

REPORT
CITY WIDE YOUTH WORK PROJECT
IN
FOREST PARK
SUMMER 1963

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REPORT ON THE 1963 CITY OF PORTLAND YOUTH PROJECT

The 1963 Portland Youth Project was an attempt to provide employment for highschool students as well as to reduce high fire hazard and provide fire access in areas of high fuel concentration within Portland's Forest Park.

An operational plan and cost estimate was developed by the Park Bureau and on June 27, 1963 the City Council gave formal approval to the project. Duration of the program was to be from July 1 thru August 30, 1963, a period of 44 working days.

On July 1, 1963 sixty boys assembled at the Forestry Building. The boys were signed up, received an introductory talk by Park Superintendent Harry Buckley and were dispatched to their assigned work area in Forest Park. The remainder of the day was spent teaching the boys how to safely use and care for the tools they would be expected to use. Tools used included double bitted axes, pulaskis, shovels and cross cut saws. Under no circumstances were the boys permitted to operate power equipment.

During the period from July 1 thru August 30, crews worked approximately 40 acres in actual area and covered about 5.5 miles of forest trail. Of the 5.5 miles of trail worked 3.5 miles were reopened to public use, the other two miles having been opened at an earlier date by other crews. Work consisted mainly of fireproofing areas adjacent to heavily used foot trails and re-establishing access to areas having concentrated and potentially dangerous debris created by the Columbus Day storm of 1962.

Like all similar projects, problems develop which through proper planning on future projects can be corrected or lessened. Therefore the following recommendations reflect some of the problems encountered this year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Hire students especially selected by the Portland Schools. This would provide screening on the basis of need, sincerity and maturity.
2. Hire school teachers having woods or similar experience to serve as foremen. This would provide a mature leadership accustomed to working with and guiding boys in this age group.
3. Hire college students having woods experience to further the mature guidance of these boys.
4. Obtain adequate radio equipped transportation for each crew.

5. Crew replacements should be made by the city from the list of boys recommended by the schools.
6. Have the Health Bureau or other City physician examine and determine how serious injuries are where no emergency exists.
7. Have the project commence on the first Monday following the last day of school and end the project the Friday before the beginning of football practice.
8. Provide inducements for accident free work.

The Portland Youth Project was a very worth while endeavor both from the viewpoint of the boys and of the City. Programs such as this should be continued and expanded as funds permit.

Report of personnel employed in the Youth Work Project conducted at Forest Park from July 1, 1963 to August 30, 1963.

Original number of personnel employed through the juvenile division of the Oregon State Employment Service and told to report to the Forestry Building on July 1, 1963 was		65
of these, actually reporting for work, were	62	
No. of replacements employed.	14	
Total number of youths working on the project		76
Number who worked the entire time of project.	10	
Number who worked between 40 & 43 days	10	
" " " " 35 & 39 "	12	
" " " " 30 & 34 "	8	
" " " " 25 & 29 "	10	
" " " " 20 & 24 "	10	
" " " " 15 & 19 "	4	
" " " " 10 & 14 "	4	
less than 10 days	6	
Failed to report for work	2	76

Total number of days worked		2200
Number of days lost, absent, no pay	171	
Number of days lost, sick	25	
Number of days lost, injury	51	247
Net Number of days worked		1953
Average number of days worked per boy		25.6

Number of injuries sustained		19
Types of accidents:		
Cuts (by axe, pulaski or file)	10	
Struck by tree branch	3	
Falls	5	
Bit by raccoon	1	19
Type of injuries:		
Eyes	3	63
Face cuts	1	
Hand cuts	12	
Knee cuts or bruised	2	78
Leg cuts	12	
Ankle and foot cut or bruised	15	
Strained back	1	
Glasses broke	1	
Ankle sprained	1	
Finger bite	1	19

Average number of days lost per injury 2.6 days

PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS

1963 FOREST PARK YOUTH PROJECT

1. UNWORKED SECTION OF DUTCH TRAIL.
2. PROJECT CREW OPENING AND "FIREPROOFING" DUTCH TRAIL.
3. PROJECT CREW PILING DEBRIS.
Crews piled debris and constructed fire trails around each pile during dry periods.
During wet periods the crews "swamperburned" or burned as they piled the debris.
4. TYPICAL PILE.
5. PILES ALONG CLEATOR TRAIL.
6. BURNING DEBRIS.
7. TYPICAL CLEANED AREA--NOTE FIRE TRAIL WHERE A PILE WAS BURNED.

























