

**Notice of Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS)**  
*Port of Vancouver USA, Renaissance Recreational Trail Segments 4 and 5*  
**CP0545 / CP0546**

**Proposal:** The proposed project will involve the construction of an approximately 3,500-foot-long (0.66 miles) by approximately 12-foot-wide asphalt multi-use recreational trail along the southern side of SR 501/NW Lower River Road.

The trail will be constructed on the slopes of the embankment for NW Lower River Road, which is identified as a levee on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps (Figure 3). Construction of the trail will require importation of fill material to establish appropriate grades. Where possible, the trail will be constructed on unreinforced, engineered fill. The unreinforced fill slopes will extend south at a maximum grade of 3H:1V. Where the fill slopes would otherwise impact a wetland or extend beyond the right-of-way, the slopes will be steepened by using soil reinforcement techniques, thereby eliminating impacts to wetlands and areas outside the right-of-way. Fill will be stabilized through two methods. The first method will consist of geosynthetic reinforced soil slopes, which consists of closely spaced layers of geosynthetic reinforcement and compacted granular fill material. This soil reinforcement technique allows for slopes steeper than 3H:1V. The second method is the use of mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) retaining walls, which allow for a near-vertical face. Approximately 411 feet of retaining walls and 1,573 feet of reinforced soil slopes will be constructed to allow structural fill to be placed to avoid impacting wetlands. Some work will, however, occur within wetland buffers.

The trail will include a small overlook in segment 5 approximately 700 feet from the northern terminus of the trail. At the northern terminus, there will be a shade structure, trail turnaround, and seating. Seating will also be present at the overlook. A guard rail is proposed between the trail and NW Lower River Road to ensure pedestrian safety.

**Location:** The project is located within Sections 17, 18, and 20 of Township 02N, Range 01E of the Willamette Meridian. The project is in Vancouver, Washington, along the southern edge of NW Lower River Road (SR 501). Segment 4 of the project starts at the southwestern corner of the NW Gateway Avenue and NW Lower River Road intersection and extends approximately 850 feet to the southeastern corner of the NW Old Lower River Road and NW Lower River Road intersection. Segment 5 of the trail starts at the southwestern corner of this intersection and follows along NW Lower River Road for approximately 2,600 feet before terminating at northern intersection of NW Old Lower River Road and NW Lower River Road. The project is located almost entirely within WSDOT right-of-way. To align with the existing trail east of NW Gateway Avenue, a small portion of the new trail will be located on two parcels owned by the Port (Account Nos. 152183000 and 152184000).

**Proponent:** Port of Vancouver  
3103 NW Lower River Rd.  
Vancouver, WA 98660

**Lead Agency:** Port of Vancouver

**Property Owner:** Port of Vancouver  
3103 NW Lower River Road  
Vancouver, WA 98660

**Neighborhood  
Associations:** Fruit Valley

*The Lead Agency has reviewed the completed Environmental Checklist for the above-described proposal (the “Project”) and other information on file with the Lead Agency, as required by WAC 197-11-310 – 197-11-335. The Lead Agency has determined that the Project is likely to have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment, but any such impacts will be mitigated to a level of nonsignificance if the measures identified below are implemented by the Proponent. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, the Project will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) is not required. Therefore, a Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS) under WAC 197-11-350 has been issued.*

*The Project will be consistent with all federal, state, and local approvals, permits, and regulations.*

### **Conditions of Approval for Mitigating Environmental Impacts:**

*This Supplemental MDNS includes the following Conditions of Approval:*

- A Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) Plan will be developed to minimize erosion and control sediment during construction of the project.
- Standard erosion control BMPs will be employed to reduce or eliminate any impacts to surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage patterns.
- Emissions during construction will be limited by implementing BMPs for dust suppression (e.g., applying water, covering stockpiles) and requiring that all construction vehicles and equipment employ legally required emission controls.
- Approximately 411 feet of retaining walls and 1,573 feet of reinforced soil slopes will be constructed to allow structural fill to be placed to avoid impacting wetlands.

*The completed environmental checklist and related information, which are the basis of this determination, are available for review at the Port of Vancouver’s website:  
<http://www.portvanusa.com/environmental-services/sepa/>.*

***The issue date of this notice is 07/24/2024. The Lead Agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issuance. Comments regarding this decision should be received by the Responsible Official in writing within 14 calendar days after the date this decision is issued. Comments must be received by 5 pm, 08/7/2024. Only written comments will be accepted.***

**Comments should be addressed to:**

**Responsible Official:** Matt Graves

**Email:** *mgraves@portvanusa.com*

**Mailing Address:** *3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA 98660*



7/19/2024

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**Responsible Official**

**Date**