

December 16, 2008

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be named Commissioner-in-Charge of Portland Parks & Recreation, effective January 1, 2009.

It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of Commissioner Dan Saltzman, whose leadership and commitment I have admired. As Parks Commissioner, Dan leveraged important public-private partnerships through the Parks Foundation, championed much-needed programs for Portland teens and spearheaded the construction of four first-class skateboard parks.

In my dual role as Portland's Parks and Housing Commissioner, the first person in recent memory to hold both bureaus, I will look for unique opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

Like housing, parks are not a luxury, but part of our basic infrastructure. Parks make an enormous contribution to the health and livability of our community.

Over the past year, I have heard from Portlanders across the city about how much they cherish their parks, trails, recreation programs and natural areas. I have also heard from people who live in underserved neighborhoods about their need for more nature, more parks and more recreation choices. As your new Parks Commissioner, I will work tirelessly to ensure equity of parks access for Portlanders across our community.

I'm looking forward to working in close partnership with Director Zari Santner and the entire Parks & Recreation team, the Parks Board, Parks Foundation and advocates and friends of parks citywide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Fish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "N".

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

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