

# PARKS AND TRAILS

## *Thinking ahead to spring...*

### Budget challenges mean changes in the parks system

Reductions in local city and county budgets will make a variety of changes throughout your parks system necessary in 2010. More detailed information about these changes will be available at [www.vanclarkparks-rec.org](http://www.vanclarkparks-rec.org), and in the local media later this winter. Following are some of the possible changes:

#### County Commissioners consider user fees for regional parks

We want to ensure that Clark County residents can enjoy our most popular regional parks despite reductions in maintenance and operations budgets. The Board of Clark County Commissioners is considering a proposal to add some picnic shelter rental fees, and increase parking and some special event fees at several regional parks starting in 2010. These fees would help us keep these parks accessible, clean and maintained for our users.

#### We want your event to be special

Please visit our updated Reservations Web page for more information about reserving a picnic shelter or holding a special family or corporate event in a park. Or use it to schedule a personal trip to the park so it doesn't conflict with a large event. The Web page will provide:

- Responses to frequently asked questions to help you plan a fun and successful event at our regional parks
- Videos highlighting some of our most requested picnic shelter and park locations to help you plan ahead

Visit [www.vanclarkparks-rec.org](http://www.vanclarkparks-rec.org) and click on "Reservations" under the "Parks and Trails" drop-down menu.

#### Picnic shelter reservation process updated

Parks staff will start taking picnic shelter reservations on **February 1, 2010** - one month later than usual. We will also increase the number of picnic shelters that can be reserved this year:

- Lewisville Park - 13 shelters
- Vancouver Lake Park - 2 shelters
- Captain William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach - 2 shelters (new!)
- Leverich Park - 1 shelter
- **NEW!** Frenchman's Bar Park - 2 shelters (new for 2010!)



Vancouver Lake Regional Park

Our picnic shelters can accommodate groups of up to 180 people and have a variety of different amenities, including charcoal grills, counters, running water and/or electricity. There are ten more picnic shelters that are always available on a first come, first served basis.

Whether you are planning a family, corporate or community event, there is a park that will meet your needs!

Whether you are planning a family, corporate or community event, there is a park that will meet your needs!



New picnic shelter at Frenchman's Bar Park

# PARKS AND TRAILS

## *Parks in the Winter — there's so much to do!*

Hiking, jogging, snowshoeing, sledding, making snow people, watching wildlife, or have a winter picnic.....with over 7,000 acres of parks property, there are lots of reasons to get outside this winter. For more information about these parks and trails, visit [www.vanclarkparks-rec.org](http://www.vanclarkparks-rec.org) and use the "Parks and Trails" drop-down menu.

### **Enjoy a winter picnic!**

Pack up your thermos of hot chocolate, some sandwiches and head out for a hike. All of our picnic shelters make great places to get out of the wind and elements to share lunch with friends and family. There are two new picnic shelters at Frenchman's Bar Regional Park. Watch for migrating birds, walk along Columbia River to the Blue Rock trail and then stop for lunch in the park. You can also picnic by one of our scenic rivers or lakes. They are there for you to enjoy!

### **Waterfront strolls in Vancouver**

With the completion of the waterfront trail extension that connects Marine Park all the way east to Wintler Park, there are lots of great views to be had here in the heart of Vancouver, including holiday boats and snow capped mountains.

### **Visit a riverside park to watch the fish and wildlife**

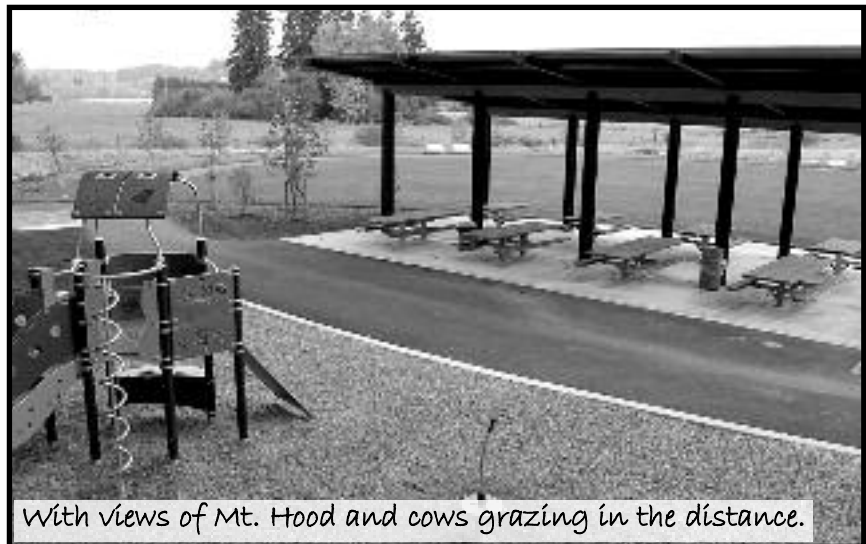
You have access to many river systems in Clark County that provide a frosty winter wonderland for wildlife viewing and hiking.

- Photography opportunities abound along the East Fork of the Lewis River, including Moulton and Lucia Falls parks.
- As spring bird migration ramps back up, hundreds of bird species can be spotted throughout our system, including at the trails and parks along Salmon Creek and Burnt Bridge Creek.
- Whipple Creek Park near the county Fairgrounds is a woodland wonderland that provides lots of wildlife viewing and great exercise.



### **Win a free seasonal parking pass or a one month community center pass**

Test your park knowledge! Name the park shown in this photo and enter to win a free pass. Email your correct answer to [ParkPhoto@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:ParkPhoto@ci.vancouver.wa.us), to be entered in the drawing. Please provide your name and phone number in the email with the correct park name. Good Luck!



*With views of Mt. Hood and cows grazing in the distance.*

### **Snow-People in the Parks?**

If we get another big snow storm, parks are great places to test your snow sculpture talents. Come down to Esther Short Park or Pacific Community Park on your skis or snowshoes and join in the fun. Local business neighbors can warm you up after you're done playing in the snow. Snow alligators? Why not!

*How big is your backyard?  
Visit the parks!*

# PARKS AND TRAILS

## Parks, trails and sports fields plans for 2010

Budgets are tight for everyone, but parks staff are dedicated to maintaining existing parks, trails and sports fields for year-round use, as well as planning for the future. Public and private partnerships, new funding options, and providing more volunteer opportunities are all being considered to help us meet the vision for a vibrant park system. Please let us know if you have any funding ideas, know of any potential partnership opportunities, or would be willing to spend some time volunteering in our parks. Here are some of the projects that are planned for 2010:

### Accessibility improvements

Thanks to a partnership grant from the Community Development Block Grant program, there are several parks that will see accessibility improvements in 2010. Improvements will include parking, pathways, curb cuts and seating. It is our goal to make our parks accessible to everyone. Here are the parks that will likely see the improvements:

- David Douglas Park
- Memory Fields at Mill Plain
- Leverich Park
- Waterworks Park
- Several central Vancouver neighborhood parks

At the county's regional parks, additional taxes will be used to improve accessibility at:

- Salmon Creek Trail
- Lewisville Park

*We build  
community by  
connecting people.*

Visit  
[www.vanclarkparks-rec.org](http://www.vanclarkparks-rec.org)  
for updates and more  
information

### Trails Partnerships

Trails Program Coordinator Lisa Goorjian is working with several agencies, non-profit organizations and citizen groups to plan and develop trails in 2010. There are seven miles of trails identified in the Greater Clark Parks District program that will start planning this year. There are also regional and local trail improvement opportunities, including near Vancouver Lake. There will be new trailhead signs going up on the county regional trails, like Moulton Falls, to help you find your way to a great hike! Visit [www.vanclarkparks-rec.org](http://www.vanclarkparks-rec.org) and select "Trails" from the Parks and Trails drop-down menu.

### Community Gardens

In response to public input received at a great forum in April 2009, we are joining a multi-agency effort and making some updates to our community gardens program in 2010:

- **More garden space!** New plots will be added at Marshall Park and Fruit Valley Park.
- **A new garden location** – a new garden will be added at LeRoy Haagen Memorial Community Park.
- **Plot size variety** – there will now be smaller plots available, such as 10' x 10'.
- **Better accessibility** – raised beds will be added at Marshall.
- **More locations** – partnerships with neighborhood associations will help bring food gardens to local parks.

For more information, visit  
[www.vanclarkparks-rec.org](http://www.vanclarkparks-rec.org)  
and select "Community  
Gardens" under the  
"Facilities & Locations"  
drop-down menu.



Tiger Tree Neighborhood Park

### Greater Clark Park District

The Greater Clark Parks District was approved by voters in the unincorporated urban area of Clark County in 2005. This property tax-based special district provides maintenance and operations funding for 30 new neighborhood parks, five new community parks, seven miles of new walking trails, and additional sports field capacity to meet the needs of the county's youth sports programs. Twenty of these new parks have been completed, including Fairgrounds Community Park, Jack Z. Fazio Neighborhood Park (Lake Shore) and Tiger Tree Neighborhood Park (Sifton) this past fall. Planning and design are underway on several more projects, including:

- Bosco Farm Neighborhood Park
- Covington Neighborhood Park
- Stanton Neighborhood Park
- Kate & Clarence LaLonde Neighborhood Park
- Douglas Carter Fisher Neighborhood Park
- Vandervort Neighborhood Park
- Hazel Dell Sports Fields

*Parks:  
The UN-paved  
paradise.*

# PARKS AND TRAILS

The Parks staff would like to say

## THANK YOU to all of our 2009 Volunteers

*You help make your parks, trails, open spaces and sports fields better for everyone!*

Over 700 volunteers have contributed time, materials and energy to improving the parks system. We simply couldn't do it all without your help. Whether joining a Saturday work crew or just picking up litter while visiting a park or trail, there are lots of heroes out there who help make your parks great. If we left you or your group off this list, please let us know.

### Make-a-Difference Day creek restoration in Arnold Park

Vancouver Watersheds Council, Vancouver Public Works Greenways Team, MacKay & Sposito, Inc., Nutter Corporation, and over 350 enthusiastic workers!

### Trail counters and surveyors

Lead:  
Eric Rosewall(photo)

#### Crew:

Jean A.  
Arvilla B.  
Bill B.  
Catherine B.  
Cheri B.  
Earl B.  
Fred B.  
Gail B.  
Jan B.  
Phil B.  
Ted B.  
Chuck C.  
Reba C.  
Matt F.  
Lisa G.  
Miriam H.  
Nathaniel H.  
Jilayne J.  
Bret K.  
Jane K.  
David O.  
Kelly P.



Dan M.  
Katrina M.  
Lisa M.  
Tricia M.  
Cheryl S.  
Matthew V.  
Calvin W.  
Florence W.

**Also:** All Weather Walkers, Bike Me, and Community Choices 2010 and City of Vancouver Transportation Department.

### Sports fields

All the sports leagues we partner with around the county put a lot of time, materials, ideas and energy into improving and maintaining our fields. Thank you for creating such great places to play!



### Park and open space restoration

**Invasive species removal** – Evan Hull, Sue Aberle, Vancouver Kiwanis Club, Comcast, Vancouver Rotary Club, Southcliff Neighborhood Association, Fort Vancouver High School, SOLV Down by the Riverside, Watershed Stewards, LDS Youth Conference, Washington State School of the Blind, Cornerstone Day Camp and Interfaith Group.

**Native plantings** – CPU / VCPRD Earth Day volunteers, CPU Stream Team and Vancouver Urban Forestry teams

### Are you interested in volunteering in your parks in 2010?

Parks staff wants to make it easier for you to volunteer. Check out our updated Web page to learn about new volunteer opportunities in our parks, trails and open spaces. Go to [www.vanclarkparks-rec.org](http://www.vanclarkparks-rec.org) and select "How to Help."

### Special projects

**Vancouver Lake Rowing Club** – Bill Kalenius, Anita Roberts, Alan Stewart and the rest of the club members, crew teams and families that relocated the club to Vancouver Lake Park and helped clean up after the tornado.

**PARK(ing) Day** – The Intertwine Alliance and several community members with help from Eric Rosewall turned four parking spaces into temporary parks around downtown Vancouver on September 18th. Many thanks to C-Tran, Community Choices, Wallis Engineering, Mon Ami, Angst Gallery, and the Vancouver Watersheds Council.

### Litter pick-up in all of our parks

The Dumpster Betty's, Wells-Fargo Bank, Various Boy Scout/Cub Scout Troops, and countless park neighbors and friends!

### Trail restoration

**Blandford Canyon Trail** – Washington Trails Association, Southcliff Neighborhood Assoc., Dubois Neighborhood Assoc. and Gifford Pinchot Urban Youth Employment Group

**Whipple Creek Regional Park** – Clark County Executive Horse Council, Mt. St. Helens Back Country Horsemen, Washington Trail Riders Assoc., 4-H, Battle Ground Natural Horse Meetup, Skyview High School Cross Country Team, Clark County Public Works staff, and many other friends of the trail!