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Envision Eugene Recommendations Hitting Town

From local high schools to community centers and performance venues, the Envision Eugene community forums hit town in March and April to bring people together to learn more about the recommendations. Approximately 160 people attended the six forums to share their thoughts about how the community might grow over the next 20 years.

Forum reports are being assembled to share the themes of the table discussions with the public and decision makers. Participants were encouraged to also provide feedback via an online survey which will be available until May 6 at www.EnvisionEugene.org. Based on feedback from people who were not able to attend the evening sessions, an additional mini-forum was also held on May 2 in the Atrium over the lunch hour.



Learn more about Envision Eugene on its website at www.EnvisionEugene.org. For more information, contact Terri Harding at 541-682-5635 or terri.l.harding@ci.eugene.or.us.

Take Mom and Dad to the Challenge Course

Recreation Service's Outdoor Program invites families to have an adventure at the Spencer Butte Challenge Course from 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Mother's Day, May 13, or Father's Day, June 17.

Climb up trees, walk across cables, and swing through the air. Build trust and confidence in each other as strengths and limits are explored. And while having fun, grow your brain, too. Participating in new activities is called "experiential learning." John Ratey, MD, and author of "SPARK: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain," says, "Emerging research from neurologists about the brain and neurological connections continue to reveal that physical activity provides an unparalleled stimulus, creating an environment in which the brain is ready, willing, and able to learn." In this way, the Recreation Program builds both bodies *and* brains.



For more information, contact Robert Brack at 541-682-6324.

International Family Fun at Eugene Public Library

In May, kids and their families are invited to “travel” the world through fun events at the Downtown Eugene Public Library. Each Sunday at 3 p.m., a guest presenter from a different country will lead creative activities through a partnership with the University of Oregon’s International Cultural Services Program. Admission is free.



On Sunday, May 6, Bolormaa Enkhbat will share “Mongolian Folktales and Legends.” These ancient stories from the heart of Asia include a legend explaining why dogs, cats, and mice don’t get along. On Sunday, May 13, enjoy “A Day in the South African Sun” with Lindy Mabuya’s traditional tales of South Africa and make a pair of binoculars for a safari adventure.

Learn “Colombia’s Green Inchworm Dance” and make a colorful clay inchworm with Carmen Del Rosario on Sunday, May 20. And, on Sunday, May 27, join Ernestine Kwin to act out the traditional story of “The Broken Spoon of Cameroon.”

For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-8316 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Park Path Renovation Projects Begin

Concrete crews formed and poured more than 6,000 square feet of replacement concrete paths in Alton Baker and Tandy Turn parks this week. These two sites along with three others have been identified as needing critical concrete repairs as the surfaces have deteriorated, cracked or been heaved by tree roots over time. These conditions often create tripping hazards or make the paths inaccessible under Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, requiring removal and replacement of the walks. The new walks at Alton Baker Park were raised two inches in elevation to accommodate surface tree roots from a line of ash trees that shade the parking lot. Tree roots were also planed and pruned to ensure improved tree health and path longevity over the long term.

Amazon Park, Tugman Park and University Park have also been identified for concrete path repairs which are being scheduled for the fall of 2012, to avoid conflicts with summer park uses and activities. Total budget for this year’s concrete path renovations is \$160,000. The projects are funded by park operations capital funds for repairs. For more information, contact Emily Proudfoot, landscape architect in Parks and Open Space Planning, at emily.a.proudfoot@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-4915.

Owen Rose Garden Rejuvenation Efforts Under Way

Construction work began this week at the Owen Rose Garden to complete several projects that will improve safety, reduce long-term maintenance requirements, and ensure the health and beauty of the Rose Garden into the future. Concrete walks will be poured around the existing gazebo to replace gravel walks and provide better accessibility around the facility, and reduce weeding efforts. The lawn and landscaped bed area to the west of the green rose arbor will also get a facelift in the form of a new lawn that will better accommodate receptions and other events that take place at the garden during the year. The remainder of this spring’s project includes construction of key gravel pathways, repair of existing irrigation systems, and repair of a critical maintenance area access gate. This phase of the overall rejuvenation effort will be completed by the middle of May.

This work follows on the heels of a significant operational effort to improve the overall health and maintainability of the garden by removing diseased and dead roses, reducing the quantity and area of perennial beds, and removing the overgrown arborvitae hedges near the parking lot. Work will continue into the summer with significant volunteer work days providing some key inputs into the garden such as shed roof repair and landscaped bed edging.

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