



**Short-term demonstration project concept outline:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PORTLAND:** Improving local park sites

**Description:** Using donated materials, sweat equity and its Spirit of Portland Award- winning drive, Portland area neighborhoods would transform a small, unimproved park sites into an active recreational and gathering place for individuals and families. Creating positive green spaces and building a sense of community will build stronger healthier neighborhoods.

**Basis in Vision:**

Many respondents to visionPDX spoke of the need for thriving green spaces that help create a sense of community and could provide a connection to the environment. Targeting these projects in areas that had previously been park deficient will help overcome current disparities and ensure that all residents have access to these community resources. **Environmental Sustainability** is a key value within the vision: *“we value our natural environment, and recognize that the actions of individuals, communities, government and businesses can impact our environment, both locally and globally.”* Clearly, Portlanders love parks, open spaces and easy access to nature.

**How does it work?**

Publicly owned unimproved park sites located in specific neighborhoods that are notably park-deficient will be improved by volunteers coordinating with Portland Parks & Recreation. Community members will be invited to collectively commit energy and labor to provide a basic level of improvement to potential parks sites and/or other amenities to serve the needs of families in diverse, vibrant neighborhoods. The City of Portland would provide the site development and technical assistance. Local businesses can participate through providing materials to expand the project further.

**Short-term demonstration project criteria:**

<b>Investment by City</b>	<b>Public/private partnership</b>	<b>Community involvement / impact</b>
\$30,000 per park site for basic level of improvement. City employees may volunteer time towards this project as a part of the soon to launch volunteerism initiative.	Volunteer labor and sponsorship will offset costs of improvements. Additional amenities can be provided through community fundraising efforts.	Community volunteers and sponsors will be needed to adequately improve park sites. Beyond the physical result of this effort – a vital community recreation and gathering place – the project would result in an enduring sense of neighborhood identity and ownership of a valued community amenity—parks.