

New sidewalks, trees and swales planned for Multnomah Village

EDITOR'S DESK

By Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

At a cost of \$422,000 the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) is planning a reconstruction project in Multnomah Village.

The Multnomah Village Stormwater Project will include new sidewalks, 12 new street trees, two new swales to handle stormwater and a reconfiguration of the on-street parking between Southwest 35th and 36th avenues along Capitol Highway.

Money for the project will come from a "one percent for green public works" fund that all city public

works projects pay into. According to BES spokesman Stephen Sykes, the city "anticipates construction in the spring of 2013."

"We've been working closely with the Multnomah Village Business Association," explained Sykes.

Sykes said that while business doorways will be impacted, "The City is working with businesses to minimize the disruption by limiting duration of closure during normal business hours as much as possible."

Business owners had three major concerns: make a project that doesn't remove existing parking; improve the north side as well as the south; and "make a place where people want to hang out," said Sykes.

New sidewalks would range from six feet to nine feet wide. Some

businesses expressed interest in sidewalk cafes during a recent open house, but Sykes said it is up to the Portland Bureau of Transportation as to whether permits are issued. Current sidewalks are about six feet wide.

Because of the all the cement, the core area can be very hot in the summer months. So the new trees will provide badly needed shade.

When asked about the new street trees Sykes said "We're looking at non-fruiting trees, perhaps an ash or a flowering pear."

Sykes said BES is considering trees that "aren't too columnar, don't drop too many leaves, or grow so broadly as to cover necessary business signage."

The two new swales will face each other on the corner of Southwest 36th Avenue and Capitol Highway.

Cars, trucks and bicycles will share the new 17-foot-wide travel lane. "Sharrows," directional arrows that show bicyclists where to go and inform motorists of the shared lane, will be installed.

Sykes said that because of the narrower travel lane, current double-parking by delivery vehicles "would be more challenging" under the new configuration.

Currently, cars are parked in a diagonal direction on the south side of Capitol Highway, and in a parallel fashion along the north side.

That will be reversed with this project.

Editor's Note: Residents, how do you feel about the Multnomah Village Stormwater Project? If you are a business owner or manager in the core area, how will you and your business be impacted? Contact Don Snedecor at 503-244-6933 or e-mail don@multnomahpost.com. We'll include your comments in an upcoming story.

POETRY CORNER

The Tone of Voice

It's not so much what you say,
As the manner in which you say it;
It's not so much in the language you use
As the tone in which you convey it;
Words may be mild and fair
And the tone may pierce like a dart;
Words may be soft as the summer air,
But the tone may break a heart;
For words come from the mind
Grow by study and art —
But tone leaps from the inner self,
Revealing the state of heart,
Whether you know it or not
Whether you mean or care,
Gentleness, kindness, love, and hate
Envy, anger are there.
Then, would you quarrels avoid
And peace and love rejoice?
Keep anger not only out of your words —
Keep it out of your voice.


—Harry Blythe



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