



A Glass Act
Chihuly glass art caps off Seymour Conservatory centennial.
PAGE 2



Hundreds of Green Thumbs in this Garden Club
Garden club enthusiasts keep our parks blooming.
PAGE 3



A Berry Special Volunteer
Discover the force behind Blueberry Park's amazing transformation.
PAGE 4

AT THE park



Strategic Plan, Volunteers Lead the Way

When you offer everything from monkeys to monkey bars and dahlias to dugouts — how do you make sure it fits together, grows together, and continually meets the needs of the ever-changing community? Metro Parks has aggressively explored this challenge in the development of the first ever agency strategic plan outlining our goals, purposes and plans for the future.

The Strategic Parks and Program Services Plan guides us as we make policy decisions that enhance livability of Tacoma and Pierce County. It fosters a parks and recreation system that is sustainable and integrated, fair and equitable, accessible and inclusive of all members of the community. Our vision is that residents will be served effectively and efficiently, through our stewardship of environmental, educational, and cultural resources. The Plan helps keep Metro Parks focused on mission-led businesses and programs.

An important outcome from the strategic planning process was the classification of all our parks into categories that guide decisions such as: future design, capital investments or improvements, maintenance/ operations and appropriate programming/uses.

Understanding a park classification will help you know what to expect and gives volunteers an idea of the needs that exist. All parks, regardless of size, type, location and needs, rely on the dedication and expertise of our parks, open space, greenhouse and garden club volunteers.

Park classifications

- Neighborhood parks
- Community parks
 - Urban parks
 - Regional parks

Learn about the classifications online or by calling Amy Pow at 253-305-1099.





A Glass Act

If gorgeous Victorian-style glass architecture and a rare botanical collection weren't enough to wow you at the W.W. Seymour Conservatory, throw in 252 pieces of Dale Chihuly glass art and you have a not to be missed, one-of-a-kind experience.

Conservatory Manager Mary Anderson is thankful for the many volunteers who made the Chihuly at Seymour 100 exhibition an overwhelming success, "Our volunteers are a very dedicated group and we're so thankful for them," she shares.

The exhibit, which was the finale in a year long celebration of the conservatory's centennial, kicked off with a Grand Opening Gala led by volunteer Chair Benjii Bittle. "His help

and connections not only on the gala, but with the Chihuly exhibit were invaluable," Anderson said. Volunteer Michelle Regan did double duty serving on the centennial committee and as gala treasurer. The volunteer members of the Seymour Conservatory Foundation Board also provided support for the event.

Others like Michael Greenwood and Charlie Askins served as extra eyes and ears for artwork security while educating visitors about the glass and plants. "Volunteers were vital to enable staff to accomplish the many tasks involved with daily operations at the conservatory and to be able to take breaks and lunches, as we were experiencing a 250% increase in attendance from the prior year," adds Anderson.

*Pictured above:
Volunteer Michael Greenwood assisting at the Chihuly at Seymour 100 exhibition*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Meadow Park Golf Course Marshals

© Dan Harrington, 253.473.3033

Northwest Youth Sports Alliance Coaches

© Colby Wilson, 253.305.1074

Wellness Activities & Runs

© Janet Bissell, 253.305.1028

Specialized Recreation & Sports

© Kodi Smith Doty, 253.591.5314

SPARX Middle School Collaborative

© Rick Cottey, 253.305.1037

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & ADVENTURE

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

© Stacey Luhning, 253.404.3695

Tacoma Nature Center

© Marjorie Shea, 253.591.6439

Outdoor Adventures & Ecotourism

© Carrie Sabochik, 253.594.7847

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

© Dan Belting, 360.832.7162

