

Parks, Open Spaces & Environment Committee Report - July 2011
Submitted by Linda Robinson
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Gateway Park property (NE Halsey at 106th):

- The “Picnic in the Park” event scheduled on Wed, July 13 was canceled due to the threat of rain, and has been rescheduled for Tues, Aug 9, starting at 5:30 pm. There will be numerous family-friendly activities in addition to live music and a movie.
- Please consider volunteering to help at this event. We need help with set-up (3:30-5:30 pm), with take down (8:00-8:30 pm), and with several activities during the event.
- PDC has removed most of the fencing and has installed a new sign at the park, which includes a rendition of the adopted Master Plan.

Ventura Park (SE 117th & Stark):

- Three musical groups have been confirmed for the 2011 Ventura Park Concerts. Here’s the line-up:
 - August 17: Chata Addy and Susuma (traditional & modern African music)
 - August 24: David Correa and Cascada (Latin guitar)
 - August 31: The Midnight Serenaders (vintage vocal jazz)
- Food vendors for the concerts are Headwaters Café and Island Daydream Natural Shaved Ice. Headwaters Café, which uses an old airstream travel trailer for its kitchen, is known for serving healthy, local food.
- The Hazelwood NA applied for, and received, a \$2,000 grant from the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition/Oregon Cultural Trust, for these concerts.
- The NW Trail Alliance (a local mountain biking group) has submitted final plans for construction of the “pump track”. These plans incorporate several modifications made in response to neighborhood questions.

Glendoveer Fitness Trail (NE 148th & Halsey):

- Metro has been studying potential improvements of the Fitness Trail at Glendoveer. There will be an Open House to share the results of the surveys, interviews and focus groups. It will be Monday, August 1, at the Fitness Trail parking lot (NE 148th & Halsey). [Let’s hope for good weather since the meeting will be outdoors!]

Glendoveer Golf Course/Indoor Tennis Center (NE Glisan at 140th):

- Metro is also looking at potential capital improvement at the other facilities at Glendoveer, including the golf course, driving range, covered tennis courts, pro shop and Ringside restaurant. Results of their evaluation will be presented at the Open House on August 1 (see above).

Gateway Green (not in Hazelwood, but just steps away from the Gateway Transit Center):

- The Gateway Green Implementation Team has met twice, and will continue to meet quarterly.
- Friends of Gateway Green applied for, and received, a grant through Portland’s Bureau of Environmental Services to hold ten monthly on-site events that focus on water quality and habitat. We’ll do trash clean-ups, invasive species removal,

identifying and mapping of significant trees, wildlife observations, and more. The first activity under the BES grant will be Sat July 30, 9 am - noon. We'll take "before" photos. This and subsequent activities will be led by two graduate student interns, Cary Watters and Danielle Fuchs. For more information about these events, contact Cary Watters at 503-358-8325 or cary.watters@pdx.edu or Danielle Fuchs at Danielle.Fuchs@portlandoregon.gov.

- Friends of Gateway Green also applied for, and received, a \$10,000 planning grant from Metro. This will permit us to continue working with Oregon Solutions, which is providing facilitation services and staff support.
- Portland Bureau of Transportation will lead a bike ride from Wellington Park (NE Mason at 67th) to the Gateway Green site on Wed July 20, 6 - 8 pm. This 10-mile ride is open to anyone. For more information about Portland By Cycle rides contact Timo Forsberg at timothy.forsberg@pdxtrans.org or 503-823-7699.

East Portland Parks Coalition:

- Next meeting will be Thursday, September 1, from 7 to 8:30 pm at the EPNO office.
- The likely topic will be how to make better use of the EPNO website for information about our parks in East Portland.

E-205 Initiative:

- Park Commissioner, Nick Fish, announced a new initiative earlier this year, designed to lessen the equity gap in park-deficient East Portland. The comment period for the draft list of projects to be funded by this initiative has been extended through August 15, 2011. For more information and to submit your comments, visit www.portlandonline.com/parks/index.cfm?c=54791.
- East Holladay Park is getting a play structure for children, as part of the E-205 Initiative. This is the topic of discussion at the Hazelwood NA meeting on July 18.

Other Announcements:

- The Gateway Business Association's (GABA) annual First Responder Tribute will be from 11:45 to 1 pm, Sat Sept 10 at 111th Square on NE Halsey. The event will include a bike ride, co-sponsored by the Gateway EcoDistrict Steering Committee. Details, will be posted to the community calendar on the EPNO website (<http://parks.eastportland.org/>) and on GABA's website (<http://www.gabanet.com/>)
- Zari Santner, Director of PP&R for the past eight years, has retired. I will be one of eight people participating in the first round of interviews for the new Director of Parks and Recreation. Let me know, soon, if there are specific questions you would those candidates to answer, relative to East Portland Parks.
- The East Portland Exposition (EPO XPO) is a two day community event to be held July 23 and 24, 2011 at Ed Benedict Community Park, located along SE Powell Blvd between 100th & 102nd Ave in East Portland. The event begins each day at 11 am, and ends with the showing of a movie. There is no entry fee to the event. EPO XPO is co-sponsored by all 13 East Portland Neighborhoods. More information is available at: <http://www.epoxpo.org/home>.
- Metro has requested a permit to cut two 18" fir trees at Glendoveer that are growing under 30" fir trees. They will plant four new trees elsewhere on the property.