



Washington Park Rose Garden ADA Improvements Project Frequently Asked Questions, February 2017



What is happening at the Washington Park Rose Garden?

Thanks to the [Parks Replacement Bond](#) approved by voters in November 2014, this project will remove ADA accessibility barriers from the main promenade within the Washington Park International Rose Test Garden and improve the connection to the parking lot, so that all Portland residents and visitors can enjoy this space.

Construction will start in early March 2017, with substantial completion projected by June 2017. The Rose Garden is celebrating its Centennial anniversary in 2017 with celebrations being planned for late summer / early fall.

The project includes:

- Improving slopes and grading
- Adding new handrails
- Removing stairs leading into and out of the area on the main promenade by the Beach Memorial Fountain

1120 SW 5th Ave., Suite 1302
Portland, OR 97204
Tel: (503) 823-7529 Fax: (503) 823-6007

[PortlandParks.org](#)
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Director Mike Abbato



- Improving access from the parking to the Garden
- Addition of accessible viewing areas at the top of the Amphitheater

For a full project overview, visit parksreplacementbond.org.



Why is this construction necessary?

The Washington Park Rose Garden is one of the top destinations in Portland for residents and visitors. Unfortunately, the main promenade of the Garden features many ADA accessibility challenges including steep slopes, uneven pavement, and stairs leading into and out of the fountain area. This project will correct these issues so that the main promenade through the garden is much more accessible for all ages and abilities.

What should be expected during construction?

The area around the main garden promenade leading from the ramp near the Rose Garden Store through the heart of the garden past the Royal Rosarian Garden and to the Amphitheater will be closed or largely closed to the public during construction.

The rest of the Garden will still be open to visitors during construction, including the Gold Medal, Shakespeare, Test Roses, and Queen's Gardens and the lower Amphitheater. The Rose Garden Store and public restrooms will remain open. The MAC Trail will not be impacted. Check parksreplacementbond.org for regular construction updates.

During construction, there will be additional noise, debris, and traffic in the Garden area. The work will include excavating the existing pathway and stairs, removing the pathway and subgrade materials, regrading the pathway to improve slopes and drainage, pouring concrete pavement, and installing new fixtures such as handrails. Construction vehicles will use the same hauling routes used by other Washington Park construction vehicles (SW Tichner Dr and SW Sacajawea). Due to the Water Bureau construction, the main access to the Rose Garden from downtown Portland is via W Burnside to SW Tichner Dr. The access into Washington Park at SW Park Place is closed.

Project work will also include work in the pathway by the Rose Garden Store leading up to the parking area by the tennis courts, including improvements to the pathway, pedestrian crossings, and ADA parking spaces. Pedestrian impacts will occur and will be of a limited duration.

Where I can find out about other construction work or projects happening in Washington Park?

The Portland Water Bureau and their contractor, Hoffman Construction Company have begun work on an eight-year capital improvement project to update the Washington Park Reservoirs. More information about this project can be found at portlandoregon.gov/water/wpreservoirs, by calling 503-823-7030, or emailing sam@jla.us.com.

The parking area closest to the Portland Japanese Garden is closed due to renovations until March 2017. Find more information at culturalcrossing.com.

Portland Parks & Recreation is currently leading an effort to update the Washington Park Master Plan, which will be used to guide future decisions about the park. More information can be found at portlandoregon.gov/parks/waparkmasterplan.

For more information on transportation options in Washington Park, especially during construction, please visit the Washington Park TMA at explorewashingtonpark.org/construction.

When does the first rose bloom?

It depends on the weather but usually mid-May to late June. The Garden reaches full bloom by early June, in time for the Rose Festival. Blooms usually last until mid-October.

What are the Washington Park International Rose Test Garden and the Beach Fountain?

The 4.5 acre garden is the oldest official continuously-operated public rose test garden in the United States, with over 10,220 rose bushes and 607 varieties of roses. It serves as a testing ground for new rose varieties. The Garden is free and open to the public year-round. Led by the Garden's curator, many dedicated volunteers help care for the roses and lead daily free tours during the summer. Over half a million people visit every year.

The Beach Memorial Fountain was dedicated in June 1975. The stainless steel sculpture, titled *Water Sculpture*, was designed and built by Oregon artist Lee Kelly and was a gift from the family of Frank E. Beach (1853-1934) who is said to have given the name "City of Roses" to Portland and first proposed the Rose Festival.

What is the Parks Replacement Bond?

The Parks Replacement Bond was passed with the support of over 73% of voters in November 2014. Its primary focus is on repair and replacement of the most critical needs in the parks system. The total bond is for \$68 million, and work has begun on the first list of 33 Bond projects citywide.

Where can I get more information about this project?

Maija Spencer, Bond Community Engagement, maija.spencer@portlandoregon.gov
503-823-5593 | parksreplacementbond.org

Where can I get more information about the Washington Park International Test Rose Garden?

More information about the Rose Garden is available at portlandparks.org and using "Find a Park."