



MEDIA ADVISORY

Excellent photo opportunity!

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Betty Jean "B.J." Brooks, Interim Superintendent

www.seattle.gov/parks

For immediate release

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PARKS' CONSERVATION CORPS, SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES TO 'DECONSTRUCT' HOME FOR RECYCLING

WHAT: "Deconstruction" of a house on the site of a new park.

WHO: Seattle Parks and Recreation's Conservation Corps, in partnership with Seattle Public Utilities and under the supervision of consultant Reuse Construction.

WHEN: 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 22, 2007

WHERE: 1702 NW 62nd St. in Ballard, Ballard Commons Park.

"We're eager to get started on this method of reusing and recycling construction materials," said Mayor Greg Nickels. "This can become one of Seattle's best ways of reducing the amount of waste that goes into our landfills, and one of the best climate protection investments we can make."

Deconstruction is a method of razing a building that allows for reuse and recycling of materials for other purposes. It takes longer than traditional demolition, but provides for salvaged materials and reduces the amount of waste going to landfills. Crews enter the building and take it apart, recovering floorboards, joists, stair treads, roofing, and other materials for potential use in construction projects. Seattle Public Utilities applied for and was awarded a \$42,750 grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology for a pilot project to deconstruct several buildings in Seattle. This is the first to be deconstructed through the grant.

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Seattle Parks and Recreation, with funding from the 2000 Pro Parks Levy and King County Conservation Futures Tax revenues, bought two lots to create this new park. There is a home on one lot, and the need to clear the lot presented itself as a deconstruction opportunity. Once the site is cleared, park development will begin, with funding from the Pro Parks Levy, the Neighborhood Matching Fund, and other sources.

The Seattle Conservation Corps is a unique Parks program that serves the public in two ways: it trains formerly troubled people to do viable, living-wage jobs, and does work in Seattle parks and other agencies and employers on a contract basis. It provides training and employment for homeless adults and carries out projects that benefit our citizens and our environment. It recovers about 75% of its annual \$4 million budget through reimbursements for work performed for City departments and other employers.

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