

Superintendent's Report
Parks and Neighborhoods Committee
July 19, 2012

Lincoln Park High Ropes Course. After the Fautleroy Community Association meeting on July 10, we decided not to proceed with a proposal to build a five-to-six acre high ropes course in West Seattle's Lincoln Park. The proposal for Lincoln Park was in the conceptual stages. Parks had just begun its public outreach and had developed a full public involvement plan. Low and high ropes courses are gaining in popularity worldwide, and they are among a number of emerging sports and other outdoor activities Parks and Recreation is working hard to accommodate.

Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Day. This is an opportunity for volunteer teams to roll up their sleeves and spend a summer day working together at one of five Seattle parks – Lower Woodland Park, Dr. Jose Rizal Park, Lincoln Park, and Katie Black's Garden. The event is being organized by Seattle Parks Foundation in partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation, REI, EarthCorps, and Seneca Group. The first VIP Day is Friday, July 20, 2012. Following the VIP workday, there is thank you party at Lake Union Park from 3 to 7 p.m. that will feature live bands, free clam chowder, food trucks, and plenty of fun activities. All volunteers will receive a commemorative t-shirt, and all corporate partners will be acknowledged with their logo on signage displayed at the work site, appreciation party, on the website, on all VIP Day posters and publications.

Westlake Park Play Area. Seattle Parks is working with Downtown Seattle Association(DSA) to create a play space at Westlake Park. This project is the result of DSA's recognizing and promoting the need for a play space and being willing to fund its construction. This is one of the many ways the Parks/DSA partnership supports a healthy downtown.

South Lake Union Incentive Zoning. Parks staff and Brennon Staley from DPD presented the Tax Increment Financing proposal to Park Board on June 28. The briefing explained the potential impacts to 100 Dexter of the idea to build a school and community center in the park, and the Park Board opposed it. The Denny family opposes the idea of a school but would support a community center.

Bench Pads at Green Lake. We are hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, July 31 at the Green Lake Community Center to discuss the design and use of the Green Lake bench pads. Parks poured cement pads to hold benches on the east side of the lake between the community center and pool. The double backed park benches were once located in Westlake Park. We are working with the community to decide if all the pads should be used for benches.

Camp Long Ropes Challenge Course. The High Ropes Course, an addition to the existing Challenge Course, a project initiated by the Camp Long Advisory Council, is funded by both the Department of Neighborhoods Large Matching Fund and the King County Sports Youth Facility Grant. Construction is slated for the beginning of August with completion by the end of September. We are removing 18 trees including 2 dead trees and 2 decaying trees. We will be replacing the trees in a 2:1 ratio.

Georgetown, Northacres and Beacon Mountain Sprayparks. Projects are complete and operational, and kids and families love them. These projects converted existing wading pools into Sprayparks. Sprayparks offer a more interactive play experience that appeal to a broader age group of kids. Sprayparks are operated with a longer season and longer hours than existing wading pools, providing more access to play. Sprayparks also use approximately 1,000,000 gallons less water than wading pools each season.

Montlake Playfield Ohno Construction is finishing construction of the artificial turf field. It is available for scheduling. There is minor work still to be done on the track and the end zone. The renovated field increases playable hours, promotes safety with an even surface, reduce the year-round and annual costs of field maintenance, reduce the expense of field preparation, conserve water, and reduce the use of fertilizer and soil amendments. The project recycled turf from the UW football field and the construction work was donated by Ohno Construction.

Magnuson Park

Tennis Center Sand Point. After many years of planning, construction will begin within the next week on the Tennis Center Sand Point. This project is a public-private partnership between Seattle Parks and Recreation and Tennis Center Sand Point, LLC and will be located east of 62nd Avenue NE, just south of NE 74th Street. Construction is expected to take approximately eleven months.

Sail Sand Point. Staff are working on a long term lease for Sail Sand Point for boat storage and programming adjacent to the office space in Building 11. The City currently has a five-year agreement with them but they are seeking a longer term not only for reasons of security but to attract fundraising opportunities.

Nature Programs. Magnuson CC's Nature Programs are in full swing now. Besides weekly camps, the Center has offered night time nature walks. On July 6, 40 people participated in the Full Moon Owl Walk. They were able to experience numerous tree frogs, pond water examinations including a very late tadpole, and a Great Horned owl pellet dissection. On July 2, Magnuson Community Center also hosted a special wetlands field trip for park partner, Outdoors-for-All. Fifteen autistic children and young adults were led by Magnuson Nature Programs Director, Emily Bishton, through the wetlands exploring the trails, examining pond water samples, and observing birds and dragonflies.

Woodland Park Play Area. The first public meeting for this play area renovation will be held on Wednesday July 18. This project, funded by the Parks and Green Spaces Levy will provide for replacement of play equipment, access improvements and other work at this existing play area.

Specialized Adult Programs Demand is Greater than Capacity.

The Specialized Programs Adult Programs for summer have kicked off and are in high demand as shown by the high levels of registration. Cooking class sessions are full with a waiting list of 7 people at Delridge and Northgate Community Center has a 17 person waiting list again showing a demand for these programs that outweighs the capacity to provide programs. Classes at both locations are ending after community center hours of operation placing a demand on Specialized Programs staff to lock and secure the building. So far there have been no issues with this arrangement.

Seacrest Boathouse. Parks has received word from the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) that the Master Use Plan (MUP) will be ready for pick-up on Wednesday, July 11, 2012. This means that Marination will be able to begin construction soon to revamp the building into a new kitchen. The hope is to open the restaurant for business by Labor Day. An interim agreement has been signed in order for them to proceed before presenting the long-term agreement to City Council for approval.

Scholarship Donation.

Evans Pool received a generous \$2500 donation from a citizen who participates on a regular basis wanting to give children who cannot afford the full price of swim lessons an opportunity.

The Youth Employment programs Summer of Service, Student-Teen Employment Preparation (STEPS), and Youth Engaged in Service (YES) Programs started July 9, these summer job readiness programs target at-risk, low income, immigrant/refugee and youth with developmental disabilities between the ages of 12 to 19 combining job work experience, leadership training, and safety education.

Specialized Programs Youth Summer Camp. Two weeks of Specialized Program youth camp have gone off successfully, the first week consisted of the overnight program at Camp Long; the second week was a day camp program at Lower Woodland.

Jefferson Jubilee. Thank you to Councilmember Bagshaw for attending and speaking. The community produced the Jefferson Jubilee event. The sunny day and great organization put smiles on over 1000 people that attended from the Samoan cricket players to the Ultimate Frisbee players, to the bike polo players, to the amazing new and old skateboarders to the kids playing in the spraypark and play area.

Tony Hawk Skate Park Event. Seattle Parks is bringing Tony Hawk to Jefferson Park Thursday, July 26 at noon.

Colman Pool Opens.

After 70 years Seattle's only outdoor saltwater, 50 meter pool underwent extensive repairs. The pool re-opened as scheduled on June 30 with a sell-out day Sunday, July 8 of 772 swimmers. The pool will be filled with saltwater starting next year.

Boat Ramps.

Boat ramp revenue came in at about \$12,000 for the first week of July compared to the first week of June which came in at \$1,700. The substantial increase is credited to the good weather.

