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Seaside's Cartwright Park receives helping hand from Hood to Coast

\$17,000 grant helps kick off first phase; second phase to start in September

By Pamela Robel
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE - Cartwright Park, a small neighborhood park in Seaside, enjoyed a facelift over the weekend.

The city of Seaside, in conjunction with the Sunst Empire Park and Recreation District and Hood to Coast, began updating Cartwright Park Saturday thanks in part to a \$17,000 grant from Hood to Coast.

"Hood to Coast realized they wanted to give something back to the community of Seaside," said Mary Blake, general manager of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation Department. "So, last year they initiated a fee of \$1 per runner and gave that money to Seaside."

After debating which park to apply the money to, Cartwright Park was chosen because of the number of people who use the park and the need for new playground equipment.

"Parks form their own constituency," said City Manager Mark Winstanley. "This park has lacked that a little bit because it hasn't had the facilities."

In the middle of a residential neighborhood, Cartwright Park will have an update in two phases. The first phase Saturday included the installation of benches, a swing set and a large playground toy that includes features like slides, climbing rings and a steering wheel attached to the back of a train engine face.

The second phase of the park update is projected to take place on another Saturday sometime in September, after the annual Hood to Coast run.

"We're hoping to get another Saturday just like this one," said Public Works Director Neal Wallace. "The second phase will increase the big play area and add a climbing wall."

Wallace said the city was also working on repairing the irrigation system and hoping to get two small soccer goals for a mini soccer field in the large grassy area of the park.



Phase one of an update to Cartwright Park occurred Saturday in Seaside and included the building of a large central toy as well as the installation of swings and benches.

Pamela Robel — The Daily Astorian

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Cartwright Park is not the only outdoor space in Seaside getting some attention and funding for a new look.

The new Seaside skate park will open in June after much work and construction. According to Wallace, the new skate park is a "skaters' skate park."

Another park up to receive some tender loving care is Broadway Park.

"We put in for a grant - the same grant we received last year for the skate park - and if we get it we'll begin working on Broadway Park," Wallace said.

Broadway Park will likely be done in phases as well, with the sports field being updated with new bleachers and artificial turf.

"Once you start the sports part, you have to do the whole thing," said Wallace. "We're stepping up our fund-raising efforts for that part of the park."

In the meantime, the city plans to create a "pocket park" that will work in conjunction with the existing trails system and include new features like a playground and zero-depth water feature.

Volunteers at Cartwright Park were serenaded by a band on a traveling tour. The Haller Middle School Band, from Arlington, Wash., began their set with the "Star Spangled Banner" and continued to play as the crew to continued to piece together the new playground equipment.

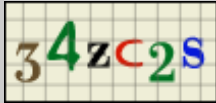
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