



Photo by Joshua Bessex

Tapiola Park in Astoria holds four baseball/softball fields, a basketball court, two sets of public restrooms, a skate park, a picnic area and a large playground.

## Help clean up Tapiola Park

ASTORIA — Set an example as an environmental steward this Earth Day at Astoria Parks & Recreation's next Citizens Helping Improve Parks event.

CHIP-in with SOLVE from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 23 at Tapiola Park, and help beautify this well-loved public space.

Volunteers will pick up

trash, pull weeds and spread mulch. CHIP-in will provide T-shirts, snacks and the tools necessary to clean up the park.

Volunteers can show up and CHIP-in for any amount of time. Tapiola Park is located at 900 W. Marine Drive. For more information, call 503-741-5965 or email [CHIP-in@astoria.or.us](mailto:CHIP-in@astoria.or.us)

## NCLC seeks volunteers for trail clean up at Circle Creek

SEASIDE — The North Coast Land Conservancy has a growing trail system at its Circle Creek Habitat Reserve, at the south end of Seaside. The conservancy is seeking volunteers from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 23 to help get those trails ready for the spring and summer hiking season.

In addition to the short Legacy Loop nature trail, NCLC is developing a longer Circle Creek and Wetlands Walk that includes a stretch of boardwalk.

Volunteers will brush out and mulch the nature trail and

portions of the wetlands walk and repair or replace footbridges and anything else disturbed by winter flooding.

Volunteers from Northwest Coast Trails Coalition are partnering with NCLC on the trails clean-up day.

To register, contact Stewardship Director Melissa Reich at [melissar@nclctrust.org](mailto:melissar@nclctrust.org) in advance; she will provide directions to the property. Bring a lunch and water. There are no toilets or potable water on site. Dogs are not allowed on NCLC habitat reserves.



Submitted photo

Help clean up trails at Circle Creek with NCLC.



Submitted photo by Kenneth Kearney

Bellingham, Washington-based five-piece band Polecat is, from left, Aaron Guest, Richard Reeves, Cayley Schmid, Karl Olson and Jeremy Elliott.

## Polecat brings blend of rock, bluegrass, Celtic to the Fort

ASTORIA — Fort George Brewery welcomes five-piece band Polecat to perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 24. The show is open to all ages, and there is no cover charge.

Based in Bellingham, Washington, Polecat combines bluegrass, Celtic, rock and reggae sounds. The band's instrumentation enables members to seamlessly blend genres. The general appeal of Polecat comes from the band's take on roots music and its interactive and high-energy shows.

The band is led by Aaron Guest on vocals, 12-string guitar and occasional keyboard.

Jeremy Elliott's fast but smart guitar playing adds a spark to the band. Growing up in Georgia surrounded by some of the best roots players in the country, Elliott easily melds rock rhythms, bluesy bends and bluegrass lines. His vocal harmonies add another layer to the Polecat sound.

Immersed in Celtic music, dance and culture for the better part of her life, Cayley Schmid's fiddle playing brings a stompin' sound to Polecat's Americana feel.

Richard Reeves on double bass keeps the groove thumping along with his love for African music and polyrhythmic sounds.

An avid student of percus-

sion for many years, Karl Olson is a well-rounded rhythm man, with studies and projects based on orchestral, jazz, funk, reggae and tabla drumming.

The members of Polecat arrived at their first rehearsal from different musical backgrounds. "Some of us shook hands for the first time that day," says Guest of the initial meeting in early 2010.

Incorporating multiple genres into a cohesive sound might have been impossible if each member hadn't learned the rules before breaking them. The group is well-seasoned, performing nearly 100 shows per year since its inception.

In the five years that followed, Polecat released two full-length albums and has seen consistent growth in the Northwest as each member's musical diversity allowed them to chameleon through a variety of gigs and audiences.

The band released its latest album "Into The Wind" on March 11, an adventurous outing for the band, incorporating vocals from Elliott and Schmid, horn solos, keyboards and even a few big rock 'n' roll twists and turns. Polecat hit the road for two weeks as direct support with Yonder Mountain String Band in March before embarking on a headlining tour in April.

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