



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update

April 30, 2012

This is our second bi-weekly update via the E-current and directly to our contact list. We hope you are finding them useful and informative.

The Portland Parks & Recreation website – www.portlandparks.org is also the place to go for accurate and up to date information on the progress of the project. We know that construction is inconvenient, messy and sometimes dangerous, but by providing accurate and timely information, we hope that we can at least let you know what to expect. Thanks in advance for your patience!!!

We continue to work with the contractor to finalize the construction details. This is quite an undertaking for a project of this scope and the devil is truly in the details.

While the permits were submitted some time ago, we continue to work through details with the Army Corp of Engineers and Bureau of Development Services to provide additional information and clarification on the project. We anticipate receiving the permits in late June. Once the permits are in-hand, we can work with the contractor to begin staging.

We continue to closely monitor the water level. It is essential that the water level be within a specific range to allow us to begin the river work. Water levels depend on a number of factors (all of which we have no control over) which include: rainfall, water released from dams, temperatures, and tides. Working with a team from a variety of disciplines, we are watching and hoping to predict when the level will be low enough to begin work. This is an inexact science...

Project staff met with the dahlia farmer to make sure the farm and the construction projects were not in conflict.

AND – the osprey are back! Happily remodeling their cozy and familiar home...

Next Update – More information on the construction schedule and how it will affect residents and businesses

And finally – We are planning to have a public meeting to give everyone a chance to talk face to face and ask questions. That meeting is planned for May 2, 6:00-7:00 PM, location to be determined.

Please let me know if you have any questions, Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, 503-823-5113 or Elizabeth.kennedy-wong@portlandoregon.gov



South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update

May 7, 2012

Not much has changed since the last update. In order to begin construction this summer, several things need to happen

- All permits need to be secured
- The water level must drop
- An ordinance needs to go through City Council to approve the contract and allow us to proceed

We continue to work with the contractor to finalize the construction details. This is quite an undertaking for a project of this scope and the devil is truly in the details.

While the permits were submitted some time ago, we continue to work through details with the Army Corp of Engineers and Bureau of Development Services to provide additional information and clarification on the project. We anticipate receiving the permits in June. Once the permits are in-hand, we can work with the contractor to begin staging.

We continue to closely monitor the Willamette's water level. It is essential that the water level be within a specific range to allow us to begin the riverbank work. Water levels depend on a number of factors (all of which we have no control over) which include: rainfall, upstream dam releases, temperatures, and tides. Working with a team from a variety of disciplines, we are watching and hoping to predict when the level will be low enough to begin work. This is an inexact science...

We also work closely with the chair of the South Waterfront Nature and Green Spaces committee. This week's conversation included questions about moving the construction fence.

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South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update

June 12, 2012

Hooray! We have a contractor, we have a plan – and we are this close to having permits!

You will begin seeing signs of construction this week. Among noticeable activities, you will see:

- Fencing around construction site
- Mowing of grass areas
- Small equipment moving in

By the end of the week or early next week you will see:

- Excavation equipment
- Haul boxes (for debris removal)
- Dump trucks and,
- A construction office

Once the people and equipment are ready to go, construction will begin with the excavation of the soils in the upland area – this work could last through August as we work carefully, testing the soils for contamination as we move along the upper banks.

Once construction begins, you will see:

- Truck traffic
- Noise, especially the beeping of backing up trucks!

Anticipated work hours are 7:00am-5:00pm, Mon-Fri, although this may vary as the project moves forward.

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South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update

July 2, 2012

Here are a couple of highlights from the past week or so of work – It is a bit mundane, but I was interested in all it took to get this up and running. Here is a snapshot:

- Working with PGE to get electricity to the construction trailer;
- Working with the Water Bureau to get water to the construction trailer;
- Having the US Department of Agriculture survey the existing shrubs, trees and brambles to determine if there were any native bird nests (there weren't);
- Installing a rock construction entrance with a wheel wash – they literally wash the truck wheels before they go onto the neighborhood streets;
- Completing the waste handling permits for disposal of the lightly contaminated soils at either Hillsboro or Tigard facilities, depending on the level of contamination;
- Widening the existing path so that it can serve as the haul road up and down the site;
- Finalizing our Building Permit; and
- Finalizing our In Water Work permit that will allow us to do the beach work

Safety

- Safety training for all workers and project managers
- No accidents or near misses

Erosion Control – The goal of this is to keep the dirt where we want it and not in the river, the air or on the neighborhood streets

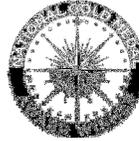
- Dust control – watering the dirt to keep dust down on days when it doesn't rain;
- Silt Fencing and Straw Wattles – a line of cloth and long rolls of straw, placed between the construction and the river to keep sediments out of the water.

Water Levels – we continue to closely monitor the water levels – the cool, wet June has left us two weeks behind a normal water level. This means the water level today is what it would normally have been two weeks ago. Portions of the construction depend on the water level dropping.

Work hours are 7:00am-5:00pm, Mon-Fri. This may vary as the project moves forward.

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South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update July 23, 2012

- Received the Building Permit.
- Received the In Water Work permit that will allow us to work below elevation +18.0.
- Significant excavation activities have continued down the bank. The excavation is necessary to reshape the riverbank to a shallower, more natural profile. This, in combination with the plantings will achieve the environmental goals of the project.
- All material is field screened for presence of contaminants. Anything unusual is tested.
- A large concrete slab was unearthed - about 30' wide by 60' long - then removed down to the elevation necessary to install the retaining walls. The concrete rubble is being stockpiled for later reuse.

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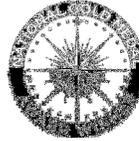
- Dust control - watering the dirt to keep dust down on days when it doesn't rain.
- Silt Fencing and Straw Wattles - a line of cloth and long rolls of straw placed between the construction and the river to keep sediments out of the water.
- The bright yellow barrier you see in the river is a "sediment curtain" and it has been installed to keep any sediment that might be disturbed during excavation from floating down the river. This curtain is necessary to allow work below elevation +18.0 (Ordinary High Water).

Water Levels - we continue to closely monitor the water levels. Portions of the construction depend on the water level dropping.

- The expected seasonal drop in river levels is about 3 weeks behind due to high snowpack, a rainy spring, and full reservoirs throughout the Willamette and Columbia basins. The Willamette is currently running at about 130% of average for this time of year.
- Contingency plans are being formulated if the Willamette does not drop far enough or quickly enough to allow the original construction schedule for the lowest areas of the design.

Work hours are 7:00 AM-5:00 PM, Mon-Fri. This may vary as the project moves forward. In fact, the longer it takes for the water level to drop, the more certain it becomes that work hours will be extended. The In Water Work permit dictates that this project must be complete by the end of October. The longer we have to wait for the water to drop, the more work we need to complete in a fixed amount of time.

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South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update August 6, 2012

- We are continuing to remove the concrete slurry located on the south end of the site.
- Continue excavation – we are over-excavating and will bring in soils that are appropriate for planting.
- Place riprap in the north end – big chunks of rock that hold the river bank in place.
- Beginning construction of the vault walls – this will include excavation and installing anchors that will tie the vaults into the bank.
- Continue to test soil for contaminants as we excavate.

Erosion Control – The goal of this is to keep the dirt where we want it and not in the river, the air or on the neighborhood streets

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South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update August 20, 2012

Construction

- In the next week or so we will begin construction of the vault walls. Vault walls are a system of interlocking concrete boxes that shore up the upper portion of the Greenway. Excavators will cut into the bank a place for each vault. Excavation will proceed north to south and be followed by installation of the vaults. Once the line of vaults is started, it must be completed.
- Because the water level continues to be high, a berm of intact riverbank will be left to keep the water out of the central area of construction and installation of the vault wall.
- We continue to test soil for contaminants as we excavate.
- Sheet pile walls will be installed in late August and early September – this will be loud and you may notice slight vibrations. The soils on the riverbank do not require as much force to drive piles as in upland areas, so we expect the vibrations to be negligible.

Water Levels – we continue to closely monitor the water levels. Portions of the construction depend on the water level dropping.

- The water level continues to be unusually high. Today, it is between 7' and 9', depending on the tides. The river level needs to drop to a maximum of 5' and stay there for a minimum of 8 weeks to complete the beach work.
- We will not begin the beach work if we are not confident that we can finish it before the water begins rising in the fall. This is usually in mid- to late-September, but we are still evaluating the forecasts on this.
- If the water level does not drop this season, beach construction would then take place in summer 2013 and extend the duration of the construction through fall 2013.

Work Hours

- Currently 7:00 AM-6:00 PM, Mon-Fri.
- In late August/early September, hours will increase to 7:00 AM-7:00 PM, Mon-Sat (possibly 11:00 PM).
- May add Sunday work hours, 7:00 AM-7:00 PM (possibly 11:00 PM).

Questions – we have received the following questions from the community and are sharing the responses.

There is a large diameter corrugated pipe in the central area of the project. What was it for and what will be done with it?

A – The pipe was a stormwater outfall prior to the formal development of the South Waterfront District streets and utilities. It is no longer functional and will be removed.

We have seen beaver below the construction area on the river side? What will we do about that?

A – According to Bureau of Environmental Services, they frequently have beaver on their project sites. They say that given the level of activity going on, this could be nutria since beaver will usually move out of an active construction area. We have information on who to contact within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife if it appears the animal is in distress.

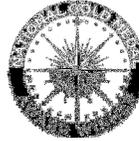
Why are we fencing the swale?

A – Just south of the Greenway project, the Bureau of Environmental Services recently completed a habitat restoration project funded by federal dollars. BES staff has attempted to protect the area with plastic construction fencing and allow it to reestablish. Unfortunately, individuals have consistently removed, cut, or gone around the fencing to gain access to the area. Human and animal access in the area has had a significant negative impact on the restoration site, and we are currently not in compliance with the terms of the grant we received. This could result in the city facing penalties and/or fines. We are installing a 6' chain link fence around the protected area in order to protect the restoration project until Greenway construction is complete.

What happened to the osprey fledgling?

A – According to Audubon: the fledgling was late in attempting to take his first flight, which ended in a collision with the construction fencing. Construction staff immediately contacted Audubon who are caring for it. They have informed us that the bird suffers from developmental disabilities as well as injuries sustained in the collision. His prognosis is unclear, but fairly serious.

Please let me know if you have any questions, Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, 503-823-5113 or Elizabeth.kennedy-wong@portlandoregon.gov



South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update September 10, 2012

Construction

- We recently completed work on the installation of the sheet pile walls that form the foundations for the Whitaker and Curry Street overlooks. Fortunately, the soils on the riverbank are very soft and it took only minimal vibration to get the sheet piles into the ground.
- Continuing construction of the vault wall. This is a system of interlocking concrete boxes that shore up the upper portion of the Greenway. Excavation for the vault wall has been completed and the contractor has begun placement of vaults. Installation of the lower row of vaults is proceeding north to south and will be followed by the upper row.
- When complete, the vaults will be filled with soil and planted with willows and other species native to this section of the Willamette.
- North and south of the vault wall, the contractor has begun removing steep areas of debris and lightly-contaminated soil, and replacing it with areas of riprap armoring. The upper portions will receive a blanket of soil and native plantings next spring.
- We continue to test soil for contaminants as we excavate.

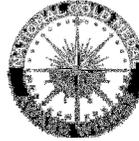
Water Levels – water levels are now at the lowest they will be this year.

- We are working longer hours and more days to complete as much of the construction as possible during low water.
- The river level is still not low enough for us to build the shallow-water habitat (a.k.a. the “beach”). That construction will take place in Summer 2013 and extend the duration of the construction through Fall 2013.

Work Hours – The vault wall is an interlocking system, so once work began on it, PP&R was committed to completing it before the river levels rise again. This means that extra hours are required:

- September hours have increased to Mon-Sat, 7:00am-7:00pm (possibly 11:00pm).
- We may need to add Sunday work hours, 7:00am-7:00pm (possibly 11:00pm).

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South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update October 26, 2012

Here is the latest information on the progress of the project.

Construction

- The vault wall installation has been completed. The vaults have been filled with soil and the willows planted. Additional native plants will be placed in the vaults over the next few weeks.
- The bank restoration at the north end of the site, next to the barge slipway, is also complete except that the riprap zone above Ordinary High Water will receive a blanket of soil and native plantings next spring/summer. This is also where the Osprey Pole will be installed next month.
- South of the Vault Wall, and along its base, the work zone has been buttoned up for the winter's high waters using a temporary layer of rock and, in some places filter fabric.
- Uphill of the Vault Wall, construction of the Gabion Walls has begun that will make the final grade change up to the upland. Gabions are long lengths of wire baskets filled with rock that are tied into the bank and form a porous kind of retaining wall. Next spring/summer, the areas around the gabions will receive a blanket of topsoil and native plantings.
- Prior to the recent wet weather additional erosion control measures were installed.
- We continue to test soil for contaminants as we excavate.

Water Levels

- The Willamette is starting to slowly rise with the wet weather. We are still working on Saturdays to button up the riverbank for the season, but this is winding down.
- No Sunday work will be required, and the Contractor expects to work on Saturdays for only a few more weeks.
- The river did not come down low enough soon enough for us to build the shallow-water habitat (the "beach"). That construction will take place in summer 2013 and extend the duration of the construction through fall 2013.

Fencing

- The fencing will remain around the construction site through fall 2013. The contractor is responsible for the site through completion of the project. Removal of the fencing would release them from responsibility prior to completion of the project. In addition, the upland area is unsafe, with a muddy, rocky surface that is slippery and that will be blanketed in erosion control mulch until the contractor returns to the site next summer.

We were honored to host a visit from three U.S. District Court judges from the District of Oregon on October 15. The visitors included Judges James Redden, Malcolm Marsh, and Michael Simon as well as OSU fisheries professor Howard Horton, who toured the project and discussed project goals and challenges with PP&R Director Mike Abbate, Office of Healthy Working Rivers Director Ann Beier, and staff. Judge Redden commented that he appreciates what we are doing and doing right, and that "it will be tremendously helpful to our salmon."