
FRIENDS OF MT. TABOR PARK

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

Annual Report: 2022

March 2023

This is the 2022 annual report for Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP), a volunteer driven community group that nurtures Mt. Tabor Park as a healthy and thriving urban oasis. We serve as public advocates who inspire love and stewardship for the park's natural environment and recreational opportunities. We collaborate with Portland Parks and Recreation, complementing its services where needed, and with neighborhood associations surrounding the Park.

The organization helps maintain and improve Mt. Tabor Park, identifies and solves problems, and funds and participates in park projects. FMTP also offers programs to educate the public about the park's ecological health, and its unique geological and rich cultural history.

To contact FMTP, email taborfriends@gmail.com. Visit the website at www.taborfriends.org to learn more about the organization. Our address is: 4110 SE Hawthorne Avenue, #312, Portland, Oregon 97214.

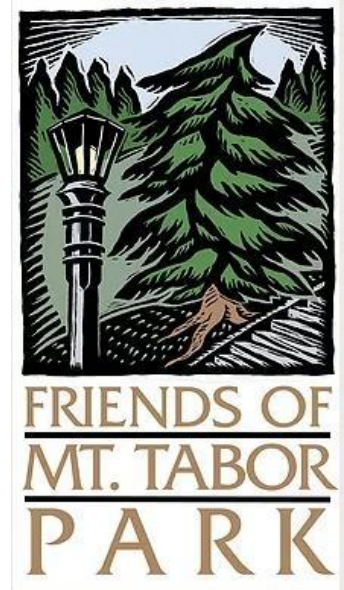


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FMTP 2022 Board of Directors

Officers

- **Steve Law**, Board Chair
- **Kathleen Cornett**, Vice Chair
- **Thor Hinckley**, Secretary
- **Rachel White**, Treasurer

Board Members

- **Bing Wong**, Mt Tabor Neighborhood Association Liaison, Historic Reservoirs Liaison
- **David Herron**, Tar 'n' Trail Coordinator and South Tabor Neighborhood Association Liaison
- **Nate Meschke**, Board Member (resigned December 2022)
- **Marco Petri**, Membership Co-Chair
- **Hap Pritchard**, Visitor Center Chair
- **Anka Sepulveda**, Summer concert Chair
- **Lucy Voigt**, Communications Chair
- **Lily Sobolik**, Membership Co-Chair

Other Key Volunteers

- **Louise Hoff**, Montavilla Neighborhood Association Liaison
- **Mo Kline**, Visitor Center Coordinator
- **Dennis Puetz**, Foot Patrol Coordinator
- **Lise Gervais**, Weed Warrior Coordinator
- **Martrese Beck**, Webmaster
- **Lisa Wilcke**, Tree steward
- **Dawn Robbins**, Board retreat facilitator
- **Ann Lehman**, Fundraising support

History and Accomplishments of Friends of Mt. Tabor Park

The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park was organized in 2000 by neighborhood volunteers who recognized what a special and unique asset the park represents for Portland. In addition to the volunteer engagement programs outlined in this report, the Friends has raised funds for and supported the following park enhancements over the years: Visitor Center improvements and information kiosk; metal railings on the long steps; water fountains on restrooms; benches and split rail fences; bike racks; playground improvements; trail and tree identification markers, concerts, and more. We are proud of the work and of the ongoing programs that welcome and educate diverse visitors, keep the park clean, work to eliminate invasive species, and maintain trails for all.

FMTTP Summary Report for 2022

Here is a brief summary report for Friends of Mt. Tabor Park for 2022. Please be sure to read the detailed program reports that follow for a rich understanding of the park, its volunteers and the Friends' remarkable accomplishments of 2022.

Volunteers Loved and Cared for Mt. Tabor Park

As we emerged from COVID, volunteer participation at Mt. Tabor Park rebounded by nearly 50%. During the pandemic more people from east Portland, wanting safe recreation and exercise, discovered the magic of Mt. Tabor: trails, beautiful views, interesting geology, water features, towering trees. They gave back to the park through our ongoing programs, and in new ways.

Weed Warriors, also known as Native Plant Stewards, had the highest participation since recording began in 2009. The "Last Saturday" volunteer event was expanded to encompass 11 events/months per year, allowing for effective removal of plants such as Himalayan blackberries in the wet months when roots are accessible. Other events included the Annual Stewardship Event with 68 attendees and participation in the citywide No Ivy Day with 44 volunteers. In addition, many schools and businesses volunteered separately.

Foot Patrol's purpose is to keep the park clean, safe, and secure. Food Patrol members act as ambassadors who assist visitors in the park, and pick up litter. They also observe, record, and report any theft, vandalism, graffiti, and lost and found items. Because of the Foot Patrol, Mt. Tabor Park is reported to be one of, if not the, cleanest parks in Portland. Ninety-three individuals volunteered over 1,000 hours in 2022. The related Trails Committee cleans and maintains the park's trails and trail markers. Their service to the park's users is profound.

Visitor Center volunteers play an essential role in orienting and educating visitors to the park. In 2022 the Visitor Center was generally open seven days a week, six hours a day, guiding and informing an average of 1,069 visitors per month or 35 visitors a day. We estimate that more than 60% of visitors are from out of Portland, affirming that Mt. Tabor is a significant tourist destination. The Visitor Center provides information through its outdoor kiosk and a variety of brochures on history, natural history, and tree and trail maps. On average 15 to 20 trail maps are distributed daily, with the highest numbers on weekends and in warmer months.

Education Programs were also sponsored by the Visitor Center throughout the year. The Urban Nature Series was conducted each Sunday afternoon as volunteers led walks and talks on topics that included reservoir history, native plants, natural history of trees, geology, earthquakes and floods, and more. Participation increased dramatically in 2022 partly due to the use of [MeetUp Portland](#) to

advertise. On one tree walk there were 30 participants. Other popular topics were nature photography and ivy basket and wreath making.

The Tar ‘n’ Trail race continued into its 10th year in October ‘22 with a record number of registrations and a change to the Race Director role. The races consist of a kids’ 5k, and adult 5K and 10K runs completely contained within the park. With low overhead because of volunteer organizers, these races are a big opportunity to raise donations and membership for FMTP. With nearly 200 registrations the 2022 Tar ‘n’ Trail race raised \$2,236 to support FMTP activities. The races have a low entry point, \$5 for the kids, \$10 for adults providing a great opportunity to expose runners/walkers of all skill levels and demographics to Mount Tabor Park.

Here are the approximate volunteer hours contributed to Mt. Tabor Park through FMTP in 2022:

Volunteer Program	# of volunteers	# of hours volunteered
Weed Warriors	387	2762
Foot Patrol	92	1005
Visitor Center/trails	14	2082
Board of Directors, Nature Series, Other	20	1343
Total	513	7192

The FMTP Organization Remained Strong

FMTP is a membership organization with 167 paid members in 2022. Our primary source of revenue is membership dues at a relatively low rate of \$15 a year because we are committed to being as inclusive as possible. A large majority of our members donated significantly above the \$15 level: \$88 on average. The board of directors, elected by the membership at the annual meeting, met regularly to conduct business throughout the year and also had a board retreat to discuss future plans. Board members led committees, programs, and communications for the organization. The board handbook—a policy and procedures guide for the board’s actions—was updated. The financial balance sheet remained strong. We are continuing to draw on our stewardship endowment fund through the Oregon Community Foundation to support the Weed Warriors Coordinator.

Community engagement was also strong. In addition to its volunteer programs, FMTP maintains an active social media presence through Facebook with 800+ members. We also distribute a regular

newsletter, sponsor summer concerts, host an annual members' picnic, and organize the annual Tar N Trail race. We collaborate with other community groups and have board representation or active liaison relationships with the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association, South Tabor Neighborhood Association, and Montavilla Neighborhood Association.

Concerns and Challenges

Park Infrastructure

FMTP continues to be concerned about *road and pedestrian safety in the park*. We will continue to request that the City assess and address concerns about crosswalks and road conditions. We are fearful that an accident could happen at any time. The repair of the gates last summer after arson threats was greatly appreciated, as was the response by parks personnel, neighbors, and police during the arson outbreak.

In addition, we understand there are plans to eliminate *iconic, historic lampposts* due to safety concerns. FMTP is concerned such action would violate the conditions of the National Historic Register designation and would like to be closely involved in any discussions about this issue as an active partner in crafting solutions.

Scott/York Pedestal

A year has passed with no apparent progress on the *future of the sculpture pedestal at the top of Mt. Tabor*, formerly the site for the Harvey Scott and then the York statues. FMTP has asked to be involved in these deliberations, but progress is very unclear. We hope 2023 is the year progress is made and FMTP is integrally included.

Visitor Center Space

The future of the Visitor Center space should be secured. FMTP needs a new lease with Parks in order to plan for the future. Apparently, it's complicated.

Ideas for 2023

FMTP would like to explore the *practicality/possibility of creating an Eastside Urban Nature Center* on Mt. Tabor to provide classroom space and programs to engage and educate the public about nature, natural history and the human benefits of open, green space.

We continue to work on *the tree identification system* with a new map/brochure and marker-post improvements in the works for 2023.

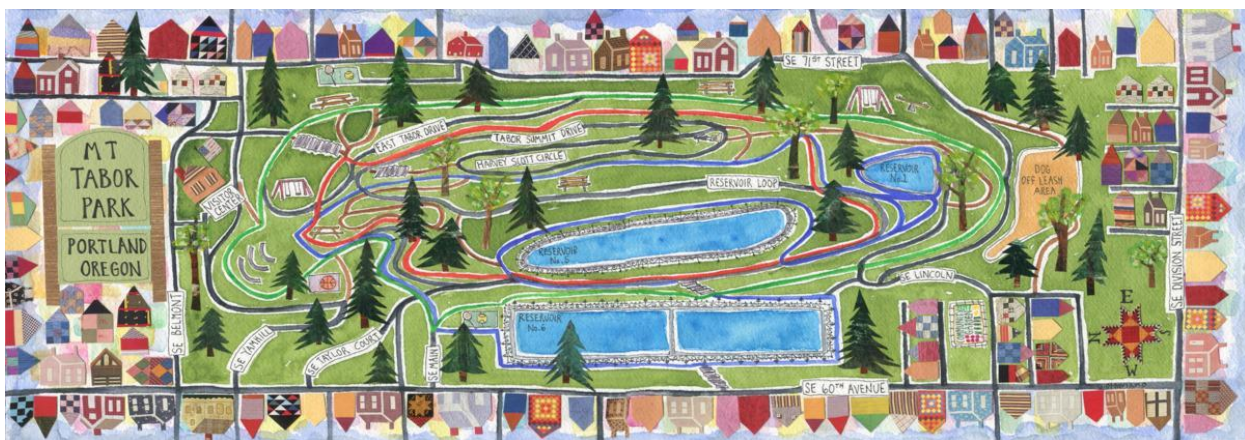
As a result of our retreat, we are exploring whether *trail improvements, expanded concert and event opportunities, and expanded Urban Nature Classes* are in order.

FMTTP want to keep our momentum by continuing to *increase the number of volunteers and number of members* by improving volunteer appreciation and communication with them about their importance. We will also continue to liaise with other neighborhood associations and community groups.

Finally, we hope to develop and *strengthen relationships with other Friends of Parks groups* to learn from one another, spot common issues, and become more effective advocates for Portland Parks across the city.

Conclusion

Mt. Tabor Park continues to be among Portland’s crown jewels. 197 acres of trees, trails, stunning vistas and beautiful historic reservoirs make it a special place that many people love and care about. The tireless work of the parks’ stewards, both professionals from Portland Parks Bureau and volunteers from FMTTP, maintain high standards of cleanliness and attractiveness. Please read the following detailed program reports to learn how Weed Warriors, Foot Patrol, Education Programs and FMTTP will continue to grow and thrive in 2023.



Original artwork by [Georgina Ottaviano](#)

FMTTP 2022 Weed Warriors Report

Lise Gervais, Volunteer Program Coordinator, Friends of Mt Tabor Park Weed Warriors

The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park’s Weed Warriors continue to work to improve the park’s ecological health by removing invasive species, planting native plants, and encouraging the many wonderful volunteers who come out each month to help with this mission.

Since starting in April 2022 as the Friends of Mt Tabor Weed Warriors Stewardship Coordinator, Jeffrey Lee has skillfully coordinated and led our Last Saturday events, and recently renewed his contract for 2023. We are looking forward to participating in the City Nature Challenge in April, and we're grateful that Jeffrey has helped coordinate, design and lead this and other bioblitz events in the past.

We continue to have good rapport with our Portland Parks liaisons, Stewardship Coordinator Anne Marie Santos, who has been a big help at our larger events and with Crew Leader training, and with Ecologist Steve Lower, who directs our efforts to make sure we are having a positive environmental impact on the natural areas of the park.

Crew Leaders

Our Crew Leaders make it possible to have safe, fun, productive stewardship events. In 2022, Crew Leaders volunteered 300 hours at our Last Saturday events and 210 hours at Special Events. They also volunteered 24 hours on special projects. The standouts this year were Bing, Anka, Marj and Rick, who contributed the highest number of hours. Every hour can be productive so we are also grateful to Crew Leaders who could only join us for an event or two.

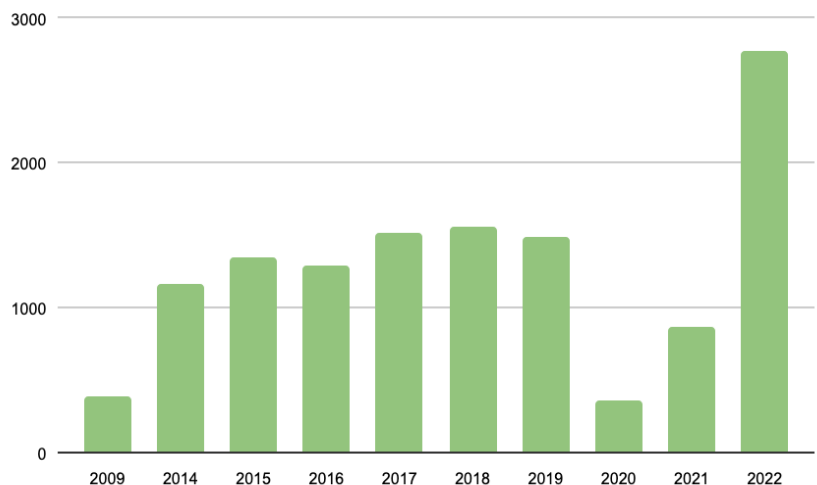
Our first Crew Leader training in 2½ years happened on October 22nd. Four seasoned Crew Leaders joined WW Stewardship Coordinator Jeffrey Lee, PP&R Stewardship Coordinator Anne Marie Santos and myself to share our knowledge with, and learn from seven new Crew Leaders—several of whom volunteered with us during much of 2020 and 2021. We were happy to have some of the new Crew Leaders join us the following weekend at No Ivy Day, which was one of the larger stewardship events of the year. This was the first Crew Leader training since February 27th, 2020.

Sadly, one of our Crew Leaders, John LeCavalier passed away in November. He was always a kind and cheerful presence at work parties. John helped me with several educational field trips, and I was grateful for his willingness to pass on his knowledge and wisdom from many years of working in environmental education.

Coming back from the pandemic

In 2022, Weed Warriors total volunteer hours were 2,762. This is by far the highest number of recorded volunteer hours since

Weed Warriors volunteer hours by per year



counting began in 2009. Pre-COVID, volunteers contributed 1,480 hours in 2019. During 2020 and 2021, our volunteer hours were 351 and 868.

Last Saturday Events

In the last few years, we have lengthened the Last Saturday season, which was March to October for many years. We now have Last Saturday events from January to November. This makes it possible for us to better thwart the return of invasive plants by digging out more roots from the rain-soaked soil. We're also able to work in areas that are off-limits when birds are nesting on the ground, generally from March or April to August, depending on the year. The planting season is usually November to mid-March, so by extending our season we are able to plant native plants in areas where we've been removing invasives. It's nice to be able to plant after spending most of the year ripping things out.

After a break during the pandemic, we were able to reconvene our annual stewardship event with the Nature Conservancy and PP&R. This has historically been our biggest event of the year. With 68 attendees, it was smaller than past years, but manageable, and we were able to accomplish a great deal. Our other large event this year was No Ivy Day, a citywide event occurring at many parks at the same time. Forty-four volunteers participated at Mt. Tabor Park, including a large, hardworking group from the Cleveland High School Key Club. Other groups that joined Last Saturday events were Emory University Alumni, Maranatha Church, PGE Sustainability Committee, and Rose Church. Most of our monthly events were attended by about 25 volunteers.

A big thank you to Board Member and Communications Committee member Lucy Voigt, and to HandsOn Greater Portland, for making the sign-up process easy for volunteers.

Other Special Events

Our 2022 volunteer hours were higher than past years in part due to the number of non-Last-Saturday events that we held. Groups from schools and businesses volunteered their time with us, including Cedar Park Middle School, Metro Montessori Middle School, Franklin High School, Corbett High School, Adidas Marketing, and employees of HandsOn Greater Portland.

Among these special events were 3 blackberry and ivy removal events in an area of the park that Weed Warriors had not worked in before. Known as The Spit, or East Tabor Green, or on older park maps as Mountain View Square, the 1950s era fence line was completely covered with invasives. A few Weed Warriors Crew Leaders and a small but mighty group of neighbors, including Board Member Kathleen Cornett, got to chopping and digging and have made a lot of progress. I'm hoping to continue to work in this area, and partner with other stakeholders around other areas of the park.

Looking forward: Challenges for 2023

- Making the best use of a finite number of volunteer hours.
- Impressing upon volunteers how much we value their efforts and accomplishments.
- Finding more ways to inform the community about continuing volunteer opportunities at Mt. Tabor Park, including community members who have not been included in mainstream conservation efforts in the past.
- Continuing to monitor for invasive species restarts, and to engage in early detection and removal of opportunistic introduced plants.
- Planning alternative stewardship activities for dry summer months when yellowjackets and hard soil are a concern. Community science projects could be a good alternative.
- Finding ways to convey to volunteers (and potential volunteers), the connection between efforts to improve the health of the park and better air and water quality for the whole city. Creating an opportunity for climate action to help relieve some climate anxiety.

Foot Patrol Annual Report for Year 2022

Foot Patrol - Coordinator, Dennis Puetz (“Never had a bad day on Tabor”)

The Foot Patrol (FP) had another successful year keeping the park clean and orderly, along with dealing with the pandemic; we created a safe environment with our presence in the park. Total members of FP are **92**, and we continue to train new members almost every month of the year; we are getting younger members too. There are important updates on FP operation in 2022, so please read further. This will be my seventh year as the leader; I’m still looking for assistance with some of the duties, in order to reduce the workload for myself. Some of the duties that I would like assistance with are: assemble the monthly FP volunteer hours report, manage the trails committee, and write articles about FP for the Tabor Times newsletter. Steve Bingold has been an essential assistant, caring for the Hut, training new members, and adopting the green trail maintenance.



Since late 2017 the park has reached almost a trash-free status. Visitors to the park can see & experience this, and are doing their part to keep it clean. I am very proud of this achievement! We plan to continue this high level of cleanliness, with almost every foot patrol receiving many compliments from visitors: “thanks for cleaning up the park,” “you are awesome,” “thanks for what you do,” “this is the cleanest park in the city” ... the Foot Patrol volunteers are motivated to keep up the great work they do.

Mt. Tabor Park is immaculate!!

Major concerns are: graffiti, campers, and **dogs off leash**, and I am glad to report there are fewer needles/syringes and other more serious problems than in previous years. Smartphones are being used frequently to report problems to Portland Parks website ParkScanPDX.org, and to park employees and management. The [grid map](#) is essential for reporting problems.

Here are some of the important communications I send out to members:

- Roster for the end of the year 2022, there are **92** members
- Link to FP newsletters: [Feb 22](#), [Jun 22](#), [Sep 22](#)
- Link to the report [Trail Report 2022](#)
- New Member Guide, [New Member Guide](#)

Volunteers continue to have the option to take home a grabber stick, and a vest; many volunteers have taken this option. I believe it has made volunteering more available to all. Their FP reports are now either written in the logbook kept in the Hut, or emailed to the Gmail account. I compile reports each month, to the monthly report sent to the City of Portland, and to our email list.

Trails Committee. In 2022 we repainted all trail posts. We replaced some posts, but fewer than in previous years (note the posts were originally installed in 2009.) The hiring of a carpenter in 2019 to help maintain the posts has proved to be an excellent addition to the Trails committee and we have been able to keep within our budget commitment to the FMTP Board. The function of the carpenter is to make, repair, and install trail & tree posts as directed by the Trails committee. A special report regarding the Trails was made in advance of possible changes proposed to the trails.

The following Foot Patrol members continue to adopt a trail:



TOP Foot Patrol volunteers for 2022 based upon volunteer time are:

Name	Patrols This Year	Total Patrol time (hours)	Trash bags collected
David Beltz	39	78	37
Ellen Simmons	35	61	51
Gretchen Baller	28	59	39
Steven Bingold	28	56	27
Claudia Wilton	19	40	21
Susan Johnson	19	40	23
Beau Russell	19	38	18
Julia Smith	18	36	29
Terrence E. Jenness	16	29	13
Mathew Kibben	14	29	24
Joan Stephenson	16	26	18
Margaret Brown	10	16	10
Donna French	8	15	4
Glenn Kayes	3	11	12
Beau & Nancy Russell	5	11	4
Jim Borquist	6	10	5
Stephanie Barnes	5	9	4
Pat & Suzanne McCarthy	4	7	3
Abi Steinsiek	3	6	4
Gayle & Bunny Marechal	4	6	2
Julie Lynch	3	6	3
Oliver Broekhoff (age 6, 2022)	3	6	3
Sue King	3	5	2
Nathaniel Stephenson	3	5	2
Joe Mealey	2	5	2
Charles Holmes	2	5	1
Chris Broekhoff	2	4	2
Maureen Culligan	2	3	2
Evie Bilfield (granddaughter)	2	3	0
Carol Weliky	1	3	1
David Smith	1	2	0
Paul (Malcolm) Barnes	1	2	1
Stasia Honnold	1	2	1
Julia Peattie	1	2	1
Nancy LaPaglia	1	2	1
Dennis Puetz	60	115	25

Foot Patrol Stats for 2022:

Total number of members at end of 2022: 92

Total Patrols by members in 2022: 292

Total volunteer hours for foot patrol members in 2022: 1005

Total number of foot patrols since year 2000: 6322

Foot Patrol and Trails Committee Schedule

The schedule is highly changed from two years ago due to the pandemic. The following is only an estimate of meetings, and firm dates will be decided about a month before these estimated dates.

1. January: Foot Patrol newsletter
2. March: Foot Patrol meeting or newsletter
3. June: Trails Committee, spring maintenance on trails
4. July: Foot Patrol picnic meeting, and newsletter
5. Sept: Trails Committee, fall maintenance on trails
6. November: Foot Patrol meeting or newsletter

Foot Patrol Purpose: keep park clean, safe, and secure. Act as ambassadors who observe, record & report items such as theft, vandalism, graffiti, improperly secured facilities, lost & found items; assist visitors in park, and pick up litter. Report all reportable items to ParkScanPDX.org.

Membership and Communications Report

Membership in FMTP changes through the years. There were 167 paid memberships in 2022, averaging a contribution of \$88. Although the total number of donated dollars in 2022 was higher than the previous year, the number of donors dropped from a high of 222 members in 2021. As of late February, the 2023 membership drive has already exceeded the number of members, reaching 171 so far. Continuing to engage existing members as well as recruiting new members will be a key activity for FMTP in 2023.

Communications with members and the public remains strong. FMTP produces a monthly newsletter with 800+ active followers and a very high open rate of 63%. We posted about twice as frequently on social media, and saw our reach and following grow about 20% in response to 2,630 Facebook followers and 1,220 Instagram followers. We also began posting our events to [MeetUp Portland](#) and saw a huge uptick in attendance, getting as many as 60 participants to our weekly Urban Nature Series workshops. We're excited to continue using new platforms to reach more folks interested in our work, and to keep our members and followers up to date on what's happening in the park.

Mt Tabor Visitor Center 2022 Annual Report

Hap Pritchard, Visitor Center Operation and Volunteers

The visitor center currently operates 7 days a week for 6 hours a day and is manned by 14 dedicated and responsible volunteers, most of whom work one morning or one afternoon a week. The majority of the time a volunteer spends at the visitor center involves guiding and informing visitors about things to do at the park and how best to accomplish them, generally by walking. We estimate that 60-70% of the visitors who come to the visitor center are from out of town, usually on vacation. Mt Tabor Park and the visitor center are clearly recognized tourist destinations for Portland. Visitors continually rave about the woodland beauty, cleanliness, and history of the park. The visitor center volunteers also serve as conduits for reporting problems observed at the park by visitors and our close association with the PP&R Park Techs has been very effective and timely in correcting the problems.

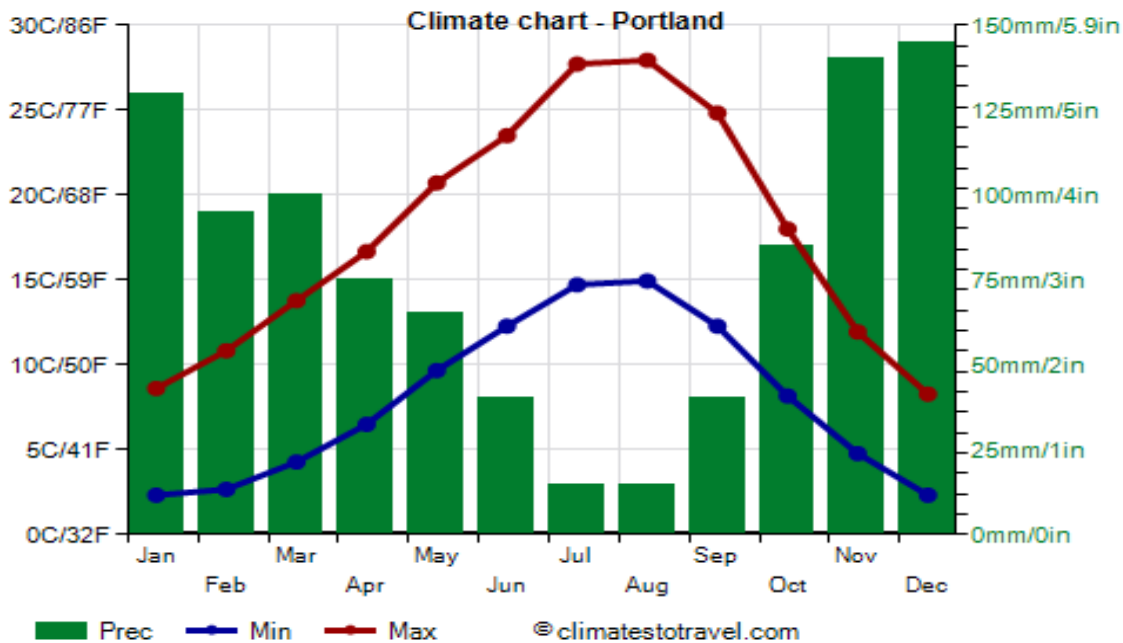
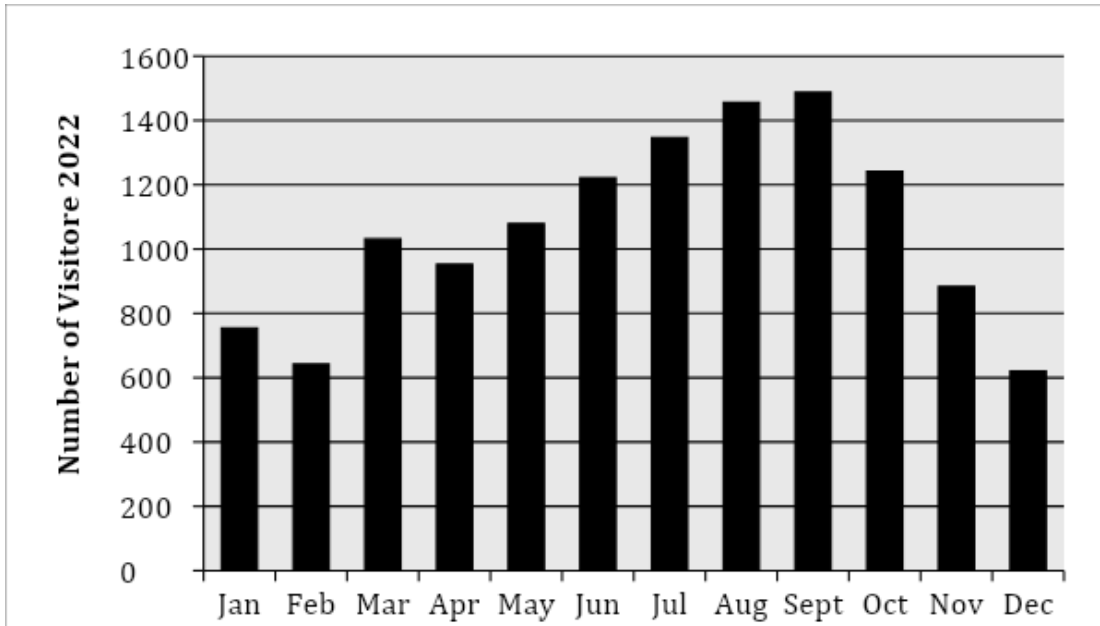
As volunteers move on to other things, we are always on the lookout for new volunteers, and we plan to bring on several new volunteers this coming year. Requirements for volunteering include a willingness to engage with visitors about the history, nature, and procedures of the park and a thorough knowledge of the park layout and its trails. Volunteers learn very quickly how to answer visitor questions and how to provide good guidance. We currently have a crew of 13 volunteers they are very passionate and effective in their work. We owe a lot to their dedication and love for Mt Tabor park.

Visitor Center Visitors

Because of the reduced concern over COVID infections, the visitor center was not closed in 2022. None of the volunteers appear to have gotten COVID infections from working in the visitor, although infection of some of the volunteers occurred through other types of exposure. This testifies to the safe working conditions present at the visitor center (restricted entrance, masks, and sneeze guard, etc.). All volunteers were vaccinated and boosted except for one because of medical conditions. The visitor center, however, was closed for 5 days in December due to snow and bad weather conditions.

The accompanying graph shows the total visitors per month in 2022. The numbers show several interesting trends. First, the average number of visitors per month was 1,069, or approximately 35 visitors per day, which was relatively consistent with averages of about 1,000 per month in the past. Thus 2022 appears to be a relatively “normal year.” We had two days of over 100 visitors a day (that’s about a visitor every 3-4 minutes!) but we also had several days with no visitors, which is unusual. In both cases, this was clearly a function of the weather. Also note that weekends continue to be very active days, averaging about 45 visitors per day on Saturdays and Sundays.

Second, the warmer months (May through October) had significantly higher numbers of visitors than the cooler months. This difference was not typical of past years where numbers are more evenly spread throughout the year. Essentially, the high numbers in the warmer months made up for relatively poor numbers in the cooler months. Again, this is probably a reflection of the weather. As can be seen in the graph of Portland’s average weather (high and low temperature per month, and rain fall per month), it is essentially a mirror image of the average visitor center visitor numbers.



The total number of volunteer hours for 2021 was approximately 2,082. The visitor center coordinator averaged about 20-25 volunteer hours per month although this was skewed toward longer involvement for the Urban Nature Series administration (see below).

In 2023 we are hoping to increase the number of visitors. Numerous visitors say that they come to the park all the time and they never realized there was a visitor center. So, we hope to eventually post more signs around the park in an effort to more effectively bring the visitor center to people's attention. Since the Urban Nature Series originates at the visitor center, and since attendance has increased because of MeetUp Portland, awareness of the visitor center has, in fact, increased.

Visitor Center Sales

Another part of visitor center is to provide items for sale. This includes t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, greeting cards, postcards, and wooden ornaments. The greeting cards represent the creative input from 4 different artists, one of whom is a visitor center volunteer. We introduced this year a coffee mug for sale with the FMTP logo. We sold out the first order of 36 and we are now working through another 72 mugs. Clearly, it has been a popular item and we made essentially \$0.50 on the dollar.

We have also introduced two additional styles of sweatshirts, and these have sold well. Because of inflation, we have had to raise prices on the clothing items (approximately \$5 increase per item) but this did not seem to affect sales. Cash sales for the year were over \$9,000 of which approximately 35% is profit for the Friends of Mt Tabor Park.

We are continuously thinking about new items to sell at the visitor center. Suggestions for pins, postcards, clothing, and ornaments have been discussed with the volunteers. We will hopefully test out a few new items in 2023.

Brochures

We have 5 brochures produced by Friends of Mt Tabor Park, dealing with hiking trails, park history, geological history, tree identification, and winter birds. Brochures are a popular item at the Mt. Tabor Visitor Center because they provide ready access to information about the park. Our Trail Map brochure, far and away the most popular, has been recently updated to make it easier for visitors to find their way around the park. We give out about 15-20 trail map brochures a day and we are currently in our second printing of 5,000 copies. The geological history of Mt Tabor brochure has also been extensively rewritten to add content and clarification. We are indebted to Bil Burgel and the Portland State University Geology Department for suggestions and helpful reviews.

In reviewing our brochure on tree identification in the park we discovered that some of the trees had died, several of the tree markers are missing or in the wrong place, and there were several misidentifications. Through the impressive help of Lisa Wilke, who has donated large amounts of volunteer time, the contents of the brochure are being revised and updated. This includes adding to

the tree identification information on the natural and human history of the trees. We are hoping the new brochures will be available sometime this year.

We are currently working on, or have planned, several new brochures, including the “History of Mt Tabor Reservoirs and Portland’s Drinking Water,” the “Legacy of Plympton Kelly and Chauncey Hosford at Mt Tabor,” the “Contribution of Emanuel Mische to Mt Tabor Park,” and the “Natural and Human History of a Select Group of Trees at Mt Tabor Park.”

Kiosk Bulletin Board

Another function of the visitor center is to maintain the kiosk bulletin board outside next to the parking lot. We currently have information displays on park reservoir history, park tree biology, Mt Tabor’s namesake in Israel, a huge mistletoe “nest,” and volcanic history of the Cascades. We also post items relating to park activities and attractions, such as the summer concert and the annual Tar n’Trail run. In addition, we have Park history displays and the current one concerns demonstrations by the Ku Klux Klan at the Park during the 1950s.

Urban Nature Series

The visitor center this year again sponsored the Urban Nature Series throughout the year. This consists of 5 different walks every Sunday afternoon each month and features topics on reservoir history, native plants, natural history of trees, geology, earthquakes and floods, and nature photography. The nature photography is the newest addition to the program, and it has been quite successful, even with all the interruptions from weather. This year we advertised the walks on MeetUp Portland, and it dramatically increased participation. As an example, we had a turnout of 30 people for one of the tree walks. In that case, we were fortunately well prepared with three volunteers to lead each of three groups. We also offered several workshops on ivy basket and wreath making with Lise Gervais, which always has a high turnout of participants, and helps reduce the impact of invasive English ivy on park ecology.

In 2023, we hope our current volunteers will continue with their great presentations, but it might also be practical to include several guest presentations on selected topics. These would be set up as one-time events. For example, when the owls are in the park in the summer, visitors might be interested in an evening walk to listen to the owls calling. Perhaps we can recruit a birding expert to lead the activity.

Eastside Urban Nature Center

As we have stated previously, Mt Tabor Park is Portland’s crown jewel of an urban forest green space. It combines 197 acres of scenic beauty with a mature forest and an exceptional cultural and geological history. Its prominence and ready accessibility greatly promote the importance of green

spaces in the lives of urban citizens. If there were a nature center at Mt Tabor Park, programs and displays could greatly enhance and supplement experiences with nature. Thus, we have discussed how the visitor center might eventually transition into a nature center and thereby encourage the citizens on the east side of Portland to more fully partake in the benefits of associating with nature. Unfortunately, young adults, people of color, low-income residents, physically challenged individuals, and other historically marginalized groups, are commonly unaware of the benefits of those green spaces. It behooves us, therefore, to more directly incorporate the life-giving elements of green spaces into everyone's urban life, and we feel strongly that a nature center will be a good step toward that end.

Through the efforts of the FMTP Board Chairperson, the topic of a nature center at Mt Tabor has been brought up and discussed with Park officials. Responses have all been positive. However, with large Park development projects ongoing, finding the space and facility for the nature center is still a future consideration. None the less, volunteers at the visitor center greatly enjoy meeting with park visitors and filling them in on the nature of Mt Tabor Park, as if they were already part of a nature center ideal!

Environmental Education Program

The three existing volunteer groups in the Friends of Mt Tabor Park organization—Weed Warriors, Foot Patrol, and the Visitor Center—are already involved to various degrees in environmental education, but these efforts are largely done on an ad hoc basis without planned coordination between volunteer groups. In addition, environmental educational in these volunteer groups focuses primarily on young adults, which is a group that often lacks opportunities in environmental education, and which would, in fact, benefit the most from experiencing interactions with nature and urban green spaces.

To this end, an Environmental Education Committee was formed. The committee had two main functions: to coordinate educational opportunities among the three volunteer programs in FMTP, and to develop connections with various educational entities to make young adults aware of the opportunities with FMTP.

This year we have begun developing connections with schools, colleges, and Portland Parks and Recreation staff to create work-study opportunities. A work-study program with Portland Community College (Taryn Oakley) had been initiated that will focus on a variety of environmental science projects relevant to Mt Tabor Park. We have also met with the education coordinator at Hoyt Arboretum (Nina Avila) and they are very open to collaboration. The Environmental Education Committee needs a volunteer to engage in the leadership and development of the program more fully. Since the Urban Nature Series is in essence an educational venture, it should be considered as

a program under the direction of the Environmental Education Committee. The effort then might be to increase the involvement of young adults in the Urban Nature Series.

Tar 'n' Trail Race Report

David Herron, Tar 'n' Trail Coordinator

The Tar 'n' Trail races continued into its 10th year in October '22 with a record number of registrations and a change to the Race Director role.

Race Director Change

Former board member Anne Crispino-Taylor had led the races for the last 9 years and in 2022 passed along the responsibility to current board member David Herron. We are very thankful for Anne's planning and dedication to keep this funding opportunity going.

2022 Race

Print and social media advertising led to a record number of registrations and brought in runners from outside the Portland area including some from California. The races consist of a kids' 5k, a 5K run and a 10K run that are completely contained within the park and follow the current Green, Blue and Red loops. Although the day prior was a cold rainy day, 139 runners toed the line for a clear race morning on Mount Tabor with 90 racers finishing the 5k and 49 in the 10k. We want to thank the large number of volunteers that allow this race to be a special event benefiting the park.

Financials

With low overhead, these races are a big opportunity to raise donations and membership for FMTP. With nearly 200 registrations the 2022 Tar 'n' Trail races raised \$2,236 in net profits. The races have a low entry point, \$5 for the kids 5k, \$10 for the 5k there is a great opportunity to expose runners/walkers of all skill levels and demographics to Mount Tabor Park.

Goals

With a change in Race Director our goal this year was to ensure we carried this event through 2022 and enabled it to continue. We had seen that some changes in advertising and exposure can reach a wider audience and we plan on exploring ways to introduce Mt Tabor Park to more communities in and around the Portland area. In 2023 we are seeing changes to the permit fee process. We will be exempt in 2023 from the fee process, but are waiting to see if this will impact this event in 2024 going forward.

FMTTP Treasurer's Report

Rachel White, FMTTP Treasurer

In 2022, Friends of Mt. Tabor Park continued on a path of growth and prosperity! Despite the continuing Covid endemic, and a year that saw rising crime across the city (including arson in our park), plus harsh inflation, we are starting 2023 with our largest ever bank balance. We received more member donations than we ever have, and the Visitor Center once again recorded its highest ever sales revenue (over \$2,400 more than last year). In addition, we are continuing to draw on our stewardship fund through the Oregon Community Foundation. All told, we are in a financially solid position and on track to meet our goal of funding the outstanding programs that maintain Mt. Tabor Park as a beautiful, safe, and welcoming destination: Foot Patrol, Weed Warriors, the Visitor Center.

This report summarizes our income and expense totals for last year. We started 2022 with a bank balance of \$55,550 and ended with \$71,298. We had several big (over \$1,000) expenditures in 2022: we spent \$1,800 on renewing legacy bench #4699 honoring Dave Hillman and Bertha Guptill (administered through Portland Parks & Recreation's [Legacy Bench Program](#)); \$1,005 went towards our board retreat at the Kennedy School; and we spent \$1,144 renewing our Directors and Officers insurance.

Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) stewardship fund

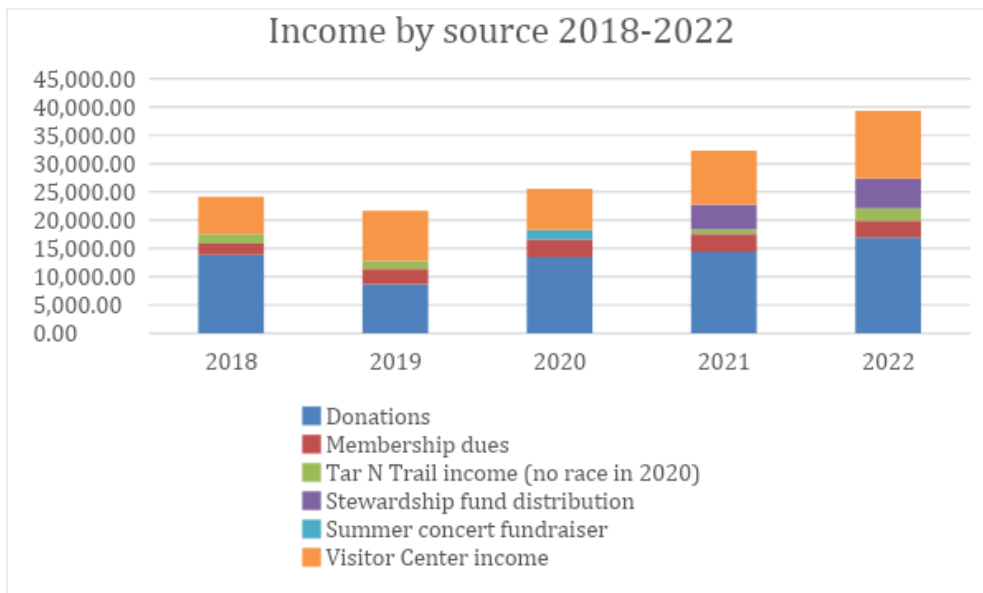
In 2022, the Board continued taking an annual distribution from the Oregon Community Foundation stewardship fund to pay our Weed Warrior Coordinator. Due to inflation we opted to take the full spendable amount of our distribution, which was \$5,239 for the year. The OCF fund began 2021 with a balance of \$135,431. We ended the year with \$140,500 (market value).

Income and expenses

Our primary source of revenue is membership dues. We continue to charge a relatively low rate of \$15 a year for membership dues because we are committed to being as inclusive as possible. A large majority of our members generously donate above the \$15 level. In 2022, membership dues brought in slightly less than last year. However, that deficit was more than made up for by the fact that we received an all-time high amount of donations (see [Membership Report](#) for more details). This year the Visitor Center brought record sales of \$11,954, for a net profit of nearly \$4,400.

Expenditures for "park projects," which came to \$724, included issuing a new geology brochure (written by Hap Pritchard), purchasing art supplies and other materials for the Urban Nature Series workshops, and maintaining and repairing trail posts throughout the park.

See the chart below for a comparison of our income sources for the last 5 years.



Friends of Mt Tabor Park statement of income and expenses for the year ending December 31, 2022:

Income	Dollars
Donations	16,975
Individual membership dues	2,895
Stewardship fund distribution	5,239
Tar 'n' Trail run	2,236
Visitor Center product sales	11,954
Total income	39,299
Expenses	Dollars
Administrative	3,577
Park projects	724
Foot Patrol Program	1,096
Visitor Center products	7,558
Weed Warrior Program	3,676
Total expenses	16,631

Net income: \$22,668

Net assets as of December 31, 2021:

US Bank:	\$ 71,298
Oregon Community Foundation:	\$ 140,500 (market value)