

ST. HELENS PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

PRESENTED June 7, 2023

2023 COMMISSION MEMBERS AND PARK STAFF Dana Lathrope, Chair

Lynne Pettit, Vice Chair

Jerry Belcher

Jacob Woodruff

Howard Blumenthal

Paul Barlow

Lauren Gonzales (recently resigned)

Scott Jacobson

Change in Park Staff:

Welcome Buck Tupper!

2023
PARK
ASSIGNMENTS
and
presentation
schedule

ST HELENS PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION PARKS ASSIGNED TO COMMISSIONERS 2023

Sand Island – Jake, Howard (Presentation in August)

6th Street Park – Jake (Presentation in June)

McCormick Park – Jake (Presentation in September)

(Japanese Garden: Lynne, Jerry, Dana)

BMX & Skate Park – Paul (Presentation in September)

Grey cliffs Park – Dana (Presentation in July)

<u>Columbia Botanical Gardens</u> – Jerry, Scott (*Presentation in November*)

Godfrey Park – Jerry (Presentation in November)

<u>Columbia View Park</u> – Scott, Lauren (*Presentation in October*)

Campbell Park – Dana (Presentation in July)

Walnut Tree Park – Lynne (Presentation in March)

<u>Dalton Lake Nature Preserve</u> – Lynne (Presentation in March)

<u>Heinie Heumann Park</u> – Scott (*Presentation in October*)

Nob Hill Nature Park – Howard (Presentation in May)

<u>Civic Pride Park</u> – Lauren (Presentation in April)

OFF LEASH DOG PARKS

Two off leash dog park areas were adopted bringing the total to 3, and are located at:

McCormick Park

Heinie Heumann Park

Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park



McCORMICK PARK

Multiple work parties in the past year have been focusing work to clear invasive and overgrown plants in the JAPANESE GARDENS located behind the Veterans Memorial.

Utilized for local community events including:

- Citizens Day at the Park
- NAMI walk
- Disc Golf Tournaments

Columbia View Park

Design for redevelopment has been finalized and is being put out for bids.

13 Nights on the River has begun for the year, with some changes in regards to current construction projects, changes in parking, etc.

Structural deterioration of gazebo noted, resulting in plans for demolition.



NOB HILL NATURE PARK

3 New benches installed along trail Courtesy of the Lion's Club. One more planned.

Park and trail utilized during the Fall tourist season for "Whispers in the Woods".

Multiple work parties completed during the past year focused on trail improvements, invasive plant management, and preservation of local Camas and other flowers.

Non-native Cherries were removed along 5th street, and will be replaced with native varieties.

CAMPBELL PARK

Campbell Park:

Large stones removed from parking areas.

Pickleball courts finalized and in use regularly.

Continued vandalism plagues restrooms and outbuildings.

Tree trimming and maintenance of ball field lighting underway.

Approval for future removal of Elephant Slide.



SAND ISLAND

Continued work and improvements to facilities and campground. Sites can be booked ONLINE! Check out the user-friendly website: Sand Island
Campground | Home

Courtesy shuttle launches from the Marina Boat Launch.

Hosts events including Sand Castle Competitions!



DALTON LAKE NATURE PRESERVE



Multiple work parties through the past year have focused on:

- Improvements made to walking trails along lake and river access, including new walking bridge.
- Improvements made to parking area located on Oregon street.

ST HELENS URBAN TRAIL - MOVING FORWARD

Temporary changes to the proposed trail to accommodate for waterfront and Columbia View Park construction. Trail would be rerouted up through the plaza and down 1st street.

Plans for the upcoming year:

- Marking the trail using painted cement markers
- Promoting the trail utilizing virtual map and website
- Installation of Kiosk marking trail start at Columbia View Park (with understanding of limitations due to current and future construction projects)



THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Public Works staff and Director

Members of the public who come forward with suggestions and improvements for our parks.

City and Park staff who help keep us running and provide us with regular updates.

All the volunteers, including the Garden Club, Kiwanis, Watershed council, and Lions Club who support and weed our City parks, and other public spaces. We couldn't do it without you!

The Parks and Trails Commissioners who donate their time to enhance the livability of this City, and for all who visit here.

