



Commissioner Nick Fish
City of Portland

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Parks Commissioner Nick Fish announces successful completion of new management initiatives for Forest Park

Actions focus on park management, recreation use and stewardship

(Portland, OR) – Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish today announced the successful completion of the five management initiatives for Forest Park which he announced this past June. These specific actions address ecological and recreational concerns about the city's largest natural area.

The actions focus on park management, recreation use, and stewardship. These included a recreation user survey, a desired future condition report, and the addition of a dedicated park ranger for enforcement.

"I am pleased to report that all five initiatives have been successfully completed" noted Commissioner Fish. "We are moving forward to improve Forest Park management with these actions, but there is still much to be done to in order to preserve and improve the park's natural habitat and address the funding and recreation pressures on the park."

Later this month, Commissioner Fish and Portland Parks & Recreation Director Zari Santner will announce their decision on off-road cycling in the park, based on recommendations made this past July by the Forest Park Single Track Advisory Committee.

Fish directed Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) staff to complete the following five management initiatives by September 30, 2010. Below are the initiatives and the actions completed.

Partnership with Forest Park Conservancy

The Forest Park Conservancy is a tireless advocate for the park and provides 1,000's of hours of volunteer labor. The partnership agreement clearly defines the legal relationship between PP&R and the Conservancy, streamlines the development of the yearly work plan and clarifies the roles of the two organizations in ongoing advocacy efforts.

Update: Partnership agreement completed and approved by Portland City Council on July 1, 2010.

Desired Future Conditions

A critical aspect of the 1995 Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan, the Desired Future Condition will provide targets for ecological conditions that will be used to build yearly work plans and long-term action plans.

Update: DFC completed and available online at www.portlandparks.org.

Security and Safety

Portlanders are calling for better management and enforcement of park rules. Issues with camping, off-leash dogs, illegal trails, and other activities require the attention of a full-time staff member with enforcement capability. A new Park Ranger will be dedicated to Forest Park.

Update: Over 100 applicants applied for the job and interviews are nearly complete. The new park ranger will start September 30, 2010.

Recreation Survey

PP&R worked with Portland State University's Survey Research Lab to complete a Forest Park recreational survey. The survey provides objective data about use within the park to help the bureau better manage the increasing recreational demands on the park with baseline data on the intensity of use, preferences, quality of existing park features, and demographics of typical park users.

Update: Recreation Survey completed. The first in a series to measure recreation use in the park, the survey is posted online at www.portlandparks.org.

Budget Planning and Funding Sources

The Portland City Club, as a whole, voted to support the Forest Park Study Committee report and establish an advocacy committee. To help inform their advocacy work, Commissioner Fish committed to recruiting a Study Committee member for the FY 2011-12 Parks Budget Advisory Committee, which will be formed in September.

Update: Portland City Club and Forest Park Study Committee member Jim Gorter has agreed to serve on the PP&R Budget Advisory Committee.

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