



# Portland Parks Foundation

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Portland Parks Foundation announces the start of construction on the Barbara Walker Crossing over Burnside: Part of Forest Park's Wildwood Trail to temporarily close**

(PORTLAND, OR) - The [Portland Parks Foundation](http://portlandpf.org) announces that construction of the Barbara Walker Crossing, a new pedestrian bridge over West Burnside, will begin in late March 2019. The project is expected to be complete by September 2019. This highly-anticipated project will close Forest Park's Wildwood Trail south of Burnside for about 1000 feet, and north of Burnside to Pittock Mansion. See [map](#) for details.

**WHAT:** Sections of Forest Park's Wildwood Trail will be closed for construction of the Barbara Walker Crossing, a new pedestrian bridge. West Burnside will have occasional lane closures and 1-2 days of full closure towards the end of construction in late August/early September

**WHERE:** Where [Forest Park's](#) Wildwood Trail intersects West Burnside

**WHEN:** Work begins late March with the trail reopening September 2019.

**PROJECT PAGE:** <http://bit.ly/barbarawalkercrossing>

When complete, the Barbara Walker Crossing will safely carry the 80,000 hikers and runners who use the Wildwood Trail each year over a dangerous curve in a road used by 20,000 drivers every day. 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, located on opposite sides of Burnside.

The Portland Parks Foundation is leading the public/private partnership to build the Barbara Walker Crossing project, working with Portland Parks & Recreation, the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), and Metro. The Portland Parks Foundation conducted a successful capital campaign that raised two-thirds of the bridge's \$3.2 million cost, engaging more than 900 individual contributors.

"Donors included individual community members making contributions ranging from \$20 to \$50,000, as well as area philanthropic foundations", says Randy Gragg, Executive Director of the Portland Parks Foundation. "Every single donor has the Foundation's thanks for making the project a reality. It simply would not have happened without the community's commitment and generosity."

\$850,000 – or one third – of the Barbara Walker Crossing is funded by the City of Portland (\$500K from the General Fund and \$350K in PBOT [System Development Charges](#), which are fees from new construction, not tax dollars). Metro's 2014 [Open Space Bond measure](#) is contributing \$200K.

"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 amenities like Marquam Nature Park, the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade and the 40-Mile Loop Trust.



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Working with the bridge's designer, Ed Carpenter, R&H Construction and KPFF Consulting Engineers have developed the [Barbara Walker Crossing](#) to be built quickly and with minimal impact. The main steel structure will be fabricated off-site then lifted into place, reducing the need for on-site work. West Burnside will have only occasional lane closures and will be only closed entirely for a few days in August when the bridge span is lifted into place. Other impacts from construction will include removal of trees, a powerline relocation, and, for safety, decommissioning of the trail spurs between the bridge and Burnside and the gravel turn-out on the south side of Burnside.

"Portlanders love trails and they love bridges," remarks Gragg. "Ed Carpenter's thoughtful design connects two our great civic urban traditions to make an experience hikers, runners, and drivers can love together."

Stay informed about the project here:

**Web updates:** [portlandpf.org](http://portlandpf.org)

**Twitter:** @PDXParksFound

**Email:** [info@portlandpf.org](mailto:info@portlandpf.org)

Stay informed about traffic closures during construction here:

<https://www.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.