

**NEWS RELEASE
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Portland Marathon

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Portland Marathon donates \$4,000 on its 40th Anniversary to help restore parks from Occupy Portland damage



Les Smith and Mamie Wheeler of the Portland Marathon present the \$4,000 donation to Portland Parks Commissioner Nick Fish and Nick Hardigg, Executive Director of the Portland Parks Foundation. The donation will help restore Lowesdale and Chapman Parks from Occupy Portland damage.

December 7, 2011 – The Portland Marathon announced today it will make a \$4,000 donation for the restoration of Lowesdale and Chapman Parks from damaged caused by Occupy Portland. The donation amount commemorates the event's 40th year.

Lowesdale and Chapman Parks, which are adjacent to the event's start and finish, are key pieces to the Portland Marathon-weekend activities. The parks were taken over by Occupy Portland for more than a month. The damage to the two parks was estimated by the City's Parks Department at \$85,000.

"We think it is important these locations be restored to their former beauty and use," said Les Smith, Portland Marathon Event Director.

The Portland Marathon paid the fees for the two parks for a three-day period last October, but was never able to use them due to Occupy Portland protesters. Despite this, Smith said he was pleased Occupy Portland did not want to hurt the Portland Marathon efforts or interfere with the production of the events.

Some Occupy Portland protesters participated in the Marathon while others assisted with the set up and take down of the event. According to Smith, Occupy Portland protesters helped the Marathon build a blackout fence around the two parks and after the Event helped pick up trash in the finish area.

"We are grateful for the help of the Portland Police as well as the assistance of our amazing volunteers who helped create and ensure we had a safe and successful 40th Anniversary Portland Marathon for our participants and City."

For more information about the Portland Marathon or to register for events, visit

www.portlandmarathon.org.

The Portland Marathon is a non-profit running and walking event that produces Portland's largest three-day "convention." The event has a positive \$25M economic impact to the Portland area. Proceeds from the Portland Marathon go to help local schools, charities and non-profits. October 7, 2012 will mark the 41st Annual Portland Marathon. The event features 85 entertainment groups at 53 locations along the course. The events of the Portland Marathon have over 15,000 registered participants from all 50 States, and is produced with the help of over 4,700 volunteers. The Event has been called the "best-organized marathon in North America" and has received national attention for being one of the first eco-friendly, "green" marathons.

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