

From: [alex safransky](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Concerns on Park Light Poles Taken Down
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 1:46:05 PM

Hello,

I'm a Portland resident and frequent park visitor that is concerned by the lack of public input and transparency around the removal and planned costly replacement of light poles in multiple Portland area parks.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ANY MORE LIGHT POLES IN PARKS. We need to have public input and transparent rationale around process and cost before any further actions are taken.

Park goers like myself and my neighbors and friends rely on park lighting. We are very concerned about the safety of evening walkers and other park visitors that will be without lighting in the near term, the removal of potentially historic light posts, and the exorbitant cost of replacement that is has not been made clear or transparent beyond an approximate \$4-\$15 MILLION range.

Please do not remove any more lighting and replace what has been taken down until a transparent and publicly approved plan can be agreed upon.

Thank you,
Concerned SE Portland Resident

From: [Theodore Wiesehan](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Keep the lights on in our parks!
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 5:28:38 PM

I live with my family (my partner and two children ages 3 and 4) four blocks from Mt. Scott Park and Community Center. We've lived in our current home for 6 years. We use the park regularly, and our kids love to run around the play structure and fields, ride their bikes on paths, and explore the "woods" of the park.

Most of the time we feel pretty safe in the park, but in 2021-2022 our neighborhood was plagued by shooting after shooting, with most of it centered in and around Mt. Scott Park. It became common to hear gunfire at night and speeding vehicles coming from the blocks near the park.

After then-commissioner Hardesty met with neighborhood leaders, a series of actions were taken to take back our neighborhood. One of the actions that helped was increased lighting in the park. While our neighborhood isn't perfect, things have improved greatly since that period before the interventions.

I was disappointed and concerned for my family's safety when I heard that the city would be removing so many lights from our park. It felt like we were going to take a massive step backward just when we were starting to turn a corner.

I urge you not to reduce lighting in Mt. Scott Park until your ordered materials arrive, and then replace one at a time. Our neighborhood cannot afford to backtrack on the progress we've made.

Theodore Wiesehan, RN
5601 SE 68th Ave.
Portland, OR 97206

From: [Nikki Mandell](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: April 5 City Council Regular Agenda Item 264
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 8:09:50 PM

Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners Ryan, Rubio, Mapps, and Gomez:

I am a resident of Southeast Portland. I enjoy and spend time in various city parks on an almost daily basis. My testimony is in reference to Item 264.

First, I was encouraged to see that an outpouring of letters and phone calls persuaded Commissioner Ryan to pause the removal of lighting in city parks. It is unfortunate that almost 90% of the lights in four parks had already been removed before the pause, leaving those parks notably less safe.

It was also encouraging to learn that city council would be asked to approve emergency funding so that the 116 light poles can be replaced as quickly as possible. I urge council to approve funding to replace the light poles in Colonel Summers, Irving, Sellwood, and Sellwood Riverfront Parks.

At the same time, I urge council to amend item 264 before passage to ensure that the pause announced for the light pole project is better vetted to ensure that light pole removal and replacement complies with city policy, and meets community needs in a fiscally responsible way.

As currently drafted, item 264 does not comply with binding city policy ADM-4.02, "Public Involvement Principles," nor does it provide evidence of fiscal efficacy.

As I'm sure you are aware, the city's Public Involvement Principles binding on all city bureaus state that "*Community members have a right to be involved in decisions that affect them;*" that public involvement must be "*early and integral*" to policy-making; and that "*Public dialogue and decision-making identify, reach out to, and encourage participation of the community in its full diversity.*"

Not only did this not happen before the removal of light poles left four city parks largely in the dark, but agenda item 264 goes further, declaring that PP&R has no intention of fulfilling this binding obligation, stating that "*implementation of the work will take an **inform** approach [bolded in the agenda statement], where interested and impacted parties will be kept up to date on construction impacts.*"

Those of us who use the parks want safe, well-lit parks; we also need long-deferred maintenance and repairs triaged in an equitable and transparent manner.

Item 264 should also be amended to require that funds beyond those needed to replace the 116 light poles be triaged in light of the \$600 million of PP&R deferred maintenance and repairs, as well as other city capital needs. This is a requirement of the city's Capital Set Aside Fund which item 264 will tap to the tune of \$2 million.

Please amend item 264 to fund replacement of the missing 116 light poles, require compliance with the city's Public Involvement Principles, and with processes for drawing from the Capital Set Aside Fund.

Thank you -

Nikki Mandell

SE Portland resident

Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part... [John Lewis, 2020]

From: [Carrie Leonard](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on April 5, 2023 Council Agenda Item 264
Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 8:24:56 AM

I am incredibly mad, appalled, embarrassed, and left feeling powerless at the rapid decision by PP&R to remove 100s of lightposts across the City, ostensibly for safety and liability reasons. I was mad when I first read about the plan 2 weeks ago in a variety of news outlets, but yesterday when I saw the plan in action in Sellwood Park I actually began to despair at the decision making happening in our City. I don't know how a reasonable person can think that what has been installed where the lightposts were are safer AND less liable than putting a warning sign on each post. Particularly because it's going TO BE DARK NOW and people can't see the trip/cut hazards and exposed electrical wires. Some of the plastic shields are already broken.

This same work has been observed/documentated at Irving Park and I'm guess the other removal locations.

Just this week PBOT released a report on fatalities on our roads and one correlating factor was 'darkness'. At the same time PP&R removed lighting from around the City with no plans for replacement. Ever. I know you hear at council reports on gun violence and strategies to counter that. And you hear reports on mental health and the need for community gathering spaces. You also hear about budget woes and the lack of enforcement personnel at places like our Parks. Yet the solution to a perceived liability threat (the lawsuit hasn't even been settled yet!) is to significantly increase liability in the other facets of our City.

If you think folks don't use these spaces before sunrise or after sunset then, honestly, you haven't spent much time in neighborhood parks before or after work in January. There are dog walkers, bike commuters, basketball players, runners, kids all trying to get their bodies moving in the dark of winter. Are you providing extra staffing to Parks to patrol all of these parks that are now supposed to be closed at 10pm? All of them, regularly?

This City DOES have the money to replace this lighting. I see an agenda item just today for \$80K for a UAV for the police department. Which we might not need if we had a holistic view of our community safety! But we need to be creative and actually work for the common good, not your individual bureau.

Thank you,
Carrie Leonard

From: [Linda Nettekoven](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Council Agenda Item # 264 Park Lighting
Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 9:55:31 AM

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Rene Gonzalez, Mingus Maps, Carmen Rubio, & Dan Ryan:

I have one ASK of you today. Please do not move full steam ahead on Item 264 without creating an opportunity for Parks Bureau staff, the community, and yourselves to identify what went so wrong in the "first phase" of the lighting improvement effort. I'm not suggesting a long drawn out process or a "shame and blame" session, but an opportunity to look for more innovative ways to handle this kind of situation in the future **and during the next phase as we move ahead.**

I appreciate that Agenda Item #264 is an attempt to remedy the park lighting situation and accomplish other needed maintenance projects as well. The concern expressed by many regarding the unexpected removal of lighting from our parks at a time of high crime in our city is real and left many wondering whether your early efforts to provide safer lighting had made some of our parks more dangerous than they were before. It appears you have acknowledged this concern and are attempting to address it promptly.

However, I noticed under the Community Engagement section of this item that Parks staff will be operating on "inform only" basis to keep us updated on construction scheduling, etc. This concerns me because we've just experienced another situation where the City has squandered our community's precious social capital. People love their parks. You have many people who do more than simply enjoy them — they know them intimately and volunteer to tend them carefully, often for many decades. You have many "Friends of ..." groups, neighborhood and business associations who could have helped in planning a solution. None of us were contacted. Did the Parks Commission know about this ahead of time?

Please don't simply forge ahead without acknowledging what went wrong and what we all can learn from our mistakes.

Thank you.
Linda Nettekoven

PS I have been deadheading City rose bushes for over 20 years and helped raise funds for a fountain in our small neighborhood park. I am not one of your super stars, just a person who values parks for all.

From: [Nanci Champlin](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: April 5, 2023 | Agenda Item 264 (Park Light Pole Emergency Ordinance)
Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 10:07:06 AM

Dear City Council:

On behalf of the 23 community groups and Neighborhood Associations in Southeast Portland that recently urged a change of course regarding light pole removal in public parks, we applaud Commissioner Ryan for responding to public safety concerns by updating the plan and presenting you with this emergency ordinance. Please support it!

It is, however, disappointing to learn from PP&R staff that there are no plans to engage the public around the design of the light posts. This would be a missed opportunity to build trust with Portlanders whose thoughtful ideas and creative problem solving could help the bureau to avoid a potential future civic engagement blunder. As you move the city toward procurement of all the new light posts for this project, please consider the following community concerns that have been raised:

- That the new lights replicate the design and charm of those that are being removed,
- That they emit warm light and are energy efficient,
- That they mitigate light pollution as much as possible, and
- That adequate temporary lighting be installed at the parks where light posts have already been removed: Colonel Summers Park, Mt. Scott Park, Sellwood Park and Sellwood Riverfront Park in Southeast, and Irving Park in Northeast.

Finally, in the spirit of community and transparency, we urge you to direct the Parks Bureau to hold a listening session where Portlanders from across the city can raise concerns such as these. By working together, the city and its residents will ultimately have safe and well-lit parks that all community members can enjoy.

Thank you for considering this community input as the project moves forward.

Kind regards,

Nanci Champlin
Executive Director
SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition

Collaborating with the Southeast Portland community to build informed, engaged, and participatory communities that support our social and ecological well-being since 1968. We also joyfully support neighborhoods in Northeast Portland that are south of I-84.

From: [Lizzie Wiesehan](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Keep our parks safe!
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 9:04:36 AM

Please ensure our parks are safe - day and night! Portland Parks are one of the many reasons we love living here. Keep our children and families safe by keeping the parks well lit.

We live blocks from Mt Scott Community Center and Park and the past few years have been rough - the park was the center of a lot of shootings and violence. Adding better lighting (among other interventions) will help keep our parks safe.

Thank you,
Lizzie Wiesehan

Testimony on CC Item 264

Submitted by Midge Pierce, SE Portland

Portland's Parks are for Everyone. So is common sense safety and good governance.

I am here to ask that you turn light back on all park pathways, thoughtfully with modifications to Item 264 that include public input and consideration of neighborhood security, pole design and light pollution mitigation.

Because of broad-based outrage over light removals from parks in four eastside neighborhoods and planned removal and replacement of lights in eight others, it is imperative the City follow its own community governance principles and public equity goals of inclusion.

The project failed to follow Portland's binding principles ADM-4-02 to **engage community as part of solutions**. Where was the engagement in Sellwood, Buckman, Mt. Scott and Irving Parks? Instead, with Item 264, PP&R proceeds to **inform** rather than **involve** the public in its emergency expenditure request.

Before approving the request, Item 264 should be **amended to draw from Capital Set Aside Funds and comply with the City's Public Involvement Principles**.

When the City began removal of 243 light poles, it indicated only two parks would get light replacements, heightening concerns about implementation of a special parks taxing district to cover \$600 million deferred park maintenance and repairs.

This issue is bigger than park lamp posts. Outrage has cut across demographic and geographic interests because it goes to the heart of Portland's frequent failure to provide meaningful public discourse and collaboration.

The City must shed more light on this - and all projects that impact common sense safety and quality of life. We ask:

- What is the specific danger posed?
- What were the processes and criteria for PP&R's inspection of 1,000 park lights? When and how were the inspections conducted? Were structural stress tests compliant with industry public lighting standards? Was reinforcement of existing poles considered?
- Why have project costs, ranging from \$4 M to \$15 M, been so inconsistent? What funds are actually available for remediation? What park projects remain unfunded if light pole replacement takes place?
- Have requirements for different parks' lighting needs, such as upcoming movie nights and Mt. Tabor's National Historic Registry designation, been considered?

Concerns

Transparency in decision-making

- No transparency in how the decisions were made, the evaluation of the safety analysis,
- no review of alternatives shared with the public
- Not clear to the public even in the decision-making today with the way this is buried in plannerese (this doesn't help the community track and be involved)


Accountability with the money we are investing in the community

- Community wants some accountability of how those decisions were made
- Want to keep the historic lamps (these are valuable and were paid for with public dollars and should not be donated or sold off without public involvement)
- Would like to have input in the design of the replacement lamps, in the quality of the light, and the materials, and in any opportunities to salvage and reuse and existing historic lamp poles and fixtures.

The “Inform” approach is not sufficient nor best practice (per the IAP2 Scale and given the degree of public interest and concern) INVOLVE is where we need to move toward as a BEST PRACTICE

With the degree of input and concerns we need more meaningful involvement

IAP2 SCALE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. Inform is the bare minimum	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

LIGHTING TYPE MATTERS

*LED lights can emit high levels of cool, blue light, which has a relatively far reach and **has also been shown to negatively affect wildlife behavior and reproduction**. This means more light pollution penetrates the night sky and disturbs not just migratory birds, but other wildlife as well.*

- Audubon Society

Many Wildlife Impacts

*A 2004 study concluded that artificial light, specifically LEDs, **altered bird behavior so that there could be potentially negative effects on biorhythms, daily activity, and reproduction.** The behavior of some birds in the study included sleeping less, waking earlier, and leaving nest boxes more often. In fact, light has such a **strong biological impact that at night it can cause foraging; sleep; migration; immune response; cortisol, testosterone and melatonin level changes; and glucose metabolism effects.***

<https://www.edn.com/insect-and-bird-behavior-is-influenced-by-led-lights/>



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5661	10 1/2'
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56131	10 1/2'

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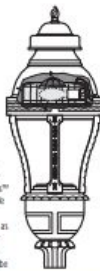
Nighttime Friendly Full Cutoff (IESNA Classification) Luminaires



Cutoff (IESNA Classification) Luminaires



Globes with internal Aeris™ optic provide cutoff performance as an attractive alternative to standard globe luminaires.



Historical Luminaires

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Sphere Globes



Acorn Globes



Octagonal



Hexagonal



Octagonal



Roadway/Pendant



Octagonal

There are many options

Our historic parks deserve a public engagement process to evaluate options and choices

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, April 5, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name	
264-01	Midge	Pierce	
264-02	Nikki	Mandell	Testimony read by Midge Pierce
264-03	John	Laursen	
264-04	Heather	Flint Chatto	