

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Parks and Community Centers Committee Action Plan 2011-2012

SWNI Mission: SWNI empowers citizen action to improve and maintain the livability of Southwest neighborhoods.

Committee purpose: The Parks and Community Centers Committee acts as a forum for the community through neighborhood contacts and representatives, and other interested parties to advocate for and promote the use of parks and recreation facilities. These may be public spaces such as squares and monuments; natural areas; open spaces of any type, including cemeteries, golf courses and school fields; and recreational and educational programs of Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R).

The committee will:

- Develop working relationships with PP&R that allow the community a voice in decisions that affect parks and parks programs in SW Portland.
- Participate in city-wide planning related to the committee purpose.
- Participate in and promote neighborhood participation in master planning for the development of individual parks.
- Support efforts to acquire new park space and build new community centers.
- Monitor school district actions to preserve school district buildings, playgrounds, and fields.
- Recommend actions and positions to the SWNI Board.
- Cooperate with friends groups and other advocacy organizations.

Action Item	Ongoing or New and Lead Person	Coordinate with Other Committees? (list)	Status
Develop a SW zone project list	New; committee and PP&R zone manager	As necessary	This issue was discussed at the committee's November 2011 meeting. Complete by 12/20/11.
Support fundraising-parks projects	Ongoing; friends groups and neighborhoods	As necessary	SWNI staff has given advice regarding SWNI grants and fiscal agency, sponsorship
Support neighborhood park projects. Act as liaison for neighborhoods to SWNI board and PP&R	Ongoing; committee will lead	As necessary	Committee chair attends SWNI board meetings. Key PP&R managers attend committee meetings. Committee members advise members whose neighborhoods are working on

			park projects.
Monitor and take positions on proposed OS zone changes on public land	Ongoing; committee and SWNI staff will lead	Land Use Committee	SWNI staff reviews land use notices that would notify SWNI of any proposed OS zone changes. No such changes are now being proposed.
Support existing community gardens and establishment of new ones	Ongoing; committee and PP&R will lead	Neighborhood associations	Community gardens at Gabriel and Fulton parks remain popular. Effort to establish garden at Dickinson Park met local opposition and is not now moving forward.
Follow schools and parks conditional use code refinement project	Ongoing; committee will lead	Schools Committee	Current project is finished. Committee will monitor further action.
Help neighborhoods work together on parks and recreation issues of mutual concern	Ongoing; committee and neighborhood chairs will lead	As necessary	No current issues other than help with projects as noted above.
Create continuing awareness of balance and equity city-wide	Ongoing; committee and PP&R will lead	Land Use Committee	Equity is the overarching issue in the Portland Plan. The committee will follow the issue and cooperate with the Land Use Committee as necessary.
Communicate with and develop relationship with Parks Board and Parks Foundation	Ongoing; committee, Parks Board chair, and Parks Foundation director will lead	As necessary	No communication occurring recently. The Parks Foundation has a new director, Nick Hardigg. The Foundation has been hurt recently by a loss of funders. The 3-year commitments of many current funders are expiring.
Collaborate with and support watershed friends and stewardship groups	Ongoing; committee will lead	Land Use Committee	The Land Use Committee recently resolved to take the SWNI lead on watershed management. But because parks and natural areas are so

			<p>important to watershed health, the committee will continue to play a role. Many parks are hybrid recreation and natural area parks. The committee works closely with PP&R staff in the City Nature department.</p>
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