

# Portland Parks & Recreation

---

The following questions were asked during the bureau's budget work session. Responses are included in the attached packet.

1. Where is the bureau today with the use of partners and non-profits to support the program? And what is the state of the relationship between the Bureau and Portland Parks Foundation?
2. What is the status of underutilized buildings in the Parks system? Are there any potential spaces that could be used for the homelessness emergency?
3. What is the % of free/reduced lunch students at schools that host SUN programs?
4. How has the bureau planned for the school districts providing a greater number of pre-school programs?

# Budget Presentation Questions

April 6, 2016

- **Where are we today with the use of partners and non-profits to support the program? And what is the state of the relationship between the Bureau and Foundation?**
  - The Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) is the Bureau's primary fundraising partner. Currently, the PPF is actively seeking donors for two City priority projects: 1) the Wildwood Trail Bridge over Burnside (which received \$500,000 in PBOT's 2015-16 budget), and 2) Cully Park Phase I. With a new Executive Director in place, the Foundation is poised to once again be a philanthropic force to help PP&R raise funds for important projects. Currently, and for the past several years, the Foundation has needed to spend an inordinate amount of time raising funds for their basic operating expenses, which are about \$200,000 annually. We believe that for the Foundation to be effective, the City should help fund a portion of the Foundation's operating expenses. This small investment will likely result in a much larger amount coming back to the Bureau in donor gifts.

Recent accomplishments of the Parks Foundation include leadership and support of the 2014 Parks Bond, fundraising to date of over \$320,000 for the Wildwood Trail Bridge over Burnside, an 8.2% increase in individual donor support and a successful 2015 year-end fundraising campaign. In 2015, PPF also distributed \$196,000 to various PP&R projects while mobilizing 850 volunteers for Parke Diem, working in 50 parks around the city.
  - After years of identifying coordination with about 120 Friends and Partner groups, the 2016 reorganization of the Bureau has allowed us to do a very in-depth inventory and assessment of community groups we work with to accomplish our objectives. As of Spring 2016, the current total of the number of these groups has grown over 170. In recognition of this growth and as a way to help cement the stewarding relationships between individual PP&R staff and these diverse groups, we are planning to hold a Friends & Partners event in May 2016.
- **What is the status of underutilized buildings in the Parks system? Are there any potential spaces that could be used for the homelessness emergency?**
  - The zoning code does not allow short term housing, mass shelters, and group housing in Parks and Open Space zones.

- Portland Parks and Recreation has approximately 450 buildings including only 32 greater than 10,000 square-feet in size. All of our larger buildings are actively used for programming or support by either PP&R or tenant organizations. Several unutilized smaller buildings are closed due to unsafe conditions until demolition or restoration investments can be made. Zoning, occupancy designation, suitability, and programming impact/displacement would need to be analyzed and addressed in more detail should any specific PP&R building be investigated for designation as a shelter.
- **What is the % of free/reduced lunch students at schools that host SUN programs?**
  - Below is a list of the schools served by the PP&R SUN program. They are sorted by the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. The two bolded schools are the two sites in the budget reduction package PK\_08.

Schools in PP&R SUN Portfolio	Free & Reduced Lunch
<i>PPS School Averages</i>	42%
Sitton Elem.	<b>86%</b>
Lane Middle	<b>85%</b>
Faubion Elem.	<b>80%</b>
Parkrose Middle	77%
Alice Ott Middle	73%
Arleta Elem.	67%
Grout Elem.	67%
Roseway Heights Elem.	42%
<b>Beaumont Middle</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Mt Tabor Middle</b>	<b>33%</b>

\* Taken from Elementaryschools.org (using data through 2013)

- **How has the bureau planned for the school districts providing a greater number of pre-school programs?**
  - We are not aware of any definitive decisions made by school districts to fund preschool programs that are likely to compete directly with the programs we offer. We've seen continued growth and in many locations have wait lists for our programs. To the extent that school districts or any other provider changes their programs in a way that shifts demand, we would adjust our programs accordingly. We are continually making these kinds of programming decisions across a range of activities, whether expanding where we see the opportunity and a good fit for our mission, or scaling back as needed.