

Memorandum

To: Mayor Joan McGilton and City Council Members
From: Ted Fosberg, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair
Date: July 19, 2010
Subject: Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department (PaRCS) 2009 Advisory Board Annual Report

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board makes recommendations regarding recreational programming and the acquisition, promotion, improvements, maintenance and use of City parks. The Burien PaRCS Department provides quality services and facilities, which contribute to the economic development of our city, enhance the quality of life of our citizens, and promotes environmental stewardship of our natural resources.

The Board is please to report the following Department accomplishments during 2009.

Park Planning and Activities:

- 1) The Board reviewed the 2010 Department Work Plan, and Capital and Operational Budgets, including 2010 reductions.
- 2) The capital and operational needs of the North Burien area parks were discussed between the Board and staff, with needed facility improvements and maintenance requirements identified.
- 3) The Board reviewed the Mathison Park Expansion design development and members participated in the community design meeting.
- 4) The Seahurst Park North Shoreline Restoration project updates were discussed with the Board. The partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers is proceeding through 35% design, cost estimates and permitting. The Board recommended that as much of the park remain available to the public during construction, as is feasible.
- 5) The Board and staff held multiple public discussions regarding the development of a new Community Garden Program. Project support will include a combination of community volunteers, garden board and staff. Development will occur within existing department funds and grant funds, with garden availability scheduled for May 2010.
- 6) A Vegetative Management Plan was completed for Eagle Landing Park and a Habitat Map was completed for Salmon Creek Ravine. These tools have already provided staff and volunteers valuable assessment information and recommendations on priorities for ongoing restoration activities.

Park Improvements and Construction:

- 1) Mathison Park construction was completed and opened to the public, on time and on budget. The project provided public access to five additional acres and added trails, picnic facilities, a playground, interpretive signage and substantial plantings of native vegetation.

- 2) Seahurst's new restroom was completed and opened to the public.
- 3) The Moshier Park restrooms were given a facelift, with new fixtures, paint, toilet stalls and colorful murals around the exterior walls, provided by the Moshier Art Center and participants.
- 4) The Environmental Science Center completed their Phase 1 improvements for the renovation of the Seahurst caretaker cottage, to create a new educational facility supporting the important environmental education work they provide.
- 5) New park entrance signs were installed at Eagle Landing and Jacob Ambaum Parks.

Volunteer Activities:

- 1) The 2009 Adopt-a-Park program had 85 volunteers providing 335 hours of work in the parks. Shorewood on the Sound neighbors continued working in their local neighborhood park. Invasive plant removal was also done at Seahurst Park along the south shoreline and areas along the north service road. Once again Jobee Childcare returned to their annual litter pickup at Manhattan Park over the summer.
- 2) The Senior recreation area has an average of 35 volunteers providing 3600 hours of work in various programs and events. Several volunteers work every month collating the monthly newsletter, facilitating the drop in card programs and helping with special events held throughout the year.
- 3) Moshier Art Center has 70 volunteers providing an average of 1280 hours of work each year. Some of the duties include loading kilns, mixing clay, cleaning the building, staffing the building and several work the numerous special events; pottery sales and empty bowls.
- 4) A new workgroup has been formed focusing on Salmon Creek Ravine. Protecting and enhancing the resources of the Salmon Creek ravine will be a partnership between community volunteers and the City of Burien. Others involved in this collaboration will be representatives from King County, Southwest Suburban Sewer District, Washington State Fish and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, and a U.W. Graduate Student doing thesis work on this watershed.

Park Naming and Dedications:

- 1) Town Square Park was dedicated with Burien City Hall and Library complex on June 13, 2009.
- 2) Linde Hill Park was officially named and entry signage installed. The name was selected as a result of its geographic and historic reference to the subdivision surrounding the park, which was developed in the 1940s. O.R. Linde was a land developer and the owner of the South Seattle Land Company, and Clark Hill was the sales manager who helped plat and develop portions of Burien. Linde and Hill developed "hobby homes" or affordable houses for returning veterans and others in the 1940s.

Park Recognition:

- 1) The PaRCs Department received the 2009 Rock Award from the King Conservation District in recognition of the Seahurst Park south shoreline project and the ongoing stewardship efforts to improve this asset.

Grant Funding Awarded:

- 1) Seahurst Park was awarded \$750,000 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and \$510,000 from the King Conservation District, for the construction phase of the North Shoreline Restoration project.
- 2) The Department was awarded \$15,000 from the King Conservation District for development of a Vegetative Management Plan at Eagle Landing Park. The plan was completed by end of 2009.

Recreation and Cultural Activities providing Citywide Support:

- 1) The PaRCs Department provided recreation programming to 16,878 participants through a large offering of classes, trainings and other activities offered across all age groups.
- 2) Held another successful Strawberry Festival, providing a destination event which offered food, music, arts and many diverse activities.
- 3) Began activation of Town Square Park with new Arts-A-Glow Lantern Festival.
- 4) Supported the B/IAS project and partnered with Ignition NW to implement innovative community arts events.
- 5) Completed Recreation Cost of Service and Fee Policy study.
- 6) Implemented new rental fees for athletic fields and new Seahurst south picnic shelter.
- 7) Accommodated the Highline School District's increased Friday Early Release dates by opening our Teen Drop-In program earlier.
- 8) Implemented a new Senior Fitness/Fall Injury Prevention outreach and promotional program in partnership with King County Emergency Services, which also increased registrants for the Department's exercise classes.
- 9) Transitioned the administration of the Meals on Wheels program back to Senior Services of King County.
- 10) Submitted first-time arts and cultural goals for Economic Development chapter of City's updated Comprehensive Plan.

Policy:

- 1) The Board reviewed and provided recommendations on the Department's Recreation Program Cost Recovery Policy.
- 2) The Board reviewed and concurred with the Park Donation and Memorial Policy. The Department has since implemented this administrative policy.
- 3) The Community Garden program, general policies and operational guidelines were developed by staff and the Board members over a series of public Park and Recreation Board meetings.