

The author of this article lives and works on unceded territory of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla and many other Tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River.

Structures: Peninsula Park

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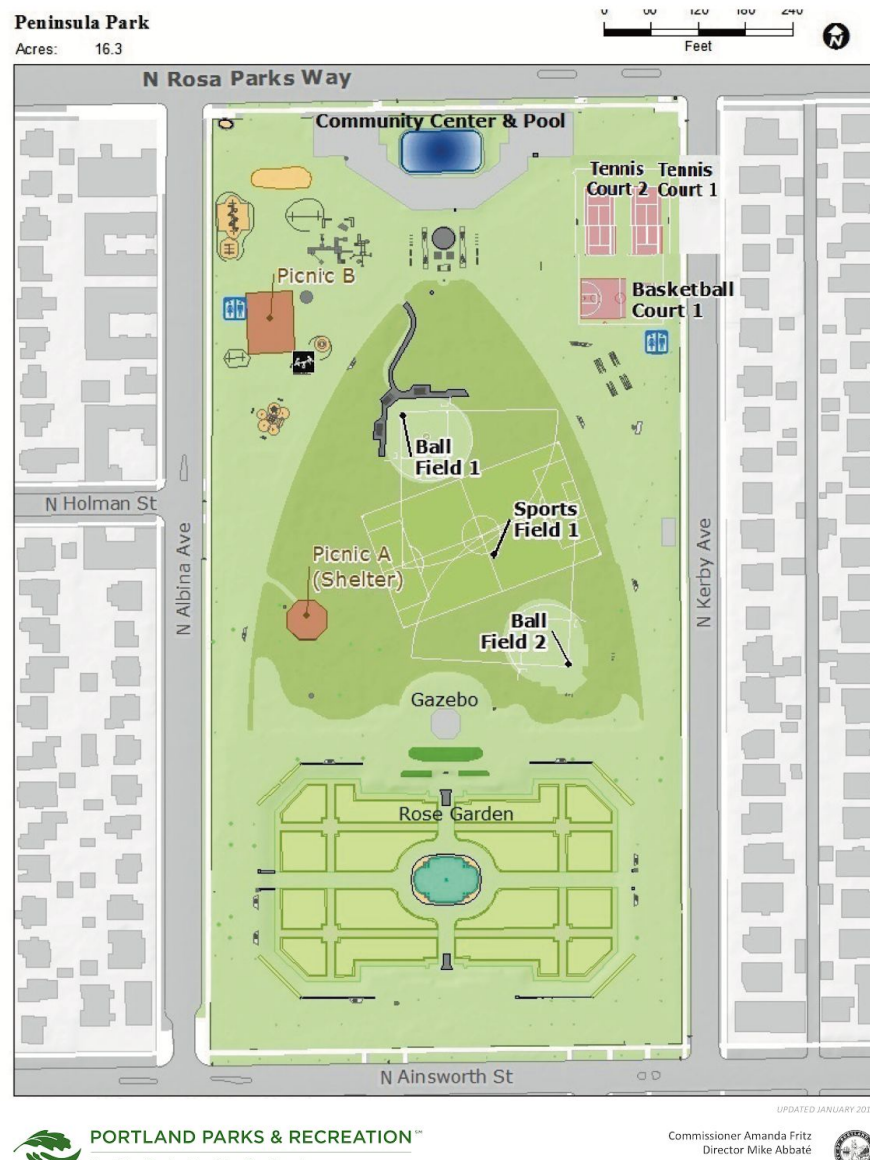


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Introduction

Peninsula Park is, without any real competition, the centerpiece of the Piedmont Neighborhood. Ever since 1909 innumerable events have taken place in the 16.3 acres park, which has a pool, a community center, a children's playground, multiple sports fields, several picnic areas, a gazebo or bandstand, and a sunken rose garden.



The City Beautiful

Frederick Law Olmstead & Company

Lewis and Clark Centennial Exhibition

The Olmsted Brothers in Portland

Background

Park and Boulevard Plan

Getting the Land

The Parcel

The land for Peninsula Park was in what was commonly known as the “*W.K. Smith Tract*”, more precisely the northern 80 acres of the south-western quadrant of section 15, township 1 north range 1 east. It is the large parcel between Interstate to the west, Kirby to the east, Rosa Parks to the north, and Ainsworth to the south. Various chapters in this book describe how this northern half of the [Evander Howe 1870 homestead](#) went in 1883 from Evander Howe’s heirs to George Woodward, then in the same year to Sylvester Farrell and Edward Holman, and finally in 1890 for \$ 40,000 to [W. K. Smith and the Ukase Investment Company](#).

The parcel remained wild and undeveloped for quite a while. In 1900 forty acres were leased to Harry Busch, who used money provided by Liverpool Liz to create Evergreen Park. Some buildings were erected and there probably was a saloon and a race track of some sort. But the good citizens of Piedmont prevented Busch from getting a liquor license. Evergreen Park went belly up after a few weeks. Harry Busch went to jail for pistol-whipping Liverpool Liz. The whole sad and rather pathetic story is told in [another chapter of this book](#).

So far I have not been able to pin down precisely what part of the parcel was leased by Busch. It was either the forty acres west or the forty acres east of Albina. We know that Smith sold one acre of the western half in 1900 to the school district for Ockley Green

Piedmont Boosters

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Recreation Building

Swimming Pool

Rose Garden

Uses of the Park

Rose Festival

Athletics

Picnics

Eugenics

The Municipal Automobile Camp

Penguins

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