



PP&R PayDirt

A newsletter for PP&R employees

Mt. Tabor Yard Feasibility Study

BY HENRY KUNOWSKI, SFB

Why are all these architectural consultants interviewing staff and crawling all over Parks facilities? It's all part of the feasibility study for the redevelopment of our Service Zones, City Nature and Mt Tabor Yard.

Led by **Robin Grimwade**, SFB Manager, and **Henry Kunowski**, Project Manager, this project will determine what maintenance/administrative facilities the organization needs in order to deliver services, and where such facilities should be located having regard to land availability, zoning, real estate, development and operating costs, service delivery needs, and Council policies. The project comprises four key phases: space needs assessment, real estate assessment, funding strategy, and implementation plan. The feasibility study involves a project team comprised of PP&R management, and considerable interaction will be required with relevant managers supervisors and staff. The consultants include specialists in disciplines such as space planning, real estate, property management, and development/cost benefit to achieve a cost effective and efficient solution that will meet service delivery needs.

The Feasibility Study will be presented to the City Council in October for their consideration and, hopefully, funding for implementation over the next several years. Project staff will notify PP&R staff once a direction is given by the Council. For questions, please contact Henry Kunowski at 823-5883 or e-mail: hkunowski@ci.portland.or.us

ICS Training

As per Mayor Potter, all Permanent employees must complete two ICS classes - 100/700 & 200. Employee completion of all courses is a federal mandate, making the City eligible for federal grants.

All PP&R employees, including supervisors for departments with limited email access, have been sent an updated roster of completion. Please ask your supervisor if you are unsure about the status of your training completion.

If you have not completed one or both classes, please register immediately via email or phone for one of the options listed below.

Register by Email: kellie.torreswalker@ci.portland.or.us
Register by Phone: 503-823-5553

Monday, October 2	Friday, October 6
100 / 700 / 200	200
9:00am-3:00pm *	8:30am-12:00pm
East Precinct	Mt. Scott CC

Tuesday, October 3	Friday, October 6
100 / 700 / 200	100/700
7:00am - 1:00pm*	1:00pm-4:30pm
East Precinct	Mt. Scott CC

Wednesday, Oct 4
100 / 700 / 200
7:00am - 1:00pm*
Mt. Scott CC

*30-minute lunch break
Packing a lunch is best

Thursday, October 5
100 / 700
8:30am - 12:00pm
Mt. Scott CC

Thursday, October 5
200
1:00pm - 4:30pm
Mt. Scott CC

Locations:

East Precinct (Police station)
737 SE 106th
across from EPCC

Mt. Scott CC: North Room
5530 SE 72nd
823-3183

Director News

BY ZARI SANTNER, PARKS DIRECTOR

During my site visits over the last six months, I have shared information on funding and the future of PPR. Since the world keeps spinning, this information changes at a somewhat regular rate. I want to make sure everyone hears the same information from me so I am sharing some critical information as it stands today.

1. The City Budget Process. It is expected that City Council will not ask City Bureaus' to submit cut packages for this next fiscal year. This will be the first time in seven years. Last year the cut started quite big, but in the end we made a good case for our maintenance backlog and ended up only cutting around \$87,000. To be clear, these are just the cuts City Council requests, and not the cuts we make internally to balance our budget with rising utility and health costs or revenue shortfalls. Some adjustments may be needed in this area, and we will be watching the accounting reports very closely to be able to monitor revenues. We also will follow our utility/fuel costs very closely. Fred Kowell, our new finance manager, is diving right in to make sure we have accurate financial reports on a regular basis. Fred will lead our next budget process without the support of Randy Webster, who oversaw the task the last two years. Randy is on-loan to a citywide project—a new accounting system for the whole City.

2. One time funds. City Council has one time funds -- about \$20 million for next year. These dollars cannot be used to increase our workforce since the money won't carry on to the next fiscal year. One-time dollars work well for funding capital projects, buying needed equipment, or making one-time repairs to buildings and other structures. PPR will be competing against many other worthwhile city projects. We'll do our best to convince the decision-makers to send some of the money our way.

3. Maintenance facilities. We all know we have maintenance quarters that need to be replaced for safety and efficiency reasons. In addition, the Bureau re-organization requires relocating some work units into different configurations. These changes aren't cheap. The City Council placed a budget note in our current budget that requires us to prepare a report on our current maintenance facility conditions/needs and report back to them with options at the end of October. We are on track to report to them at that time. A key part of this process is making sure we communicate with you before you read about it in the papers. I have been asked, "Will we sell Mt. Tabor yard?" The honest answer is that I don't know. The decision can only be made by City Council. They will determine what is in the best interest of the park system, the City of Portland, and what makes financial sense. We will provide the data they need to know the financial impact of moving to new site verses fixing our current Mt. Tabor Yard facility. A report on the background of this process is in an article by **Henry**

Kunowski in this PayDirt issue. As managers and supervisors get more details, they will share them with all of you or look for more information in the next issue of PayDirt. .

4. Measure 26-80. In November, a regional parks (Metro) bond measure will be on the ballot. It will allow the region to acquire natural areas and protect water quality. It will also provide a local share— about \$17m -- we can use to acquire and develop parkland in areas of Portland that are park deficient. This would be a terrific benefit to our park system. This is different from the Portland Parks Levy. The Metro Parks Measure will focus on land acquisition and one-time development and capital needs. The Portland Parks Levy is focused on ongoing service delivery.

5. Portland Parks Levy. Two years remain on the 2003 Portland Parks Levy, which brings about \$4.5 million in on-going maintenance and program dollars to our budget. The levy also funds capital projects, such as the skate parks that will be open by next summer, the renovated Wilson Pool that opened last year, and the East Portland CC Pool that will break ground in 2007. We are beginning to collect information from the public and staff on priority projects for the levy.

6. Our Commissioner. Dan Saltzman is our Parks Commissioner and hopes to keep us in his portfolio. He is committed to keeping us strong, and believes we should go out for another levy in 2008 when the current one expires. Dan will bring the next levy proposal to Council for approval in January 2008. He will ask for Council approval to place the measure on the November, 2008 ballot. Dan's priorities for PPR are acquiring land, increasing sustainability programs in our system, and creating even more programs for teens.

7. The Park District concept. If PPR were to become a park district separate from the City, the funding would come directly to the new entity from property taxes. An independently elected park board, accountable to the public for how the dollars are spent, would govern us. We have been talking with other cities that have benefited from this option, and we are exploring the feasibility for us. What we do know at this point is that to do this would take a long, concerted effort by advocates. In any case, the idea is being explored by the Park Board to see if it would be in the best interest of the citizens of Portland, the City and the park system.

8. Service Zones Tier One Manager. **Lydia Kowalski** will be resigning the end of December. I appreciate her professionalism and willingness to help us make a smooth transition. The process to hire her replacement has not been determined yet, but I am not planning on a national search. I want to have someone with knowledge of Portland government and the leadership skills to hit the ground running. We will all miss Lydia and wish her well in her new endeavors.

Dear PP&R...

Dear Louise Shorr (City Nature):

Thank you for following up, and all your hard work to improve the Elk Rock island. During this time in previous years there were parties (fires, yelling, large groups of people, etc.) at least one evening per week and usually more often. For the entire month of August this year I have not seen one evening party over there. I also think that the amount of vandalism (trash, fire pits, broken glass, etc.) has dropped right along with the drop in other illegal activity. The island is looking better than it has in years.

David Reinhardt

Kudos to Greg Hawley for answering one of our younger constituents.

Dear PP&R:

Hello my name is Rye Scholin and I use Marshall Park every weekend. I like the trees, the creek and the shade. I would like more playground equipment like monkey bars, a trampoline and twirly ladybugs, and even a train.

Rye Scholin, Age 3 3/4

Hello Rye-

I got your message about Marshall Park's play area. You have some really great ideas and I forwarded your ideas to someone in our planning department who is working on our playgrounds. The only thing is that often times big people take a long time to decide on things like playgrounds. That's why we need kids like you telling us what you want and what you don't want. If you live near Marshall Park, there are some other parks not too far away that maybe you could take you parents to. Here are the names of a few of them:

Custer Park

Fulton Community Center

Willamette Park

If you go to these parks, you'll find some different things to play on. If you want, you could e-mail me and tell me what you like and what you don't like about the play areas at these parks. I'll tell the planners so that they know what 3 3/4 year-olds like.

You can find the location of these parks and other parks at: www.portlandonline.com/parks/

Greg Hawley

Park Technician, Portland Parks & Recreation

Dear PP&R:

I have just finished a van excursion with PP&R's Senior Recreation department. I wish to compliment **Kay-Lani Munro** and **Tim Martin**. They both took such good care of all the seniors. I look forward to future van trips, because of Kay-Lani and Tim.

Ruth Anderson

Dear PP&R:

Nikki Joe does lifeguard duty and teaches swim classes at Southwest Community Center Pool. She has also become proficient at leading the deep and shallow water aerobics classes.

Jean Glasselan

Dear PP&R:

Recently I called the Reservations Center and spoke to **Donna Leslie**. She patiently walked me through your web site, and helping me retrieve information concerning the opening of the Springwater bridge over McLoughlin Blvd. I appreciate actually talking to a live person, and even more I appreciate her help and patience. As a bicycle commuter from Gresham to N.E. Portland, I am eagerly looking forward to the Springwater path being completed. Thanks again for your efforts, and a special thanks to Donna for her help.

Ed Zimmerman

Dear Commissioner Dan Saltzman:

Congratulations to you and your fellow decision makers for the wonderful parks I visited in Portland last week. My son is attending Portland Art Institute and knowing my interest in landscape architecture, he took me to interesting locations in Portland. Favorites were Jamison Square and Tanner Springs Park. Tanner is a marvelous design..all elements seemed right..It's nice to see Portland doing such artistic public spaces.

Carolann Stoney
Pomona, CA

Dear PP&R:

On behalf of the production crews and staff for the Washington Park Summer Festival, I would like to thank the many Parks employees and family members who volunteered during the festival to hand out programs, direct traffic, and collect donations from the audience. Your assistance made the whole festival run smoothly and ensured that the two weeks were enjoyable for the neighborhood as well. Thanks to you, \$4690 was collected from more than 16,000 people to put toward next year's festival. A super special thanks to **Steve Pixley** for coordinating and directing the volunteers.

Kristan Knapp

WPSF Producer/Summer Concerts Coordinator

Dear Teresa Koon (Assistant Inclusion Coordinator):

I am writing to express my appreciation for the **Disabled Citizen Recreation Inclusion Services** provided to my grandson Justin at Mt. Scott CC. He was enrolled in the day camp program. With the help of **Christy Bechtel**, Justin had a successful experience. Thanks to PP&R for providing this valuable service. Without it, Justin could not have participated.

Charlene Diss

Letters may be edited for clarity and length

September Anniversaries

Lee Pudwill 29 yrs.	Karen Aker 11 yrs.
Kevin Stoecker 27 yrs.	Patty Gaines 10 yrs.
Terry Trapp 25 yrs.	Randy Mawhirter 8 yrs.
Sylvia Linington 24 yrs.	Jim Rondhuis 8 yrs.
Lance Condray 23 yrs.	David Warner 8 yrs.
Linda Corbett 23 yrs.	Scott Domine 8 yrs.
Kathleen Murrin 23 yrs.	Vince Moore 8 yrs.
John Reed 23 yrs.	Rob Crouch 7 yrs.
Peg Zander 22 yrs.	Ron Boyd 7 yrs.
Terry Mercer 21 yrs.	JJ Lincoln 7 yrs.
Paul LaCroix 20 yrs.	Deb Lev 6 yrs.
Nancy Stites 20 yrs.	Pauline Miranda 5 yrs.
Diane Carver 17 yrs.	Glenn Raschke 5 yrs.
John Ffitch 17 yrs.	Shulamit Lotate 4 yrs.
Sinh Aroon 17 yrs.	Susan Masson 4 yrs.
Kathy Hauff 16 yrs.	Vince Arditi 3 yrs.
Joey Nolasco 15 yrs.	Dunetchka Otero 3 yrs.
Mary Richardson 14 yrs.	Trevor Todd 3 yrs.
Steve Boquist 13 yrs.	Anton Gustafson 3 yrs.
Sarah Cooper 13 yrs.	Seve Ghose 1 yr.
Michael Walsh 13 yrs.	Jeff Milkes 1 yr.
Sheryl Juber 12 yrs.	Joe Baybado 1 yr.

Announcements

Wetland Creation Project

The **PP&R Equipment Group** finished work this week on a 1.2 acre wetland creation project at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Two wetland areas were excavated in the North Field of the refuge in order to enhance habitat for amphibians and provide additional opportunities for public education and student research. An additional benefit of this project, funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board [OWEB] has been the closing and enhancement of the former PP&R refuse transfer site at the southern entrance to the refuge. In the next few weeks **City Nature** staff will seed the wetlands; local frogs and salamanders are expected to move in sometime in the late fall.

Thank you PP&R Equipment Group! This project would not have been realized without your great work!



Births

Alexey Sarafinchan and his wife Dominika have a new son! David Sarafinchan was born Friday, September 15, weighing in at 10.5 pounds. David's siblings are Daniel, Rebecca, Constatine, Edward, Rubin and Veniamin.

Monthly Recreation Meetings set

Starting this October, PP&R will begin holding monthly Recreation Staff Meetings. The Recreation Staff Meetings Committee has been working to get the meetings started and to create a one-year outline that will provide valuable information to all of us working in recreation. It will also give us the opportunity to re-connect, and share ideas to improve our programs, customer service and communication. The meetings will cover such topics as: Staff Communication, Diversity, Recruitment, Marketing, Interviewing Techniques, Marketing, and Customer Service. We plan to have guest speakers often throughout the year to provide information from outside sources who specialize in the topic at hand.

If you have any questions, please ask anyone on the committee! Committee members and meeting specifics are listed below.

Here are the specifics on the meetings:

Days: Third Friday of each month, October - May

Time: 12:30-2:30pm

Location: Community Music Center

Who: All Recreation-focused full-time staff

Dates: 10/20/06, 11/17/06, 12/15/06, 1/19/07, 2/16/07, 3/16/07, 4/20/07, 5/18/07

Recreation Staff Meeting Committee Members:

Jennell Andrews, Tim Barker, Sarah Cooper, Sylvia Linington, Ali Rice, Debbie Timmins, Craig Vanderbout, Ellen Waters, Betty Woodward

Upcoming Events

Leach Botanical Garden's Monthly Focus Tours

To highlight seasonal features of Portland's only public botanical garden.

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave, Portland.

Admission is free. Suggested donation is \$5.

For further information contact Nancy at 823-1671.

Hoyt Arboretum Celebrates Autumn with Self-Guided Tours of Spectacular Fall Foliage

What: Fantastic fall color at Hoyt Arboretum.

When: Late September through early November. Pick up a free self-guided tour brochure outside the Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center in the brochure rack.

Where: Start at the Visitor Center at 4000 SW Fairview Blvd. Follow the map inside the Fall Color brochure or design your own walk. Color can be enjoyed by visitors of all ages and walking abilities with much of the scenery accessible from ADA certified paved trails.

For further information call 823-1649.