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LOCAL NEWS

16 Acres in SE

Portland Transformed

Errol Heights Park Project Completed



Errol Heights Park is open

Southeast Portland's reimagined Errol Heights Park is now open, with work substantially complete. Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) just completed work at the 16-acre developed park and natural area, located in the Brentwood-Darlington neighborhood. The project included restoring natural habitat, establishing wildlife viewing spots, improving trails and constructing paths for better accessibility, and putting in a new playground, picnic areas, and splash pad.

After planning, permitting, and robust community engagement starting in 2018, the majority of construction was completed by December, with some final touches undergoing completion. While Errol Heights Park is ready for visitors today, PP&R will wait until spring when weather conditions are more favorable to host its free, public grand opening celebration.

The park design focused on being accessible for people of all abilities and is receiving praise for achieving that goal.

"I was at the new Errol Heights Park recently," says former Portland Parks Board member Ian Jaquiss, who uses a wheelchair. "I was able to easily navigate all parts of it. And, I have to say, that is the most accessible, beautiful park I have seen."

"Errol Heights Park has long been a beloved community gathering spot focused on nature and habitat," says Portland Culture & Livability Commis-

sioner Dan Ryan, who oversees PP&R. "But with the new features which increase accessibility, more people can get around and enjoy the unique space. The elevated walkway, playground, and splash pad are just some of the new park features which are simply wonderful."

"We have reimagined what a hybrid park and natural area can be," says PP&R Director Adena Long. "Restored wetlands and wildlife viewing spots complement new play areas and picnic grounds. This is an impressive, unique, and beautiful Portland park!"

From the Ballroom to the Classroom

Leader Taking Role to the Next Level



Student Body President and dance aficionado, Nathaniel Kung, is connecting students to resources and opportunity

For Nathaniel Kung, 17, attending Portland Community College satisfies his intellectual curiosity and enriches an already complex life. The Sunset High School honor roll student, athlete, and national ballroom dance competitor started Early College High School just last year but is now also leading the Associated Students of PCC as its president.

"I chose to attend PCC because it perfectly aligns with my academic interests as an Early College student," said Kung, who intends to earn an associate degree before transferring to a four-year university. "The higher level of academic rigor at PCC compared to my high school education is particularly appealing." Describing himself as a big believer in the power of critical

thinking and problem-solving, he enjoys tackling challenges. With an admitted "soft spot for finance" and a desire to dabble in business, he thinks combining these specialties with engineering will enable him to approach problems from a unique perspective to make a greater impact.

Besides studying, Kung is also representing student voic-

es and advocating for student needs by serving as the student representative on the PCC Board of Directors for 2023-2024. "By being a part of and actively engaging with the decision-making process at PCC, I can help bring student input into spaces that shape policies, advocate for