March 23, 2012

SALMON SAFE

805 SE 32nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97214
503.232.3750
f 503.232.3791

PO Box 10798
Eugene, OR 97440
541.345.0119
f 541.345.0710

Emily Roth
Natural Resources Planner
Portland Parks & Recreation
1120 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 1302
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Emily:

This letter is to confirm that Portland Parks & Recreation has complied with the requirements for Salmon-Safe re-certification. Congratulations!

In the judgment of Salmon-Safe and our independent project evaluation team, Portland Parks is awarded system-wide Salmon-Safe certification subject to ongoing compliance with two conditions outlined in the attached March 23, 2012, final report of the evaluation team.

To formalize certification, we would appreciate it if the appropriate City of Portland representative could sign this letter in the space provided below, indicating that you agree to the conditions, and email it back to dan@salmonsafe.org.

Thanks to you and your Portland Parks colleagues for your commitment to achieving Salmon-Safe re-certification.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by com.apple.ubiquity.peer-uuid.23F36B5B-9CE6-4E81-B194-B0A219F14524
DN: cn=com.apple.ubiquity.peer-uuid.23F36B5B-9CE6-4E81-B194-B0A219F14524, c=US
Date: 2012.03.23 11:45:29 -08'00'

Dan Kent
Executive Director

Portland Parks & Recreation agrees to meet the Conditions as outlined in the attached certification report dated March 23, 2012.

City of Portland Authorized Representative

4.5.12
Date

SALMON-SAFE INC.

Final Report of the Evaluation Team regarding
Salmon-Safe Re-certification of
Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland, Oregon

March 23, 2012

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

The Salmon-Safe evaluation team recommends that City of Portland Parks system be re-certified as Salmon-Safe subject to two conditions discussed in detail in this report.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, Salmon-Safe began an initiative to apply the Salmon-Safe label to urban restoration efforts and land management. Salmon-Safe implemented this initiative with the objective of significantly advancing urban restoration efforts while developing urban aquatic protection guidelines and a public education campaign that could be transported throughout the Northwest.

Working closely with independent scientists and a project team from the city of Portland, Salmon-Safe developed a comprehensive urban park system certification framework oriented toward reducing impacts on water quality and fish habitat from park operation and management. In 2004, the Portland Park system became the first Salmon-Safe certified park system in the country.

In 2005, Salmon-Safe expanded this urban effort to include corporate and university campuses, certifying the Nike World Headquarters campus, the first corporate campus to be certified under the program. Salmon-Safe has since certified corporate and university campuses in Oregon and Washington ranging from University of Washington and WSU Vancouver to Oregon Convention Center to Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park.

To maintain Salmon-Safe certification, a campus or park system is assessed every five years. An interdisciplinary team with expertise in salmon habitat and restoration, integrated pest management (IPM), and stormwater treatment conducts the certification and recertification evaluations for Salmon-Safe. The assessment team conducts a comprehensive assessment and field review of the overall management plans and practices related to habitat and water quality protection of the park system. For recertification, the team also reviews whether park management complied with the conditions required by the assessment team for initial certification.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The city of Portland is the largest provider of parks and open spaces in the metropolitan region. Within the city are more than 10,000 acres of park land is managed by Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R), representing 9.6 percent of Portland's total land area. An additional 2,500 acres of open space in the city of Portland are operated by Metro and Oregon State Parks.

In a comprehensive system-wide certification in 2003, Salmon-Safe evaluated PP&R's entire operation, which includes 98 neighborhood parks, 6 public gardens, 25 community gardens, 35 community parks, 5 golf courses, 47 habitat parks, 12 regional parks, 12 urban parks, and thousands of acres of urban forest. The certification process, including site assessments by the inspection team, included a particular focus on sites managed by PP&R that are adjacent to the Willamette River and key tributaries containing salmonid habitat within the city.

The Portland Parks system was certified in June 2004 subject to ten conditions (see Final Report of the Evaluation Team, 2004). An extension to the standard five-year recertification cycle was granted until December 2011. For this recertification assessment, the assessment team reviewed both the system-wide management operations and compliance with the required conditions on the ground across randomly selected locations throughout the park system

CERTIFICATION EVALUATION OF PORTLAND PARK SYSTEM

Assessment Dates

The field assessment and evaluation of Portland Parks system took place on December 14 and 15, 2011.

Evaluation Team

The interdisciplinary evaluation team that conducted the assessment and evaluation on behalf of Salmon-Safe was composed of Peter Bahls, who lead the scientific team to develop Salmon Safe certification standards for parks and natural areas starting in 2003, and Dr. Richard Horner and Carrie Foss, who conducted the original Portland Parks assessment in 2003.

Peter Bahls: Aquatic Ecologist and Salmon Biologist, Northwest Watershed Institute. Mr. Bahls received an M.S. in Fisheries Science and Aquatic Ecology from Oregon State University, and a B.S. in Environmental Studies-Biology from Middlebury College, Vermont. He worked for six years as the salmon habitat biologist for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, followed by three years as the principal fish biologist for David Evans and Associates. In 2001 he founded Northwest Watershed Institute, a non-profit organization that provides scientific and technical assistance in watershed assessment and restoration. Mr. Bahls was the scientific lead for the development of Salmon-Safe's park and corporate campus standards and served as team leader for Portland Parks system recertification assessment.

Carrie Foss: Urban IPM Director, WSU Puyallup. Ms. Foss manages the WSU IPM Certification Program and the Pesticide Safety Education Program in western Washington. Landscape maintenance personnel are trained in plant problem diagnosis, integrated pest management, personal safety and environmental protection through lectures and workshops. Carrie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in botany from the University of Washington and a Master of Science degree in plant pathology from the University of Hawaii. Her background includes plant problem diagnosis, research on beneficial microorganisms and management strategies for turf and ornamental diseases.

Dr. Richard Horner: Stormwater management expert, University of Washington. Dr. Horner received engineering B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and the Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Washington in 1978. Following 13 years of college teaching and professional practice, he joined the University of Washington research faculty in 1981, where he held appointments in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Landscape Architecture, and the Center for Urban Horticulture. His principal research interests involve analyzing the effects of human activities, especially in urban areas, on freshwater ecosystems and solutions that protect these resources. Dr. Horner founded the Center for Urban Water Resources Management in 1990 to advance applied research and education in these areas. He is now emeritus research associate professor and splits his time between private practice and some continuing university research.

Assessment Process

PP&R staff assembled annual condition verification reports and related documentation from 2005 to 2010. The evaluation team members reviewed these materials prior to, during, and after the field assessment phase of the recertification process. The evaluation team met with PP&R and Bureau of Environmental Services staff responsible for restoration and ongoing management of the City's parks and natural areas. The staff members gave a presentation, answered questions, and led an inspection tour at a subsample of parks in the Portland Parks system. At the end of the field review, the evaluation team, supported by Salmon-Safe staff, met to review the certification criteria and conditions of initial 2004 certification against notes taken during the process. The team decided that they needed additional specific information from PP&R staff before reaching a decision. Over the next several weeks, PP&R staff provided this additional information that was evaluated by team members. On February 16, 2012, the team and Salmon-Safe staff finalized conditions for recertification and reached a final unanimous decision on recertification.

General Observations & Conclusions

In the judgment of the Salmon-Safe evaluation team, PP&R natural resource and parks operations managers demonstrates an exceptional level of environmental stewardship in accordance with Salmon-Safe standards. The team noted "cultural change" in PP&R operations with a common commitment to ecological stewardship.

Commendations

During their evaluation, the Salmon-Safe team was particularly impressed with the following management actions -

- Fully meeting Salmon-Safe's 2004 certification conditions. In particular, the team was impressed with PP&R's outstanding work to limit public access and restore the riparian areas in Gabriel Park.

- System-wide progress in restoring habitat, including control of non-native species, planting of riparian areas, and in-stream habitat treatments, such as addition of large wood.

- Exceptional organization of information related to natural resource management within the park system, facilitating an efficient recertification assessment.

- Successful coordination of multiple-site restoration projects to magnify habitat benefits for salmonids such as the South Portland Riverbank projects and related restoration at Stephens Creek and many other sites.

- Completion of plans for the major upcoming Crystal Springs restoration project.

- Completion of the system-wide and comprehensive Portland Parks Natural Areas Restoration Plan that establishes priorities for work in natural area and hybrid parks.

- Construction of bioswales, rain gardens and implementation of other innovative and low impact development methods to handle stormwater at existing and newly developed parks such as Simon & Helen Director Park and Caurthers Park at South Waterfront.

- Integration of Salmon-Safe design principles in new park design and development.

- System-wide improvements in irrigation efficiency and water conservation.

- Continued innovation with respect to system-wide pesticide and fertilizer reduction and establishment of Pesticide Free Parks.

- Ongoing service as a regional and national model of a scientifically robust IPM program for other municipalities and public agencies.

Opportunities for Improvement

The Salmon-Safe team also identified opportunities for further improvement in operations. These observations are summarized below. Additional details are furnished in the Recommendations and Discussion section.

While the scale of PP&R restoration efforts is impressive, the large number of projects underway and in planning stages made it difficult for the evaluation team to monitor and evaluate overall progress in addressing high priority restoration issues over time. To assist in the next five-year recertification assessment and facilitate ongoing PP&R prioritization of restoration opportunities, the evaluation team is requesting that PP&R provide a specific list of projects that are likely to be implemented over the next five years.

In addition, the evaluation team is requesting that some attention be given to addressing stormwater treatment at the boat ramp at St. Johns Bridge. The large amount of pavement and potential stormwater runoff that drains directly to the Willamette River at this park provides a relatively high priority opportunity, similar to the recent stormwater treatment retrofit at the Willamette Park boat ramp.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Certification Recommendation: The evaluation team recommends that the Portland Park system be recertified as Salmon-Safe subject to two conditions. Furthermore, to avoid a lapse in certification, PP&R must agree to meet these conditions by April 15, 2012.

Salmon-Safe Assessment Team's Conditions:

Condition 1: PP&R shall provide a list of restoration projects that are planned for completion over the next five years, including the Crystal Springs restoration project at Westmoreland Park. Pertinent summary information shall be provided for each possible project including the type of project (e.g., stormwater retrofit, riparian restoration), habitat gain (e.g., 3 acres riparian, 1 mile upstream fish passage), and relative priority.

> **Timeline:** List of proposed project with pertinent summary information for each project must be received by Salmon-Safe within one year of recertification, then subject to annual verification.

Condition 2: PP&R shall conduct a feasibility assessment, including preliminary design options and costs, for treating stormwater at the St. Johns Bridge boat ramp through diverting stormwater from the parking lot and ramp to bioswales or preferably, rain garden(s) for infiltration. If a project can be funded and is feasible, in terms of providing cost-effective and

potentially significant removal of stormwater pollutants, the project shall constructed within five years.

Timeline: A feasibility assessment must be received by Salmon-Safe within one year of recertification. Progress in fundraising for this project shall be reported on an annual basis. If the project is feasible and can be funded, construction must be completed within five years.

Salmon-Safe Assessment Team's Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: To further reduce pesticide use, consider expanding the use of wood chip mulch as a substitute for herbicides for weed control in shrub beds, tree rings, and other locations.

Recommendation 2: Seek opportunities to partner with other agencies to correct the lower-most fish passage barrier on Tryon Creek to allow fish migration into the stream system of the park and increase the value of park habitat restoration efforts.

CONCLUSIONS

Salmon-Safe and the Assessment Team commend the Portland Parks and Recreation and its partners at the Bureau of Environmental Services for their stellar management of Portland Parks toward improving salmon habitat and water quality.

We extend appreciation and congratulations to staff for their excellent work in preparing for the recertification assessment and assisting the evaluation team in its review.