

## Community News & Beyond

# Portland Parks & Recreation parks and facilities to become smoke, tobacco-free

### City Council votes to expand smoke & tobacco ban system-wide

Portland City Council approved a policy in February 2015 expanding Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R)'s smoking and tobacco ban throughout the entire parks system. Starting July 1, 2015, all City parks, natural areas, community centers, trails, golf courses, recreation areas, and all other sites where PP&R park rules apply will be smoke and tobacco-free. Currently, more than

500 cities and towns nationwide have laws mandating smoke-free parks[1], including 64 other cities and counties in Oregon.

"Expanding PP&R's existing tobacco-free policy across the entire system sends a consistent message," says Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who brought the policy to Council. "It helps to create healthy and safe

environments within all of Portland Parks & Recreation - especially for children and youth. This policy aligns with PP&R's focus of 'Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland'."

Prohibited smoking and tobacco products include, but are not limited to: bidis, cigarettes, cigarillos, cigars, clove cigarettes, e-cigarettes, nicotine vaporizers,

nicotine liquids, hookahs, kreteks, pipes, chew, snuff, smokeless tobacco, and marijuana. The expanded policy will also apply to events held at PP&R properties, with a provision for golf tournaments to allow smoking under permitted and certain conditions.

PP&R currently prohibits tobacco use at Director Park, Pioneer Courthouse Square, and the portion of the South Park Blocks that is located on Portland State University's campus. Smoking is also prohibited within 25 feet of any play structure, picnic table or designated children's play area.

There will be a five-month grace period to inform and educate the public about the expanded smoke and tobacco-free policy. While any violation of a City Code is a misdemeanor, which could lead to citation, beginning July 1, 2015, the primary method of enforcement will be education. Patrons who refuse to comply with the policy may also be subject to a parks exclusion. Enforcement will be administered by PP&R staff and other park officers who have the authority to enforce park rules.

## Sunday Parkways announces 2015 season

The Portland Bureau of Transportation and presenting sponsor Kaiser Permanente has announced that Sunday Parkways will return this year with five traffic-free events through Portland neighborhoods, including a new route through Southeast Portland's Sellwood neighborhood and over the new car-free Tilikum Crossing: Bridge of the People.

The City of Portland Sunday Parkways presented by Kaiser Permanente season begins on Mother's Day in outer Southeast Portland and finishes in September with the Tilikum Crossing/Sellwood event.

Sunday Parkways is a series of free community events opening the city's largest public space - its streets - for people to walk, bike, roll and discover active transportation. The events are hugely popular; total attendance topped 100,000 last year.

This year, organizers are emphasizing ways people can create the Sunday Parkways experience every day. All five Sunday Parkways routes showcase low-traffic streets called 'neighborhood greenways' as well as City parks that people can enjoy all year long for their own bicycling and walking trips. The Tilikum Crossing/Sellwood route will introduce participants to new bicycling, walking and transit improvements being made by the City and partners along the new light rail corridor that opens in September.

"Every day can be Sunday Parkways for thousands of Portlanders

when we provide safe routes for people to bike and walk," said Commissioner Steve Novick.

"The idea that every day can be Sunday Parkways supports what we recommend to patients - incorporate activity into your daily life by walking your kids to school, taking a short stroll during lunch, or taking your dog for a walk," said Dr. Timothy Jacobson, cardiologist with Kaiser Permanente. "Most importantly, find something - like biking - that you enjoy, and you'll be more likely to stick with it, especially if you have support from a family member or friend." The dates and locations for Sunday Parkways 2015 are as follows:

**East Portland Sunday Parkways**  
May 10, Mother's Day ~ 11am-4pm (7 miles)

**No. Portland Sunday Parkways**  
June 21, Father's Day ~ 11am-4pm (9.5 miles)

**NE Portland Sunday Parkways**  
July 26, 2014 ~ 11am-4pm (8 miles)

**SE Portland Sunday Parkways**  
August 23 ~ 11am-4pm (7 miles)

**Tilikum Crossing/Sellwood Portland Sunday Parkways**  
September 27 ~ 11am-4pm (8.5 miles)

"Sunday Parkways has become a beloved event series in Portland with strong community support," Transportation Director Leah

Treat said. "I particularly want to call out Kaiser Permanente, our presenting sponsor, as well as new partners AAA Oregon/Idaho and Umpqua Bank."

Residents and visitors say they come to enjoy the traffic-free streets connecting parks and schools filled with activities, music and vendors. It's safe, family-friendly and a chance to meet neighbors.

Community groups and vendors wanting to participate in Sunday Parkways - and volunteers who want to help make it happen - are encouraged to contact the transportation bureau at 503-823-7599 or online at PortlandSundayParkways.org.

Sunday Parkways is organized by the Portland Bureau of Transportation with longtime presenting sponsor Kaiser Permanente and returning partners/sponsors Portland Parks & Recreation, Clif Kid, Bike Gallery, Whole Foods, NW Natural, Car2Go, Metro and AARP of Oregon.

New partners for 2015 are AAA Oregon/Idaho, Umpqua Bank, Recology Portland and Spinlister. The City of Portland funds a third of the cost with two-thirds of funding coming from sponsors, vendors, and individual supporters.

For maps and more information, visit [www.PortlandSundayParkways.org](http://www.PortlandSundayParkways.org) or call 503-823-7599.

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