

inexpensive to operate. Grates surround the upper and lower portions allow occupancy to be visible but still private enough to use. Handwashing stations are attached on the outside of the units. They are self-contained and operate on solar power.

"The restroom was designed with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design by using high traffic areas and visibility to deter illegal activities and generate high usage rates," the manufacturers proclaim.

They are also not cheap. The city wants to use the voter-approved 2002 Question 1 conservation bond funds to pay for the restroom. The restroom at Brodhead Park is anticipated to cost nearly \$300,000.

Like many attempts to address the county's growing—and grim—affordable housing crisis, a public restroom will not be a silver bullet. The Portland Loo, while designed to mitigate inherent problems with public restrooms, could create other issues.

San Diego ended up dismantling one of their loos. It was called a "notorious financial boondoggle" after being in service for just 13 months. Other loos in the city, however, remained in place where criminal

activity did not increase. San Diego officials blamed the location, not the loo's technology, for the criminal activity.

Indeed, one of Portland's original loos remains in operation after a decade. The city has six in its downtown core.

Reno officials have cautioned that the Brodhead Park restroom may help but not without regular attention.

"Given the challenging environment in this area the restroom may become an ongoing public safety and maintenance problem which may outweigh any public benefit it provides," city staff said.

Nevertheless, the government officials are proposing to move forward on installing the restroom.

"By improving public spaces for everyone, restrooms build community resilience,

support social cohesion, increase urban renewal and improve public health," TMWA noted. "With less human waste going into the river, everyone will enjoy it more safely and comfortably. Potential vectors for infectious disease will be reduced, and the region's water quality will improve."

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Marching on



Hundreds of people lined the sides of Virginia Street on Monday for the annual Veterans Day parade, wearing patriotic clothing, waving American flags and cheering in support of dozens of floats and other showings by active military personnel and various veteran's organizations. The parade began at 11:11 a.m., in commemoration of the end of World War I, when the ceasefire took effect in the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month," according to the armistice signed by Germany and allied forces in 1918. However, the war was officially ended by the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919, making this year the official centennial celebration of the end of the War To End All Wars.

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