

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

2010 Highlights

- Every year Portland Parks & Recreation offers free family fun all summer long. This year, with the support of significant private donations, Parks presented its biggest **Summer Free for All** lineup ever, hosting 130,000 playground visits, serving 80,000 lunches to kids, screening 42 movies, and putting on 41 concerts!
- The Section 8 voucher program serves over 8,000 local households, many of which face discrimination and other barriers to renting. Nick convened the **Section 8 Task Force**, and the Housing Authority Portland took bold steps to improve the program. Now, more than 90% of voucher holders are successful in their search for a home.
- This Summer, the emerging South Waterfront neighborhood welcomed its first green space – **Elizabeth Caruthers Park**. Caruthers Park is already a hit with the South Waterfront community, which has embraced its movable furniture, bocce court, great lawn, and bike parking.
- East Portland is park-deficient. In December, more than a dozen partner organizations signed on to the **Gateway Green** project. The vision is to turn 30 acres of land wedged between I-84 and I-205 into a recreation destination for off-road bikers, hikers, and more – and to do it in a sustainable way. The City Council committed ongoing funding to support the Parks bureau as the group's lead agency and bring this project to fruition.
- Many of Portland's affordable apartments rely on temporary federal subsidies. When these subsidies expire, apartments are often converted to market rate, meaning many renters can't afford to keep living there. Keeping these apartments affordable is a top priority of the Portland Housing Bureau. Working with local partners, PHB helps non-profits purchase buildings with expiring subsidies, remodel them, and re-up their subsidies. We're on track to preserve 11 key buildings by 2013 – the **11 x 13 Campaign**.

Exciting milestones coming up in 2011

- The **Resource Access Center**, a 'one-stop' center for our homeless, will open in the Summer of 2011. It will offer permanent homes for 130 people, temporary shelter for 90 more, help with job or housing searches, hot showers, and counseling. The LEED Platinum building will be a cornerstone of our '10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.'
- PP&R has a number of **parks east of I-205** that have Master Plans but few amenities. We will be looking for public/private partnerships to fund much-needed items like play equipment, basketball courts, and sports fields. We'll address longstanding system-wide equity with a successful PP&R bond measure in the future, but by working together we can begin to address the problem today.
- Construction on **Block 49** in the South Waterfront district will begin in the Spring. When completed in the Fall of 2012, Block 49 will be a LEED Silver building with 209 affordable apartments, 42 of which will be reserved for veterans. Construction will prioritize women- and minority-owned businesses and create needed family-wage jobs.