

Improving our Southwest pedestrian environment means budgeting funds, identifying trails

OPEN FORUM

By Glenn Bridger and Don Baack

Pedestrian connectivity is the key to allowing residents to move about our community.

SWTrails is in the process of working with the city of Portland to identify key pedestrian connections around all of Southwest Portland.

We are working with neighborhood associations to

identify existing rights of way, many heavily used, that could be improved to be better pedestrian or pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Unimproved existing rights of way are promises of connections that have never been fulfilled.

They are presently a no-man's land, open for public access, but in many cases not easily traversable by kids headed for school or residents wanting to walk for exercise.

There have been questions of liability for adjacent owners when these public lands are used.

Recent state legislation has taken aim at the liability issue when trails are improved or maintained by a non-profit organization such as SWTrails.

To bring the relief intended by the legislation regarding trail use, City Council approval of that use must be provided.

SWTrails is working with the city of Portland as it begins a project called SWIM (Southwest In Motion), a funded effort to identify, price out, and set general priorities

within categories of all the active transportation projects across Southwest Portland.

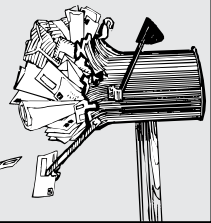
The SWTrails' effort is to identify the hundreds of existing trail connections, most of which are already in use by our Southwest residents, put them on a map and/or a list, obtain public comment and then get the Portland City Council to approve the list and map.

This action will formalize more of these trails we rely upon as an

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Letters to the Editor



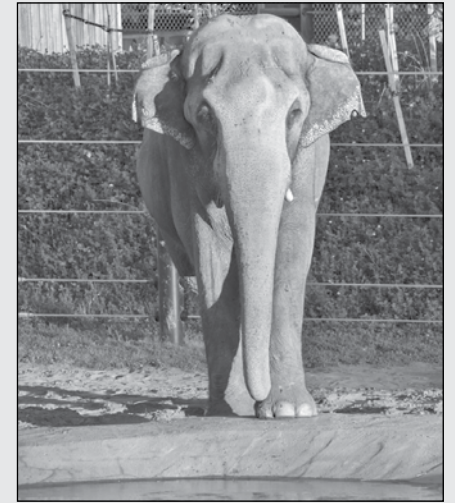
Longtime zoo resident Packy the elephant will be missed by many

Just heard that Portland's beloved elephant, Packy, has died. I first saw him when he was just a little guy. He was on a chain and tethered outside Lynch's Market in Hillsdale.

I was with my Dad who was getting gas at the Mobil station. There must have been some kind of a festival or fair and Packy was the feature.

Our family owns a very large red tooth brush that was given to Packy during National Dental Health week. It was being discarded and was retrieved and treasured all these years.

Some time back, we let the zoo



Packy approaches a wading pool in the south habitat of Elephant Lands. (Photo by Michael Durham, courtesy of the Oregon Zoo)

know that it was in our possession and they borrowed it for one of his big birthdays. Packy brought a lot of joy and also notoriety to Portland and he will certainly be missed by many generations of Oregonians.

Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen
Multnomah

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