



## \*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

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### **Northwest Portland park to undergo major revitalization**

*Good Samaritan Park will become a restorative natural setting for patients, neighbors and families*

Portland, Ore. (April 13, 2017) Good Samaritan Park, located on northwest 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Lovejoy Street, will be transformed into a new nature destination in the heart of Northwest Portland after undergoing a major revitalization this spring. Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center officially broke ground on the park's revitalization today, April 13, 2017, and is expected to be complete the end of June 2017. Good Samaritan Park's formal dedication will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 2017.

When complete, Good Samaritan Park will feature new areas for patient therapy and an esthetic, four-season garden comprised of a variety of plantings native to the northwest. The revitalization also seeks to enhance the area's security by increasing night lighting, opening up views, encouraging Legacy Health and community-hosted activities and events and increasing security, as needed.

Good Samaritan Park will also include the John Callahan Garden, which is being built in honor of the renowned cartoonist and native Oregonian. Callahan was a quadriplegic and patient of Legacy Good Samaritan's Rehabilitation Institute of Oregon (RIO). He worked to inspire other wheelchair-bound patients with his story and humor. The garden will feature a series of his art alongside biographical information when complete in fall 2017.

"The revitalization of the Good Samaritan Park and the new John Callahan Garden will offer our patients and neighbors seeking respite a conveniently-located and beautiful nature setting," said Teresia Hazen, MEd, HTR, QMHP, Legacy Health's horticulture therapist. "We look forward to working with our patients and neighbors in maintaining the garden's esthetic and filling it with family-friendly activities throughout the year."

RIO therapists will utilize the park to work with patients recovering from serious conditions such as stroke and spinal cord injuries to learn how to walk again and/or use wheelchairs on varying surfaces and path materials in a natural healing setting.

"In addition to rehabilitation, our patients and their loved ones will also be able to use Good Samaritan Park as a sanctuary for restoration and relaxation," continued Hazen.

#### **Community Use & Volunteer Opportunities**

The Good Samaritan Park will be available for the community to host family-friendly events. In addition, volunteer opportunities are available to those who are interested in garden care and community engagement. If interested in either opportunity, please contact Teresia Hazen at 503-413-6507 or [thazen@lhs.org](mailto:thazen@lhs.org).

#### **About Legacy's Therapeutic Gardens**

A national leader in therapeutic gardens, Legacy Health has 12 gardens located throughout each of its eight medical center campuses, which offer therapy and a peaceful setting for patients and visitors as well as gathering places for the communities. Several of Legacy's gardens have won national awards for their healing design. Research shows that gardens in healing settings provide many benefits, often helping patients to leave the hospital faster, take less pain medication and suffer fewer complications.

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**About Legacy Health**

Legacy Health is an Oregon-based nonprofit, tax-exempt organization and, with more than 13,000 employees, is one of the largest private sector employers in the Portland metropolitan area. Legacy Health provides an integrated network of healthcare services, including acute and critical care, inpatient and outpatient treatment, community health education and a variety of specialty services. Legacy's hospitals include: Legacy Emanuel Medical Center and Randall Children's Hospital, Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center, Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center, Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center, and Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center in Vancouver, Wash. Also included in the Legacy system are a hospice agency, a full-service research facility, and specialty and primary care clinics. Visit [www.legacyhealth.org](http://www.legacyhealth.org)

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