



NEWS RELEASE

Michael Patrick McGinn, Mayor
Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent

For immediate release

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PARKS SUPERINTENDENT NAMES TWO PARKS IN BALLARD AND A PLAYFIELD AT HIGH POINT

Seattle Parks and Recreation Acting Superintendent Christopher Williams has named two new parks in the Ballard area, and re-named a playfield in West Seattle.

Crown Hill Park

This park, located at Holman Road NW and 13th Avenue NW, will include ballfield renovations, walkways, entries, open space, areas for play, seating, and plantings. It is located on property recently purchased from the Seattle Public Schools.

Parks originally worked on developing the property into a park through the 2000 Pro Parks Levy, but the project was put on hold in 2006 after Seattle Public Schools declared the Crown Hill School and adjacent land a surplus, and put it up for sale. The City of Seattle purchased the property in March 2009 for \$5.4 million. The project is now getting underway again.

This 1.71-acre acquisition fulfills one of Crown Hill's longstanding community goals in its neighborhood plan. The 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy development funding of \$1.2 million will contribute to completing the design and construction of the park. Construction is projected for spring 2011, with an anticipated completion in the fall of 2011.

For more information on the park development, visit the website at:

http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/crown_hill/

Kirke Park

This site at 7028 9th Avenue NW 9th Avenue NW in Ballard was purchased with 2000 Pro Parks Levy funds. Now, as a result of the 2008 Parks and Greens Spaces Levy, funding is available to develop this site into a brand new park.

After a public process that included three public meetings, Parks and the community chose a preferred design that includes a community garden at the north end, a sitting wall enclosed space to recall an old building foundation once at the site, an open lawn, a "sledding hill" and a small play area at the south end. There will be a planted buffer along the back edge with a trail for unstructured play.

Construction on the site is scheduled to begin in August 2010, with completion anticipated in spring 2011.

"Kirke" means church in Norwegian. This name pays tribute to both the Norwegian heritage of the neighborhood and the history of the site. This site was home to the Church of Seventh Elect in Spiritual Israel for more than 90 years.

To learn more about the park, visit the website:

http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/9_avenue/

Walt Hundley Playfield

Seattle Parks and Recreation acquired the playfield at High Point, located at 6920 34th Avenue SW, from the Seattle Housing Authority in 1977. The 11-acre playfield was developed in 1980, and consists of two baseball fields and a lighted sand soccer field used primarily by recreational sports groups.

The new name will honor Walter R. Hundley, who was the first African-American superintendent for Seattle Parks and Recreation - a position he held from 1977 to 1988. Mr. Hundley was instrumental in acquiring the High Point site for the community center and playfield. The park was named during his tenure to reflect the proximity to the High Point Public Housing Development.

Mr. Hundley was dedicated to parks, recreational facilities, green belts and open spaces. A graduate of Yale University, he came to Seattle as a minister, but later decided on a career in public service. He was a highly visible member of the Civil Rights movement in Seattle, and was the former administrator of the Central Area Motivation Project. He was director of the Model Cities Program and Director of the City of Seattle's Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Hundley died in 2002 after a long battle with kidney disease.

The Park Naming Committee is comprised of one representative of the Board of Park Commissioners, one representative of the Seattle City Councilmember who chairs the committee dealing with parks issues, and one representative of the Superintendent of

Parks and Recreation. For more information about the park naming process, please contact Paula Hoff, Seattle Parks and Recreation, at 206-615-0368 or paula.hoff@seattle.gov.

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