



North Portland Library Branch Manager Patricia H. Welch presents selections from the library's unique Black Resource Collection. The compilation consists of over 7,000 materials, including various books, periodicals, films and music relating to the African-American and overall black experience.

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MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Relating to the African-American Experience

Black Resource Center going strong

The Black Resource Collection in the North Portland Library is home to a vast collection of materials concerning worldwide black culture. The compilation of items of over 7,000 materials-strong consists of vari-

ous books, periodicals, films and music relating to the African-American and overall black experience.

The collection opened during the 1950's after members of the city's black community rallied for a library collection of black literature in north and northeast Portland that was more reflective of the area's residents. A fund was setup by the community, and there-

after the Black Resource Collection was born.

The collection also contains reprints from the historically black institution Fisk University's Library Negro Collection consisting of works penned about African Americans between 1800 and 1930; a resource not available anywhere else in the state of Oregon. Michael Powell of Powell's Books donated the 385 volumes to the branch.

Most items from the Black Resource Collection remain available for the public to checkout.

This year, the North Portland Library, located at 512 N. Killingsworth St., is celebrating its 100th anniversary of serving the community. For more information about the library and its services, call the branch at 503-988-5394.



The proposed Beech Park next to Shaver Elementary School in the Parkrose School District would provide for grand views, a sports field and basketball court, accessible play and picnic areas, shelters, pedestrian and bike paths, parking, community gardens, and a fenced off-leash dog area. It's one of two new parks proposed for east of I-205.

Cully Park Closer to Reality

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restroom, north slope restoration, and improvements to Northeast 72nd.

As the city commits to new parks in communities where none currently exist, the monies being used

are restricted to expanding capacity only. Fritz said.

Officials said most of the city's existing parks are at a crossroads because of flat or declining operating funding. The Parks bureau has maintenance needs totaling over \$400 million. From aging playground

replacements to leaking roofs, the list of needs is huge, and grows every year.

Fritz said it's time for Portland to begin to think about how it can generate sufficient funds to maintain and repair existing parks and facilities.

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