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# 147-2023

Communication

## Request of David Marco to address Council regarding repair and replacement of items at Fields Park in the Pearl District Neighborhood

Placed on File

A brief description of Communication:

Repairing and/or replacing various items at The Fields Park in the Pearl District Neighborhood

### Agenda Items

147 Communications in [February 22, 2023 Council Agenda](#)

Placed on File

### Requested Agenda Type

Communications

### Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date  
February 22, 2023

Good morning Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Commissioners. I appreciate the time given me to discuss the emails I recently sent to a few of you regarding The Fields Park. In my emails I remarked on several issues that many of the neighborhood's residents share with me about the condition of the Park.

I reside at the Encore Condominiums, and I'm sit on the Board of Directors. I'm here representing residents at the Encore as well as neighboring building's residents. I'm not here to repeat what I stated in my emails, but to offer an action plan.

To help each other determine if repairs or replacement of The Fields Park assets are needed, I propose that Park personnel meet semi annually during the Spring & Fall, with a few residents of the Pearl District to do a walk around the park to examine, identify, and discuss any issues that are realized.

We can also use this time to discuss issues about pet rules being disregarded by pet owners, and come up with a plan to be put forward for consideration any changes that can be implemented to resolve this problem.

I look forward to your response to my action plan or any other action plan that you can offer to The Pearl neighborhood's residents.

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**The Fields Park**

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**David Marco** <davidmarco1951@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 6:12 PM

To: comm.rubio@portlandoregon.gov, CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov, mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov

Dear All,

I'm a resident at the Encore Condominiums in the Pearl District that sits adjacent to The Fields park. I would like to remind you that the 2022 Cider Festival ended up being a disaster to the park's beauty, which made it unusable for the remainder of the year. There was an attempt to repair the grass that helped the grounds look better, which wasn't a high bar from the way it looked after the festival.

I get that no one can control nature (it was raining) but it was easy to predict the park would become a mudpit. I suggest that any festival that is planned for 2023 shouldn't be allowed until after the predicted rainy season on July 4th, and before the rainy season on September 1st.

With a population of over 6,000 residents and many small businesses in the Pearl who pay high taxes to Portland, we would like to see a portion of it spent on The Fields Park. Not only do residents deserve to have the best that our tax money should buy, the Tourists who visit the area should walk away speaking highly of their visit to the Pearl of Portland.

I attached pictures showing several empty spaces where trees once stood that died and haven't been replaced. Another shows a lamp post that looks like it will fall with little more than a person leaning on it (unsafe liability). Others showing bike racks that look like the leaning tower of Pisa.

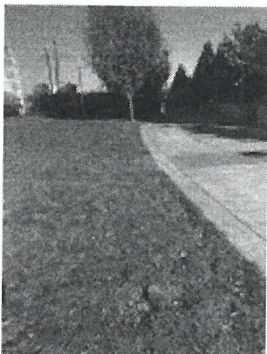
Lastly, as a dog owner who strictly obeys the leash law, I'm very frustrated to see the large number of dogs that owners have off leash everyday without any worry of violating the rules. Children, elderly residents, leashed pets are at risk with the unleashed and unpredictable dogs. These law breakers / owners don't obey the laws because there isn't anyone enforcing them.

Our property values, business's livelihoods, and the safety of all of us are at risk.

I would like to have a response as to your action plan to fix and repair these issues.

Regards,  
David Marco

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**3 attachments**

**IMG-7684.jpg**  
6113K



**IMG-7688.jpg**  
2388K



**IMG-7686.jpg**  
3489K

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**The Fields Park**

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**Ross, Mark** <Mark.Ross@portlandoregon.gov>  
To: "davidmarco1951@gmail.com" <davidmarco1951@gmail.com>  
Cc: "Ross, Mark" <Mark.Ross@portlandoregon.gov>

Mon, Jan 30, 2023 at 8:40 AM

David,

Portland Parks Commissioner Ryan's office received your note and asked us at Portland Parks & Recreation to assist you. We're happy to do so, and thank you for sharing your concerns. We understand the value that the park has for the neighborhood. The record-setting rains of the last months have brought some challenges to caring for the park, but they should be temporary. Large permitted events at The Fields are limited in season, scope, and frequency but the park's infrastructure was designed and intended to support such events. It is standard practice to have our teams restore park turf after festivals and events; but there will be no Cider Festival at The Fields in 2023.

We have existing work orders in to complete repairs on the dog off-leash area gate, the bike rack, and a lamp post. Our Portland Park Rangers have been placing signage to remind people to leash their pets and have added some park visits to the area. The trees are being addressed by our Urban Forestry team, which is typically about a two-year process – the trees were suffering from disease.

We appreciate the many hours our park maintenance staff has spent pruning, edging, and doing other important work. They're adding new plants to The Fields, including a new nature patch on the north end.

Thank you again for reaching out and we're glad for the chance to provide you this update.

-Mark and team

**Mark Ross** (*He/Him/His*) *Why do I list my pronouns?*

Public Information Officer / Media Relations

503-823-6634 (cell)

**Portland Parks & Recreation**

Yo hablo español



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Устный и письменный перевод | Turjumaad iyo Fasiraad |  
Письмовий і усний переклад | Traducere și interpretariat |  
Chiaku me Awewen Kapas

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**From:** David Marco <davidmarco1951@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 6:12 PM

**To:** Commissioner Rubio <Comm.Rubio@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Ryan Office  
<CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov>; Wheeler, Mayor <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>

**Subject:** Fwd: The Fields Park

Dear All,

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**PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION™**  
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image006.jpg  
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**The Fields Park**

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**David Marco** <davidmarco1951@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 1, 2023 at 5:27 PM

To: "Ross, Mark" &lt;Mark.Ross@portlandoregon.gov&gt;

Hi Mark,

I appreciate your quick response to my email. Regarding the signs added to the park which are not working, and only fines will prevent pet owners from disobeying the rules. I personally experienced a pet owner that had her dog off leash, and was very aggressive to my leashed dog. When I indicated to her that the park was not a dog park and dogs are required to be leashed. I pointed to the off leash area located at the NW corner of The Fields, but her response was that she had heard that the rules for leashed dogs were not clearly stated. I rarely see park rangers in the park. I attached a photo of a recent evening this week, typically this is what happens about 5pm in the evening.

Regarding the trees that have died, three of them died and were removed prior to 2018 and the third just in the past few weeks. Replacing the three passes your 2 year process.

Please contact me if you have any other comments or questions.

Regards,

David Marco

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**The Fields Park.jpg**  
941K

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## The Fields Park

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David Marco <davidmarco1951@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 11:25 AM

To: comm.rubio@portlandoregon.gov, CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov, mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov

Dear All,

I recently emailed you all regarding the poor conditions of The Fields park located in the Pearl District, including the pet owner's who disobey the leash rule. Below is the response I received from Mark Ross as well as my response to his email. Recently I was informed by another owner of The Encore condominiums that he submitted a ticket on pdxreporter.org about lights that are out on the walking circle near the playground. They replied that based on staffing levels and prioritization of maintenance and repairs based on urgency there may be a delay in the repairs. He also informed me that Portland's tax payers voted to approve the "Parks Local Option Levy" which will provide 48 million dollars per year for five years for a total of 240 million for repairs and maintenance of the parks and recreation areas in Portland. What is your intention for the use of these funds? In Mark's reply he indicates "our Park Rangers have been placing signage to remind people to leash their pets and added some park visits to the area." FYI - the signs are being removed within 72 hours by the rule breaking pet owners, this is a waste of time and money that can be used to make needed repairs and have Park Rangers patrol the park making sure rules are being adhere to. I'm a Director on The Encore's BOD, we were giving letters of warning to resident rule breakers that had little to no affect. Our BOD decided to stop giving warnings and instead gave financial penalties to rule breakers which succeeded to gain their attention and is applauded by our owners. Regarding replacement of the park's trees Mark indicated "The trees are being addressed by our Urban Forestry team, which is typically about a two-year process...". FYI - three of the four trees died and removed prior to 2018, which meets our Urban Forestry team's criteria of a two-year process for replacement, the fourth died and removed in 2022. I would like to have a response as to your action plan to fix and repair these issues.

Regards,  
David Marco

Dear David,

Portland Parks Commissioner Ryan's office received your note and asked us at Portland Parks & Recreation to assist you. We're happy to do so, and thank you for sharing your concerns. We understand the value that the park has for the neighborhood. The record-setting rains of the last months have brought some challenges to caring for the park, but they should be temporary. Large permitted events at The Fields are limited in season, scope, and frequency but the park's infrastructure was designed and intended to support such events. It is standard practice to have our teams restore park turf after festivals and events; but there will be no Cider Festival at The Fields in 2023.

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*leash, and was very aggressive to my leashed dog. I indicated to her that the park was not a dog park and dogs are required to be leashed. I pointed to the off leash area located at the NW corner of The Fields, and her response was that she had heard from other pet owners that the rules for leashed dogs were not clearly stated. I rarely see park rangers in the park. I attached a photo of a recent evening this week showing no less than 10 off leash pets, typically this is what happens about 5pm in the evening.*

*Regarding the trees that have died, three of them died and were removed prior to 2018 and the third just in the past few weeks. Replacing the three passes your 2 year process.*

*Please contact me if you have any other comments or questions.*

*Regards,  
David Marco*

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**The Fields Park.jpg**  
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