



OFFICE OF MAYOR  
TED WHEELER

## City of Portland

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
LOCAL EMERGENCY )  
WITHIN THE CITY OF PORTLAND )  
DECLARED ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 )

Emergency Declaration Due  
to Extreme Threat of Fire  
Extended to October 8, 2020

**WHEREAS**, on September 10, 2020, I declared a State of Emergency in the City of Portland due to the extreme threat of wildfires and closed all outdoor parks and natural areas, including forested parks, owned by the City of Portland; and

**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Emergency also authorized the City to activate as necessary evacuation sites for those displaced by fire, relocate those experiencing houselessness to safer areas as quickly as possible, and pursue all available financial resources to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare from the threats of smoke and fire; and

**WHEREAS**, since September 10th, Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) have worked collaboratively to assess the threats and risks associated with the current wildfire danger posed to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, in consultation and collaboration with the PF&R Fire Marshal, the PP&R Incident Command team identified several sites that do not pose a wildfire risk and recommend that they be opened for use; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 18, 2020, I issued Order No. 1 pursuant to the State of Emergency allowing the limited reopening of community gardens and permitted farmers markets in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 19, 2020, I issued Order No. 2 reopening all outdoor parks and natural areas, except for designated Wildland Fire Areas of Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Declaration of Emergency as of September 23, 2020, only the designated Wildland Fire Areas of Concern remain closed, while the City continues to have the emergency authority to activate evacuation sites, relocate those experiencing homelessness to safer locations, and seek all available financial resources to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Emergency is set to expire at Noon on September 24, 2020, unless extended, and the Fire Bureau, Bureau of Emergency Management, and Portland Parks & Recreation recommend extending the Emergency Declaration to address continuing concerns and assist in the response to the threat of wildfires; and

**WHEREAS**, Portland remains under a burn ban from the County Fire Defense Board Chief due to the risk of fire, state resources remain depleted and strained from battling the historic level of wildfires throughout the state, and current weather projections indicate increased temperatures on the horizon; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's natural areas are critical green assets in the community that should be protected and preserved because they provide wildlife habitat, biodiversity, opportunities for respite in nature, stewardship, environmental education and ecosystem services, including filtering water, purifying our air, and reducing the urban heat island effect; and

**WHEREAS**, limiting the closures to the Wildland Fire Areas of Concern is reasonable and necessary due to their size and topography, the forecasted weather, community risk from fires and smoke, and the limited availability of state resources to address wildfires in these areas; and

**WHEREAS**, I find it in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the public to extend the Emergency Declaration as set forth below.

**THEREFORE**, pursuant to my authority under the Portland City Charter, City Code, and any other applicable law, I hereby Order as follows:

1. **State of Emergency.** The State of Emergency declared on September 10, 2020, within the City of Portland under Portland City Code Section 15.04 is hereby extended until **Noon on October 8, 2020**, unless otherwise extended, modified, or terminated.
2. **All outdoor parks and natural areas remain open except for Wildland Fire Areas of Concern.** All outdoor parks and natural areas owned by the City of Portland remain open, except the Wildland Fire Areas of Concern listed in **Exhibit A** which remain closed. Further, the Director of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management retains the authority to open or close any location if warranted by conditions at the site.
3. **Protecting the City's Houseless Population.** As deemed appropriate to protect the public's health, safety and welfare, and prevent wildfires, and notwithstanding any other requirement imposed by law or otherwise, the Director of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, or their designee, shall direct members of the public experiencing houselessness to relocate as quickly as possible to safer areas within the city to reduce the risk of fire and promote the safety of houseless individuals and their property.
4. **Evacuation Sites for Fire Victims.** As deemed appropriate by the Director of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, the City shall activate evacuation sites for fire victims, or those displaced by the threat of fires throughout the city, state, and region.
5. **Financial Resources.** The Director of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, or their designee, is hereby directed to pursue any and all available financial resources from any lawful source whatsoever that may be used to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare from the threats of smoke and fire, prevent property damage, and otherwise respond to the threats giving rise to this Emergency Declaration.
6. **Other Provisions.**
  - a. In addition to any other power that may lawfully be exercised by local government, the powers listed in PCC 15.08.020.B are vested in the Mayor.
  - b. For the duration of this emergency, unless otherwise specified by the Mayor, the current bureau assignments to the members of the City

Council shall remain in effect as delegated authority under PCC 15.08.020.A.

- c. If any provision of this Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, or their application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the duly exercised authority, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of the Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, are severable.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

**Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020**

**City of Portland, Oregon**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ted Wheeler, Mayor**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Tracy Reeve, City Attorney  
For Portland, Oregon

## EXHIBIT A

### Wildland Fire Areas of Concern

<b>Park or Natural Area Fire Concern Area</b>
Forest Park
Powell Butte
Springwater Corridor
Oaks Bottom
Kelley Point Park
Terwilliger Parkway - Buhler Cutoff area
Colwood Natural Area
Mitchell Creek Natural Area
Powell Butte Lower Floodplain
Wahoo Creek Natural Area
Gateway Green
Beggar's Tick
Rocky Butte
Powers Marine Park
Buttes Natural Area
Cross Levee Natural Area
Deardorff Creek Natural Area
Indian Creek Natural Area
Peninsula Crossing Trail
Foster Floodplain