



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Jessica Green, Portland Parks Foundation, jgreen@portlandpf.org, 503-445-0994

Long-awaited Wildwood Trail footbridge over West Burnside breaks ground in early Spring

PORTLAND, January 25 – After more than 20 years of dreaming and four years of design, development, and fundraising, the iconic Barbara Walker Footbridge over West Burnside will begin construction in early Spring. The footbridge will provide a safe crossing over what has long been an accident waiting to happen: the crossing of West Burnside for users of the popular Wildwood Trail in Forest Park. A public information meeting outlining the footbridge project and construction updates took place January 23 at the Oregon Zoo with nearly 50 in attendance. Representatives from Portland Parks Foundation, Portland Parks & Recreation, and R&H Construction shared updates on the construction of the project.



Portland Parks Foundation and a citizen steering committee have led the \$3.14-million private/public partnership, working with Portland Parks & Recreation, the Portland Bureau of Transportation, and Metro. When completed in September, the bridge will safely carry hikers and runners over a dangerous curve where neither the 20,000 average daily drivers or pedestrians can adequately see each other. The bridge will also more safely connect two of the Wildwood Trail's most popular destinations: Hoyt Arboretum and Pittock Mansion, located on opposite sides of Burnside. The Foundation raised over \$2.1 million for the project from more than 900 individual donors.

Designed by award-winning designer and public artist and Oregon resident Ed Carpenter, the bridge's architecture merges pure function and

metaphorical natural beauty. With its delicate curve accented by forms that echo the sword ferns that line the entire length of the Wildwood Trail, the footbridge will offer striking experience for those crossing it and for those driving beneath it - a new western gateway to downtown. The footbridge is named for Barbara Walker, a tireless citizen advocate for parks and trails who played a pivotal role in a number of iconic projects including Marquam Nature Park, the 40-Mile Loop, Pioneer Courthouse Square, and the Eastbank Esplanade.

"Portlanders love trails and they love bridges," says Randy Gragg, the new director of Portland Parks Foundation. "Ed Carpenter's thoughtful design connects two of our great civic urban traditions to make an experience hikers, runners, and drivers can love together."

Working with project manager Shiels Oblatz Johnson, contractor R&H Construction, engineer KPFF Consulting Engineers, and landscape architect Walker Macy, the Footbridge project has been designed to be completed with as little impact as possible. The main structure will be fabricated off-site then lifted into place, reducing construction time. Sections of the Wildwood Trail between Pittock Mansion and Hoyt Arboretum will be closed for the duration of construction. West Burnside will have occasional lane closures for onsite work and will be closed entirely for 1-2 days in August when the bridge span is lifted into place. Other impacts will include removal of trees, a powerline relocation, and, for safety, decommissioning of the trail spurs between the bridge and Burnside and the gravel turn-out on the south side of Burnside. Construction is scheduled to begin in late March with a targeted completion date of mid-September.

Stay informed about the project:

Web updates: portlandpf.org
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Portland Parks Foundation

1500 SW First Avenue, Suite 760 • Portland, OR 97201 • portlandpf.org

About Portland Parks Foundation

The Portland Parks Foundation is dedicated connecting Portlanders to nature and to each other through the city's parks, public spaces, and natural areas. We lead, develop partnerships, and raise money to fund new facilities, enhance existing ones, and support programs to put our parks system within reach of all. We are the chief philanthropic partner of Portland Parks & Recreation. Since our founding in 2001, PPF's impact has stretched across the entire city. We've partnered to build Director Park and Cully Park and renovate Sellwood Park. We've worked with donors and friends groups on such projects as restoring the Peninsula Park rose gardens, bringing climbing walls to community centers, and creating interpretive signage for Hoyt Arboretum. And we annually partner with Portland Parks & Recreation to raise money for Summer Free for All, broadening access to movies, concerts, and free lunches and swimming lessons for kids in Portland's parks system.