



Portland Parks Foundation

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Media Advisory

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Barbara Walker Crossing Grand Opening Celebration 8:30 a.m. - noon, Sunday, October 27, 2019

(PORTLAND, OR) - [The Portland Parks Foundation](http://ThePortlandParksFoundation.org) (PPF) announces that the grand opening of the Barbara Walker Crossing, a new pedestrian bridge over West Burnside, will take place Sunday, October 27, 2019. The Crossing will safely carry the 80,000 hikers and runners who use the Wildwood Trail each year over a dangerous curve on West Burnside. The bridge will also create a direct and safe connection between two of the Wildwood Trail's most popular destinations: Hoyt Arboretum and Pittock Mansion.

The Portland Parks Foundation has led the three-year public/private partnership to build the Barbara Walker Crossing, working with Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), and Metro. Nearly two-thirds of the \$4-million construction cost came from some 900 donors, who made gifts ranging from \$10 to \$175,000.

To celebrate the project's completion, PPF will host a party on and under the bridge, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, starting with a parade. The opening ceremony will feature a tribal blessing, plus a "ribbon-tying" ceremony designed and choreographed by world-renowned theatrical designer Michael Curry and performed by dance troupe Bodyvox. Portland City Commissioners Nick Fish and Chloe Eudaly, Metro Councilor Sam Chase, Congressman Earl Blumenauer, and others will be on hand.

The Foundation will provide shuttles to and from the bridge from the Washington Park Max Station. The event will also feature youth and adult dashes up West Burnside presented by local running store Foot Traffic. There will be all-you-can-eat pancakes with donuts and beverages. After the dedication ceremony, volunteers from Hoyt Arboretum, Forest Park Conservancy, and Pittock Mansion will lead guided tours and first crossings.

WHAT: Barbara Walker Crossing Grand Opening Celebration

WHERE: Where the Wildwood Trail intersects West Burnside between Hoyt Arboretum and Pittock Mansion

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - noon

HOW TO GET THERE: There will be two access points:

- Washington Park Max Station, with shuttles departing every 15 minutes between 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
- NW 24th Place and West Burnside: route opens at 8 a.m.; parade to the bridge will start at 8:30 a.m.

FOOT TRAFFIC BURNSIDE DASH: 8:45 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONY: 9:30 a.m.

ADMISSION: Free; sliding scale donations for shuttle rides and all-you-can-eat pancakes.

ROAD CLOSURE: West Burnside will be entirely closed for the event between NW Hermosa Boulevard and NW Barnes Road. A lane closure between SW Fischer Lane and NW 24th Place will reduce traffic to two lanes.

WEBSITE: barbarawalkercrossing.com



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Metro

“Congratulations to the Portland Parks Foundation on this exciting new bridge and a successful fundraising campaign,” says Portland Parks Commissioner Nick Fish. “The Barbara Walker Crossing will make connecting to popular destinations in Forest Park, Hoyt Arboretum, and Washington Park easier and safer.”

“The Barbara Walker Crossing simply would not have happened without the community’s commitment and generosity,” says Randy Gragg, Executive Director of the Portland Parks Foundation.

Private Contributions

- \$2,170,691 foundation grants and private gifts
- \$385,000 pro bono donations from design/construction team

Total: \$2,555,691 — 63 percent

Public contribution

- \$500,000 from Portland’s General Fund
- \$450,000 from Portland Parks & Recreation through parks System Development Charges (SDCs), which are fees from new construction, not tax dollars
- \$350,000 in PBOT SDCs
- \$200,000 from Metro’s 2014 Open Space Bond measure

Total: \$1.5 million — 37 percent

“Thank you to the Portland Parks Foundation for your impressive fundraising efforts that are making this crossing a reality,” says Transportation Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. “Safety for all Portlanders is my top priority, and I know that the Barbara Walker Crossing will save lives. I am proud that PBOT prioritized pedestrian safety by providing funding and expertise that helped make this new bridge possible.”

The Barbara Walker Crossing is the largest, most complicated project in the Portland Parks Foundation’s 19-year history. Not only did the foundation raise the majority of the money, in an unprecedented public/private partnership, it also served as the developer, hiring the contractor and project manager, and overseeing construction.

“Metro is proud to have partnered with the Portland Parks Foundation on a critically needed and beautiful new addition to the region’s trail system,” says Metro Councilor Sam Chase. “It also serves as a case study in how public investments can leverage private philanthropy.”

The Crossing is named for the late Barbara Walker, one of Portland’s most ardent champions of trails and connecting parks and open spaces. Over four decades she played pivotal roles in creating Marquam Nature Park, Tom McCall Waterfront Park, the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade, and the 40-Mile Loop Trust.

Artist Ed Carpenter developed the bridge design with KPFF Consulting Engineers in 2012. A 40-year runner and hiker of the Wildwood Trail, Carpenter lobbied key interest groups and elected officials for the bridge. In 2013, the Portland Parks Foundation formed a steering committee to begin raising funds. In 2014, Mayor Charlie Hales led the city to commit \$500,000. Over the next five years, PPF raised \$3.2 million—including \$184,000 of it from a single 33-day crowdfunding campaign. Other key contributors were the Walker Family Foundation, the John and Janet Sherman Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, the Darci and Charlie Swindells Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, and the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Carpenter, KPFF, contractor R&H Construction, Walker Macy Landscape Architects, and other members of the design/construction team contributed \$385,000 in pro bono work.

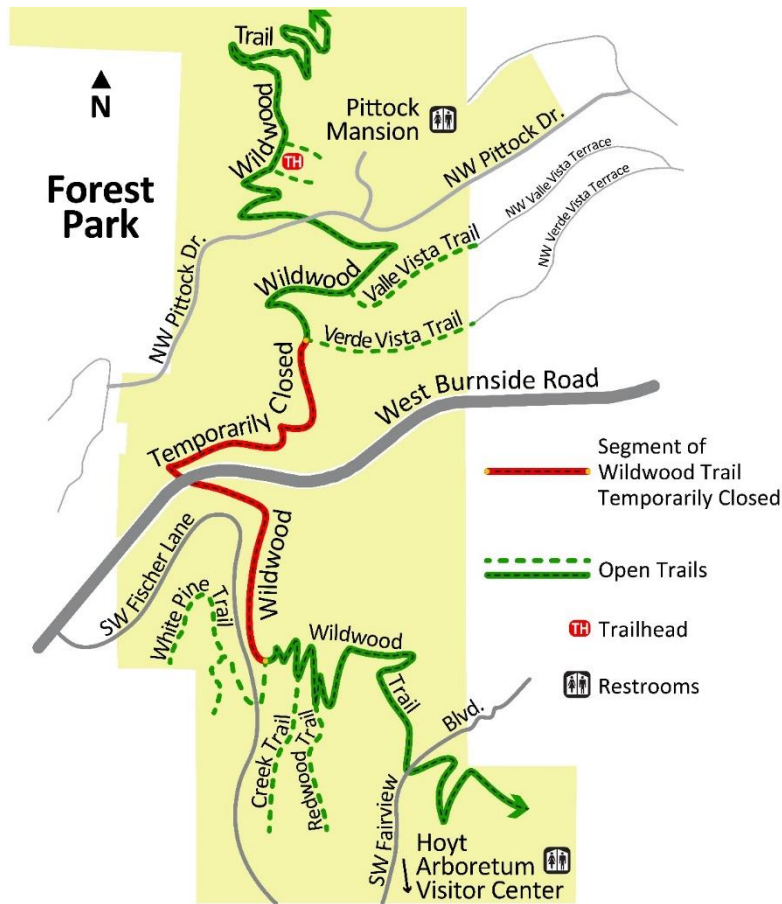
“Where else but Portland would over 900 trail lovers and a construction team join government and foundations to build a bridge to connect a trail?” asks Gragg. “Portlanders love trails and they love bridges. Ed Carpenter’s thoughtful, elegant design connects two of our great civic urban traditions.”

Stay informed on Barbara Walker Crossing news, including any grand opening event updates, here:

Web updates: barbarawalkercrossing.com

Twitter: @PDXParksFound

Email: info@portlandpf.org



About Portland Parks Foundation

The Portland Parks Foundation is dedicated to connecting Portlanders to nature and to each other through the city’s parks, public spaces, and natural areas. We lead, develop partnerships, and raise money to fund new facilities, enhance existing ones, and support programs to put our parks system within reach of all. We are the chief philanthropic partner of Portland Parks & Recreation.

Since our founding in 2001, PPF’s impact has stretched across the entire city. We’ve partnered to build Director Park and Cully Park and renovate Sellwood Park. We’ve worked with donors and Friends groups on such projects as restoring the Peninsula Park rose gardens, bringing climbing walls to community centers, and creating interpretive signage for Hoyt Arboretum. And we annually partner with Portland Parks & Recreation to raise money for Summer Free for All, broadening access to movies, concerts, and free lunches and swimming lessons for kids in Portland’s parks system.