The Marylhurst Neighborhood Association and West Linn’s Parks and Recreation Department are hosting a grand opening celebration and dedication for West Linn’s newest park, Marylhurst Heights Park, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

West Linn Mayor John Kovash will dedicate the park and preside over the city's first "Gathering Tree" ceremony.

The idea for the Gathering Tree sprouted from West Linn City Councilor Teri Cummings.

"You see these majestic trees when you go to the older parks in parts of Portland," Cummings said. "In certain cities, these gathering trees are the biggest trees in town."

"I've asked for it for other parks, but it has never gone through," she said.
Until now.

In addition to the Gathering Tree ceremony and park dedication festivities, the family friendly event will include lawn games, bubbles and face painting for children, as well as a Cinco de Mayo nacho bar hosted by the parks and recreation department.

West Linn Boy Scout Troop 149 will be on hand to help with the activities. Four separate Eagle Scout projects helped get the park into shape.

Marylhurst Heights Park is a 10-acre property that features a natural-based play area, play structure and labyrinth. It is at 1800 Valley View Drive in West Linn.

— Cornelia Seigneur

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