

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

December 15, 2011



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Parks Staff Hosts Third Bethel Community Park Meeting

On Dec. 8, Parks and Open Space Planning hosted the third in a series of community workshops to discuss updating the Bethel Community Park Master Plan to include a 60,000-square-foot community center. The conversation with the community began in May of this year and was sparked by an offer from the Eugene Family YMCA to construct and operate a new YMCA facility in Bethel Community Park.

The existing park master plan includes a community center; however, it is currently shown as a 10,000-square-foot facility. Staff conducted a second meeting in September and offered three site plan choices for the community center building and related parking. Two of these showed a new and larger community center, and one showed no change to the master plan.

In web-based surveys, the majority of survey respondents have been supportive of the new facility, while expressing reservations related to traffic and pedestrian safety both on and off site. A preferred option was presented at the most recent meeting showing the new community center on the west side of the park along Legacy Street. Community members are encouraged to submit feedback on this option by clicking the web survey link at www.eugene-or.gov/bethelpark.



**Bethel Community Park Master Plan Proposal
(December 2011)**

For more information, please contact Emily Proudfoot in Parks and Open Space Planning at 541-682-4915 or emily.a.proudfoot@ci.eugene.or.us.



Download Music at Eugene Public Library Website – Free and Legal

The Eugene Public Library now offers free, legal MP3 music file downloads on its website through the [Freegal Music](#) service.

Freegal Music is an online database that offers more than 500,000 songs from Sony Music, including current hits, classics, and many other styles of music. New songs are added to the collection daily.

From Ke\$ha to Springsteen, Brubeck to Beethoven, once the songs are downloaded, they can be kept forever. The songs never need to be returned and they never expire.

Visit the [Eugene Public Library website](http://www.eugene-or.gov/library) to download music 24/7. The songs are in MP3 format and will work on computers and MP3 players, as well as iPods, iPhones, and other smartphones. Eugene Public Library cardholders can download up to three songs each week. For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Eugene Adaptive Program Designated a Paralympic Sports Club

Paralympic Sport Eugene, a program of City of Eugene Adaptive Recreation Services, is one of four new paralympic sport clubs in the nation. U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, announced the addition of the new clubs on Dec. 6.



The clubs offer ongoing sports and recreation opportunities in the community to youth, adults, active-duty military personnel and veterans with physical and visual disabilities. Paralympic sport activities offered by Eugene Adaptive Recreation include “Alpine Adventures” adaptive skiing, “EyeCycle” adapted tandem cycling for blind and vision-impaired, and a variety of clinics such as sled hockey, wheelchair tennis, and adapted kayaking.

With this new designation, Adaptive Recreation will be joining a variety of community organizations to provide even more paralympic sport activities. U.S. Paralympics is partnering with hundreds of community organizations across the country to help grow access to daily physical activity programs for individuals with physical and visual disabilities, with an emphasis on youth, injured service members and veterans. Research proves daily physical activity raises self-esteem, helps individuals develop peer relationships, increases achievement, enhances overall health and improves quality of life.

The three other newly designated paralympic sports clubs are:

- Paralympic Sport Central Iowa, a program located in Ames, Iowa;
- Paralympic Sport Southern Maryland, a program of St. Mary’s County Recreation & Parks in Leonardtown, Maryland, and
- Paralympic Sport Blue Ridge/Shenandoah, a program of Therapeutic Adventures Inc. in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The paralympic sport club network now includes 145 community organizations across the U.S., using sports and recreation to improve the lives of individuals with physical and visual disabilities. For more information, visit www.USParalympics.org/SportClubs or contact Patty Prather at 541-682-5311.

Online Open Houses Increase Reach for Planning Projects

With ever-increasing numbers of people getting their news and information online, the City recently decided to launch online versions of more traditional open houses for planning projects. The Envision Eugene [On-Line Open House Link](#) has been live since early November. Preliminary numbers show that in the first month, over 200 visitors stopped by online. Physical open houses draw anywhere from 10-100 people, depending on the topic and stage of the process.



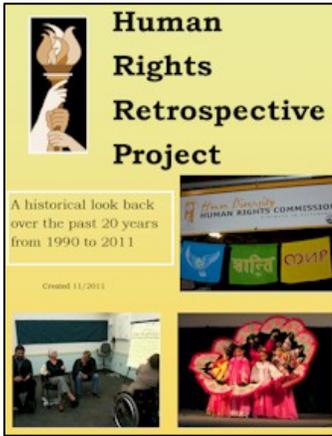
With embedded videos, posters, and accompanying text, visitors have access to all of the information that is traditionally available at a physical meeting. Each page features a comment link that ties back to the specific page where the comment originated, allowing staff to easily match a comment to the content.

Feedback from visitors indicates they like the format: “This online method of doing the Open House is very convenient and very helpful. Well laid out, and easy to download. Very detailed pdf maps so we could zoom in and still see everything with great detail. I hope other City open houses can be presented this way. THANKS!”

For more information on Envision Eugene, contact Envision Eugene Public Involvement Manager Terri Harding at terri.l.harding@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-5635.

Human Rights Retrospective Book Project Completed

Equity and Human Rights Center staff recently completed the Human Rights Retrospective Book Project. This publication takes a look back over the past 20 years at the events, activities, projects and accomplishments of the Human Rights Commission from 1990 to 2011.



Major changes were recently made to the Eugene Code sections related to the commission's structure and mission, including changes to the way the commission operates, its size and subcommittees. With the production of this book, Equity and Human Rights Center staff wanted to honor the past and look ahead to future opportunities for the commission and the community.

For over 20 years, the commission has been involved in events and activities such as the Asian Celebration, We Are Bethel, Project Homeless Connect, Transgender Awareness Week, Anti-Hate Forum, Human Rights Summit and more. The commission and its volunteers continue to be a vital part of the Eugene community, acting as agents for change and education, furthering human rights goals and standing up for fair and ethical treatment of people in the community.

Enjoy the book and look back at the hard work and dedication of the commissioners who volunteered their time, energy and talent advocating for community members and pushing for change. The book can be viewed online at www.eugene-or.gov/hrc under "Events and Information" or at HR Retrospective Book Project. For more information, please contact Michelle Mortensen at 541-682-6378 or michelle.e.mortensen@ci.eugene.or.us.

Community Helps Create South Willamette Draft Concept Plan

Exciting ideas and shared challenges are emerging from the pilot study of area planning in South Willamette. Area planning is one of the strategies of the "Compact Urban Development and Efficient Transportation Options" pillar of Envision Eugene. Businesses, residents, property owners and customers in the area, as well as design professionals and City staff, have brainstormed how the area might change in desirable ways to accommodate additional housing and a more vibrant business district over the next 20 years.



An online presentation, survey and public workshop on Dec. 7, offered the community opportunities to explore and provide feedback on the draft concept plan. The plan sketches out an integrated vision for the future of the area. View the presentation and take the survey through Jan. 9 at www.eugene-or.gov/SWillamette. Community interest in the project is growing; so far, the concept plan has been viewed over 450 times online and over 60 people have submitted surveys.

The Draft Concept Plan offers ideas about where more commercial buildings and denser kinds of urban housing might be located, ideas for enhancing the shopping districts, and better ways to access the area for all users of the streets and sidewalks. In the spring, a focused study of Willamette Street will begin, funded by a Transportation and Growth Management Grant.

Participants involved in this project are working to make a really great place by building on all the good things that are already happening in and around the area.

Kate Boney, owner of Turtles Bar and Grill in the South Willamette district, says it well, "A community's growth is inevitable... having a good plan in place to support that growth in a positive way is priceless."

For more information, or to learn how to get involved, contact South Willamette Area Planning Manager Patricia Thomas at patricia.thomas@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-5561.

New Park Identity Signs Installed

Contractors completed work last week on the installation of 28 park identity signs in park sites throughout the city. This concludes the second phase of this effort and brings the total number of parks with the new identity signs to 44. The signs have replaced many aging and deteriorating wood signs in the park system with high quality metal framed signs that will significantly lower maintenance needs over the life of the signs. The sign panels are a high-pressure laminate product that has proven highly resistant to vandalism in the field and provide a consistent and easily identifiable look for the park system as a whole. Each sign includes the park name, hours, and a quote that is unique to the park site.



Please contact Emily Proudfoot, landscape architect with Parks and Open Space, for information at 541-682-4915 or emily.a.proudfoot@ci.eugene.or.us.