



# PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

May 22, 2013

Good Afternoon Parks Team:

As you know, our staff has been stretched incredibly far over the past several years. The budget news is better this year. While we will still be taking an almost 4% reduction from our General Fund Budget in FY 2013-14, the Mayor's Proposed Budget has now identified \$500,000, on an ongoing basis, to be dedicated to PP&R maintenance. These funds will help the hard-working folks who maintain our parks to gain back a little of the ground that's been lost over the recent years.

Working with our Senior Management Team, we determined the best ways to utilize these welcome Maintenance funds are as follows:

**1. Central Services to receive \$200,000**

(Automotive Equipment Operator and Capital Major Maintenance)

**2. City Nature to receive \$100,000**

(City Nature - Forest Park Park Technician with vehicle)

**3. Services to receive \$200,000**

(Horticulturist in East Zone, Horticulturist in North Zone, and Seasonal Maintenance Workers)

The Seasonal Maintenance Worker funds will be split between crews led by Don McTaggart's westside crew and Betsy Redfearn's on the east side.

The City Nature-West Botanical Tech position will help to protect the ecological health of Forest Park and other areas.

In addition to the \$500,000 in ongoing revenue, City Council is proposing to move funding earmarked for O'Bryant Square from the 2005 Levy to keep Buckman Pool open. The same funds are proposed to keep the Sellwood Community Center open and with full programming for another budget year.

**Administration**

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Charlie Hales, Mayor  
Mike Abbaté, Director



This Proposed Budget is significantly better than what we had thought possible, but it still reduces our revenue and impacts staff. Our parkies *are* our parks. You make the system run, you make our parks beautiful and your serve our customers. We need all of you. We will lose some of you.

We are thankful that the Mayor and Council saw the real and tangible needs for our work and our staff that are essential for us to deliver our core services. However, the loss of several of our valued PP&R employees and friends is a blow.

The PP&R budget page at [www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/budget](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/budget) will continue to keep you informed on the latest information and we will also continue to send you updates as able.

Please post this notice for employees who do not have email.

Thank you again for your continued work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Abbate". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Abbaté  
Director