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Explore Washington Park & TriMet Team Up to Expand Access to Portland's Destination Park

New Transit Options from Downtown & Around Washington Park Begin May 15

PORTLAND, Ore. (May 10, 2022) — [Explore Washington Park](#) and TriMet are partnering to expand access to and around Portland's destination park, and just in time for summer. It means visitors will be able to take a bus directly to Washington Park from downtown and then jump on the Washington Park Free Shuttle to explore the Park and its many sights.

It all kicks off May 15 with the new TriMet Line 63-Washington Park/SW 6th route, which will provide direct service between the International Rose Test Garden/Portland Japanese Garden in Washington Park and Pioneer Courthouse Square. Line 63 will serve the Park's gardens daily on the hour, every hour between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.



Additionally, Explore Washington Park is expanding [Washington Park Free Shuttle](#) operations to provide daily, year-round service. The Free Shuttle connects visitors to the entire Park with stops at its most iconic destinations – including the [Oregon Zoo](#), [Hoyt Arboretum](#), [World Forestry Center's Discovery Museum](#), [Portland Japanese Garden](#), and the [International Rose Test Garden](#).

“We’re excited about the opportunity the new transit options create to connect people from the city’s core directly to nature and the unique cultural experiences in Washington Park, and all within just minutes,” said Heather McCarey, Explore Washington Park

Executive Director.

The Washington Park Free Shuttle is also adding a new stop at SW Tichner and SW Kingston Avenue and will begin servicing the Arlington Heights neighborhood on May 15 as it loops around the Park. The Free Shuttle’s new daily hours are 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. through September and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the winter. Visitors can check hours and track the Free Shuttle using its [real-time tracker](#).

TriMet calls the partnership a win-win. “It allows us to expand and improve service from downtown while still providing regular, reliable connections to the Washington Park area,” said Tom Mills, TriMet Director of Mobility Planning and Policy. “We’re also going to preserve two daily morning trips from the zoo to downtown Portland to give riders, and especially students, an option to ride transit before shuttle service begins for the day.” View the new Line 63 route and its stops on this [route map](#).

With limited onsite parking in Washington Park, especially on sunny weekends, the new transit options make it easier than ever to visit without driving. In addition to the new Line 63 route to the gardens, MAX Red and Blue Lines serve the Washington Park MAX Station near the zoo and the Discovery Museum, which reopens later this summer. Plan your trip to the Park on trimet.org.

About Explore Washington Park

[Explore Washington Park](#) is a non-profit dedicated to connecting people with the culture, diversity, and wonder of nature in Washington Park in Portland, Oregon. Washington Park, managed by Portland Parks & Recreation, is one of Oregon's top tourist destinations. At 410 acres, it is home to the Portland Japanese Garden, Hoyt Arboretum, World Forestry Center, Oregon Zoo, and the International Rose Test Garden, as well as memorials, an archery range, playgrounds, tennis courts, and 15+ miles of trails. Explore Washington Park strives to improve Park access and the visitor experience. Its programs include the [Washington Park Free Shuttle](#), which runs daily, year-round to connect people to the Park's many destinations. The organization was established in 2013 and is primarily funded through parking meter revenue in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation. To learn more, visit explorewashingtonpark.org. Join us [@explorewashingtonpark](#) on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), and [@ExploreWAPark](#) on [Twitter](#).

About TriMet

For more than 50 years, [TriMet](#) has provided bus, light rail and commuter rail service in the Portland, Oregon region. Our transportation options connect people with their community while easing traffic congestion and reducing air pollution — making our region a better place to live.

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