

Superintendent's Report  
Parks and Neighborhoods Committee  
September 20, 2012

**COMMUNITY**

Carkeek Park. We've had community calls expressing concern over the increased incidence of beach fires, graffiti, and drinking parties at Carkeek Park. Most activities occur during the late evening hours when staff are not present. These issues have been communicated to the police.

Encampment and homeless issues. Many staff are seeing an increase in the number of homeless people living in the parks. We continue to work with the Community Patrol Team (CPT) officers on the challenges of folks moving from park to park.

Lifeguard Training Team tests skills. On Thursday, August 30, 17 Lifeguard Training Team (LTT) students tested the skills they learned this summer by taking the Northwest Lifeguard Test (NWLGT). LTT is a program for teens, with an emphasis on teens of color, who are interested in acquiring skills to become lifeguards. 14 of the 17 passed.

3-on-3. The Van Asselt Community Center teen program partnered with the Atlantic Street teen leadership summer program at John C. Little, Jr. Park to host a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, field day, BBQ and more for more than 110 youth.

Wading pools. More than 100,000 people enjoyed Parks' 16 wading pools this summer. The larger wading pools—known as the “big four:” Green Lake, Lincoln Park, Van Asselt and Volunteer Park—are open daily and had the largest attendance. Of special note this summer was the use of Powell Barnett Wading Pool, located at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and Cherry Ave. Ask.com sponsored keeping the pool open on Saturdays.

Promoting Sound Steps. On Saturday, August 18 Sound Steppers spoke with Nick Licata and one other councilmember while waiting in line at the Rainier Heritage Parade, promoting/educating about Lifelong Recreation and Sound Steps.

Man captured at Green Lake. Parks staff worked with the Seattle Police and Fire Departments to catch a man who assaulted an autistic teenager and his sibling, removed his clothes, swam around the lake and finally climbed a tree on Duck Island. He was taken to Harborview for evaluation.

Park Legacy Plan survey. We are promoting the Parks Legacy Plan Survey to encourage the public to respond regarding Parks and Recreation's priorities and

future. The online survey is live at [www.seattleparkssurvey.com](http://www.seattleparkssurvey.com) through September 23.

Park tour. Parks staff took guests from Singapore Parks on a tour of some favorite parks. The entourage was very impressed by the maintenance and variety of parks in the system. Thanks to the grounds crews for their dedication to the customer experience.

Laurelhurst Park. North East Crew project prepared Laurelhurst Park for the annual Advisory Council fundraising Salmon Bake. Staff hedged the laurel surrounding the park, weeded and mulched shrub beds, and pressure-washed hard surfaces. The event was a smashing success and drew about 600 people.

### **Seattle Conservation Corps kudos, graduates**

#### Kudos

"I've had Gilbert and his crew working at a difficult site for me in northeast Seattle filling in an erosion gully with crushed rock. Access is very difficult and they have been having to wheelbarrow in crushed rock down a hillside. In addition, I've had them putting down erosion control and modifying a storm water culvert. They have been doing great work. It is difficult labor but they've been working with no complaints, and they have been doing a fantastic job. In addition, they've done a very nice job of modifying the culvert. Anyway, I just wanted to pass on the word on how pleased I've been with their work and their attitude towards this project."

*Jim Lee, P.E., Senior Engineer, Seattle Public Utilities*

"I highly recommend a field trip to see the cleanup by SCC for the segment of new sidewalk along Sand Point Way that generated complaints for overgrowth. It is a new world out there, thanks to Coney Moore and a crew of incredibly hard working staff out there with him. Thank you so very much for the thorough job taken on and the outcome which I hope will generate a complimentary note or two from the citizens who let us know how bad it had become!!!"

*Shane DeWald, Landscape Architect, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)*

"I agree wholeheartedly! Before they started, the sidewalk was almost invisible and looked almost impossible to ever maintain. It was so bad that one contractor had refused to even bid on the restoration work. The Conservation Corps made it look like a well maintained landscape and sidewalk. Thanks much to all who participated."

*Mike Schnad, SDOT*

#### Graduates

Andrew Hauser and Hussein Dahir have both completed their year with the Conservation Corps and have obtained permanent employment and stable housing. Hussein made progress toward his GED while in the program and obtained the work maturity skills that earned him a full time position with a well-

known food distribution company in Kent. Andrew Hauser has moved into stable housing and he is currently working for a local restaurant and says, "The Corps helped me to regain my work ethic and prove that I can be a reliable, hard worker. The SCC is a great program and gives people a chance to get back on track." Congrats Andrew and Hussein!

## **PROJECTS**

Seward Park's Torii Gate. The goal of this project is to replace the Torii Gate in Seward Park, which was removed in 1986. The Friends of Seward Park are in the process of consultant selection. They have just advertised for a consultant team consisting of a landscape architect, an engineer and a master craftsman skilled in the Japanese Tradition, Sukiya Zukuri.

Rainier Beach Community Center Redevelopment. The new community center and pool is taking shape. We are out of the ground and exterior walls are being installed, steel is going up and roof deck is being installed. It is starting to look like a new building.

Maple Leaf Reservoir Park and Maple Leaf Play Area Renovation. Parks has awarded the contract to Paul Brothers Contractors. They also built Crown Hill Park. The contract should be finalized in mid-September and construction will start in the lower park at that time. Seattle Public Utilities will complete their work over the reservoir and we probably will start in that area in early October.

Lower Kinnear Park and Off Leash Area. Landmarks approved the application for phase one of this project, which includes the dog off-leash area, restoration of the switchback hillside stairs and plantings connecting lower and upper Kinnear, and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access and plantings at the grassy knoll. Seattle Conservation Corps will be completing this work and will start in early September. Next week our tree crew will do preliminary work to ready the site for improvements.

Magnuson Park Building 30 Renovation. We have arranged other spaces for tenants and staff due to the upgrades to Building 30. All tenants will be out of the building by September 30. City staff will be out by mid-October. City staff remaining at Magnuson will be in trailers for the nine-month construction period.

Magnuson Park Building 11. We are doing some preliminary location planning with artists displaced from Building 11. First priority will be given to those artists who had studios in Building 11. The new studios as currently laid out will range from small studios (just under 200 square feet) to spaces larger than 1,000 square feet. The former office of the admiral will be renovated and become a high-end rental facility for parties and seminars.

Volunteer Park Play Area Renovation. City Contracting opened bids for this project; the low bidder, W.S. Contractors, is well qualified and does good work.

Construction is scheduled to take three months and will include new play equipment and ADA pathway connections to the Volunteer Park comfort station.

West Seattle Reservoir Park Development. The design team is moving along and the Street Improvement Plan (SIP) review was earlier this week. Construction is scheduled for spring-summer 2013.

Laurelhurst Play Area Renovation. Design development plans are under review and we plan to meet with the community fundraising committee to discuss play equipment options. Schematic design was completed through a Department of Neighborhoods Matching Funds grant. Construction of this Parks and Green Spaces Levy project is scheduled to be completed before August 2013.

Lower Woodland Cloverleaf and Tennis Courts Lighting Replacement. We just held the first public meeting for this lighting replacement project. It drew about 50 people and questions from tennis players and a baseball player about the light levels on both facilities. Most attendees were there to ask that lighting the Lower Woodland Skatepark be added to the project scope.

Roxhill Park Skatespot Development and Play Area Renovation. The park closed and construction started on September 10. The community build of the play area is scheduled to take place on October 17 – October 21, and the project will be complete in February 2013.

Judkins Skatespot. Construction started on September 11. We expect the project to be complete in January 2013.

Ballard Community Center. Sprite® Spark Parks sent a \$10,000 check for the first installment on work behind the community center to improve public space and provide outdoor ping pong tables for use adjacent to the ballfields. The Seattle Conservation Corps will do the demolition and regrading to provide a level area for placement of the new concrete tables. Work will start in October or November. We are able to use the services of a Landscape Architecture student to help with the design.

Magnuson Construction. Tennis Center Sand Point construction has started. Springfield Drive is now on a detour and the park has lost 100 parking spaces to the construction site.

Green Lake benches. We're receiving positive feedback on the new benches, and people are using the concrete pads for exercising, picnicking and other activities. More to follow.