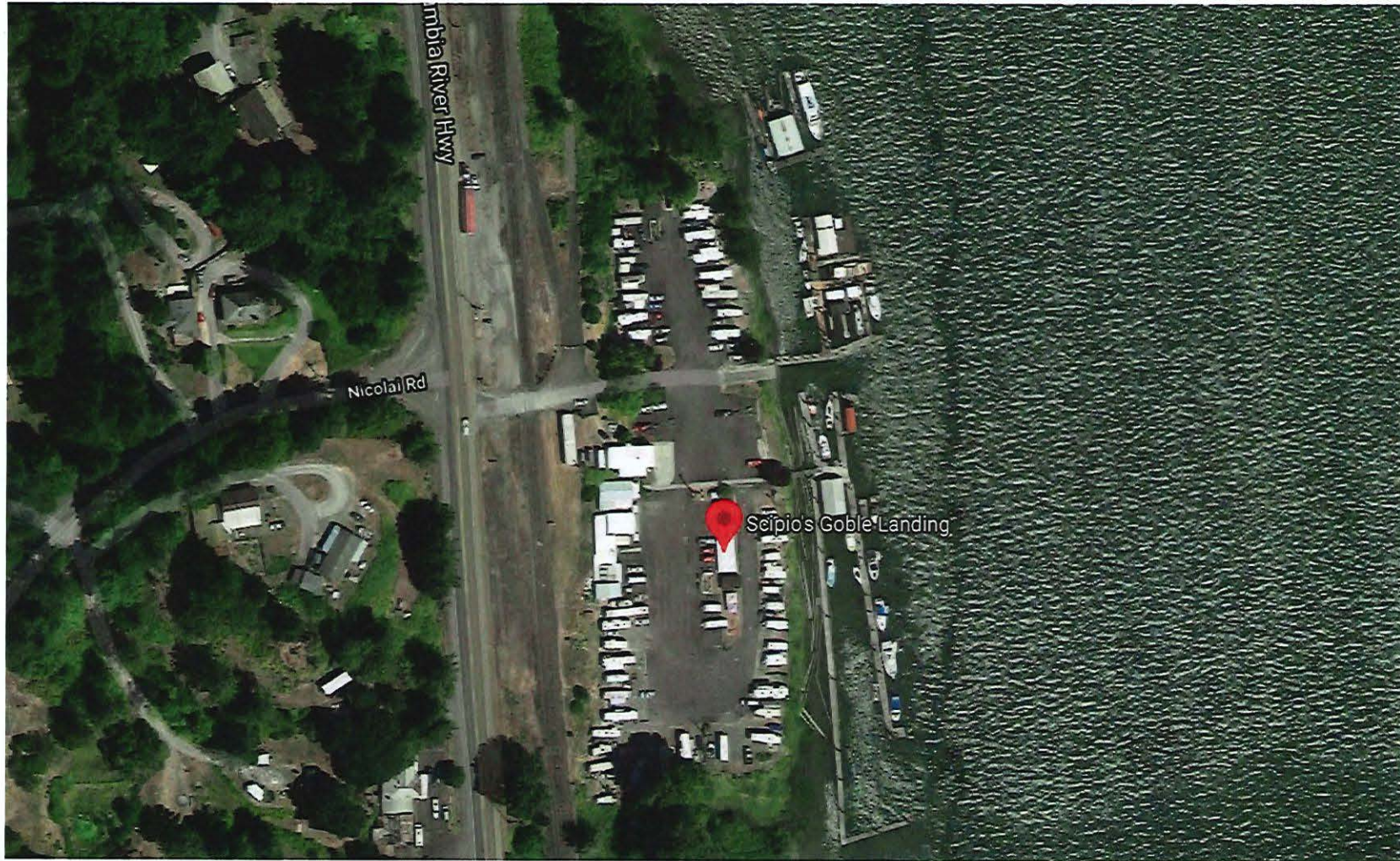


Scappoose Bay is one of the region's most popular paddling destinations. Next Adventure has an on-water, nonmotorized rental operation making it very easy for people to rent nonmotorized boats and explore the shallows, narrows, and forests of Scappoose Bay.

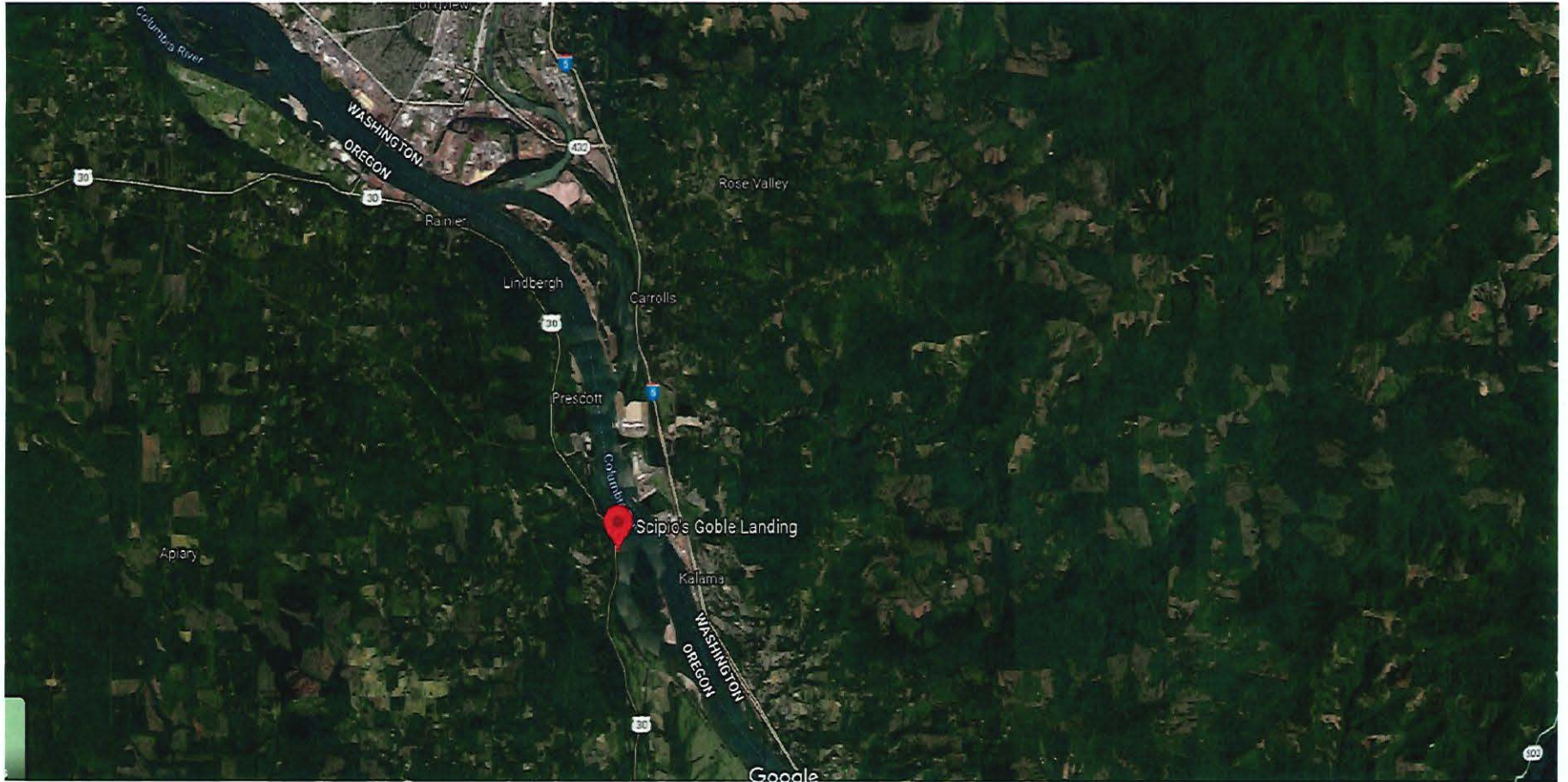


Aerial Photo of Potential Project Site (Scipio's Goble Landing)

Scipio's Goble Landing is the only private launch considered for the project. It's a logical launch point for a one-way trip ending in Rainier. The site is on the Lower Columbia River Water Trail and the Estuary Partnership has launched our Big Canoes here many times.



Scipio's Goble Landing provides easy access to the lower Columbia River and a downstream trip to Rainier. The paddle is very engaging – as paddlers cruise by the site of the former Trojan Nuclear Plant, Prescott Beach Park, and the forested area's of Oregon's shore across from Cottonwood Island.

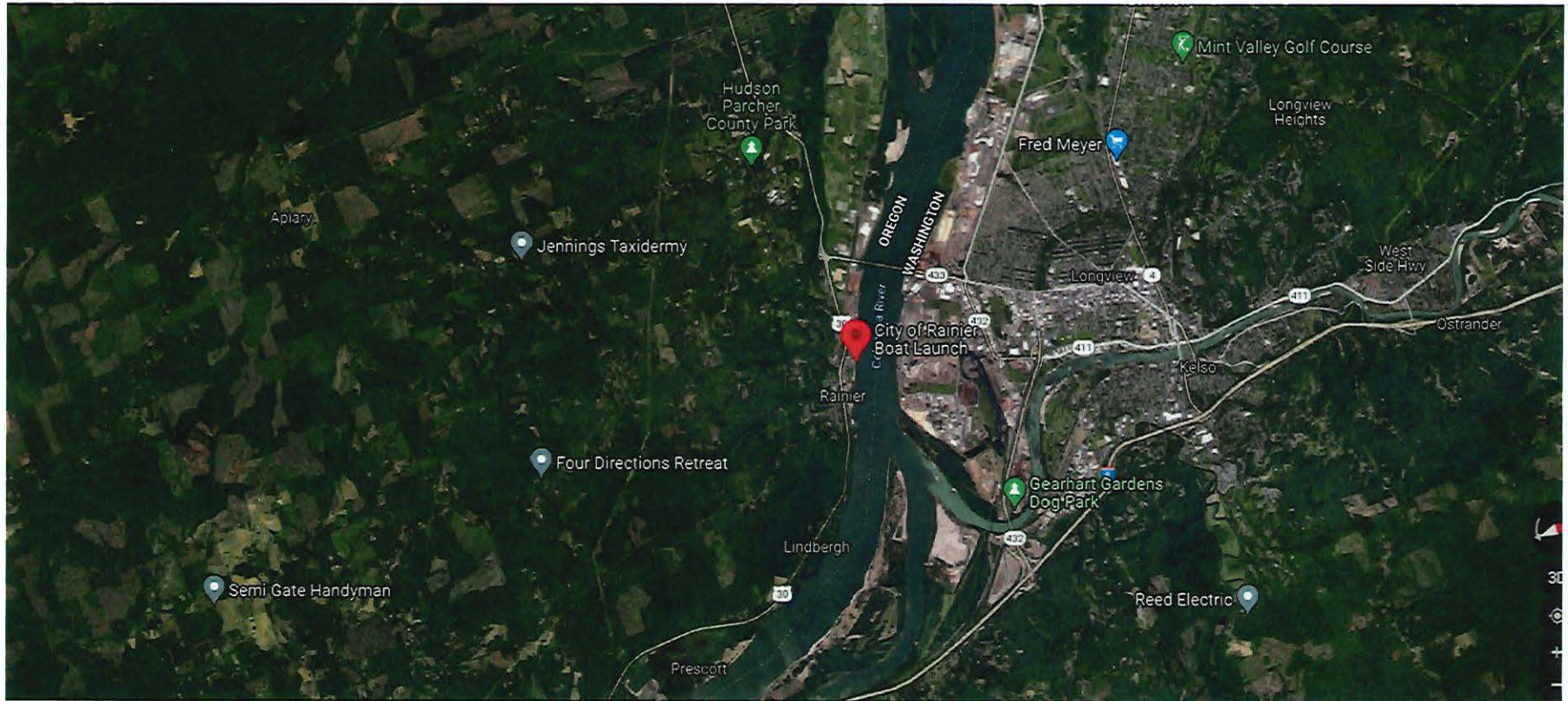


Aerial Photo of Project Site (City of Rainier Boat Launch)

The City of Rainier Boat Launch includes restrooms, two-lane boat launch and a gangway useful for loading and unloading Big Canoes. Currents can be strong here – but the launch is otherwise a great location.



Typically, most Estuary Partnership Big Canoe paddles in this area end at the Rainier Boat Ramp – as it's about 24 miles downstream to the next developed boat launch at Westport, and the area doesn't lend itself to an out and back type trip.

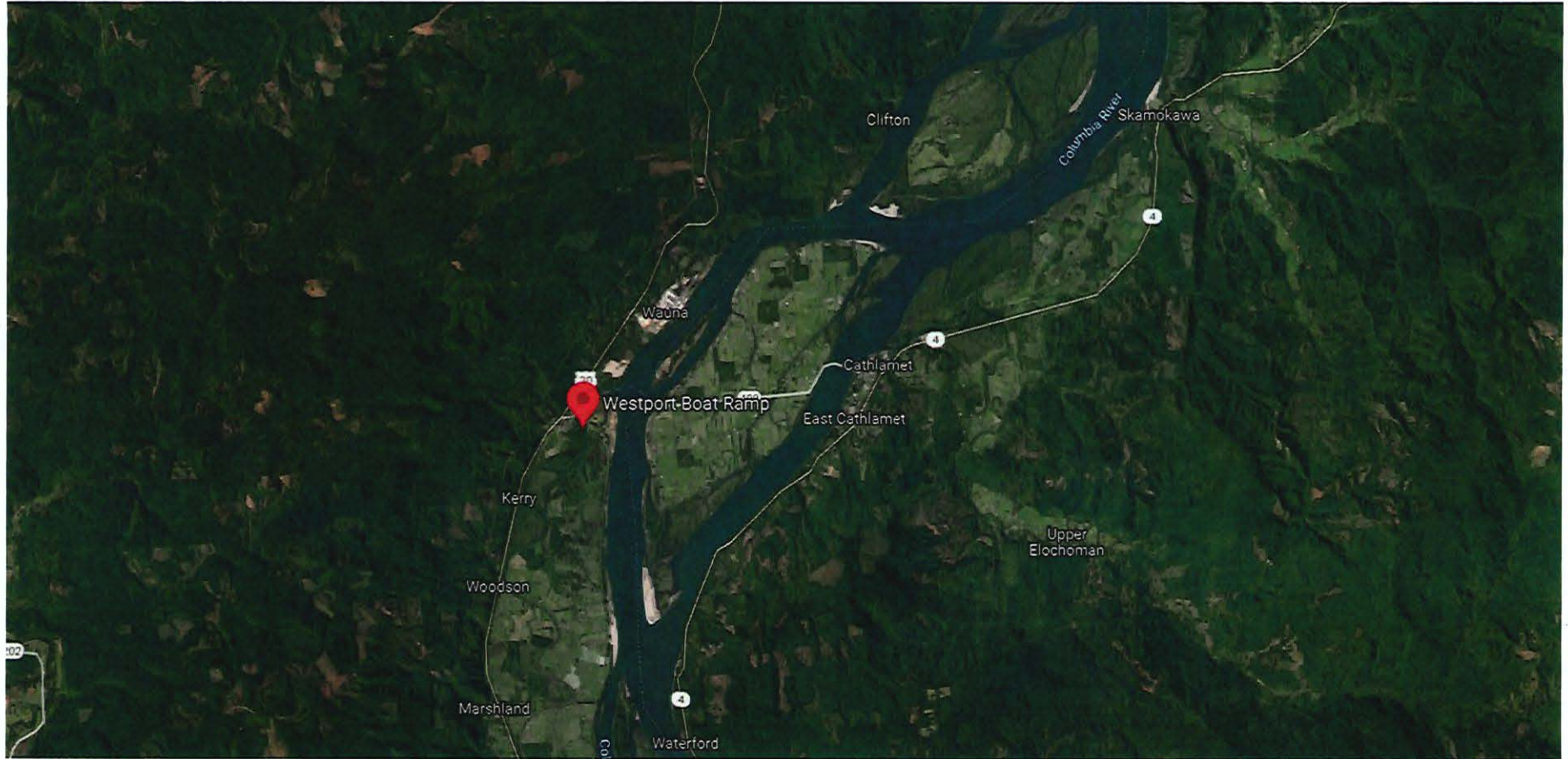


Aerial Photo of Project Site (Westport Boat Ramp) (pre-construction)

The Westport Boat Ramp has been completely redeveloped in 2021. The site does a great job integrating motorized and nonmotorized boating and includes a first-of-its-kind in Oregon kayak launch.

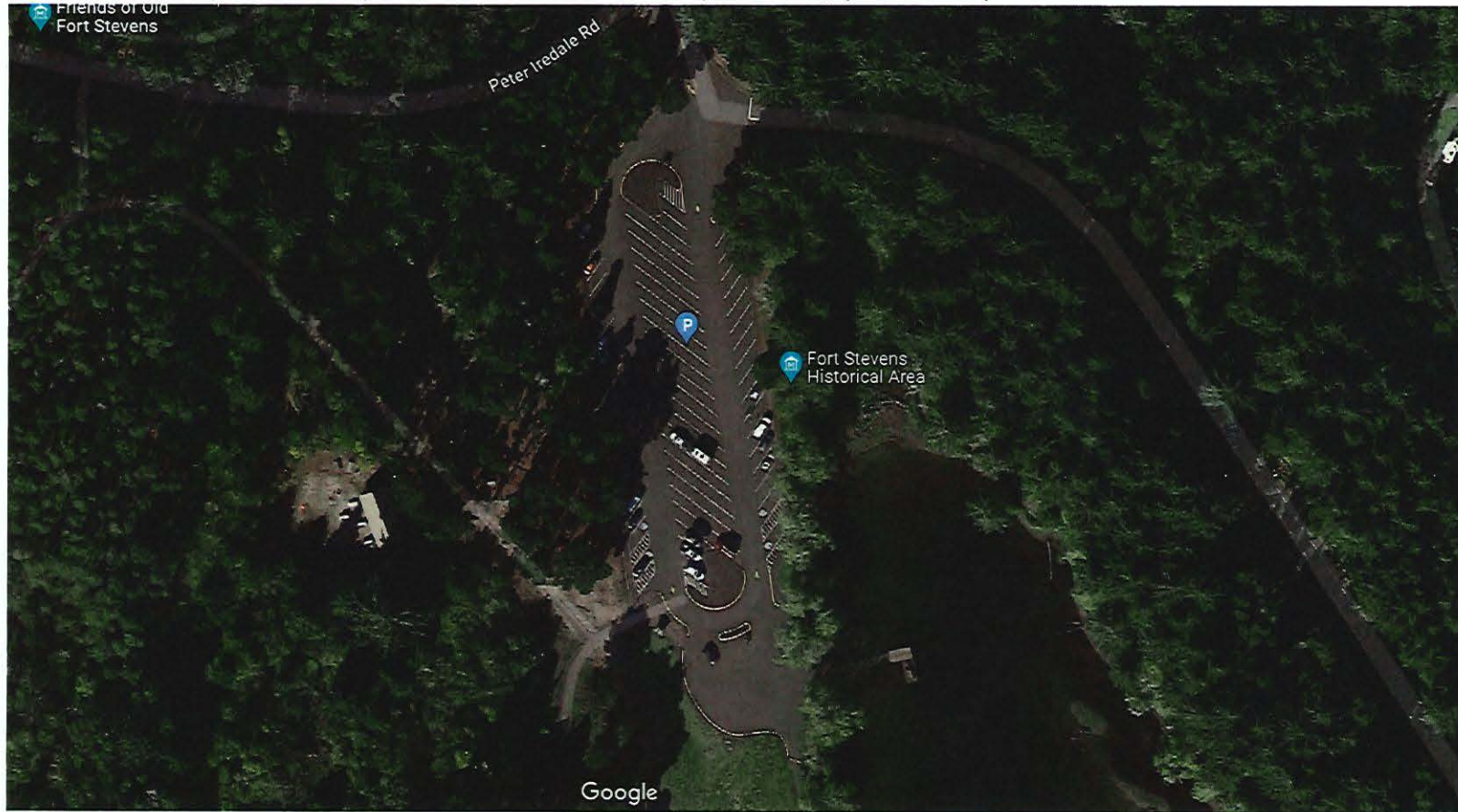


The redeveloped Westport Boat Ramp provides great nonmotorized access to the calm, protected waters of Westport Slough. This will be a great spot for less experienced nonmotorized boaters. The lower parts of the slough provide abundant wildlife viewing opportunities.



Aerial Photo of Potential Project Site (Fort Stevens State Park – Coffenbury Lake)

The small boat ramp at Coffenbury Lake at Fort Stevens State Park is a relaxed, quiet launch spot for small boats.



Coffenbury Lake is a beautiful, quiet, off the beaten track paddling spot. The lake's size has been perfect for Big Canoe circumnavigations with students and youth and always includes lot of wildlife.

