

Superintendent's Report
Parks and Seattle Center Committee
August 18, 2011

Rowing Extravaganza. The weekend of August 5, the Green Lake Small Craft Center hosted the 50th annual Summer Rowing Extravaganza. The event drew more than 25 teams and 900 participants. The first race of the day kicked off at 6:45 a.m. with a race every ten minutes for 12 hours. Mother Nature was on our side with weather in the mid 70s. A highlight: the GL youth crew team who act as the DJs for the event played great music all day and announced racing down the course.

Lake City Community Center. We are meeting with Lake City Community Center, Inc. this week to discuss long term operating options for the center. We are also starting outreach to the community about Parks' intent to identify an operator who can increase the center's offerings and activities.

Bicycle Tour of the Duwamish River. On August 10, 2011, Parks staff took part in a bike tour of the Duwamish River sponsored by the Seattle Parks Foundation. The tour explored existing and potential green space and trail improvement projects along the river. Participants included representatives from the Council, the Seattle Parks Foundation, Cascade Bicycle Club, Seattle School District, SPU, SDOT, Parks, Duwamish Rowing Club, and other interested citizens. The 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy provides \$2 million for trail connections along the West Duwamish Trail.

Golden Gardens play area. The new Golden Gardens play area opened to the public on the afternoon of Friday August 5, 2011. As the fence crew slipped off the panel locks, a crowd of wide eyed beachgoers gathered. Once both pathways were accessible, the site was swarmed with children racing in to play. Many parents stopped to tell us how thrilled they are to have the new play area. We hope you can join us for the public celebration on August 29.

Washington Park Arboretum - New Zealand Focal Forest. Design of the New Zealand Focal Forest is complete. The plants are being propagated from seed of a known provenance. These plants will reach maturity for planting in 2013. The construction schedule includes site preparation, including tree removals, in 2011, grading and installation of infrastructure in 2012, and planting in the early spring of 2013. Parks held a public meeting in June of this year to give an update on the implementation of the Arboretum Master plan, highlighting this project.

Aurora cleans up. Parks and SDOT staff cleaned up the NE Queen Anne Greenbelt strip along Aurora Ave N. Combined crews cleaned up 1.5 miles of sidewalk access using SDOT slope mower, weed eaters and brush cutters. We thank SDOT for collaborating - it looks great!

South Central crew. Parks staff met with Craig Thompson in lower Dr. Jose Rizal Park to inspect progress on the Mountains to Sound Trail. Construction requires reconfiguration of the Off Leash Area fencing. We're looking at a number of options for doing that. Green Seattle Partnership work is scheduled in the lower park area to remove invasive vegetation that will improve visibility and make it easier for grounds staff to mow a larger area, and hopefully more frequently.

Southeast District crew. The SE District crew did a great job preparing and cleaning Lake Washington Blvd, Genesee Park and the Stan Sayres Hydro Pits after the Hydroplane Festival that drew about 300,000 people August 5-7. They also prepared the same areas for the 2011 Danskin Triathlon. The

cleanup and removal of the Seafair festival usually takes two weeks; this year it took one week.

Southwest District. SW District staff have begun a pilot composting project. They placed two cans at picnic shelter #5 in Lincoln Park and another in the crew quarters. The results are then* moved to the vendor dumpster if less than 10% contaminated, or if we can achieve that level with quick sorting. The results of the first attempt found the cans too contaminated to salvage the recyclables. A group used the shelter the next day, Sunday, July 31 and used the compost can. One can had almost no contamination and the second was salvageable with minimal sorting. It is diverting some material from the regular garbage.

International Cricket Tournament. Seattle welcomes Samoan cricket teams from cities across the nation and from American Samoa to their spectacular new home on the Jefferson Park Lid. The tournament, which lasts all week, has drawn hundreds of athletes, spectators and vendors to the newly opened cricket pitch on the reservoir lid.

Kids to the Aquarium. Yesler Community Center's Playground Program took their first summer field trip to the Seattle Aquarium on August 2. 25 youth between 5 and 11 signed up for the trip along with two staff, an intern, and five parents. The kids had a great time and the moms, who are immigrants from East Africa, had never been to an Aquarium and were almost as excited as the kids to go on the field trip.

Slacklining. This sport, growing in popularity nationwide, is growing in Seattle. Parks is working with slackliners and internally to design safety and courtesy guidelines.