Parks bond helps improve quality of life

One of the many benefits of living in Renton is the high quality of life, and one component is the city's many parks and trails, which serve as both a refuge and recreational outlet.

Since late 2018, the city's Community Services Department has undertaken a modernization program to improve Renton's parks. Projects are being funded in part by a $14.5 million park improvement bond authorized by the City Council last October. A Parks, Trails and Community Facilities Advisory Committee, established by the City Council, identified projects that aligned with the city's goal of providing parks and recreational facilities for all neighborhoods while maintaining geographic equity.

Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, one of the most popular parks in the state, received new fiberglass and aluminum grated decking, stairs and finger piers. Improvements were also made to the boat launch, Trestle Bridge and Sailing Center. Work is still to come on the parking lot, water walk and picnic floats. The promenade around the swim beach and irrigation system will be replaced and steps will be taken to repair and prevent shoreline erosion.

Three other parks, Tiffany, Cedar River Trail and Thomas Teasdale, have received new playground equipment. Cedar River Trail also hosts the first TRACK Trail in Washington, which uses self-guided adventures to encourage youth to explore.

Kiwanis Park and Philip Arnold Park will receive improvements to ball fields and playground equipment, as well as improved ADA access.

While not part of the parks bond, Renton staff are working with public and private partners, including former Seattle Seahawks player Doug Baldwin, to build a 21,000-square-foot Family First Community Center in the Cascade/Benson Hill area. This facility will provide much-needed sports, health services, fitness facilities and opportunities for youth.

Park projects like these are identified because of input from residents. The Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Plan, which establishes city priorities, is now being updated. Residents are encouraged to give their input online at rentonparksplan.com or at an open house on October 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Renton Community Center.
River Days

The 34th annual Renton River Days, presented by Boeing, is a celebration of pride in the Renton community. On July 26–28, the community presents a little something for everyone: the Wenatchee Youth Circus, arts and crafts, recreation, food, and stage entertainment at Liberty Park and Cedar River Park. Don’t miss the parade on Third Street through downtown at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 27, and the Rubber Ducky Derby from the Houser Way Bridge on Sunday, July 28 at 4:30 p.m. For more event information, visit rentonriverdays.org.

Renton History Museum presents

RENTON HISTORY LIVE: “LEARNING AMERICAN,” July 27, 12–4 p.m. Free, hourly performances of a one-act play just for Renton River Days. Pieter Prins, an immigrant from the Netherlands, taught citizenship classes at the Renton Americanization School, the first stop for hundreds of new Renton residents seeking citizenship.

ARTS APPRECIATION DROP-IN STUDIO, August 7, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Celebrate American Artist Appreciation Month and get inspired by some of our rarely-seen artistic objects. A drop-in event for the whole family. Art supplies will be provided, limited supplies available.

LIVE PODCAST SHOW WITH D20 DAMES, August 17, 1 p.m. Are blood-soaked dungeons getting you down? Then roll with d20 Dames, a storytelling podcast powered by Dungeons & Dragons. Misadventure awaits!

RENTON POLICE IN THE COMMUNITY

Luau with the Law

They’ve engaged the community through coffee and conversation. They’ve raised money by getting buckets of ice-cold water dumped on their heads. Now, the Renton Police Department invites you to their first “Luau with the Law” on Thursday, August 15 from 5–7 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel in Renton. Join representatives from the department poolside for casual conversation, tropical treats and entertainment.

National Night Out & Backpack Drive

On August 6, neighborhoods throughout Renton are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors as part of National Night Out. Renton police are asking neighborhoods to register their events with the department so officers will have the opportunity to visit. Neighborhoods are also encouraged to hold a backpack drive to assist in providing backpacks to in-need children. Backpacks should be new and empty. Officers will collect them on August 6.

Register at rentonwa.gov/nno. While every effort will be made to visit all events; due to limited staffing, visits will be arranged on a first-registered, first-served basis. Deadline for registrations is August 1.

Downtown Murals

Renton’s downtown art is not limited to dragons and fire hydrants. Several murals adorn the sides of buildings, and the newest is of heavyweight boxer and lifelong Renton resident Boone Kirkman. The team who organized and created the mural was awarded the George and Annie Lewis Custer Award for Heritage Stewardship by the Renton Historical Society.

Videos on demand

Ever miss a city event because of a previous commitment or hear about one after the fact? Want to re-live a performance? You can, two ways: via Channel 21 or the city’s YouTube channel. The city videos most citywide events and posts to both outlets along with special features. Channel 21 is available to Renton residents with Comcast or streamed online at rentonwa.gov/21. The city’s YouTube channel can be found at rentonwa.gov/youtube.
Be safe as summer weather heats up

When the weather warms up, we usually look at two ways to escape: opening a window or cooling off in one of our nearby lakes or rivers. Both are great ideas, but also come with danger.

When opening a window, remember that window screens are not designed to prevent a fall; they are designed to keep out bugs. Open windows create a dangerous, even deadly, situation for children, even if the window is on the first floor. Most falls can be prevented by taking these safety measures:

- Never place a crib or furniture next to a window.
- Properly supervise children at all times.
- Install window guards or window stops.
- Install double-hung windows that can be opened from the top for ventilation rather than the bottom.
- Plant bushes or beds of plants below the windows to create a soft landing area.
- Lock all doors that lead to above-ground decks.

Drowning and shock from entering cold water are concerns for all of us. Keep these tips in mind:

- Always wear a personal flotation device.
- Check water conditions and hazards before entering a river or lake.
- Actively supervise children near water and never leave them unattended.
- Swim only in designated areas.
- Avoid drinking alcohol or using drugs when participating in water sports or activities.
- Know your limits and do not exceed them.
RENTON MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Make your plans to join us for the fourth annual Renton Multicultural Festival on September 13 and 14. Celebrate the diversity of Renton through song, dance, stories and hands-on activities. The festival opening night is September 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Carco Theatre. Day two moves downtown to the Renton Pavilion Event Center and Piazza Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Festival information is available at rentonwa.gov/festival.

Community Calendar

Renton Farmers Market
TUESDAYS THRU SEPT. 24, 3–7 P.M.
Piazza Park, 233 Burnett Ave. S
The best from local farmers and artisans! Kids’ activities, live entertainment, chef demonstrations and more! rentonwa.gov

Summer Concerts & Entertainment
THROUGH AUGUST 14
Various Renton locations
An evening of music and entertainment for everyone at unique locations. Dates: 7/11, 7/15, 7/18, 8/1, 8/7, 8/8, 8/14. rentonwa.gov/events

Summer Extravaganza
JULY 15, LIBERTY PARK, 11 A.M.–2 P.M.
AUG. 2, HERITAGE PARK, 11 A.M.–2 P.M.
Free food, arts & crafts and family entertainment. Presented with King County Library System. rentonwa.gov/summermeals

Newcomer’s Hour
JULY 19, 10–11 A.M.
Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N
Meet staff and learn about all the exciting programs and activities available. Tour begins in the lobby. FREE rentonwa.gov/isac

African American Male Wellness Walk & Run 5K
JULY 20, 8 A.M.–12 P.M.
Renton Memorial Stadium, 405 Logan Ave.
Help raise awareness for preventable health diseases among African American males. aawalk.org/renton

SummerFest
JULY 20, 4 P.M.
Piazza Park & Pavilion, 233 Burnett Ave. S
Local musicians, artists, food trucks, beer & wine garden and “Aquaman.” rentonwa.gov/events

Summer Adaptive Rec Pool Party
JULY 20, 6:30–8:30 P.M.
Aquatics Center, 1719 SE Maple Valley Hwy.
Swimmers of all abilities and ages can experience the water park in a safe, secure setting. rentonwa.gov/hmac

Summer Movie Nights
JULY 20–AUGUST 23, DUSK
Various Renton locations
Outdoor movies under the stars. Dates: 7/20, 8/9, 8/16 and 8/23. rentonwa.gov/events

Junior Golf Camps
JULY 22–24 & AUG 5–7, 9 A.M.–12 P.M.
Maplewood GC, 4050 Maple Valley Hwy.
For ages 7-17. PGA staff instruction, prizes and coupons. Register at 425-430-6800, ext. 1. Cost: $125. rentonwa.gov/maplewoodgc

Renton River Days
JULY 26–28
Liberty Park, 1101 Bronson Way N
A multi-day family festival and celebration of community pride! rentonriverdays.org

Renton History Live!
JULY 27, 12–4 P.M.
Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S
Free performances on the hour of “Learning American,” a special one-act play just for Renton River Days. rentonwa.gov/museum

2019 Community Dialogue Series
AUGUST 8, 5:30–7 P.M.
Boon Boona Coffee, 724 Third St.
Dialogue focuses on police procedures regarding use of force. Presented by RAAP and Renton Police Department. rentonwa.gov/police

Summer CERT
AUGUST 15–17, 8 A.M.–5 P.M.
Renton Fire Station 14, 1900 Lind Ave. SW
Are you ready to help yourself and your community after a disaster? Learn the skills to respond when the unthinkable happens. rentonwa.gov/cert

City Facilities Closed
SEPTEMBER 2
City facilities closed in observance of Labor Day.

Day of Service & Remembrance
SEPTEMBER 7, 9 A.M.–12 P.M.
Various Renton locations
In observance of the National Day of Service and Remembrance. A variety of volunteer projects will be available. rentonwa.gov/volunteer

Pooch Plunge
SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 10 A.M.–2 P.M.
Henry Moses Aquatics Center, 1719 SE Maple Valley Hwy.
Let your dog frolic in the pools and float the lazy river. Cost: $10. rentonwa.gov/events

City Contacts

General Information .......... 425-430-6400
Mayor .......................... 425-430-6500
City Council .................. 425-430-6501
Chief Admin Officer ......... 425-430-6500
Administrative Svcs ........ 425-430-6868
City Attorney ............... 425-430-6480
City Clerk ................. 425-430-6510
Code Enforcement .......... 425-430-7373
Community & Economic Development ........ 425-430-6575
Community Services ....... 425-430-6600
Emergency Mgmt ........ 425-430-7723
Graffiti Reporting .......... 425-430-7362
Human Resources & Risk Management .......... 425-430-7650
Municipal Court Judge .... 425-430-6550
Police (non-emergency) .... 425-430-7500
Public Works ............... 425-430-7394
Regional Fire Authority ... 425-271-7900
Street/Water/Sewer Maintenance .......... 425-430-7400
Utility Billing ............... 425-430-6852

EMERGENCY ............. 911
Non-Emergency .......... 425-235-2121

The City of Renton provides reasonable accommodation upon request.

rentonwa.gov