

## EAST PORTLAND PARKS COALITION MEETING

9/1/22

### PP&R RANGERS TOPIC

Alex Arrell, our guest speaker, has many years' experience as a parks maintenance worker prior to his service with the rangers, which is less than one year. His colleague Angela has 10-1/2 years' service with the rangers.

Portland Parks Rangers currently employs 30 full time and 15 seasonal workers to monitor over 12,000 acres of parks throughout the city. They depend on voluntary compliance to the park rules when they catch folks breaking those rules. They also have radios to call police if necessary, pepper spray and flashlights. They also partner for the city with wildfire workers.

Portland deploys 2 rangers at Washington Park, 2 in North Portland, 2 in East Portland, and 2 in the central business district, as part of its winter staff of 30 rangers. Rangers have a regular beat of usual trouble spots which they patrol, and they rotate between less troublesome spots. Typical infractions addressed by rangers include dogs off leash, camping within park boundaries, illegal fires, threatening behavior, and people bothering children.

### Q&A

Do rangers monitor Nextdoor app? Alex said that some rangers do. Some infractions caught using this app have been fire pits on Powell Butte and folks damming up Johnson Creek on BES property. But Alex recommends calling the rangers' dispatch line in favor of using a third-party app to lodge complaints.

Homeless camps – are they allowed in parks? Alex said not unless there is a heat or cold emergency. The rangers can write tickets and encourage campers to move on but cannot physically move people. People reporting camping in parks are encouraged to call 311, the one point of contact number, but they can also call the rangers' dispatch.

Jasmine asked whether there are community outreach events staff? Alex replied that yes, the ranger monitor park events and also spend a lot of time at community centers.

Kirsten asked whether rangers make a point of monitoring the parks during the free lunch programs in the summer. Alex made a note of this for future patrols.

Another question was when should park users call the police instead of calling the rangers? Alex said that they should call the police if there is violence or the threat of violence. For dog attacks, it is best to call animal control.

Rangers do not enforce parking regulations, so contact PBOT for those issues.

For graffiti, Alex urged users to call parks maintenance unless it is gang related. In that case call the rangers' dispatch. For maintenance issues and graffiti, Alex recommended reporting via [parksandpdx.org](http://parksandpdx.org).

## EPPC FALL PLANTING RESOURCES TOPIC

For fall planting resources, Carol compiled the following listings of fall planting and native planting resources. Also, someone suggested the books of Douglas Tallamy on Timber Press, including [Nature's Best Hope](#).

**Sparrowhawk** – internet based plant broker that partners with local organizations and local nurseries to give people opportunities to purchase native plants and give local organizations a cut of proceeds for fund raising. The partner provides space, volunteers, and publicity for distribution events.

You can order plants from Sparrowhawk website

<https://sparrowhawknativeplants.com/collections/frontpage> for pickup on October 14 & 15 to benefit the Columbia Slough Watershed Council.

### **East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District – EMSWCD**

This organization was created during the Great Depression to give farmers sustainable practices for growing crops in the wake of the Dust Bowl. Today in Multnomah County, our West- and East- branches of the organization produce classes, workshops, and grant programs designed to further this agenda and bring it to urbanized areas. <https://emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/upcoming-workshops/> You can take these workshops anytime:

- Urban Weeds
- Edible Landscape
- Native Plants
- Naturescaping Basics
- Rain Gardens 101

Plus, they have proprietary workshops – Attracting Pollinators & Beneficial Insects, which they offer as classes. They also offer culturally specific workshops coordinated by one of their personnel.

**City of Portland Tree Programs** – although the Friends of Trees program <https://friendsoftrees.org/> has been largely cancelled in Portland, there are programs through BES and Urban Forestry for planting trees:

BES grants & incentives include Treebate and free tree planting for multi-family residential and commercial properties, as well as Community Watershed Stewardship grants, Percent for Green, and projects cleaning up and reclaiming brownfields: <https://www.portland.gov/bes/grants-incentives>.

The Community Watershed Stewardship Program provides funding for native plants that benefit water quality and the watershed. Gift certificates from Bosky Dell Native Nursery are available to community groups or individuals planning to improve community spaces. Applications accepted year-round. <https://www.portland.gov/bes/grants-incentives/native-plant-certificates>.

There's also a general tree-specific landing page that includes Urban Forestry's programs here: <https://www.portland.gov/trees/tree-planting>.

Free Trees for your Yard through Urban Forestry: <https://www.portland.gov/trees/tree-planting/free-trees>

Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry contractors will plant up to 1200 street trees in winter 2022-23 in several neighborhoods across Portland. Trees will be planted in the public right-of-way planting strip, between the curb and sidewalk. This is a don't contact us, we'll contact you situation. If you're eligible for one of these trees, the first notices are planned to go out September 15. EPDX neighborhoods included this year are:

- Hazelwood
- Powellhurst-Gilbert
- Mill Park
- Lents
- Argay
- Parkrose
- Glenfair
- Parkrose Heights
- Centennial

Here's for more information on the program: <https://www.portland.gov/trees/tree-planting/free-street-trees>

**NOTE: If you are googling the web looking for tree planting info, disregard any City of Portland websites that are addressed portlandoregon.gov. Only use the newer portland.gov sites.**

#### OTHER NATIVE PLANT/TREE SOURCES

Portland Nursery – If money is not an object, you can go to your nearest Portland Nursery (I like to support the SE 90<sup>th</sup> and Division branch) and pick up native plants for planting. They also have advisors there to assist you and info on their native plant page of the website:

<https://www.portlandnursery.com/natives>

Don't forget the free consultation and certification you can get from the Portland Audubon Society and Columbia Land Trust in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, the topic of our May 2022 meeting: <https://backyardhabitats.org/>

The Friends of Trees program is still out there and I've heard are still providing free street trees in limited areas of East Portland. So don't forget to check with them to see if you are eligible. Also, make a donation to this worthy organization: <https://friendsoftrees.org/>

Save the trees we already have! We need more Heritage Trees Designated in EPDX! If you want to see something shocking check out the designated Heritage Tree map of Portland. If we want to save trees from overdeveloping parcels of land, we had better figure out how to protect them and this is one mechanism for that work <https://www.portland.gov/trees/heritage>. Think particularly in terms of Native Oregon trees – Doug Fir, Oregon White Oak, Bigleaf Maple, etc.

#### OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Past meeting notes and Facebook page for EPPC: <http://eastportlandactionplan.org/parkscoalition> and <https://www.facebook.com/East-Portland-Parks-Coalition-198244280193244>

Weed Warriors at Luuwit View Park still has 3 months to go! September 20, October 18, and November 16. This is a fun group and the work is not that strenuous.

Ivy pull date is coming up for John Luby Park. Details have not been released yet.

Portland Parks Foundation has some announcements to pass along. The fall Friends and Allies Summit will be October 20 with Day of Service days on October 14 at Whitaker Ponds and October 15 at Leach Botanical Garden. The Small Grants Program is opening up for applications September 1 through October 15: <https://www.portlandpf.org/grants-program>.