

## Portland City policy: Discourage the use of Portland parks.

Constant hostility from Portland Parks Department Park Rangers has eliminated more than half the people that traditionally, over a period of years, have been in Summers Park in SE Portland on Monday, for example.

**Park Rangers force themselves on social groups in Summers Park.** The annoyance causes people to choose other places to gather. Portland Parks Department managers have said that is their intention.

**The easiest city job -- for angry people**  
Portland Park Rangers talk with each other, take leisurely walks in Summers Park, and harass groups in the park. When approached to ask why they act that way, Park Rangers are openly hostile.

### One Monday in Summers Park

Since things are almost always happy in Summers Park, the Park Rangers have plenty of time to talk.

These 4 photos show about 45 minutes of activity of the Park Rangers on July 22, 2013.



The Park Rangers decide to take a walk.



The Rangers walk outside Summers Park, on a city street.



After their walk around the block, Portland Parks Department Rangers harassed the gentle, friendly group shown above in Summers Park to try to find something that they were doing that is illegal. It is legal to drink alcohol inside the park with a permit. People see large adult groups drinking in the park and assume it is legal; they don't realize the groups have permits. If the Park Rangers find someone drinking without a permit, they issue a ticket. The Rangers target the young and those who look less advantaged, who are less likely to know how to defend themselves.

**The Parks Department is removing benches and picnic tables from Summers Park.** There is a plan to put a fence around the covered pavilion area, as is mentioned below.

**Summers Park is still a friendly park.** In spite of the efforts by the Parks Department to destroy the feeling of peaceful community, Summers Park is still a happy place. Below are 2 experiences I had on Monday, July 22, 2013, the day before I began writing this. (All the words quoted here are accurate; I wrote them just after they were spoken.)

Michael D., of the free food charity *Food, not Bombs*, was leaving Portland. Everyone appreciated his cooking. We wrote comments on a Thank You card for Michael.



I normally just talk with people, but I tried Michael's food.

A Parks Department manager told everyone at a July 15, 2013 meeting called "The Future of Summers Park", that "there has never been a complaint" about the *Food, not Bombs* charity.

The Portland Parks Department has a plan to prevent the *Food, not Bombs* charity from operating most of the year by putting a fence around the covered pavilion area ("gazebo").

When questioned about when the fence would be erected, a Parks Department manager said the cost would be "\$10,000 to \$15,000", and said "we don't have the money yet".



A man approached a group in Summers Park and asked if someone could take care of his corn snake while he went to a place where the snake would not be allowed.

A woman in the group took the snake and moved her hands continually so she could keep the snake in her hands as it crawled.

When the snake owner returned, he said, "It was weird asking people I don't know, 'Can you watch my snake.'"

**Misleading survey** Apparently to justify their attempts to discourage people from using Summers Park, Portland city managers composed the misleading survey below. Only a few city residents who agreed with the managers were notified of the survey, and the only choices on the survey were determined in advance by the managers. Apparently no one who actually *uses* Summers Park was asked for an opinion.

PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION  
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Colonel Summers Site Meeting  
June 10, 2013

**Purpose:**

- Identify degree of trimming/brush removal supported by neighbors
- Understand/discuss possible changes to gazebo
- Identify possible program changes to increase active uses
- Discuss uses/challenges of stairs

This is a very informal conversation about your preferences for physical changes in the park. We are asking you to give us whatever feedback you feel is useful.

I. Gazebo  
a. Remove Roof  
b. Gating  
c. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Plants  
a. Trim up bushes  
b. Thin bushes  
c. Remove bushes and replant lower shrubs  
d. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

III. Stairs  
a. Keep  
b. Remove  
c. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Wading Pool  
a. Remove  
b. Replace  
c. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

V. Futsal  
a. Repaint surface for futsal  
b. No futsal  
c. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Second draft. Suggestions welcomed.  
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