



Get to know your local parks: Laurelhurst

One of Southeast Portland's most majestic parks is 26-acre Laurelhurst. Once named the "most beautiful park" on the West Coast, in 2001 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The land that is now Laurelhurst was purchased by the City of Portland from The Ladd Estate Company in 1911. It had originally belonged to William S. Ladd, developer of Ladd's Addition, and been used as a portion of one of his successful stock farms, Hazel Fern Farm. A favorite swimming spot and cattle watering hole was deepened to what is now 3-acre Firwood lake in 1916.



Laurelhurst's lush grounds were often used as a gathering place for large group events, including Rose Festival Queen coronations on floating boats and decorated rafts in the 1920s and '30s, and Easter sunrise services in the 1950s. Picnics and reunions have also always been common. Firwood Lake was often patrolled by swans, including the militant General Pershing and talented Big Boy, who was taught by a resident to nod his head and honk "Hello."

In more recent years, overcrowding of fish and ducks began adding to the water's murkiness, and sediment build-up caused the lake's depth to reduce from 13-15 feet to just 18 inches. Portland Parks & Recreation recently received funds to dredge the lake and install a water aeration system. The pond is now back in use and ready to go, but you can see more information about the restoration process here: <http://pdx.be/LaurelhurstPond>.

SE Clinton Street Bike Boulevard gets a facelift

Long-awaited bike art made its way to the Clinton Bike Boulevard this past May. Over 70 sign toppers and three "half-bikes" now adorn street signs and poles along the popular bikeway. Two new bike corrals have also been installed at 21st and 25th Avenues.

The art installations are an attempt to brand the street as a bike-way and communicate the street's designation to all road users. Clinton often carries around 1800 cyclists per day, along with 2000-2400 motor vehicles, making for high volume traffic in a tight space. PBOT hopes

For more information on the project, check out Portland Online (<http://pdx.be/PBOTClinton>) and BikePortland.org (<http://pdx.be/BPClinton>).



Clinton photos by Paul Cone;
Laurelhurst photo by Greg Raisman.

Summer's here; time for a block party in your neighborhood!

Block parties are a great way to get to know your neighbors and have some fun! Find out all the information you need to start your own here: <http://pdx.be/BlockParty>.