Conestoga, Stuhr, Camille near completion; other projects start

In November 2008, voters in the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District approved a $100 million bond measure to improve parks and facilities, protect natural areas, develop athletic fields and construct new trails across the district.

With 41 of the 129 projects completed in just over three years, three more close to completion, and many more set for construction in the next few months, the district is soon to reach a pinnacle in its bond-related activities.

“We’re delivering on our promise to the voters,” said THPRD General Manager Doug Menke. “They gave us a directive, and we’re moving quickly on all fronts.”

Menke said redevelopment and natural area restoration at Camille Park are nearly complete, with only a few final touches remaining. Improvements at the popular Elsie Stuhr Center, originally built in 1975, will be finished this spring. Expansions and additions at Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center are scheduled for completion this spring as well. All three projects will finish ahead of time and within budget.

The 12-acre Camille Park has new playground equipment, a picnic shelter and better pathways – including a plastic decking system visitors can use year-round, especially while walking through the lower-lying camas lily meadow when the wildflowers are in bloom during spring.

The park’s rare Oregon white oak habitat, one of the most endangered environments in the Pacific Northwest, was enhanced by thinning some fast-growing ash trees, opening the canopy and providing more light. A wetlands meadow was replanted with native species, and invasive plants and shrubs were removed.

Workers build a retaining wall and stairwell leading down to the new “splash pad” at THPRD’s Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center. The ADA-accessible water playground will feature toys and nozzles that spray water in different patterns and directions. All of Conestoga’s bond-funded improvements are scheduled to open to the public this summer.

Taxpayers save money

For details on THPRD’s sale of $41.5 million in bonds and resulting savings for taxpayers, please visit www.thprd.org/news/news.cfm?id=1272.
Improvements at the Stuhr Center feature an expanded fitness room of 1,370 square feet and a new lobby. Other upgrades include landscaping, ADA-accessible restrooms, remodeled classrooms, and amenities for pedestrians, vehicles and buses.

Visitors to Conestoga will see not only a 3,000-square-foot fitness room, a large classroom and new family dressing rooms but also an outdoor splash pad, the district’s first. This watery wonderland will have a variety of whimsical toys and nozzles that spray water. The splash pad offers a chance for non-swimmers, young children and people with limited mobility to enjoy the water.

Menke said one of the largest upcoming projects is the redevelopment of Schiffler Park near downtown Beaverton. The 10-acre community park will get play equipment with natural surfaces and textures, picnic areas, pathways, gardens, sports areas, a skate spot and a pavilion. Because the park also envelops a wetland, habitat restoration will occur, as will the construction of wetland overlook areas. The entire park will be closed during the construction period from March 2012 to early 2013.

Other 2012 projects:

**Neighborhood parks**

**AM Kennedy Park**, construction starts in summer. Includes new play equipment, picnic areas, pathways, drinking fountains, benches, open grass areas, youth athletic field and parking areas.

**Hansen Ridge Park**, construction starts in summer. Formerly called Kaiser Ridge Park, Hansen Ridge Park is an undeveloped site that will get new play equipment, picnic areas, pathways, drinking fountains, benches and open grass areas. After the park is developed, the district will remove weeds and restore the area with native plants and shrubs.

**Youth athletic field development**

**Winkelman Park**, construction starts in summer. Adding a multipurpose athletic field and parking area. If the budget allows, a dog park may also be added. A one-acre natural area will be planted to complement the developed portions of the site.

**Trails (or linear park) expansion and/or connections**

**Jordan Woods Natural Area**, construction starts in spring. Adjacent to Jackie Husen Park, this project includes developing paved and soft trails, an overlook, two bridges and a boardwalk to provide access to the park. Natural Resources staff will lead a six-acre habitat enhancement that will include weed removal followed by extensive planting of trees and shrubs.

**Rock Creek and North Bethany Trails**, construction scheduled to start in spring. The Rock Creek Trail project encompasses two segments: Kaiser Road to the Westside Trail (0.88 miles) and West Union Road and 185th Avenue at Allenbach Park (0.26 miles). The North Bethany Trails portion (0.23 miles) will provide a complete connection between the Rock Creek Regional Trail and the PCC Rock Creek Campus.

**The Bluffs Park**, construction starts in summer. This project continues improvements to the park started in 2004, including building a permanent trail, landscaping, a small sitting area, signage and stormwater filtering.

**Waterhouse Trail**, construction starts in summer. This project encompasses four segments: Merlo Road to Baseline Road (0.59 miles), Waterhouse Park to Bethany Court, crossing through Willow Creek Nature Park (0.17 miles), Bronson Road to Joselyn Street (0.82 miles) and Central Bethany Development to the West Spur (0.55 miles).

**Westside Trail**, construction starts in summer. This project includes constructing three segments: Barrows Road to Scholls Ferry Road (0.39 miles), Galena Way to Rigert Road (0.64 miles), and Mt. Williams-Burntwood Way to Davis Road (0.39 miles).

For a list of project details, completed projects, or to check on project schedules and updates, go to www.thprd.org/bondprojects/home.cfm.

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**Howard M. Terpenning Recreation Complex**

15707 SW Walker Road
Beaverton, OR 97006

Administration, Park Foundation & General Information 503/645-6433

Athletic Center 503/629-6330

Tennis Center 503/629-6331

Aquatic Center 503/629-6310

**THPRD Recreation and Aquatic Centers**

Aloha Swim Center 503/629-6311

Beaverton Swim Center 503/629-6312

Cedar Hills Recreation Center 503/629-6340

Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center 503/629-6313

Cooper Mountain Nature Park 503/629-6350

Elsie Stuhr Center 503/629-6342

Garden Home Recreation Center 503/629-6341

Harman Swim Center 503/629-6314

Jenkins Estate 503/629-6355

Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center 503/629-6350

PCC Rock Creek Rec Facility 503/629-6330

Raleigh Swim Center* 503/297-6888

Somerset West Swim Center* 503/645-1413

Sunset Swim Center 503/629-6315

* Summer only