

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Accept and appropriate an Oregon Parks & Recreation grant award to Portland Parks & Recreation in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the Forest Park Entrance. (Ordinance)

Contact name: Kellie Torres, Development Manager, Portland Parks & Recreation
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Presenter name: Mike Abatte, Director
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Lauren McGuire, Asset Manager, Capital Projects

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

In 2015, Portland City Council passed its legislative agenda, establishing planning and development of the Forest Park Entrance as a priority. Forest Park is one of the country's largest forested natural areas within city limits, with over 5,100 wooded acres. It has tremendous ecological, recreational and health benefits for the region. However, Forest Park suffers from a lack of a recognizable entry point. This project will provide a suitable and forward looking design for an entrance to Forest Park showcasing the park's special character and its importance to Portland and the greater region.

The elements proposed for this project include appropriate site entry, circulation, and parking; visitor amenities such as a pedestrian and bike trailhead, a scenic overlook and a gathering space; an iconic contemporary structure housing a nature center, office and maintenance functions, as well as public restrooms; and natural landscape and wetland plantings.

The project goal is to define an appropriate design for the building and the site taking into consideration Forest Park goals, site constraints and stakeholder needs.

Forest Park is the largest urban forest in the Continental United States. It offers an unparalleled opportunity for visitors to experience a true north-west forest without leaving the Portland city limits. This "Reconnect Forest Park" project is part of a larger effort called Renew Forest Park. The "Reconnect Forest Park" project will provide Forest Park Entry and Nature Center Improvements.

The Forest Park Entry and Nature Center Improvements will create a major, recognizable entrance to Forest Park, which it currently lacks as identified by the 1995 Forest Park Natural Resource Management Plan. The project will offer recreational and educational opportunities that support Forest Park and create a safe, inviting and accessible park experience for the public. The project will improve habitat and water quality at the site, and demonstrate an environmentally-responsible way to improve access for all to the natural areas.

The Reconnect Forest Park Project's focus is a prominent architectural gateway to Forest Park with superior design qualities.

The improvements include:

- An iconic, contemporary structure housing a nature center, restrooms, and meeting/office space;
- A parking lot including ADA parking, small bus parking and drop-off;
- Overlook/plaza/amphitheater;
- ADA-accessible pathways connecting to natural features and exhibits;
- Pedestrian and Bike trail head connecting to Leif Erickson Drive in the park; and
- Street frontage improvements.

In addition to the \$1.5 million Oregon State Parks & Recreation grant award, \$3 million in System Development Charges has been committed by Portland Parks & Recreation for this project. Other funding sources for project completion are being sought.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

This grant will increase the FY 17/18 budget. The project strategy is to implement the project when project funding has been procured to complete the project. The proposed budget would be from a combination of:

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department:	\$1,500,000
Portland Parks & Recreation (SDC funds:	\$3,000,000
Future Outside Contributions	\$14,000,000

- \$1,500,000 will be added to the 17/18 budget as a result of acceptance of this grant.
- No long-term financial impacts, nor any changes in staffing levels at this time; the purpose of this ordinance is to design the project
- Agreement (IGA) with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has been signed; results in a \$1.5 million benefit.

Community impacts and community involvement:

An entrance and education center for Forest park has been envisioned for this site since the mid-1990's. A general vision for the project was laid out in the Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan (FPNRM) dated February of 1995, which is still in effect. The project should support that Plan's broader vision and goals for the Park as a whole.

To date there have been many outreach activities to gauge the public's interest and priorities for this project. The project team has conducted 10 Initial Key Stakeholder Interviews with non-profits, other government agencies, bike activist, runners, neighbors. A Public Advisory Committee was assembled that helped inform the project design process

over the course of 6 PAC meetings. The PAC is made up of the following stakeholders: State Representative, adjacent neighborhoods, Forest Park interest groups, Cultural non-profits and staff support. Intercept surveys/interviews at Forest Park, at Latino Family Night, the Jade Night Market, at Montavilla & Peninsula Free Swim, and at Blue Lake Regional Park provided the project team with additional project input along with targeted New User/Underrepresented Community Outreach to 20 different groups for short conversation and in depth Focus Groups with the African American Outdoor Association, Mujeres Movimiento, Camp ELSO, and the African Community Council of Oregon. 3 Open House General Public Outreach Events at St. John's Community Center accompanied by 3 Online surveys to correspond with Open Houses at project initiation, conceptual design and preferred design phase rounded out the public outreach efforts for this project.

100% Renewable Goal:

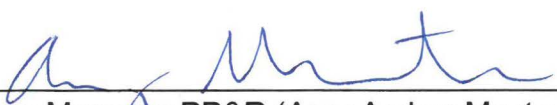
Because of the site's solar exposure, we are unable to provide a renewable energy source on site. The project will increase the City's total energy use, but we will pay into the city wide fund to increase use of renewable energy overall, per LEED requirement. By paying into this fund, we will ultimately increase the use or renewable energy.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- ☒ **YES:** Please complete the information below.
☐ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount
217	PKSB000013	521000	PRINDEDE00	P10486	PK53	P10486	1,500,000


 Finance Manager PP&R (Amy Archer-Masters)

10/24/17
 Date



RENEW FOREST PARK

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO REPAIR PORTLAND'S GREATEST ASSET

FOREST PARK IS THE LARGEST FORESTED CITY PARK IN THE UNITED STATES.
TODAY, FOREST PARK IS AT RISK.

Renew Forest Park is a 20-year initiative that includes three critical components: **Restore**, **Rebuild**, and **Reconnect**. This unique initiative will invest holistically in Forest Park's ecology, infrastructure, and access—making significant improvements and providing visitors with the kind of vibrant natural area they haven't experienced for more than a century.

Together, we will renew this remarkable asset and create a legacy for generations to come.



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION™
Healthy Parks. Healthy Portland

THESE EFFORTS WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL

With your help, the vision to renew Forest Park is achievable in our lifetime. To accomplish this PP&R will garner funding and support for three concerted efforts: **Restore, Rebuild, and Reconnect.**

RENEW
FOREST PARK



RESTORE

STATUS

380 of 2,600 acres treated through support from Metro

Half of Forest Park is currently maintained in good or excellent ecological condition; about 2,600 out of 5,200 total acres. In the other half of the park, invasive plants are a primary threat. In partnership with the Forest Park Conservancy, Restore Forest Park is transforming the park's ecological health through invasive plant removal and native plant revegetation for wildlife species.



REBUILD

Forest Park was created in 1948, and today much of its aging infrastructure requires replacement or repair. Failing bridges, collapsed culverts, and restricted trailhead access are among the challenges facing the park. By investing in durable and modern improvements, PP&R will enhance the visitor experience and create a more resilient Park for future generations.

Lower MacLeay Trail

STATUS

Funded by 2014 Parks Bond, completed fall 2017

Flooding and landslides in Balch Creek Canyon have resulted in significant trail failures and damage. Funding is addressing improvements along .86 miles of trail, two bridge replacements, in-stream work to improve fish and macroinvertebrate habitat, and access and interpretative signage for environmental education.

Maple Bridge

STATUS

Funded by 2014 Parks Bond, completed fall 2017

This beloved trail has been closed for more than two years due to deterioration of a vital 35-foot long bridge, much to the chagrin of hikers and runners who love this particular stretch.

Culvert Replacements

STATUS

Three culverts are scheduled for replacement in 2018

Leif Erikson Drive provides critical access for emergency responders; maintaining the stability of this road is essential. Out of 176 culverts surveyed along the route, 19 were identified as needing replacement. As of January 2016, five total culverts have been replaced (*four in partnership with the Bureau of Environmental Services*), leaving 14 culverts remaining.

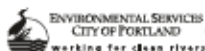


RECONNECT

STATUS

Currently in design development

Forest Park is the crown jewel in Portland's park system, yet visitors have no visible entry point to discover information about the rich ecology, trails, and education programs offered. The City of Portland has acquired property along Highway 30 at the intersection of NW Yeon and Kittridge Avenues, creating an opportunity to locate the entry point envisioned in the 1995 Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan. With funding from the Oregon State Legislation, we will evaluate opportunities for a nature center, staff workspace, enhanced trail connections and parking.



For questions or additional information, please contact Renew Forest Park Program Specialist Becca Shively at becca.shively@portlandoregon.gov or 503-823-2985.



Restore Forest Park 10 Year Projects

