



An artist's rendering shows the interactive water play feature coming to Dawson Park in north Portland.

Dawson Park Grows Amenities

Renovation to pay tribute to African-American history

Historic Dawson Park will benefit from a \$200,000 donation from its neighbor, Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, the hospital, Portland Parks and Recreation and the Portland Parks Foundation announced last week.

The contribution will pay for a

new water feature at the soon-to-be-renovated park at North Stanton Street and Williams Avenue.

The 2-acre park is undergoing a \$2.1 million makeover that will encompass many improvements, including interpretive panels which tell the history of the park, an impor-

tant center for the African-American community.

The interactive water feature was originally suggested by neighbors during extensive public involvement and heavily supported, officials said.

In the last two years, Portland Commissioner Nick Fish has partnered with Legacy Emanuel on a number of projects including the donation earmarked towards the

expanded and fenced children's playground with new play equipment, new public art, flowering plants, new and more picnic areas and barbeque grills, lighted pathways and bike racks.

The stairs and ramp around Dawson Park's gazebo are being widened to provide ADA access and more space for performer-audience interaction during summer concerts. The existing basketball

growing up in the 1950s and 1960s.

"As toddlers we used the swings and jungle gym. As we got older we played softball, ping-pong and tetherball," Adair said. "My older brother even worked several years as park host, helping us to learn arts and crafts. It was a safe place to play from dawn till dusk under the watchful eye of neighbors and citizens."

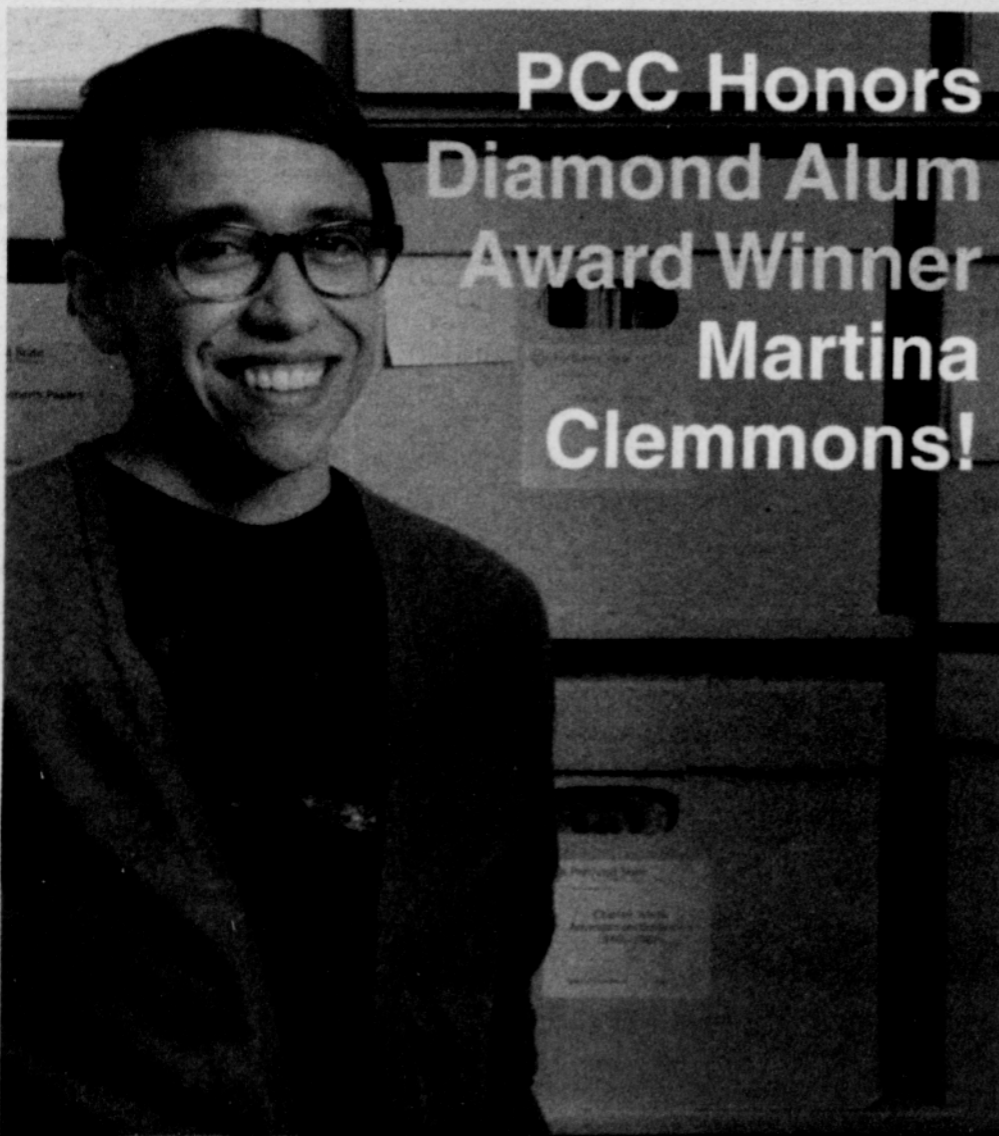
Legacy Emanuel's donation was inspired by Emanuel's commitment to the community, according to Dr. Lori Morgan, the hospital's chief administrative officer.

"Dawson Park is vital part of our neighborhood," Morgan said. "We are thrilled to collaborate in the improvement of this long-time community asset. The water feature will provide children and adults alike with a new way to be active and enjoy the park."

Construction is expected to begin this fall.

Dawson Park is named in honor of an Episcopal minister, the Rev. John Dawson, who was an advocate of child welfare and civic improvement in the 1920s.

The gazebo in the park was built in 1978 to showcase the 120 year-old cupola salvaged from the Hill Block Building, once a cornerstone of the old Albina commercial district and an informal gathering place for the African-American community.



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Studying African American history at PCC led Martina Clemmons to discover a new passion. She now balances classes at PSU with work as an archivist, helping to preserve a collection of documents that showcase Portland's early African American community.

Read more at opportunity.pcc.edu



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We're delighted to see yet another successful public-private partnership coming to fruition. The generous gift from Legacy Emanuel will greatly add to the amenities and improvements at Dawson Park, and will be a neighborhood treasure for generations to come.

—Portland Commissioner Nick Fish

fountain.

"We're delighted to see yet another successful public-private partnership coming to fruition," said Fish. "The generous gift from Legacy Emanuel will greatly add to the amenities and improvements at Dawson Park, and will be a neighborhood treasure for generations to come."

Other features of the park renovation will be a large central lawn, an

court, shelter and restrooms will remain in place.

"I was born at Legacy Emanuel," said Joe Nunn, a longtime neighbor and community activist. "I grew up near the park, still live here, and dedicate my time to this community. As a kid, I was in childcare at St. Martins, where they would take us to Dawson Park three times a week."

Neighbor Donny Adair said the park "meant everything to us" while

Woodlawn Neighborhood Cleanup

The Woodlawn Neighborhood Association's annual cleanup will be held Saturday, May 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 6360 N.E. Martin Luther

King Blvd.

Fees are \$10 and up based on size of load. Bring house debris, metals, bagged garbage, glass, wood, small

appliances, furniture, and reusable items. E-waste and tires carry a nominal extra fee. The cleanup is not limited to Woodlawn residents.