



Connecting Green: Growing Sustainable Parks



**Special Park Districts Forum
Sept. 8 to 10, 2008**

www.oregonmetro.gov/parkforum



Special Park Districts Forum

Join Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, Portland Parks & Recreation and Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District for the 36th annual Special Park Districts Forum Sept. 8 to 10, 2008 in Portland, Oregon.

The Portland metropolitan region is recognized internationally for its urban planning and focus on sustainability. It's also blessed with abundant natural beauty, both within the urban area and scenic areas close by, including old growth forests, whitewater rivers, the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, the Cascade mountain range and the Oregon coast.

Come visit us and learn how **Connecting Green: Growing Sustainable Parks** can create a sustainable future for everyone.

Connecting Green: Growing Sustainable Parks will focus on creating parks systems that are sustainable now and in the future. Every activity at the forum will address three questions:

- 1. How are you reducing your environmental impacts?**
- 2. How are you improving social, economic and cultural vitality?**
- 3. How are you investing in the future?**

You'll connect with great ideas and green best practices, and you'll also connect with and learn from your parks colleagues from around North America.

We're "walking our talk" in preparation for the forum as well. In an effort to reduce paper, instead of printing and mailing registration brochures, we are posting all information online and providing a \$25 incentive to register online as well. At the forum you'll experience many other examples of sustainability, including fresh, locally grown food, buses that use bio-diesel fuel, and your own personal reusable steel water bottle.

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Day 1

Portland Parks & Recreation Willamette River: past, present & future

Begin your visit to Portland along the banks of the Willamette River for a view of the city's past, present and future parks. Learn how Portland's view of the River has changed over time, how current parks relate to the riverfront and what new approaches are planned. Hear about the historic riverfront, the transformation that created Tom McCall Waterfront Park, and how innovative designs blend urban and natural elements along the popular Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade.

You will have the opportunity to explore the East or West side of the river's parks, trails, natural areas and wildlife habitat. See how Portlanders connect to their river and are engaged in stewardship throughout the integrated system of parks, trails and natural areas.

The **East Tour** takes in the views as you walk across the Hawthorne Bridge, then leave the bustle of downtown for the respite of the

The **Special Park Districts Forum** is the annual gathering for park, recreation and natural area special districts from the United States and Canada. The forum provides a venue for elected representatives, appointed leaders and staff of such public agencies to meet and exchange best practices information about managing regional-scale parks, trails and natural areas, as well as related programs for land acquisition, resource management, planning, education and recreation programs, volunteerism, marketing, creative funding, outreach and public communications.

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy views of Ross Island and relax with a stroll along the Springwater Trail. Share a picnic lunch under the majestic trees of Sellwood Park.

The **West Tour** visits the gardens of South Riverplace Phase II and puts you on the aerial tram from its landing at the new South Waterfront District. See how trail and park designs balance urban and natural elements, create community gathering spaces and celebrate the beauty of the Willamette River in Portland's newest district. See a work in progress with a tour along the west riverfront. Share a picnic lunch along the shore in Willamette Park.

The evening activities begin with a sunset cruise on the Portland Spirit where you will enjoy cocktails and dinner as you view the city from the Willamette River. End your evening mingling with fellow attendees atop the Benson Hotel in the Presidential Hospitality Suite.





Day 2

Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District Suburban Park and Recreation Facilities

Day two will take you to diverse suburban park and recreation facilities on the west side of Portland. You'll visit a new nine million dollar recreation complex with some of the latest "green" parking lot drainage technology, synthetic turf fields and managed natural areas. We'll continue with a trip to the **Tualatin Hills Nature Park**. The nature park boasts a wide variety of habitats, a unique trail system and an interpretive center with programs and displays.

Lunch will be served at the historic Jenkins Estate where you can tour the buildings, enjoy the gardens or walk in the forest. The day will conclude at the 90-acre **Howard M. Terpenning Recreation Complex**. It includes a tennis and aquatic center with Olympic diving platforms, a skate park and an athletic center with multipurpose courts. The complex also includes an indoor running track and

multipurpose outdoor fields for softball, baseball, soccer, lacrosse and football.

You will begin your evening in Portland's vibrant Pearl District at the Ecotrust rooftop terrace sampling local wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres. You'll be on your own for dinner this evening and will be able to choose from a variety of nearby award-winning restaurants and bistros. Free time will allow you to explore downtown Portland and still meet your peers later in the evening in the Presidential Hospitality Suite.





Day 3

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Portland's East Side Open Spaces, Wetlands, Rivers, and Developed Facilities

The last tour day provides a glimpse of Portland's east side open spaces, wetlands, rivers, and developed facilities. See and learn about expansive **restoration projects** that are improving fish and upland habitat, amble along the banks of two major rivers, take in a splendid view of the majestic Columbia River Gorge, stand among old growth Douglas firs and have an **environmental education experience** you will remember. This tour focuses on partnerships, land acquisition, connecting the urban area with nearby rural areas via habitat corridors and trails, and environmental education.

A special evening is in store with cocktails and dinner served in the Portland Art Museum's historic grand ballroom, where you will experience locally grown foods and spirits. End your evening again at the Presidential Hospitality Suite with late night drinks and nibbles.



Check the Metro website at www.oregonmetro.gov/parkforum for updates.





Pre- and Post- Forum Activities

Come early and stay late -- we have a variety of fun activities lined up for you. All pre- and post-forum activities are optional and the cost is not included in forum registration and payment. **To register and pay for these events, contact the activity provider directly.**



White Salmon River - River Rafting *Sunday, Sept. 7, all day*

Cost: \$110
Transportation: Provided to/from the Benson Hotel
Reservations: Space on this special trip is limited.

Sea to Summit Adventures, 503-286-9333, or send e-mail to seatosummit@qwest.net
It's time to enjoy some classic Northwest whitewater! **Travel through the spectacular Columbia River Gorge**, a national scenic area, to a wild and scenic river less than an hour away from Portland, where a local company will outfit you for a rafting trip down the **White Salmon River**. This particular river is great for both beginners and experts. Your adrenaline will run high through class II and III rapids interspersed with short and thrilling class IV drops. The White Salmon River is tightly regulated and only a few companies are permitted to operate on it. This reduces the crowds and will allow you to fully enjoy this wild and scenic river. Take the opportunity to raft this spectacular river with experts to guide!

Walking Tour of Portland *Sunday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

Cost: \$20
Transportation: Walk from the Benson Hotel to starting location

Reservations: Portland Walking Tours, select the Sept. 7 "Best of Portland" tour on the web www.portlandwalkingtours.com/schedule/index.htm



It really is best to see Portland's compact downtown core on foot. This tour focuses on the best of downtown **Portland's art, architecture, urban parks and fountains**. You will see a variety of interesting artwork, from well-known statues to leading edge "kinetic sculpture." You will also see the **world's smallest publicly owned park** while learning about Portland's history in this fun and informative tour.



Pre- and Post- Forum Activities

Walking Tour of the Pearl District

Sunday, Sept. 7, 2 to 5 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2 to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$20

Transportation: Walk, starting at the Benson Hotel

Reservations: Peter's Walking Tours,

503-665-2558, walkportland@msn.com

Just 15 years ago, Northwest Portland was a blighted area of abandoned warehouses, dilapidated marine facilities and industrial pollution. Since that time the area has radically transformed into a high density, mixed-use, upscale and green neighborhood that is still undergoing rapid redevelopment. On this tour you will see the transformation under way in the Pearl district, **one of the best examples of urban renewal in the world**. You will learn about the Portland Streetcar, new parks in the district, buildings that are 98 percent recycled and innovative transportation options including car sharing.

Kayaking on the Willamette River

Sunday, Sept. 7, 3 to 6 p.m.

Cost: \$43

Transportation: Walk to Southwest Third Avenue from Benson Hotel. Catch the #35 bus to 6342 Southwest Macadam Avenue

Reservations: Portland Kayak Company, ask for the 3 p.m. Ross Island Tour, 503-459-4050, paddle@portlandkayak.com



The Willamette River is a perfect place for kayakers of all skill levels to paddle and enjoy. **No experience is required** and kayak rental as well as professional guidance is included in this paddling tour of the Ross Island area of the

river. This area, in conjunction with Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, is a **tremendous example of restoring the natural ecosystems of the Willamette in the middle of Portland's urban area**. Many of the parks and natural areas you will see from the water on this tour are the same you will visit on land during the forum, so take this opportunity to get a unique waterborne perspective.

Wine Tour of the Willamette Valley

Thursday, Sept. 11, all day

Cost: \$135 (includes wine expert, transportation, tasting fees, boxed lunch)

Transportation: provided from Benson Hotel

Reservations: Northwest Wine Experts, 503-367-0151, Candice@expertwinetours.com.

For more info go to www.northwestwineexpert.com

Experience Oregon's beautiful wine country with an expert wine guide. **The Willamette Valley is home to some of the finest wineries on the West Coast and produces arguably**



Pre- and Post- Forum Activities

the best Pinot Noir in the world. Guests will enjoy beautiful scenery and learn about wine from winemakers passionate about their craft. Passing through the farming communities in the Willamette Valley, you will see the stark contrasts between urban Oregon and its rural core, all while getting to enjoy the finest wines Oregon has to offer.



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Fly-Fishing Adventure Thursday, Sept. 11, all day

Cost: \$140
Transportation: provided from Benson Hotel
Reservations: Educational Recreational Adventures, 503-750-2416, era@gottfried.net



Learn the basics of fly-fishing on one of Oregon's lush and wild river valleys where you will get a chance to try your new skill with experienced guides. This trip will take you to one of the beautiful wilderness rivers close to Portland, where you might be able to do some bird-spotting as well. This is the ultimate opportunity to learn a bit about fly-fishing and have fun at the same time. There is nothing like wading into a secluded Oregon river late in the summer to enjoy this popular Northwest sport. **All gear is provided -- just bring yourself and a dry pair of pants!**

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Walking Tour of Portland Bridges Thursday, Sept. 11, noon to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$20
Transportation: Walk, meet outside Benson Hotel
Reservations: Peter's Walking Tours, 503-665-2558, walkportland@msn.com



The only vertical lift telescoping bridge in the world? The oldest vertical lift bridge anywhere? The longest floating walkway in the U.S.? These are just a few of the things you will see on this tour of Portland's many bridges. While touring the bridges and seeing some of their inner workings with a local expert, you will also

Pre- and Post- Forum Activities

take in the sights and fresh air of Portland's riverfront parks. **It's a classic Portland activity that some longtime residents still do many times a year!**

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Mount St. Helens Volcano Tour Thursday, Sept. 11, all day

Cost: \$65

Transportation: Provided from Benson Hotel

Reservations: Eco Tours of Oregon,
1-888-TOURS-33

Experience the awe-inspiring aftermath of a volcano's destruction and the restorative power



of nature on a bus tour to Mount St. Helens, led by a naturalist. Learn about the "blast zone," mudflows, pyroclastic flows, biological regeneration and the largest avalanche ever recorded. You will not only take in classic views of Mount St. Helens, but you will get the opportunity to walk through a devastation zone with a naturalist explaining how the forest is still just beginning to recover from the effects of the eruption in 1980.

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There are a wide variety of other cultural and recreational opportunities to pursue before and after the forum. Here are just a few:

- The **Portland Institute for Contemporary Art** will be holding their annual Time-Based Art Festival Sept. 4 to 15, offering music, dance and theater. <http://www.pica.org/tba/>
- Enjoy the **Portland Opera** production of the Phantom of the Opera Sept. 6 and 7. www.portlandopera.org

- Visit the **World Forestry Center** and see the special exhibit, Ancient Trees: Walking in the Footsteps of Dinosaurs. www.worldforestry.org
- Cheer on the **Portland Timbers soccer team** as they play the Charleston Battery Sept. 11 at PGE Park. www.portlandtimbers.com



- **Golf, anyone?** Play a round at one of Portland's lovely, internationally known public golf courses like Eastmoreland Golf Course, situated right in the middle of a wildlife refuge! For more information go to www.golflink.com/Golf-Courses/city.asp?dest=Portland+OR.



Pre- and Post- Forum Activities

- Browse at **Saturday Market** (which happens both Saturday and Sunday) - the biggest independent weekly art market in the country – or one of the many farmer’s markets held on weekends and some weekdays throughout the Portland area. www.portlandaturdaymarket.com ; www.portlandfarmersmarket.org



- Take a walk in **Forest Park**, the largest urban wilderness in the U.S., the **International Rose Garden at Washington Park**, or the award-winning **Oregon Zoo**. www.friendsofforestpark.org www.portlandonline.com/parks www.oregonzoo.org



- Spend an afternoon wandering the aisles and sipping coffee at **Powell’s Books**, the world’s largest new and used bookstore and a Portland landmark. www.powells.com



- Relax at the **Portland Spa and Boutique**, or reflect at the **Japanese Garden** or **Classical Chinese Garden**. www.portlandspa.net www.japanesegarden.com www.portlandchinesegarden.org



Whatever the weather or the amount of time you have, Portland is full of things to enjoy. For more ideas and information, visit Travel Portland at www.travelportland.com.



General Information

Cost

Prior to June 19, 2008 - \$395.00
(add \$25 if not registering online)

Beginning June 19, 2008 - \$450.00
(add \$25 if not registering online)

The forum registration fee includes the following:

Meals A continental breakfast and lunch is provided each day. Dinner is provided Sept. 8 and 10. Following an hors d'oeuvres reception on Sept. 9, participants will have the opportunity to dine at a local restaurant on their own.

Transportation All transportation to and from forum events is provided. Participants are responsible for transportation from Portland International Airport to the Benson and Paramount hotels, available by MAX light rail or hotel shuttle.

Materials Participants will receive a forum notebook including information about daily activities, a messenger bag suitable for carrying daily personal items, and a stainless steel water bottle with unlimited refills each day. Participants will have online access to all forum materials, including photos taken during the forum.

Accommodations

Reserve now to secure your room at the Paramount Hotel located in downtown Portland. Limited, specially-priced reservations are now available starting at **\$149 per night**. Call toll free 1-800-663-1144 and identify yourself as a group attendee of the Special Parks Districts Forum or make your reservation online at www.portlandparamount.com and enter the group code: PHP-GF346. The Paramount, located downtown at 808 SW Taylor St., is approximately six blocks from the Benson Hotel and bus shuttles will be provided to the Benson at the beginning and end of each day.

There are no more group reduced rates available at the Benson Hotel. Rooms may be reserved at the standard rates, which start at \$174 per night, depending on availability. To reserve accommodations at the Benson, call toll free 1-888-523-6766 or send e-mail to reservations@bensonhotel.com.

Transportation

Air travel should be arranged to and from **Portland International Airport (PDX)**. The Benson and Paramount Hotels, located downtown approximately 12 miles from the airport, are easily accessed by light rail transit. The red line MAX train begins and ends at the Portland airport so you'll be first on board for the 30-40 minute trip downtown. Purchase an all zone fare at a ticket machine before

boarding. Get off at the Pioneer Square North stop downtown at Southwest Morrison Street and Broadway Avenue. Walk north on Broadway for three blocks to the Benson Hotel. For the Paramount Hotel, walk south on Broadway for two blocks, turn right on Taylor Street and walk one block. MAX trains run approximately every 15 minutes most of the day. **You can check the schedule for bus and light rail transit at www.trimet.org.**

Taxis, town cars and shuttle vans are also available at the airport.

Clothing and Gear

September is one of the nicest months for weather in the Portland area, with average temperatures ranging from the mid-50s to the mid-70s Fahrenheit. Comfortable walking shoes and casual clothing are recommended for the day tours. Evening events are suitable for a range of clothing according to your preference, from casual to semi-formal, and a light jacket or sweater is recommended. Please bring appropriate attire for any of the optional pre- and post-forum activities. And, since it is the Pacific Northwest, while rain is not likely in September, an umbrella is always a good idea!

Hospitality Suite

Gather to network, share ideas or relax with your fellow attendees each evening in the Presidential Hospitality Suite at the Benson Hotel. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.



REGISTRATION

Information

For more information, call **Mary Anne Cassin** at 503-797-1854 or send e-mail to maryanne.cassin@oregonmetro.gov, or call **Lyn Bonyhadi** at 503-797-1872 or send e-mail to lyn.bonyhadi@oregonmetro.gov

Registration

Attendance at the forum will be limited to **180 attendees**. **Registration will be available online beginning April 28, 2008** at www.oregonmetro.gov/parkforum.

We expect slots to fill quickly, so register as soon as you can. We recommend postponing final arrangements for travel and pre-/post-activities until your registration is accepted.

To request a copy of the registration brochure and form via e-mail or regular mail, send a request to metroparks@oregonmetro.gov or call 503-665-4995.

Please use a separate registration form for each attendee.

Registration is limited to the first 180 registration applications received. You will receive a written confirmation (via e-mail if you provided an e-mail address and via postal mail if you did not provide an e-mail address) once your application is processed. If you register after the 180 slots are filled, you will be asked if you would like to be placed on a waiting list.

Refund policy: **Cancellations must be in writing.** No telephone cancellations will be accepted. Written cancellations must be received by **5 p.m. on Aug. 3, 2008**. All cancellations are subject to a **\$55 cancellation fee.**

Thank you to our sponsors who have helped make this forum possible:

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