

The Portland Observer

## Sustainability



# Play Area Made from Natural Materials

Portland has its first-ever venture into nature play structures, a new and current trend in sustainable environmentally-friendly play areas.

The Spring Garden Park nature play area in southwest Portland is constructed of natural and recycled materials such as trees and rocks. The site and materials are sustainable environmentally friendly, and fun! It provides a place to play in the park similar to the free form exploration many adults experienced when they were younger.

Portland Parks & Recreation donated time and labor for the much-anticipated nature play area, seen as a clear and powerful message to the community that their advocacy can deliver real results.

"The nature play area is an example of Portland Parks & Recreation using an innovative approach to recreation," says Portland Parks Commissioner Nick Fish. "We've built a playground with sustainable materials, as well as provided children with a chance to be imaginative in their play and to explore nature at the same time."

The development of the nature play area at Spring Garden Park is the result of collaboration between PP&R, Friends of Spring Garden Park, and Umpqua Bank's Multnomah Village Store.



Natural and recycled materials such as trees and rocks are used in Portland's first nature play structure, a new sustainable and environmentally-fun playground at Spring Garden Park in southwest Portland.

## Portland Building Deemed Historic

The Portland Public Service Building in downtown Portland is Oregon's latest entry in the National Register of Historic Places.

Although the 30-year old building does not meet the 50-year guideline for listing in the register, the building was recognized for its exceptional importance in the field of architecture.

Constructed in 1982, the building is an early and seminal work of Post-Modern Classicism, an American Style defined by internationally-known master architect Michael Graves through his early work.

The 15-story structure was ground-breaking for its rejection of "universal" Modernist principals embodied in the glass and concrete boxes of the early 20th century in favor of the bold and

symbolic color, well-defined volumes, and stylized- and reinterpreted-classical elements such as pilasters, garlands, and keystones to create a building that was physically and symbolically tied to place, its use, and the Western architectural tradition.

While there's been criticism of the building's structural adequacy and aesthetics, its design is still studied by students of design and architecture, officials said.

*The Portland Public Service Building downtown has been recognized for its importance in the field of architecture.*

